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Cover: **Brewster's Warbler**. The range of Golden-winged Warbler continues to contract in Pennsylvania, as it is slowly and inexorably replaced by its close relative, the Blue-winged Warbler. This Brewster's Warbler, the more common (and ever more familiar) hybrid form of the two species, was photographed at Penn Forest Twp., Carbon, 13 May 2009. (*Dustin Welch*)

... from the Editor

Crossbills, still

They're still making news in these pages, and are still being talked about in birding circles and clubs around the state. The buzz created by the White-winged Crossbill invasion is not something many of Pennsylvania's birders will not soon forget.

In this issue, I am thrilled to be able to include two important reviews of the invasion—superb documentation of a significant and memorable event. The first is a review of the scope of the invasion itself, written by Mike Fialkovich, who doubles as the Spring Season Editor for this journal (and of course, this is also the Spring issue). Many thanks are owed to Mike for his continued dedication of his time and energy to making my job easy.

Reading over his review of this year's invasion inevitably recalls (for those readers that have been members of PSO since the late 90's, that is) a similar article that appeared in the pages of *Pennsylvania Birds* Volume 12, Number 1 (1998) by Paul Hess, Michael Leahy, and Robert Ross, in which the crossbill invasion of 1997-98 was similarly reviewed. What stuck with me when I reread that 1998 article, after I got past the obligatory stroll down memory lane, was the authors' acknowledgment of the value added to their data in the form of sightings reported to the PABIRDS listserv, then still very much in its infancy. They considered the reporting on PABIRDS to be "unusually detailed". They drew a contrast between the 1997-98 invasion and previous invasions by noting that the extent of invasions previous to 1997-98 were never really widely known until well after the fact; in other words, reporting on state listservs like PABIRDS, in conjunction with a fledgling and "innovative" website called BirdSource, allowed the 1997-98 invasion to come into focus on a continent-wide basis in real time, for the first time. It was yet another reminder to me exactly how quickly and radically birding has changed in just 10 years, when today the same

instantaneous information exchange that was so innovative and perhaps even a bit shocking in the late 1990s is ordinary rote today.

Along those same lines, the second crossbill article in this issue, a comprehensive review of the food choices of the crossbills that visited this winter by Rudy Keller, relied almost completely on PABIRDS as a data-gathering mechanism. Imagine trying to produce an article like Keller's without the benefit of a system like PABIRDS. Before PABIRDS and widespread consumer usage of the internet came along, birders had a hard time simply finding out that an invasion was underway, to say nothing of coordinating an ad-hoc, "citizen science" study of what food plants they were drawn to while they were present. Keller, on the other hand, was able to broadcast a message to thousands of birders at once, right as the invasion was peaking, which resulted in the data needed to do something never quite possible before: create a comprehensive review of White-winged Crossbill food choices during a major irruption, across a massive geographic region. We take the mechanisms that allow us to do these things for granted today, and easily forget how something like this was close to impossible to pull off just a decade ago.

Two Years

Speaking of decades, or rather, of one-fifth of a decade, this issue marks the end of my second year as chief editor. This is where you might expect me to say "time sure flies" or some such thing, but I have to say it's actually quite the opposite. *Pennsylvania Birds* is quite a lot of work, perhaps more than I had really anticipated when I first took over from Nick Pulcinella (despite his repeated warnings!). I can say that two years feels just about right. It's been a lot of evenings spent with a laptop keeping up an unrelenting workload, but it's surely worth it. Thanks to all of you who have offered suggestions and words of encouragement. But your thanks must

also necessarily extend to everyone else who makes this journal what it is, particularly the seasonal editors (I'd be sunk without them) and the county compilers. I know most readers don't read all the county notes, but I would encourage those that don't—at least every once in awhile—to read some of the reports from counties that don't list you the reader as an observer. The depth of knowledge contained in these reports over time is truly remarkable. On my second anniversary as editor, it's quite appropriate for me to extend my thanks to all of the compilers and editors too. Without them there wouldn't be a *Pennsylvania Birds*.

Compiler News

I've been lax in announcing compiler news recently, but that's because there hasn't been much turnover lately. **Bill Etter** has volunteered to compile for *Lehigh* beginning with summer 2009. (So, as you read this, if you have reports from June or July for *Lehigh* that you are just sitting on, email them to Bill at billletter01@gmail.com).

Of course the downside of stability among the compiler ranks is the continued vacancy of several counties. Randy Stringer has officially resigned from his post as *Lawrence* compiler, and that county is now vacant. You might have noticed that Mike Fialkovich and I have been writing ad-hoc reports for *Lawrence* in the meantime, since it's so close to our home county of Allegheny and we bird there often, but make no mistake, it's still a vacant county! Neither of us is eager to take on a third compilership. If you are interested in compiling for *Lawrence* or any other compilerless county (i.e., *Blair*, *Cameron*, *Elk*, *Lycoming*, *McKean*, *Northumberland*, *Pike*, *Warren*, or *Wayne*), please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Geoff Malosh
Editor-in-Chief

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The White-winged Crossbill irruption of 2008-2009

Mike Fialkovich

The winter of 2008-09 was a rare, highly anticipated, and exciting season that became a highlight for birders in Pennsylvania and neighboring states. For the first time in a decade, White-winged Crossbills invaded the state in impressive numbers.

Like many residents of the boreal forest, crossbills rely on conifers as a major food source. The seeds are one of the few foods available in these forests most years, and during years when the trees fail to produce cones, the animals that feed on them face difficult times. Birds such as crossbills have the ability to solve the food shortage problem by becoming nomadic in order to search for more reliable food supplies.

Conifers enter a cycle of boom and bust that occurs on average every three to four years (Attenborough, 1984). Cone production fails the year following a season of overabundance. It's still a mystery why the trees generate an overflow of cones one year only to fail to produce seeds the following year. Attenborough (1984) enumerates a few theories. One is

simple variation in environmental conditions. Another suggests an adaptation by the trees to maximize their ability to reproduce, by flooding the ecosystem every few years to increase the chances some of their seeds will survive to produce new trees. Still another suggests that a period of down time may be needed to build enough energy to produce an overabundance of cones.

Spruces (*Picea* sp.) across Canada generated a poor cone crop in 2008, with the exception of areas near Lake Superior and central Ontario where cone production was fair to good; however eastern hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*) produced few cones in Ontario (Pittaway, 2009). The cone crop was poor north of Ontario and into the boreal forest (Pittaway, 2009).

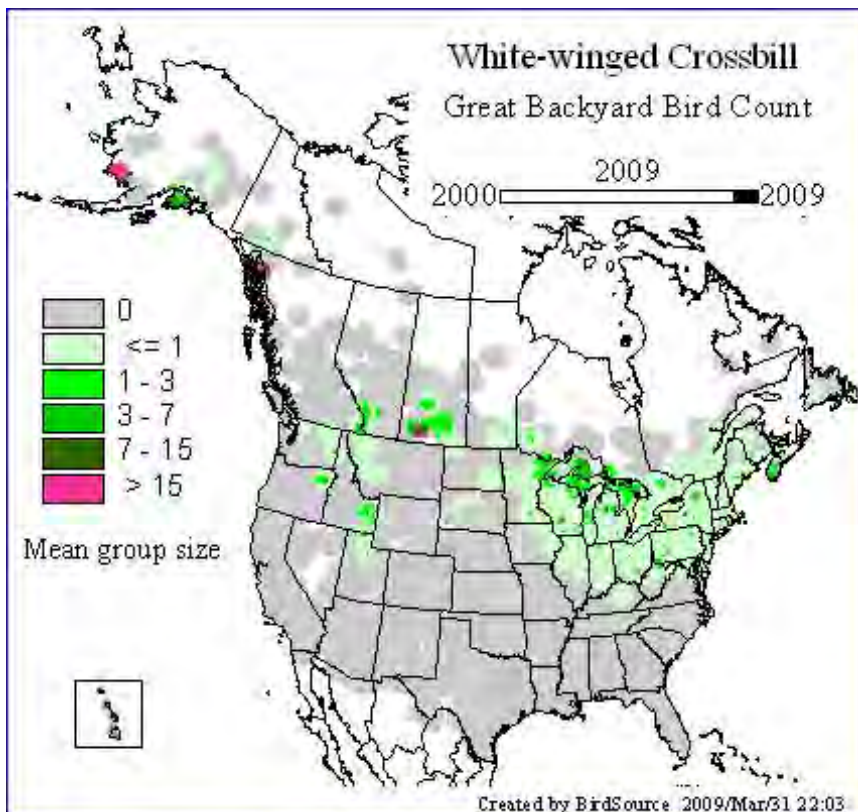
A male White-winged Crossbill was noted in Pennsylvania at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Berks County 25 August 2008 (Keller, 2009), a surprisingly early date, however crossbills wandered across Canada and northern states including New York

and Michigan during the summer of 2008 in search of food (Pittaway, 2009). Furthermore, hundreds of birds arrived in Maine in July 2008 (Retter, 2008). As birds consumed and subsequently diminished the quantity of available food during late summer, they began to migrate south in search of other food sources, reaching Pennsylvania in numbers by the middle of November. By the third week of November, White-winged Crossbills were reported in eight Pennsylvania counties totaling a minimum of 107 birds (Malosh, 2009).

This year's Christmas Bird Counts documented the extent to which White-winged Crossbills had invaded by the end of December 2008. The species was recorded on 31 CBCs out of 70 total counts in Pennsylvania. There were 619 crossbills tallied (Bolgiano, 2009).

As more and more observers began to see White-winged Crossbills, posts to the PABirds Listserv (PABIRDS) increased, motivating birders to get into the field to look for them. I made a thorough (but perhaps not exhaustive) summary of the number of posts to PABIRDS, by searching for "White-winged Crossbill" or "Crossbill" in the subject line. Admittedly, some posts may have been missed, but the results do clearly document the increasing observations as winter wore on. In December 2008 there were 21 posts, in January 2009, 180 posts, February, 83 posts and in March, 26 posts. Using the latest information, finding crossbills became relatively easy. Many were in our own neighborhoods and in areas where we go birding, so it was just a matter of stepping outside or taking a short hike and listening for their calls.

Reports submitted to *Pennsylvania Birds* for the winter season (December 2008 – February 2009) listed White-winged Crossbills in 42 counties (Local Notes, Vol. 23, No. 1). By mid-March, the flocks were greatly reduced or gone from most counties and in April birds were reported from only thirteen counties. In eight county reports, there was a period from mid-March to early April with a lack of reports, with birds appearing again in April, although in smaller numbers than in winter. By May reports came from only seven counties (Local Notes, Vol. 23, No. 2). Perhaps this gap in sightings represented local birds moving north in March and later replaced by migrants



Map 1: totals and distribution of White-winged Crossbills during the 2009 Great Backyard Bird Count, 13-16 February 2009. Note the irruption was concentrated in the northeast and Midwest. Mean group size is the average of all positive counts for the species at a location for the given time period. (Source: The Great Backyard Bird Count Website)

from further south.

Cemeteries became the hot bed for crossbill activity and in many cases the birds concentrated at these sites, particularly Allegheny Cemetery in the Pittsburgh area, Spring Hill Cemetery in Shippensburg, and Washington Cemetery in the city of Washington. The reason was simple: many cemeteries are planted with conifers, and the conifers in Pennsylvania produced an abundance of cones which provided the birds with a reliable food source. Washington Cemetery in particular is densely planted with pines, firs, and spruces.

The last major irruption of crossbills into Pennsylvania occurred in the winter of 1997-1998. Birds arrived in large numbers with the majority concentrated at Cook Forest State Park in Clarion, Forest, and Jefferson counties where thousands of birds settled for the winter. The park is known for its impressive old growth white pines (*Pinus strobus*) and eastern hemlocks that were full of cones, offering exactly what the birds needed in a relatively small area. Although many birds were concentrated at Cook Forest, they were scattered throughout most of the state in small numbers.

The 2008-09 invasion followed a remarkably similar timeline to the 1997-98 event. The first White-winged Crossbill reported in 1997 occurred at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 22 September 1997 (Hess, et al., 1998). Interestingly, the first report in 2008 occurred at the same location 25 August 2009 (Keller, 2009). In 1997-98, birds were passing Hawk Mountain daily beginning 10 November, and by the end of the month crossbills were widespread across Pennsylvania with numbers increasing through December and January (Hess et al., 1998). In 2008-09, fewer birds were present in late November with reports in eight counties (Malosh, 2008). Generally the pattern of increasing numbers during the winter of 2008-09 was nearly identical to the 1997-98 invasion. The departure of birds was also nearly identical when comparing both invasions. By late February to early March 1998 flocks were departing (Hess, et al., 1998) and as mentioned above, the large flocks in 2009 were gone by mid-March.

One major difference was nonetheless clear during the 2008-2009 irruption. In 1997-98, though there were many crossbills reported across the state, the largest flocks seemed to

be concentrated in one relatively small area—Cook Forest, where they numbered in the thousands. In 2008-09, crossbills were perhaps even more widespread across the state, but even the largest reported flocks did not nearly approach quadruple digits. Indeed, in 2008-09, White-winged Crossbills were reported from all 67 of Pennsylvania's counties with the exception of one, and there is little doubt that county hosted crossbills too (R. Wiltraut, PABIRDS), but the largest single flock reported in 2008-09 was 200, interestingly enough, also in Clarion County (Grove, 2009a).

In order to obtain a rough estimate of the numbers of birds present in the state I reviewed county reports in Pennsylvania Birds for the winter season (Local Notes, Vol. 23, No. 1) and added the numbers of birds that were specifically listed in the reports, arriving at a total of 3183 White-winged Crossbills. This is probably an extremely conservative number because in most county reports only the larger flocks were noted, and it was very likely many additional totals were posted to the PA Birds Listserv, and not all counties have compilers.

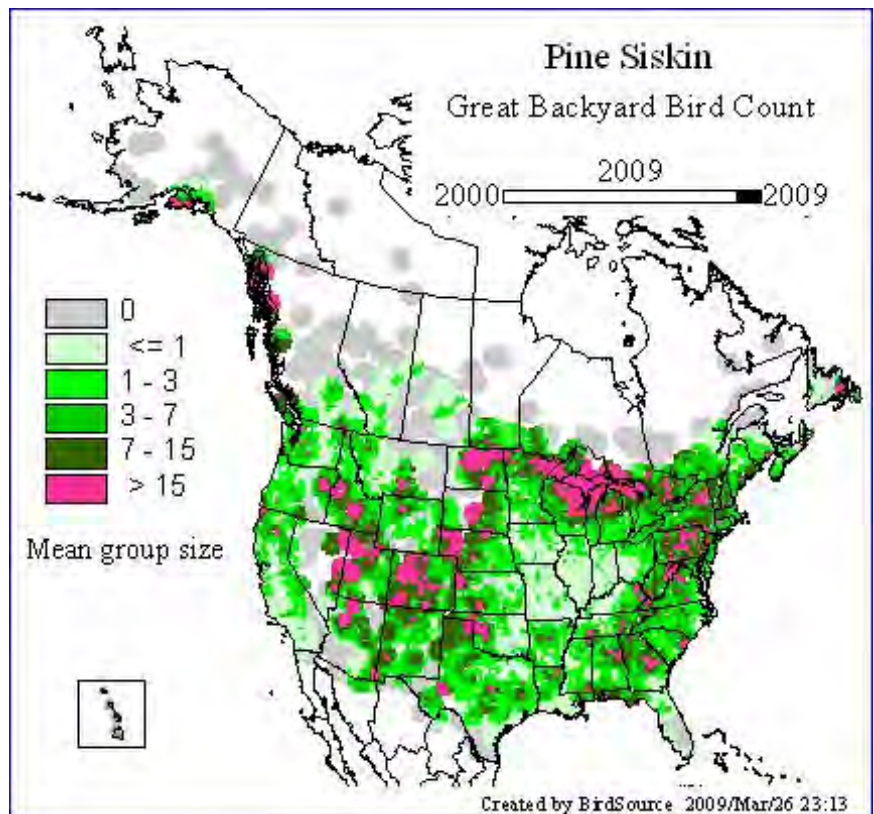
Illustrating the scope of the 2008-2009 irruption (Map 1), White-winged Crossbills were found in neighboring states including Maryland, New Jersey and Ohio (Retter, 2009, Archives of Ohio-Birds Listserv, 2008-2009). In distant states, birds were reported in Indiana and as far south as Kentucky in January 2009 (Retter, 2009).

The Joy of It All

Many birders were excited to find this species at their local birding sites, backyards, neighborhoods, even in urban areas. In most cases the birds were quite confiding and allowed close observation and photography. It was also a good time to take advantage of this opportunity for study. Observers began to look beyond aesthetics and noted food preferences, behavior, ratios of the sexes and adults to juveniles and some managed to observe firsthand how the birds use their bills and tongues to extract seeds from the cones.

Notes on Other Finches

Pine Grosbeak – This species hasn't appeared in Pennsylvania in



Map 2: totals and distribution of Pine Siskins during the 2009 Great Backyard Bird Count, 13-16 February 2009. Note the major distribution corresponds to high elevations in the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains, and the coniferous forests in northern Michigan, northern Minnesota and adjacent Ontario. (Source: The Great Backyard Bird Count Website)

large numbers since the early 1980s (McWilliams and Brauning, 2000); however they were part of the irruption of northern finches in 1996-1997, and a few were recorded in Pennsylvania. This species also moved south in 1998-1999 (Renfrew 2007), again with a few reports in Pennsylvania. According to Ron Pittaway's Winter Finch Forecast for 2008-09, Pine Grosbeaks were not expected to move south beyond Ontario. There were reports in Pennsylvania this winter including nine on the Chambersburg CBC in Franklin County 20 December 2008, six in Lebanon County 22 February 2009, and one in Sullivan County 15 January 2009 (Grove, 2009).

Red Crossbill – A major difference between the 1996-1997 and 2008-2009 irruptions was the absence of Red Crossbills in 2008-2009. Food preference compared to White-winged Crossbills was probably the reason for the lack of Red Crossbills moving into Pennsylvania this past winter. Further complicating the subject, the different subspecies of Red Crossbills vary in food preference (Pittaway, 2009). Small numbers were recorded in eleven counties in the state from November 2008-February 2009 (Grove, 2009). In general, it was apparent Red Crossbills had sufficient food supplies in the forests north of Pennsylvania and did not have to migrate south.

Common Redpoll – The winter of 2007-2008 was an invasion year across Pennsylvania for Common Redpolls, and the possibility of them appearing the following year was remote. Despite this, small numbers returned to the state during the winter of 2008-2009. Surprisingly, Common Redpolls were reported from 25 counties in Pennsylvania from November 2008-February 2009 (Grove, 2009).

Pine Siskin – It is impossible when discussing the White-winged Crossbill irruption not to mention the impressive numbers of Pine Siskins that also invaded the state during the same period. In its own right, the siskin irruption was just as remarkable, if not more so, as the crossbill event (Map 2). Many birders hosted large numbers at their feeders where the birds cleaned out the thistle seed. The squeaky, raspy voice of siskins became a familiar sound during winter outings throughout the state and many gathered in large flocks away from feeders where they fed on the seeds of birches (*Betula* sp.), London planetree (*Plantanus*

acerifolia), sycamore (*Plantanus occidentalis*), eastern hemlock, and various herbaceous plants.

Evening Grosbeak – This species was sparse during the past winter, with reports from five counties totaling 30 birds (a flock of 24 comprised one report), a continuing trend in the east as this species' range continues to contract westward.

Conclusion

White-winged Crossbills staged an impressive irruption in the winter of 2008-2009, the first in a decade. The event began in the summer of 2008 when birds roamed Canada and the northern United States in search of food. By December 2008, with dwindling food supplies to the north, White-winged Crossbills arrived in Pennsylvania and increased in number as the winter progressed. Numbers were impressive and birders across the state documented the event by posting observations on PABIRDS, sending reports to county compilers, and taking numerous photographs of the birds.

Pine Siskins staged an equally impressive irruption and their presence was also well documented. Red Crossbills were present in small numbers and Pine Grosbeaks and Evening Grosbeaks were only seen by a few fortunate observers early in the season. Small numbers of Common Redpolls appeared unexpectedly following the irruption in 2008.

Acknowledgement

Geoff Malosh reviewed and provided valuable comments and suggestions for this article.

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What They Ate: White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) food plants during the 2008-09 irruption in Pennsylvania

Rudy Keller

In fall and winter of 2008-09, White-winged Crossbills staged one of their most widespread irruptions on record in Pennsylvania, with birds reported in all 67 counties. When the magnitude of the irruption to our north became apparent in fall 2008, I wondered what all those birds would eat when they arrived, since most of their preferred boreal food plants are uncommon to rare in Pennsylvania. Knowing that many birders would search out crossbills and report them on the internet, I thought that the Pennsylvania birding listserv (PABIRDS) would be the best vehicle for collecting information on their feeding preferences. In winter and spring of 2009, I posted requests on PABIRDS for reports of conifer species on which crossbills were seen feeding, not merely perching. I offered to identify the plants from emailed photographs if observers could not do so. The response was generous and enthusiastic. Many, if not most, posts about crossbills to PABIRDS during winter and spring of 2009 contained information on their choice of food. If a post did not mention food plants, I privately emailed the observer asking for this information. I also received several private messages providing additional details. Many birders took the trouble to post, publicly and privately, photographs of feeding crossbills in which the plants could be identified. Following a brief overview of White-winged Crossbill feeding habits and food preferences, the results of the internet survey are presented below.

White-winged Crossbill Diet

The most recent comprehensive treatment of White-winged Crossbill is the Birds of North America (BNA) account (Benkman 1992), the principal source of information for this overview. Crossbills evolved their specialized bills to exploit conifer seed crops, their essential food for most of the

year. The birds insert their mandibles into the gaps between cone scales, then pry apart the scales with a sideways movement of the jaw until the seeds can be extracted with the tongue. Birds may also tear off cone scales to get at seeds. Fallen cones uncovered by snow melt are often foraged because they may contain more seeds than those still on the trees. (In Pennsylvania in 2009, birds were photographed foraging at fallen cones of eastern hemlock, eastern white pine, white spruce, Douglas-fir, and Colorado blue spruce at various places.) The generally larger, heavier bills of Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) are best adapted for exploiting the woodier, thicker-scaled cones of pines. The smaller, thinner bills of White-winged Crossbills work best for extracting seeds from the softer, thinner-scaled cones of spruces and larches. Their primary range is the boreal forest where these trees dominate the plant communities. Since conifer seed crops can be abundant one year and scarce the next, White-winged Crossbills regularly move across the boreal forest in search of good crops. In some years of widespread cone crop failure, the birds may stage dramatic irruptions well south of the boreal forest, as in 2008-09.

In the boreal forest from Alaska to Newfoundland, the most important

White-winged Crossbill food plants are white spruce (*Picea glauca*), black spruce (*P. mariana*) and American larch or tamarack (*Larix laricina*). A good black spruce cone crop is so important as a winter food that a lack of it may trigger crossbill exodus from an area where other conifer seeds are available. In the eastern boreal forest from the Adirondacks east to Maine and the Canadian maritime provinces, red spruce (*P. rubens*) is a key food plant. Disjunct populations in the Rocky Mountains and Cascades depend on Engelmann spruce (*P. engelmannii*). Birds in southeast Alaska depend on Sitka spruce (*P. sitchensis*). The importance of a reliable cone crop is illustrated by Benkman's calculation that the daily food requirement of a White-winged Crossbill in winter and spring is 3.8 g of conifer seeds (2600 seeds of white spruce or 3160 seeds of black spruce). To fulfill this requirement, a bird may need to forage for more than 90% of the day (Benkman 1992).

Other conifer seeds occasionally eaten are those of eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), red pine (*P. resinosa*) and Virginia pine (*P. virginiana*). In the northeast, birds prefer seeds of eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). Seeds of true firs (*Abies*) are not often eaten because fir seedcoat resins apparently inhibit protein digestion. In June and July, when conifer seeds are scarce, birds eat spiders and insects including caterpillars such as larvae of spruce budworm and coneworm. They regularly eat grit (a behavior noted a few times in Pennsylvania in 2009) and salt, which causes many birds to be killed by motor vehicles on winter roads. Mainly south of the boreal, birds have also been recorded eating fruits and seeds of eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), huckleberry (*Gaylussacia*), alder (*Alnus*), birch (*Betula*), cottonwood (*Populus*), sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), sunflower (*Helianthus*), teasel (*Dipsacus*), ragweed



Image 1. White-winged Crossbill on white spruce. Beltzville State Park, Carbon, 9 January 2009. (Axel Hildebrandt)

(*Ambrosia*), sedges (*Cyperaceae*), foxtail (*Setaria*) and other grasses. In his White-winged Crossbill painting for The Birds of America, John James Audubon portrays two males and two females about to feed on fruits of what appears to be an alder. Earl Poole, in his unpublished manuscript on the birds of Pennsylvania, writes that these crossbills will "...extract seeds from frozen apples. Grimm [1952 near L. Pymatuning] observed that the birds which remained until May were feeding on the fruits of American Elm."

Pennsylvania Observations, Winter 2008-09

In Pennsylvania from fall 2008 through spring 2009, birders reported White-winged Crossbills feeding on at least 21 plant species plus seeds at feeders. The plants are listed in order of use by crossbills, from most to least used, with annotations. Each feeding instance for each plant species was observed at a particular location, and each of these was counted only once, even if crossbills were seen feeding at a species at a particular location many times over a long period. For example, the many reports of birds eating hemlock seeds at Washington Cemetery in Washington County over several months count as just one instance of White-winged Crossbills feeding on eastern hemlock. To have counted all feeding instances for each location would have been tedious and would have weighted results heavily in favor of plant species at frequently birded sites where crossbills were consistently easy to find. Counting each

location only once gives a clearer picture of crossbill use of each plant species statewide. In deference to brevity, individual locations are not listed. Only the number of counties reporting use of each plant species is included.

Canada or eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) – 55 feeding instances from 33 counties.

The state tree of Pennsylvania grows naturally in cool, moist forests throughout, though less so in the southeast, where imported insect pests have reduced its numbers. It is widely planted as an ornamental. It has been noted as a White-winged Crossbill food plant since some of the earliest recorded irruptions in Pennsylvania (Todd 1940, Uhrich 1997). In his unpublished manuscript, Poole writes, "Leberman of Meadville...found a flock of 35 feeding on hemlock cones at Heart's Content, Warren County, as late as June 10 (1957)." In 2008-09, crossbills were reported feeding on eastern hemlock in all parts of the state south to Philadelphia. At several places, such as Washington Cemetery in Washington County and Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburgh, flocks lingered for months to exploit this seed source. At both of these locations, birds were noted to prefer eastern hemlock to Norway and other spruces, moving to the spruces when hemlock cones became depleted (P. Brown, M. Fialkovich).

Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) – 37 feeding instances from 25 counties.

Norway spruce, native to Europe, is probably the most widely planted exotic conifer in the state, both on a large scale for reforestation and on a smaller scale in public and private landscapes. Many large, mature plantations grow on reservoir watersheds and other public lands. In southeastern Pennsylvania, Norway spruce produced a notably large cone crop in 2008, with some large plantations, such as those

around L. Ontelaunee in Berks County, producing thousands of cones (R. Keller). BNA (Benkman 1992) does not list Norway spruce as a White-winged Crossbill food plant. However, twentieth century accounts include reports of its use as early as 1906 in PA (Todd 1940) and ca. 1920's in Massachusetts (Forbush & May 1955). More recently, White-winged Crossbills were confirmed breeding in Norway spruce and white spruce plantations on New York's eastern Appalachian Plateau, not far north of Pennsylvania, during the first New York breeding bird atlas, 1980-85 (McGowan & Corwin 2008). The many 2008-09 feeding reports in Pennsylvania reflect the wide availability of this food source. Some plantations hosted birds for long periods in winter (New Holland reservoir watershed, Lancaster County) and even well into spring, for example, 50 birds still at L. Ontelaunee, Berks, 5 May 2009 (M. Wlasniewski). Three times in winter 2009 in Berks County, crossbills feeding in Norway spruces were observed to supplement their seed diet with terminal and lateral spruce buds, which they deftly husked, clipped and swallowed (R. Keller). There were no reports on PABIRDS of crossbills plucking and holding down cones of Norway spruces for more efficient seed extraction, as they were seen to do with other conifer species (below). The birds may have been unable to bite off these large cones. At some of the long-used southeastern sites such as L. Ontelaunee, preferred eastern hemlock is rare and the few trees are thin and weakened from years of hemlock woolly adelgid and elongate hemlock scale feeding (R. Keller).

Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) – 28 feeding instances from 14 counties.

This Rocky Mountains native is occasionally planted in Pennsylvania for reforestation, but its most popular use is as an ornamental in public and private landscapes, where selections with glaucous blue-green needles are preferred. Many lawns are dotted with blue spruces. In southeastern Pennsylvania, it produced a larger than usual cone crop in 2008 (R. Keller).

Neither BNA (Benkman 1992) nor the other cited literature lists it as a White-winged Crossbill food plant. Since blue spruce is seldom found in large plantations, it presented wandering crossbills with a more



Image 2. White-winged Crossbill on Douglas-fir, Williamsport, Lycoming, 11 January 2009. (Wayne Laubscher)

scattered resource than did Norway spruce. However, its popularity as a lawn tree guaranteed that crossbills visiting a neighborhood tree would get noticed by alert birders, and many such reports came in from across the state. In Clarion County, crossbills seemed to prefer blue spruce to Norway spruce (C. Winslow). In Clarion, Clearfield and Forest Counties, crossbills strongly preferred blue spruce over as many as nine other conifer species in January, 2009 (M. Weible). Several birders observed and some photographed crossbills as they plucked cones of Colorado blue spruce, Douglas-fir, and white spruce, then held down the cones with one foot for easier seed extraction. The birds may have found the smaller cones of blue spruce easier to manipulate than the larger, heavier cones of Norway spruce and pines.

Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) – 19 feeding instances from 15 counties.

This native of western North America is used in Pennsylvania in much the same way as blue spruce, but is less popular. Most mature trees are found as ornamentals throughout the state. In southeastern Pennsylvania, it produced a larger than usual cone crop in 2008 (R. Keller). It is not listed as a White-winged Crossbill food plant by BNA (Benkman 1992) or the other cited literature. Douglas-fir's prominence in landscapes close to people helped visiting crossbills to get noticed. For about two weeks in January at L. Ontelaunee, crossbills fed heavily at the open cones of a few Douglas-fir trees while ignoring the more abundant but still largely closed cones of Norway spruce nearby (R. Keller). Again, the birds probably found the smaller cones of the Douglas-firs easier to manipulate and preferentially fed on them while they lasted.

Larches (European larch, *Larix decidua*; Japanese larch, *L. kaempferi*; American larch or tamarack, *L. laricina*) – 14 feeding instances from 9 counties.

European and Japanese larches differ only subtly and are difficult to tell apart, and tamarack may be used as a common name for any larch. Therefore, larches have been lumped in this report. The exotic larches are used in Pennsylvania for reforestation and are uncommonly planted as ornamentals, giving them a wider

range in the state than the native tamarack. The latter, a key food plant of White-winged Crossbills in the boreal forest, occurs infrequently in Pennsylvania in sphagnum bogs and peatlands (Rhoads & Block 2000), rare habitats in the state and rarely visited by birders. It is rarely if ever planted as an ornamental. Two-barred Crossbill (*L. l. bifasciata*), the White-winged Crossbill subspecies in Eurasia, strongly prefers larches in northern Europe and Siberia. All but one of the counties reporting feeding instances in 2008-09 are clustered in north-central and western Pennsylvania, where larches have been planted for reforestation and strip mine reclamation. Crossbills were sometimes reported lingering for extended periods over good larch cone crops. The fairly large number of reports from a limited geographical area seems to reinforce the crossbill preference for larch stated in the literature.

Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) – 12 feeding instances from 10 counties.

Native eastern white pine is common in forests statewide and is one of the most frequently planted conifers for reforestation and ornamental use. In southeastern Pennsylvania, the cone crop was variable. Some stands had dropped their seeds by the time crossbills arrived (R. Keller). BNA (Benkman 1992) notes widespread but occasional use of eastern white pine by White-winged Crossbills. The relative paucity of feeding reports on one of the most abundant conifers in the state appears to be in keeping with the species' preference for spruces and larches.

White spruce (*Picea glauca*) – 10 feeding instances from 10 counties.

This key food plant of White-winged Crossbill in the boreal forest is used for reforestation in Pennsylvania, but not as commonly as Norway spruce. Except for the fruitless dwarf Alberta spruce (*P.*

g. 'Conica'), it is uncommonly planted as an ornamental. The few feeding reports probably reflect its limited distribution in the state. One observer thought crossbills may have fed preferentially at white over Norway spruce because the bird's small bill is better adapted to extracting seeds from the smaller cones of white spruce (D. Yeany II).

Red spruce (*Picea rubens*) – 4 feeding instances from 4 counties.

A key White-winged Crossbill food plant of the eastern boreal forest, red spruce is native in Pennsylvania to cool, moist woods and margins of bogs and swamps, mostly in northern counties (Rhoads & Block 2000). It is seldom planted for reforestation or as an ornamental. The few feeding reports appear to reflect its small range in a part of the state not often visited by birders. One of the four feeding reports was of birds preferentially feeding at cones of a red spruce in an abandoned Christmas tree plantation in Bucks County (A. Mirabella, H. Eskin).

Miscellaneous Food Plants

There were one-time reports of White-winged Crossbills feeding at cones of pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), Crimean pine (*Pinus sp.*) and cork-barked fir (*Abies sp.*) at Graver Arboretum, Northampton County (D. Welch), and single reports of birds using Sakhalin spruce (*Picea sp.*) and Carolina hemlock (*Tsuga caroliniana*) at Haverford College, Delaware County (S. Johnson). One observer reported birds feeding at cones of red pine (*P.*



Image 3. White-winged Crossbill flock on Norway spruce, Washington Cemetery, Washington, 10 January 2009. (Cris Hamilton)



Image 4. White-winged Crossbill on eastern hemlock, Washington Cemetery, Washington, 15 January 2009. (Geoff Malosh)

resinosa), Scots pine (*P. sylvestris*) and Austrian pine (*P. nigra*) at unspecified locations (M. Weible). On several visits to Allegheny Cemetery, Pittsburgh, birders watched crossbills feeding on seeds of sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), the only report of feeding on this popular shade tree. There was a single report of birds eating seeds of birch (*Betula sp.*) in Northampton County (R. Wiltraut), and one report of birds eating flowers of an unspecified tree in Washington County (R. Gallardy).

There were five reports of crossbills visiting feeders in three counties, with none of the birds settling in for extended stays in the manner of other irruptive finches. Their specialized bills apparently make them less efficient than other cardueline finches at husking non-conifer seeds (Benkman 1992). The literature (cited and uncited) of past irruptions is sprinkled with similar feeder reports. Observers contributing food preference information to a Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology citizen science project on winter finches reported that crossbills were seen at feeders less than 20% of the time and feeding at conifers more than 80 % of the time, and were the least likely of the winter finches to visit feeders (birdsource).

Conclusion

This impromptu, informal and unscientific survey of internet using Pennsylvania birders revealed many interesting details about food plant use by White-winged Crossbills in Pennsylvania in 2008-09. It reinforced the widely known and published preference of irruptive crossbills for eastern hemlock in the northeast. The

survey also appeared to reinforce the known preference of the birds for spruces and larches over pines. It showed that these birds will readily forage at cones of exotic spruces, larches and Douglas-fir when their preferred boreal food plants are uncommon or unavailable.

Of the exotic conifers, White-winged Crossbills made especially wide use of abundant Norway spruce, not noted as a food plant in BNA, but widely used also in New York state. The birds' extensive use of Colorado blue spruce and Douglas-fir, though predictable, was not noted in the past in cited literature. (A more complete literature search than that done for this report might reveal more uses of these and other introduced conifers by White-winged Crossbills in the eastern US). The survey also presents some evidence that crossbills may have preferred the smaller cones of eastern hemlock, Colorado blue spruce and Douglas-fir over the larger, presumably more unwieldy and perhaps more tightly closed cones of Norway spruce when they had a choice.

I would like to thank contributors to the PABIRDS list serve for including White-winged Crossbill feeding information in their posts. The survey results show the value of the internet for gathering useful and interesting information about birds that might otherwise go unrecorded.

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Raptor Migration Summary – Spring 2009

Laurie Goodrich

A cold, wet spring across Pennsylvania tested the resolve of hawk-watchers and migrants. The number of active spring sites decreased this year (Figure 1). Three traditional sites maintained count efforts and one new site in the northwest increased its hours. Two occasional sites reported one to three days of counts, and one formerly active spring site was unable to continue coverage. Despite challenges of weather, watchers donned extra clothing and enjoyed some amazing flights. Statewide, spring counts remained average to above-average for most species, and a few new records were set.

Migration Summary

A total of 19,789 migrant raptors of 17 species were recorded across Pennsylvania between 21 February and 20 May. The rarest was a Swallow-tailed Kite over the Presque Isle watch-site, Erie County, in a kettle of 50 Broad-winged Hawks on 21 April (see photo). This sighting represents one of earliest spring records of this species for the state (McWilliams & Brauning 2000), and adds to the growing number of kite reports for the region.

Table 1: Pennsylvania watch-sites reporting for spring 2009

Site	Hours	Total
Allegheny Front	412	2377
Council Cup	2	2
Hawk Mountain	221	643
Presque Isle	163	14365
Second Mountain	14	258
Tussey Mountain	428	2144
Total	1238	19789

Total hours (1238) were slightly higher than in 2008, due to increased coverage at Presque Isle and resumed full-season coverage at Tussey (Table 1). Of the six sites reporting, two counted for more than 400 hours each, and two for less than 20 hours. Three sites reported average passage rates of three to six birds per hour, while Presque Isle led the group with 88 birds per hour. Statewide counters recorded an average of 16 birds per hour. Watch-site coverage was consistent through March and April with more than 500 hours of counting per month statewide. Two sites counted

in February (Allegheny Front, Tussey), for 75 hours total; and, three sites covered days in May (Allegheny Front, Hawk Mountain, Presque Isle), including 91 hours total (Table 1).

Spring 2009 totals were up 60% compared to 2008 totals, primarily due to the impressive Broad-winged Hawk counts from Presque Isle. Broad-wings concentrate along the south shores of the Great Lakes in greater numbers than at other locations in the northeast as they try to avoid crossing these large bodies of water. The establishment of the Presque Isle watch-site allows Pennsylvania's hawkwatchers to enjoy this bounty of birds just as New York sites have for years. The additional count days from this Lake Erie site also have nudged up the Turkey Vulture and Sharp-shinned Hawk counts for the state (both up more than 25% compared to 2008). The most numerous migrants statewide were Turkey Vulture (6347), Broad-winged Hawk (8808), Red-tailed Hawk, (1410), and Sharp-shinned Hawk (1216).

Site Highlights

Allegheny Front (Bedford): Allegheny Front set a new season count record in 2009 with 2377 hawks in 412 hours of counting from 21 February to 6 May. The most numerous migrants were Broad-winged Hawk (854), Red-tailed Hawk (465), and Turkey Vulture (384). Broad-winged Hawk and American Kestrel counts of 39 each set new species records. Osprey (61) and Red-shouldered Hawks (36) were 50% and 44% below average, and Bald Eagle (32) and Golden eagle counts (81) were 68% and 15% above average. The many days of rain in March and April may have affected their migration patterns. Allegheny Front had the second highest total for Golden Eagles for the state (81), emphasizing again how important the western ridges of the Appalachians are for migrating goldens (Table 2, 3). The best Golden Eagle day occurred on March 17th when Bob Gorsuch counted 23 adults and one juvenile, between 1200 and 1630. Few birds flew before noon due to heavy morning fog, but when the fog lifted, winds shifted to the southeast and eagles began streaming past. Other notable Golden Eagle flights included 16 on 5 March. Eric Hall tallied the

highest Broad-winged Hawk one-day count for the site with 650 on 24 April, among 14 species for the day. He reported that most the birds passed during mid-day hours, often very low. A close-flying adult Peregrine Falcon and adult Northern Goshawk were especially exciting. In the last day of the season, 6 May, Rosemary McGlynn recorded an unusually late juvenile Golden Eagle, being escorted by a shrieking resident Red-tail.

Council Cup (Luzerne): Donald Kapral endured brisk northwest winds and -3° C temperatures on March 13th to count two migrant Turkey Vultures during four hours of coverage. No other counts were recorded for the site.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Berks/Schuylkill): Hawk Mountain's spring count began 7 March with daily coverage by interns from 1 April to 15 May. The total of 643 raptors was low compared to the ten-year average of 1078. Despite the lowest total count in 10 years, several species counts were higher than average, including Bald Eagle (17), compared with an average of 12 birds in the prior 10 years. The 3 Peregrine Falcons was also above average, reflecting the continued increase of this species in the east.

Ten out of the 45 official count days were hampered by rain or fog and April count days often included strong westerly winds which may have pushed migrants off the ridge in greater numbers than usual. Broad-winged Hawks (273) were 38% below the 10-year average (443). Red-tailed Hawks, Ospreys, and Sharp shinned Hawks were also below average (Table 2).

March counts were sporadic but several volunteers hiked to the Lookout to record 43 migrants over several days, including 3 early-moving Bald Eagles and 21 Red-tailed Hawks. In April, the Mountain flight began to pick up. On 11 April after a storm cleared the region, Dave Hughes tallied 20 Osprey (including one carrying a fish), 5 Bald Eagles, and 16 Broad-winged Hawks among 59 total raptors. The peak flight of the season came on the 21 April, when Charles Showers, Mercy Muiriri, and Rob Feldman counted 91 raptors including 78 Broad-winged Hawks, for the highest one-day count of this species for the site (Table

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

Site	Br.-winged Hawk		Golden Eagle	
	Count	Date	Count	Date
Allegheny Front	650	4/24	24	3/17
Hawk Mountain	78	4/21	1	4/11
Presque Isle	3347	4/24	--	--
Second Mountain	84	4/19	--	--
Tussey Mountain	262	4/24	37	3/18

2). April 24th brought the second-highest Broad-wing total (58), and the highest one-day count of Bald Eagles (6). Numbers dwindled after this date, with 6 May bringing the last notable push of birds (32), including 14 Osprey, the high for this species for the season.

Presque Isle (Erie): Jerry McWilliams began counting on March 5th recording one of the highest one-day counts for Red-tailed Hawk for the site (36), and 4 Rough-legged Hawks, among a total of 55 migrants. A spectacular flight of 1037 Turkey Vultures was recorded 24 March on east-northeast winds. Twenty-six Red-tails joined the vulture parade. Following a heavy morning rain 1 April, another large flight of 1232 Turkey Vultures was made. Mid-April brought steady flights, including American Kestrels and Sharp-shinned Hawks in good numbers. On 21 April, winds switched to the southwest and migrants filled the skies. At 1310, a kettle of 50 Broad-winged Hawks swirled overhead joined by the bird of

the season, an adult Swallow-tailed Kite! The kite lingered long enough for a few photos before heading off. Soon thereafter, an albino Broad-winged Hawk was seen amidst 200 other Broad-wings. Albinos have been rarely reported in this species but have been spotted occasionally in recent years in Mexico and other large-volume sites. By the time the rain slowed the flight in mid-afternoon, 3264 Broad-wings had passed, along with 113 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 10 Osprey, and 2 Rough-legged Hawks among a total of 3514 migrants.

The season's peak count occurred 24 April when Don Snyder and Jerry McWilliams recorded 3347 Broad-wings, 63 American Kestrels, 193 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 280 Turkey Vultures, amid a total of 3951 raptor migrants (Table 2, 3). Daily totals decreased thereafter, but counters still recorded consistent days of 100 to 200 birds. The last notable count was 13 May, with 280 birds tallied including 15 Bald Eagles and an adult Peregrine Falcon, only the second peregrine for the spring. On the last day of the county, 20 May, eleven Bald Eagles soared north, and during the last four days of the count counters tallied 50%

of the total Bald Eagles. Migrating Bald Eagles are also a highlight of May migration flights at other eastern Great Lakes sites (e.g., Derby Hill and Braddock Bay), suggesting even another reason for a May birding trip to Presque Isle.

Tussey Mountain (Centre): Tussey Mountain set new site records for four species: Sharp-shinned Hawk (178), Broad-winged Hawk (661), American Kestrel (57), and Peregrine Falcon (4). Counters increased their effort to an above-average 427.5 hours, and tallied 2144 migrants, for 5.02 birds per hour of effort. The total was 18% above the long-term average and included 200 Golden Eagles, the second highest count in recent years.

The eagle flight gained momentum in early March. On 5 March, Chuck Widmann, Jon Kauffman, and Robert McLaughlin recorded 28 Golden Eagles, with 21 passing in late afternoon hours. Southeast winds on the 7 March brought another eagle push with 32 Golden and 3 Bald eagles. Two days later, 27 more Golden Eagles passed north and were joined by a lone American Kestrel. A season one-day peak count of 37 Golden was tallied 18 March, along with 3 Bald Eagles amidst a total of 80 raptors (Table 2). Jon Kauffman reported that several eagles were in the sky simultaneously most the afternoon.

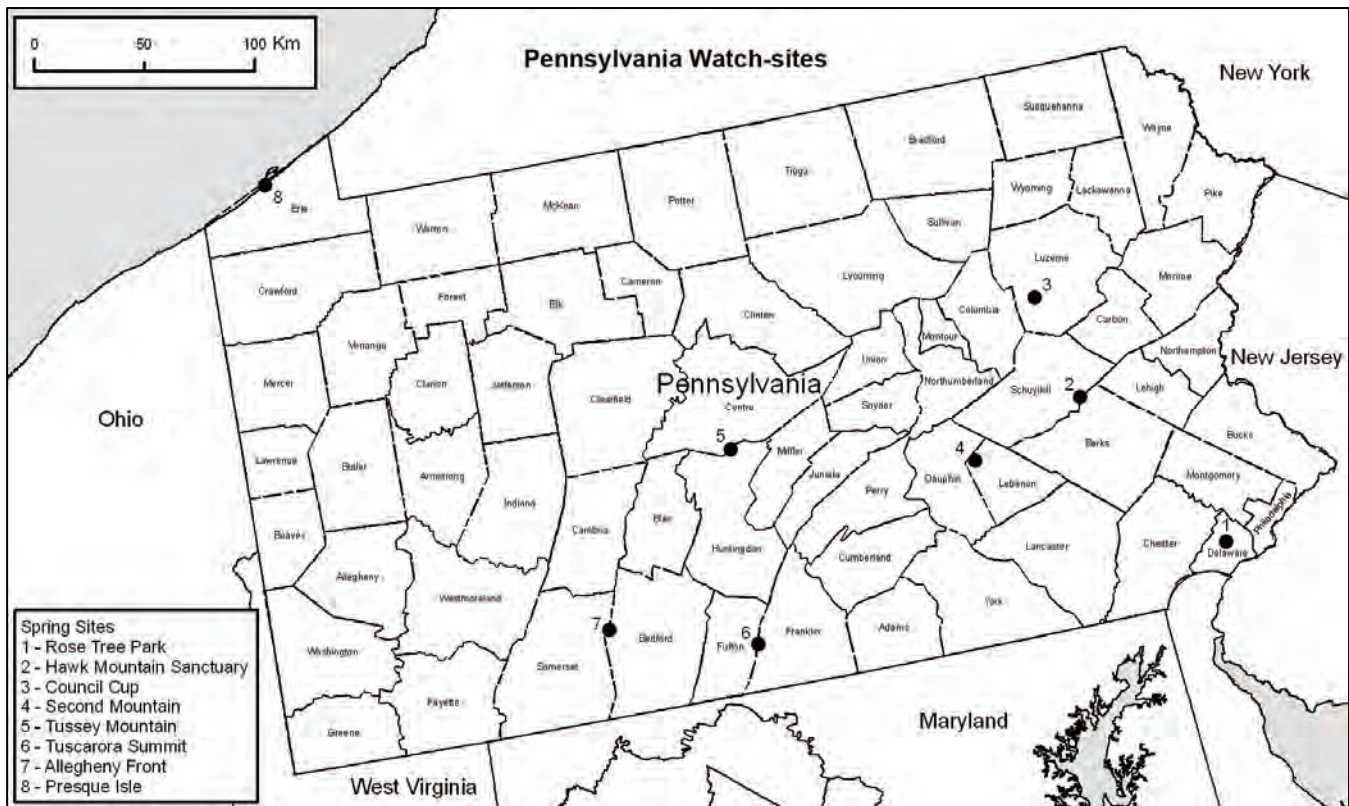




Plate 1. Swallow-tailed Kite over the Tom Ridge Environmental Education Center, Erie, 21 April 2009. (Jerry McWilliams)

In April as eagle counts waned, the other raptors picked up the pace. Broad-winged Hawks were first sighted 11 April. By 19 April their counts had increased, with 141 Broad-wings among 190 total migrants for the day. Chuck Widmann, Jon Kauffman, and Nick Bolgiano tallied the highest one-day count for the season 24 April, including 262 Broad-wings, 10 Sharp-shins, 9 Osprey, and the last Peregrine Falcon of the season among the 301 total raptors seen. On the last day of the season, 25 April, another 59 birds were sighted moving north.

Second Mountain (Lebanon): Second Mountain was covered for three days in mid-April. Counters chose the right days to visit the hawkwatch, tallying 258 migrants in 13.5 hours for 19.11 birds per hour of effort. Dave Schwenk, Brian Weaver, Gary Koppenhaver, and Tom McKinne recorded a peak one-day count on 19 April, with 84 Broad-winged Hawks, 13 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 9 Osprey, and 7 American Kestrels heading north on southerly winds (Table 2). Counts on the other two days totaled 34 and 106 respectively, with season totals including 24 Osprey, 2 Bald Eagles, one Northern Harrier, 35 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Cooper's Hawk, 173 Broad-winged Hawks, 10 Red-tailed Hawks, 10 American Kestrels, and 1 Merlin.

Conclusion

Spring migration watching can be both physically challenging and highly rewarding. In 2009, both were particularly true. Frigid, rainy days were more frequent than usual, and temperatures delayed warming well into mid-April. Despite the weather,

new species were sighted, new records were set, and exciting moments were shared at every site. Presque Isle set a wide lead for the state Broad-winged Hawk, Turkey Vulture, and American Kestrel counts, however the western mountain sites continued to define their leadership in the monitoring of Golden Eagles in the eastern US. All but one of the Golden Eagles

counted this spring were seen at Allegheny Front and Tussey Mountain. All watchers at all full-season sites witnessed awe-inspiring flights. (For information on Pennsylvania watchsites, directions, contacts, and daily counts see <www.hawkcount.org>).

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Acknowledgments

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Key to Species Headers for Table 3	
BLVU	Black Vulture
TUVU	Turkey Vulture
OSPR	Osprey
BAEA	Bald Eagle
NOHA	Northern Harrier
SSHA	Sharp-shinned Hawk
COHA	Cooper's Hawk
NOGO	Northern Goshawk
RSHA	Red-shouldered Hawk
BWHA	Broad-winged Hawk
RTHA	Red-tailed Hawk
RLHA	Rough-legged Hawk
GOEA	Golden Eagle
AMKE	American Kestrel
MERL	Merlin
PEFA	Peregrine Falcon
STKI	Swallow-tailed Kite
UNID	unidentified

Table 3. Spring 2009 count results for Pennsylvania watch sites.

ALLEGHENY FRONT (Bedford) - Che Mincione, compiler

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOGA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	STKI	TOTAL
February	35.5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	17
March	201	1	294	4	18	14	91	27	3	32	1	230	0	68	28	2	1	16	0	830
April	159.5	8	89	49	14	14	127	28	4	4	849	227	0	5	11	7	2	69	0	1507
May	16	0	0	8	0	0	2	2	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	23
Total	412	9	384	61	32	28	220	57	7	36	854	465	0	81	39	9	3	92	0	2377
Total/hr.	0.02	0.93	0.15	0.08	0.07	0.53	0.14	0.02	0.02	0.09	2.07	1.13	0.00	0.20	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.22	0.00	5.77
% flight	0.38	16.15	2.57	1.35	1.18	9.26	2.40	0.29	0.16	1.51	35.93	19.56	0.00	3.41	1.64	0.38	0.13	3.87	0.00	100.00
Average	419.4	12.1	357.3	119.6	19.4	32.1	173.7	66.6	5.1	64.0	383.0	453.3	2.7	69.6	22.7	6.1	4.1	103.3	0.0	1894.9

HAWK MOUNTAIN (Berks/Schuylkill) - Zoe Smith, compiler

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOGA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	STKI	TOTAL
March	27.65	0	4	1	3	2	6	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	43
April	148	4	13	49	13	18	50	15	0	1	267	54	0	1	15	2	3	38	0	543
May	45.15	0	0	19	1	1	11	0	0	0	6	13	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	57
Total	220.8	4	17	69	17	21	67	15	0	1	273	88	0	1	18	3	3	46	0	643
Total/hr.	0.02	0.08	0.31	0.08	0.10	0.30	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.24	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.01	0.21	0.00	2.92
% flight	0.62	2.64	10.73	2.64	3.27	10.42	3.33	0.16	0.16	42.46	13.69	136.6	0.00	0.16	2.80	0.47	0.47	7.15	0.00	100.00
Average	10.5	20.5	117.5	11.8	28.9	135.3	34.3	0.6	0.6	9.8	443.1	136.6	0.0	1.1	37.3	5.7	1.6	0.0	0.0	1078.1

TUSSEY MOUNTAIN (Centre) - Dan Ombalski, compiler

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOGA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	STKI	TOTAL
February	29.5	1	12	0	9	1	2	1	0	0	0	18	1	16	0	0	1	1	0	63
March	233	32	142	4	18	13	57	41	3	47	0	260	2	170	21	0	2	12	0	824
April	165	6	0	93	9	31	119	42	0	4	661	214	0	14	36	5	1	22	0	1257
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	427.5	39	154	97	36	45	178	84	3	51	661	492	3	200	57	5	4	35	0	2144
Total/hr.	0.09	0.36	0.23	0.08	0.11	0.42	0.20	0.01	0.12	1.55	1.15	1.15	0.01	0.47	0.13	0.01	0.01	0.68	0.00	5.02
% flight	1.82	7.18	4.52	1.68	2.10	8.30	3.92	0.14	0.14	2.38	30.83	22.95	0.14	9.33	2.66	0.23	0.19	1.63	0.00	100.00
Average	399.6	25.8	295.0	64.0	24.0	38.0	125.7	76.0	2.2	52.8	322.8	503.8	7.2	177.7	38.0	2.5	0.0	59.7	0.0	1815.2

PRESQUE ISLE (Erie) - Jerry McWilliams, compiler

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOGA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	STKI	TOTAL
February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	47.5	0	2433	0	5	5	29	15	0	75	0	151	12	0	24	1	1	13	0	2764
April	85	0	2804	53	29	38	626	28	0	6	6743	170	10	0	212	6	0	26	1	10752
May	30	0	553	17	44	6	61	6	0	4	104	34	1	0	11	0	1	7	0	849
Total	162.5	0	5790	70	78	49	716	49	0	85	6847	355	23	0	247	7	2	46	1	14365
Total/hr.	0.00	35.63	0.43	0.48	0.30	4.41	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.52	42.14	2.18	0.14	0.00	1.52	0.04	0.01	0.28	0.01	88.40
% flight	0.00	40.31	0.49	0.54	0.34	4.98	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.59	47.66	2.47	0.16	0.00	1.72	0.05	0.01	0.32	0.01	100.00

TOTAL FOR ALL PENNSYLVANIA WATCHSITES

Month	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOGA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	UNID.	STKI	TOTAL
February	65.0	1	13	0	9	1	2	1	0	0	0	26	1	23	0	0	1	2	0	80
March	511.2	33	2875	9	44	34	183	83	6	154	1	662	14	238	76	3	4	44	0	4463
April	571.0	18	2906	268	67	102	957	115	4	15	8693	675	10	20	284	21	6	155	1	14317
May	91.2	0	553	44	45	7	74	8	0	4	114	47	1	1	11	1	1	18	0	929
Total	1238.4	52	6347	321	165	144	1216	207	10	173	8808	1410	26	282	371	25	12	219	1	19789
Total/hr.	0.04	5.13	0.26	0.13	0.12	0.98	0.17	0.01	0.01	0.14	7.11	1.14	0.02	0.23	0.30	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	15.98
% flight	0.3	32.1	1.6	0.8	0.7	6.1	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.9	44.5	7.1	0.1	1.4	1.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	100.0

Totals include 258 migrants from Second Mountain and 2 from Council Cup (see text for details).

Book Review

Gene Wilhelm

PETERSON FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA by Roger Tory Peterson, foreword by Lee Allen Peterson, with contributions from Michael DiGiorgio, Jeffrey A. Gordon, Paul Lehman, Michael O'Brien, Larry Rosche, and Bill Thompson III, updated species taxonomy, revised text, 40 new paintings, digital updates of original paintings, 681 new thumbnail and 682 larger range maps, color photographs and access to 35 video podcasts; 6 x 9.25 inch trim size, xiv + 527 pp., published 2008 by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, printed in Singapore, soft cover, \$26.00 USD.

This combined beautiful work of art and updated scientific avian field guide is the second book published in 2008 celebrating the centennial of Roger Tory Peterson's birth (hereafter RTP). It complements Elizabeth J. Rosenthal's (hereafter, "EJR") *Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson* so proficiently that it should be considered a necessary prelude read before this guide. Further, the guide itself should be placed in historical perspective of what can be called "avian illustrations".

Birds are the only bipeds on earth besides humans and they have fascinated us for millennia. At least 50,000 years ago, the aborigines of Australia were among the earliest people to paint birds and other wildlife forms on the walls of stone overhangs. Later, other worldwide cultures decorated walls in caves, tombs, mounds and temples with such vivid avian figures that species can be identified today, thousands of years later. Thus, illustrating birds is nothing new, but the technology and methodology of doing so are.

Alexander Wilson, the Scot who published an incredible eight-volume work titled *American Ornithology* between 1808 and 1823, is usually called the "father" of American ornithology. However, his artistic impact was negligible by comparison to that of John James Audubon, who published *The Birds of America* in 1838, consisting of 4 huge volumes and 435 plates of 497 species in a double-*elephant-sized* chromolithographic edition. The heaviest volume weighed 56 pounds and even the much later *The*

Audubon Society Baby Elephant Folio: Audubon's Birds of America weighed 18 pounds. Of course, neither work could be considered a field guide or convenient bedside reading. Although Audubon's work was not arranged systematically, it was the first time a majority of eastern and (some) western birds of America were adequately portrayed in life-size dimension. To describe these birds and paint their portraits, many of which are masterpieces in detail, Audubon required freshly killed specimens. The "shotgun school of ornithology," as it was called, prevailed for nearly a century after Audubon, for good reason. Initially, many species could not be determined afar with accuracy unless a specimen was collected. In 1872, twenty-one years after the death of Audubon, Elliot Cowles, a U.S. Army surgeon, published his *Key to North American Birds*, which was a revolutionary identification guide for birds "in the hand." He wrote to a colleague that his key enabled anyone without any knowledge of ornithology to be able to identify any specimen in a few seconds. This brilliant scholar, with a driving passion for birds, wrote in his field ornithology manual, "The double-barrel shotgun is the only tool needed for the science." Even John Burroughs, well-known naturalist, advised a student to "shoot the bird to identify it."

In 1903, when Frank M. Chapman published his *Key to North American Birds*, illustrated by Chester Reed, he wrote: "From the scientific point of view, there is only one satisfactory way to identify a bird: a specimen of it should be in hand." Aware years later of an increasing dilemma, he added: "We cannot place a shotgun in the hands of all these birdwatchers we are developing." Indeed, something different had to be attempted.

In 1916, the artist Chester Reed proceeded to remedy the situation by writing and illustrating his own *Bird Guide: Land Birds East of the Rockies: From Parrots to Bluebirds*. This little "pocket guide," the size and shape of a checkbook, listed one avian species per page. But the guide gave too little description and the bird illustrations were often misleading. On the other hand, Reed's book enticed Frank M. Chapman, Curator of Birds, American

Museum of Natural History (AMNH), to publish, in 1925, *What Bird Is That?* It had the long sub-title "A Pocket Museum of the Land Birds of the Eastern United States Arranged According to Season."

This hard cover book included a frontispiece outline of a bluebird with "Map of a Bird" that is used in every avian field guide, including the Peterson Series. Likewise, the book includes eight fine color plates by Edmund Sawyer. Each plate depicted mounted birds found in eight cases, arranged according to season, in the AMNH. In 1930, Chapman published *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America* with over 200 illustrations. Nevertheless, as EJR writes: "Over five hundred pages of small print and densely packed with enough information for a textbook, the book's narrative tended to overwhelm the otherwise pleasing plates by Fuertes." Finally, in 1931, Frank G. Ashbrook followed Reed's model by writing a series of three pocket guides: *The Red Book of Birds of America*, *The Blue Book of Birds of America*, and *The Green Book of Birds of America*, all illustrated in color by Paul Moller. Each guide devoted one page to a species with a brief description and color illustration. RTP should have known about Chapman's and Ashbrook's works but I could not find evidence in EJR or elsewhere.

Had it not been for Ms. Blanche Hornbeck, seventh grade school teacher in Jamestown, New York, RTP would never have been introduced to birds. He was eleven years old when Ms. Hornbeck formed a Junior Audubon Club. Each pupil in the class paid a dime and was given ten leaflets. Each leaflet had four pages of text about a particular bird. There was also a color plate of the bird and an outline drawing to color. Finally, each student received a membership button with a male Red-winged Blackbird on it. One day, Ms. Hornbeck handed each student a box of watercolors and a Louis A. Fuertes color plate from *Birds of New York*. RTP was given a Blue Jay and that bird did it. He became so hooked on birds that he soon acquired a copy of the Reed bird guide because that was the book everyone, young and old, used. Then, RTP discovered Ernest Thompson Seton's *Two Little Savages*

and was especially intrigued with Chapter 16: "How Yan Knew the Ducks from Afar." He learned that all ducks can be identified apart from each other by plumage markings that act like labels or soldier uniforms. Two black and white plates showed twenty-four species of river and sea ducks in male and female plumages. The ducks faced in the same direction, reflected size differences and featured the markings that a birdwatcher could see at a distance. Remember, in the early 20th century, good prism binoculars were not available to birdwatchers. For RTP, however, enlightenment occurred with discovering the concept of visual simplification for bird identification and this encouraged him to start painting birds that eventually became his passion.

Bill Vogt, a New York friend, and RTP agreed to a field guide project that focused on a limited promotional plan: the illustrations would be simple, with patterns and would concentrate on field marks rather than full species descriptions. After approaching four publishers without success, in 1934 Houghton Mifflin of Boston consented to publishing *A Field Guide to the Birds* with its 4 color and 26 black and white plates. These pattern drawings with arrows pinpointing key field marks introduced the Peterson Identification System to the birding world. The rather formal schematic illustrations and direct comparisons between similar species were the core of the system, a practical method that gradually gained universal acceptance here and abroad. Later, the concept was extended to other branches of natural history with scores of titles in a Peterson Field Guide System published by Houghton Mifflin to this day.

It took only four years for the evolution of *A Field Guide to the Birds* (AFGB) to begin. In 1939, its 180-page second edition added range descriptions for all species, four new plates and line drawings, plus measurements in inches of species from bill tip to tail tip. In 1947, *A Field Guide to Western Birds* (FGWB) was published but covered only western states, stopping abruptly at the Canadian border. A third edition of AFGB, in 1947, went from 180 to 290 pages, allowing more space for textual education. Simple but brilliant additions were the 28 Roadside Silhouettes on the inside front cover, 23 Shore Silhouettes on pp.182-183 before Appendix I, and 26 Flight Silhouettes

on the inside back cover with answer keys identifying each lifelike shadow. Silhouettes became a standard feature in future editions and new guides, including four pages for *A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe* by RTP, Guy Mountfort, and P.A.D. Hollom in 1954. The book, 318 pages long, was the first time all the birds of Europe were included in a single pocket guide with 1,250 illustrations and 367 range maps showing summer and winter distribution. Henceforth, RTP and his guide were considered "international in scope" all across Europe. In 1960, *A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas* appeared, the only RTP guide devoted to a single state. Its 304 pages covered all 542 species recorded at that time in Texas, included 60 full-page plates (36 in color), numerous line drawings, 2 area maps and 13 pages of delightful silhouettes. In 1961, RTP revised his FGWB and enlarged its geography by changing the boundaries from the 90th to the 100th meridian and including a section on the birds of Hawaii. The guide's 366 pages included 700 species and 60 new plates (36 in color that represented six times more color plates as there were in the first edition). With *A Field Guide to Mexican Birds* in 1973, co-authored with Edward L. Chalif, a total of 1038 species were treated by RTP, resulting in 48 color plates in 298 pages. In 1980, a fourth edition of AFGB was completely revised and enlarged to 384 pages, including 136 new color plates and 390 range maps that covered all the birds of eastern and central North America. In 1990, a third 432-page edition of FGWB was almost completely revised with 165 plates, of which 111 were new, representing 700 species recorded west of the Great Plains, and 441 three-color range maps that were the most accurate, precise and legible of any previous field guide. Finally, the fifth edition of AFGB was published in 2002, six years after Peterson's death, with extraordinary team effort by Nobel Proctor, Paul Lehman, H. Douglas Pratt, and Pete Dunn. After nearly seventy-five years of progress, the Peterson system had reached a critical point in its evolutionary process. What should be done now? The logical response was not only to combine the latest editions of the eastern and western guides into one book, but also to insert revised contents and up-to-date technology to become the 21st century "leader of the pack" among avian field guides.

The beautiful portrait of a pair of Northern Flickers perched on a dead tree limb, partly covered with the crimson leaves and blue fruit of a Virginia creeper vine, adorns the book's cover and sets the tone of the guide. It is an atypical example of a "painterly painting," as RTP called it, not the customary bird illustrations found on the cover jackets of his other field guides. Fittingly, it was the flicker resurrection experience of his youth that solidified Roger's passion for birds.

The 6 inch x 9 inch size of the book supercedes the 4 1/2 inch x 7 1/2 inch measurements of the other field guides. The extra space permits tremendous opportunities in layout and format. As RTP remarked earlier: "Years ago, I had concluded that for comparative purposes, the ideal number of species per color plate would be about four or five . . . but the cost factor prohibited this ideal format when we first broke ground." The economics of distribution as well as technical advances in fine offset printing in the 1980s made it possible to surmount earlier restraints as clearly illustrated by the 4th edition of AFGB and further fine-tuned in the new guide. It allows bird illustrations to be twice as large as the 4th edition of AFGB and to have thumbnail maps adjoining species descriptions for the first time. The larger bird images, including forty new paintings, are alive and vibrant. A number of Roger's attractive photographs, another first in the bird guides, are inserted as visual introductions to major parts of the book and add spontaneity.

A foreword by Lee Allen Peterson, son of RTP, gives the reader an inside familial perspective of his father. "Dad always likened writing a field guide to serving a prison sentence. The projects are always lengthy and the spatial and visual constraints pronounced. The writing is not stream of consciousness but more akin to writing a telegram—fitting the maximum amount of information into the minimum amount of space. The illustration can never be free and loose but always tightly controlled, showing the essence of the bird in question. In both these endeavors, Dad excelled." RTP likewise excelled in his exceptional sense of hearing that registered in audio tests "well into the 99th percentile of human capability—with Dad registering frequencies far above the norm."

Lisa A. White, in Editor's Note, added: "Peterson was an innovator. If he were a young bird watcher today,

there's a good chance he would be at the forefront of new birding technology." Thus, the book includes a URL, <www.petersonfieldguides.com>, where readers can access a set of thirty-five video podcasts that are easy to use, educational and fun. Examples include overviews of common and popular species, comparisons of groups of similar species, helpful birding tips, tutorials to help the reader get the most out of this field guide, a mini-biography of RTP, and many vocalizations of featured birds. Additionally, the guide's content was revised by a team of expert birders who worked diligently to enhance Roger's legacy and extrapolate a wealth of accurate, current, and highly useful information for today's birders. "Paul Lehman and Bill Thompson III revised all the text. Michael O'Brien painted the new species, laid out the plates, directed the digital work, and consulted editorially. Paul Lehman supplied the information for the new range maps, graphic artist Larry Rosche created the maps digitally, and Marshall Iliff reviewed them all. Michael DiGiorgio did the digital enhancements of the art and executed the layout of the plates digitally... Jeffrey Gordon and Bill Thompson III created the video podcasts, which we hope will enhance your enjoyment of birds and bird watching," states White.

Introduction (pp. 3-15) starts with How to Identify Birds and reuses materials found in How to Know the Birds (1949) and the 4th edition of AFGB (1980). Pertinent questions and pen-ink illustrations, all excellent in typical RTP style, include a bird's size, shape, wings, bill, tail, behavior, etc., bird songs and calls, bird nests, conservation, maps, habitats, subspecies, and geographic variation.

Plates (pp. 16-407) make up the bulk of the guide. For the most part, birds are grouped in taxonomic sequence. However, birds that can be confused are grouped together when possible and arranged in identical profile for direct comparison. Of course, arrows point to salient field marks that are explained in the text. The text also gives aids such as voice, actions and habitat and under a separate heading discusses species that might be confused. The large, colorful illustrations are wonderful to behold and they reflect again the issue of photographs vs. paintings for illustrating birds. Perhaps RTP said it best: "A drawing can do much more

than a photograph to emphasize the field marks. A photograph is a record of a fleeting instant; a drawing is a composite of the artist's experience. The artist can edit out, show field marks to best advantage, and delete unnecessary clutter. He can choose position and stress basic color and pattern unmodified by transitory light and shade. A photograph is subject to the vagaries of color temperature, make of film, time of day, angle of view, skill of the photographer, and just plain luck. The artist has more options, far more control even though he may at times use photographs for reference. This is not a diatribe against photography. I am an obsessive photographer as well as an artist and fully aware of the differences. Whereas a photograph can have a living immediacy, a good drawing is really more instructive." Not just any drawings, but pattern type, rather formal, schematic illustrations with arrows pinpointing diagnostic field marks that even later competitors like David Allen Sibley followed. As he states in EJR, *Birdwatcher*, pp. 273-274: "Once I started working on the field guide more seriously... I ended up... going back to something very similar to Roger's first field guide... less artistic and more diagrammatic, so that the differences that I want people to notice stand out more... and I ended up, after six years of working on it... going back to some of the basic principles that Roger had started with in the 1930s. He really had it right from the very beginning." In addition to the marvelous plates of birds usually found in North America north of Mexico, plates depicting accidentals from Eurasia, the sea, and the Tropics, and some of the exotic escapes that are sometimes observed, are included.

Range Maps. Range maps need to be of sufficient size to denote adequate detail and written information. Thus, these maps are found near the end of the book where they can be reproduced in a large size not possible in the main body of the text. The annotated three-colored range maps (pp. 410-496) provide detailed range information, such as comments on population increases and decreases, extralimital occurrences, and regular winter or summer ranges outside North America. However, the maps are approximate, giving the general outlines of the range for each species. Many gaps—areas ecologically unsuitable for the species—can be expected within these broad

outlines. Migration routes are not depicted in the maps but side notes sometimes include information on migration. Maps are not filled in with solid color if the species is considered rare, very rare, casual, accidental, and/or a vagrant, all terms of abundance. Thumbnail versions of the maps appear left of the species accounts for quick reference. Lastly, all maps are based on current data culled from many publications, such as *North American Birds*, and from personal communications with state, provincial and federal experts throughout North America. The key to the range maps is located on page 411 and also on the inside of the front cover for quick reference.

The Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America has two minor flaws: its size and weight. In the evolutionary process, it is evident that bird watchers are no longer dealing with 'pocket guides' that actually fit into pants' pockets. The book is only slightly smaller than *The Sibley Guide to Birds* but equal to it in weight. Likewise, the book is larger than the recent *Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America* but slightly lighter in weight. Sibley solved his problem by splitting the book into two segments: *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America* and *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*. The new Peterson guide combined two smaller eastern and western guides. Solution: accept the fact that contemporary avian field guides have reached a new level of size, weight, and excellence, and must be carried in a backpack. For the beginning bird watcher, however, the new Peterson book is a complete guide to the birds of North America with superb, large, color illustrations, up to date large and small range maps, clear and concise text and 35 video podcasts that make it not only a must-buy but also an encouraging hope for preserving the environment and its wildlife. As Lee Allen Peterson, Roger's son, exclaimed: "His whole life was about communication. His greatest wish was to pass along his love of birds and the outdoors, to imbue the rest of us with the same sense of wonder and responsibility that he had derived from bird watching." Can we afford to do less?

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Summary of the Season – March through May 2009

Mike Fialkovich

This spring was notable for small numbers of some of the expected migrants across the state. **Common Loons** didn't appear in usual numbers in many locations. The exception was 41 in *Bedford*. Low numbers were noted in *Berks* and *Fayette*. There was a push of migrants late in May when this species is unexpected apart from a few stragglers. Waterfowl fallouts were few, so we missed out on numbers of **Long-tailed Ducks** and other waterfowl that have been an annual event in spring. Observers noted a lack of thrush sightings, and once again we experienced a spring migration that was short on widespread and numerous warblers. Warmer than normal weather in late April and early May pushed migrants into the state, but this was followed by cool temperatures and low numbers of migrants detected. The northern finches that made the winter so memorable remained into the season.

A **Trumpeter Swan** was found in *Cumberland* and a pair remained from the winter season in *Luzerne*. Read the *Luzerne* narrative to learn more about the origin of the birds. **Greater White-fronted Geese** moved through the expected counties of *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Chester* and *Lancaster*. *Beaver's* second passed through this spring and a good count of five stopped in *Bedford*. Unusual numbers of **Snow Geese** appeared in the northwestern counties in mid-March. This species is uncommon in that part of the state, appearing in small numbers when they do show up, so a flock of 125 in *Crawford* and at least 50 in *Erie* were remarkable. A blue morph was just to the south in *Mercer* on the first day of April. A flock of 12 in *Indiana* in mid-March were also unusual for that county. An incredible 350 stopped in *Bedford* in early March, an unexpected total for that part of the state. Even the eastern counties of *Luzerne* and *Philadelphia* saw **Snow Geese** which are uncommon in those areas. These days **Ross' Goose** is a regular winter visitor and migrant. They were reported in four southeastern counties as usual. A bird at a small farm pond in *Washington* was (most likely) a welcomed first for that county. Normally associated with easterly winds in fall, 3 **Brant** in *Bedford* in mid-February are reportedly annual

visitors, and 3 in *Tioga* in March were unexpected. **Cackling Geese** were reported from *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Dauphin*, *Lancaster*, and *Montgomery*.

Eurasian Wigeon made its annual appearance this spring. This is another species that's now expected almost annually in the state and can appear just about anywhere. Single males were in *Berks*, *Crawford*, *Dauphin*, *Lancaster* and *Lawrence*. A **Green-winged (Common) Teal** was documented in *Bucks*. **Scoters** were in short supply so all three species made it into the Birds of Note. **Black Scoters** were only reported in three counties with five in *Forest* quite unexpected. **Surf Scoters** were only found in three counties and **White-winged Scoters** were in five counties. Although there were not any widespread fallouts of **Long-tailed Ducks** this spring, a great count of 210 were in *Bedford* in March. Small numbers were reported during the season in 13 counties.

Single **Red-throated Loons** were in *Berks*, *Bedford*, and *Indiana*; 3 were in *Bucks* and *Dauphin*. This was not an invasion year for **Red-necked Grebe**; however reports were widespread from 21 counties statewide. A single bird in *Allegheny* remained on a pond for 51 days. **Eared Grebe** went unreported this spring.

Great Cormorants were at the regular locations with five lingering into mid-May in *Bucks*. **American Bitterns** were widely reported and an excellent count of 16 was observed leaving a marsh over a period of nine days to continue their migration. **Least Bitterns** were found in six counties, with a very visible pair at a nest in *Erie*. **Snowy Egrets** were in *Bucks* and *Philadelphia* and an unexpected bird spent a day in *Erie*. *Bucks*, *Chester* and *Philadelphia* hosted **Little Blue Herons**, and **Cattle Egrets** were in *Bucks*, *Greene* and *Luzerne*. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** appeared in a few western counties including *Allegheny*, *Crawford*, *Erie* (the one western county where they are regular migrants), and *Somerset*. Birds were found in *Monroe* where this species formally bred. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** returned to the well known breeding site in *Dauphin* and two birds alternated between *Delaware* and *Philadelphia* at the John Heinz

National Wildlife Refuge. *Cumberland* and *Luzerne* were also visited by this local species. **Glossy Ibis** rounds out the uncommon members of this group by way of reports from *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Lancaster*, *Lebanon*, *Luzerne*, *Delaware* and *Philadelphia*. A flock of 11 ibis in flight in *Berks* was too distant for positive identification, but were most likely **Glossy Ibis**; we are still waiting for Pennsylvania's first confirmed White-faced Ibis.

The putative **Great Blue Heron X Great Egret** continues in *Washington* not only as a puzzling curiosity but also as a breeding member of a **Great Blue Heron** rookery. It remains to be seen what the grown offspring of this apparent hybrid paired with a **Great Blue Heron** will look like.

An incredible and pleasant surprise at a newly established hawkwatch in *Erie* was a **Swallow tailed Kite**, a fantastic reward for those documenting the raptor migration along Lake Erie. A first for *Erie* and documented by photograph, this bird provided one of the very few records away from the southeastern part of the state. Adding further interest, it was soon followed by an albino **Broad-winged Hawk**. **Mississippi Kites** made their annual appearance with a bird in *Berks*, two or three in *Lancaster* for a few days, and one in *Mercer*. **Northern Goshawk** was reported in four counties and a leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** in *Washington* was enjoyed by several observers. A **Golden Eagle** in *Erie* was observed soaring in the western part of the county and another was in *Crawford*. Few birds are found away from the ridges during migration. **Golden Eagles** were reported from hawkwatches in *Bedford* and *Huntington*, and in *Northampton* one was observed way from the expected migration corridor of Blue Mountain. Birds were also unexpectedly seen in *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Juniata*, *Schuylkill*, and *Tioga*. **Black Vulture** is a resident only in the southeast, but reports are increasing away from that area. Reports from *Dauphin* are expected, and migrants at the Allegheny Front Hawk watch in *Bedford* are regularly found in small numbers. Birds were quite unexpectedly found in *Bradford* (perhaps only the second record), *Greene*, *Indiana* (second record),

Somerset, and for the first time in spring in *Westmoreland*.

Common Moorhen visited *Chester* and *Lebanon* where they are rare migrants, but were unfortunately absent in *Erie*, a former breeding site. Birds were present in the vast marshes in *Crawford* where they are regular breeders. **Sandhill Crane** has become so widely reported that it doesn't merit inclusion in the Birds of Note, with reports from 14 counties. It wasn't that long ago this species was a rarity in the state, and now it is expected just about anywhere as a migrant and is an established, though local, breeder.

Two **American Golden Plovers** were a rare spring find in *Berks*. Extremely rare away from Lake Erie, a **Piping Plover** spent at day at Shawnee State Park in *Bedford*, where it was well photographed. A **Black-necked Stilt** appeared at a small pond in *Lebanon*, an apparent magnet for a variety of shorebirds, and stayed for several days. One in *Lancaster* at the Conejohela Flats was a late migrant arriving in June. **American Avocets** were only in two counties: *Fayette* (a second record) and *Lancaster*, both remaining for a single day in typical avocet fashion. **Willetts** visited three western counties: *Allegheny*, *Erie*, and *Mercer*. A flock of 35 in *Erie* was very likely one of the largest ever recorded in the state. According to *Birds of Pennsylvania*, large flocks were sometimes observed in the 1800s, however numbers were not specified. **Upland Sandpipers** were only reported in three counties. Two migrants were in *Allegheny* where they are rare, and birds returned to breeding sites in *Crawford* and *Somerset*. **Ruddy Turnstone** was found as expected in *Erie* and *Lancaster* where they are somewhat regular, and unexpectedly, two birds were found on the same day in *Allegheny*, and two were in *Crawford*. Continuing this trend of a species rare away from Lake Erie, **Sanderlings** were in *Lebanon* (at the same location as the Black-necked Stilt above) and *Washington*. Rare in spring, **Western Sandpipers**, were reported in *Bedford* (4), *Crawford* (1) and *Lancaster* (2), and a **Stilt Sandpiper** was in *Bedford*. Single **Red-necked Phalaropes** were in *Berks*, *Crawford* and *Philadelphia*. The *Berks* individual was conveniently nearby the location of the PSO annual meeting, allowing many visiting birders the opportunity to see it.

Laughing Gulls visited four

counties. **Little Gulls** passed through on schedule at the expected locations. A fallout of **Bonaparte's Gulls** in mid-April caught birders by surprise in *Allegheny*, *Beaver*, *Fayette*, and *Washington* following a day of heavy rain. Along with them came 3 **Little Gulls** in *Beaver*, a first for that county and southwestern Pennsylvania; a region long thought to be out of the migration path of this species. **Black-headed Gulls** passed through *Dauphin* and *Lancaster*, following the route of the Little Gulls. **Iceland Gulls** remained into early spring in *Bucks* and *Erie*, **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** continue in large numbers in *Bucks*; one in *Crawford* was rare for that county, and a bird continues to winter annually in *Philadelphia*. **Glaucous Gulls** were in *Bucks*, *Chester*, and *Erie*. **Great Black-backed Gulls** were in *Chester* and *Erie*, and an unexpected bird was in *Crawford*. Once again, keen eyed observers noticed hybrid gulls this season. A **Lesser Black-backed X Herring Gull** was found in *Bucks* and a **Glaucous X Herring Gull** was located in *Erie*.

Two **Arctic Terns** generated excitement in *Lancaster* in the last few days of the season. If that wasn't enough for *Lancaster*, a **Least Tern** visited in early June, either a late migrant or a wandering individual. Two **Least Terns** also stopped by *Delaware*. **Black Terns** appeared in seven counties.

A **Eurasian Collared Dove** in *Cumberland* for a single day was the only one reported. Despite the theories that this species will eventually explode into the north, it doesn't appear to be the case in Pennsylvania, at least not yet. *Cumberland* also hosted a **White-winged Dove** at a feeder for two days in April.

Barn Owls continue to hang on with reports in five counties. We can hope that current research efforts will provide a better understanding of the decline of this species, as well as solutions for recovery. **Snowy Owl** reports ranged from a bird in *Allegheny* (in downtown Pittsburgh) for a few days in late March and early April, one of the two wintering birds in *Cambria* remained into early April, and one was reported but unconfirmed in *Clarion* in mid-March. **Long-eared Owls** were in four counties, most from the winter season that hadn't departed. **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were reported in five counties, and unfortunately one of those was a road-killed individual.

A **Chuck-wills-widow** was reported in *Bucks* in early May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were only reported in three counties: singles in *Bedford* and *Northampton*, and two in *Lebanon*. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** made a one day stop in *Wyoming*.

The few **Northern Shrike** reports were holdovers from the winter season. **Philadelphia Vireos** were only recorded in five counties.

Fish Crow sightings continue in *Allegheny* and *Indiana* and are increasing in *Delaware*. Since 2008 this species has become regular in the higher elevations in *Sullivan*. As noted in recent years in this journal, **Common Ravens** continue to expand out of the high elevations and into the surrounding areas particularly in the southwest. Reports continue in *Allegheny* and *Washington*, and a bird was in the glaciated northwest in *Crawford*.

Marsh Wrens returned to breeding sites in *Crawford* and *Erie*, but birds in *Chester* and *Huntington* were unusual.

This was another spring with low numbers of thrushes detected statewide and noted as such in the *Allegheny*, *Chester*, *Delaware* and *Lancaster* reports. A *Catharus* thrush in *Northampton* was reported as a **Gray-cheeked or Bicknell's**. A leucistic **American Robin** in *Erie* was studied and photographed by many. A **Varied Thrush** report came from *Union*.

Unfortunately **Golden-winged Warblers** are now becoming rare migrants with only a handful of reports from ten counties. There were two separate reports in *Erie* where they were always rare migrants, and for the second year in a row they did not return to a traditional breeding site in *Fayette*. Both hybrid warblers were reported this spring. **Brewster's Warblers** were found in *Allegheny*, *Berks*, *Cumberland*, *Juniata* and *Northampton*. **Lawrence's Warblers** were in *Allegheny*, *Beaver*, *Berks*, and *Erie*. **Orange-crowned Warblers** were in *Allegheny*, *Centre*, *Erie*, *Mercer*, and *Westmoreland*. Overwintering birds in *Bucks* and *Chester* were last seen in early March. Good numbers of **Nashville Warblers** were present in *Allegheny* in late April, *Centre* in early May, and in *Lebanon* throughout the migration period. It was quite the opposite in *Chester* with only a single report for the season. The apparent

spread of **Prothonotary Warblers** in the southeast is encouraging, particularly along the Susquehanna River in *Lancaster* where there are several breeding pairs. Small numbers hang on in *Crawford*. Birds on territory but not confirmed breeding were reported in *Berks* and *Schuylkill*. Reports from *Bradford*, *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Delaware*, *Huntington*, *Lebanon*, *Luzerne* and *Philadelphia* represented migrants.

A **Summer Tanager** visited a feeder in *Westmoreland* for two days. A notable count of **Scarlet Tanagers** was made at one location in *Chester* in early May.

Clay-colored Sparrows returned the breeding site in *Clarion*. Like the Sandhill Crane, this species was rare as a migrant in the state. Although local in distribution, the population in *Clarion* seems to be doing well. Single birds were in *Erie*, *Juniata*, and *Northampton*. The *Northampton* bird visited a feeder and Presque Isle State Park in *Erie* is a rare but regular stopover for migrants.

The **LeConte's Sparrow** from the winter season remained in *Delaware* through March. This bird's lengthy stay allowed many observers to enjoy this attractive *Ammodramus*. **Lincoln's Sparrows** were scarce this spring statewide; only one was found in *Chester*. A cooperative **Harris' Sparrow** in *Lancaster* remained for 16 days and was well documented and enjoyed by many observers. A **Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco** remained in *Erie* from the winter season. A reliable location in *Mercer* for **Lapland Longspur** produced a good count of 10-15 birds in mid-March, just when one would think longspur sightings would decrease. **Snow Bunting** was only reported in *Chester*: a wintering flock remaining into March. A **Blue Grosbeak** in *Fayette* was a probable first and probably an overshoot migrant. This species should be searched for more often in this under birded county. Two **Dickcissels** were each one-day wonders in *Chester* and *Lancaster*.

A **Western Meadowlark** in *Dauphin* cooperated for many observers and fortunately settled on an Amish farm with landowners who were very gracious in allowing birders to visit their property to see (and especially hear) this rarity. A bonus for observers searching for the Harris' Sparrow in *Lancaster* was a female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** that was

present in the same location for eleven days. Often elusive, this was a rare occasion where this species was present in one location for a long period of time.

Brewer's Blackbirds were detected leaving a large blackbird roost in *Bucks* in mid-March. At least 45 were counted and a few were observed feeding away from the roost site. A single bird visited a feeder in *Lancaster*.

The **White-winged Crossbill** and **Pine Siskin** invasion continued into the spring, although numbers expectedly dropped off by May. Observations later in the season focused on potential breeding activity. A few other northern finches appeared during the season as migrants. A **Pine Grosbeak** visited a feeder in *Westmoreland* for a day in March. A

few **Red Crossbills** were scattered during the invasion so it is no surprise reports were few as spring progressed. The only **Red Crossbill** report for the season came from two locations in *Chester*. **White-winged Crossbills** were reported in 21 counties and **Pine Siskins** in an impressive 28 counties. Various stages of **Pine Siskin** breeding activity or possible breeding was observed in *Bedford*, *Clarion*, *Delaware*, *Luzerne*, *Northampton*, *Philadelphia*, *Washington*, and *Westmoreland*. See county notes for details.

Common Redpolls were reported as singles or pairs in five counties. A flock of 30 in *Allegheny* just entered the spring season. Lastly **Evening Grosbeaks** were only reported from two counties.

Western Meadowlark in Dauphin County Aden Troyer

Chester and Emma Zook own a dairy farm in Lykens in upper Dauphin County, and, as a family that works long hours outdoors, have developed a keen interest in the wildlife that abounds on their farm, especially the birds. Chester and his sons, Steven and Amos, became serious birders about four years ago and have learned most of the resident birds' songs very well.

On 5 April of this year, Chester was on an adjoining farm to their west, when he heard a flute like gurgling song that he didn't recognize and had never heard before. Puzzled, he searched for this bird but the only thing he could find was a Meadowlark. About this time, the bird raised its head and sang this strange song he'd just heard. Not quite believing his eyes, he checked his field guides and thought that this had to be a Western Meadowlark. It returned a few weeks later and he communicated with me, and we agreed that it probably was the Western Meadowlark. After calling Chad Kauffman to announce the sighting, and after getting permission to announce the bird on the PABIRDS listserv, the next day (2 May), the bird was confirmed by Chuck Chalfont, Art Schiavo, Chad Kauffman, Marvin Troyer, and Toby and Henry Petersheim. That day both pictures and voice recordings were made.

Over the next few weeks, many birders throughout the state got to enjoy this vocal bird and also meet the friendly Zook family. They readily left their work to show the visitors where the bird was usually seen or heard. I was finally able to see the bird on 11 May while my wife Mary and I led a field trip of Amish school children from South Mt View School. I am sure many of the children didn't realize how rare the bird was, but most appreciated and realized where this bird is supposed to be.

Other birds that were seen or heard by the visitors were Grasshopper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Bobolink, several Swallow species. Also on the farm were Eastern Meadowlarks, which provided the unique opportunity to see and hear the differences of the two species of meadowlark side by side.

During the last week of this bird's stay on the farm, it roamed widely and sometimes left the farm for hours at a time, mostly going west in the direction it was first seen and heard. It was last seen on 21 May, and the Zooks were not able to locate it again after that. The Zook family was impressed by the courtesy and friendliness shown by the many birders that perhaps got a life bird or at least a Pennsylvania state bird on their property.

Oakland Mills
Juniata County

Birds of Note – March through May 2009

This report summarizes unexpected species reported in Pennsylvania for this period. As a general rule birds must have been recorded in five or fewer counties to qualify for inclusion here, but rare species recorded more frequently, or irregular species exhibiting an unusual seasonal occurrence, are also included. "Listserv" indicates records deemed credible which were gleaned from the PABIRDS listserv for counties with no reporting compiler.

An * denotes species on the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (PORC) Review List. Details or descriptions that are submitted for species on the PORC Review List will be reviewed by the committee. The terms "no doc" and "doc submitted" indicate whether documentation has been submitted on reports of Review List species listed herein; "no doc" indicates that no documentation was known to have been submitted as of the time of writing. The PORC Review List can be found at the PSO web site <<http://www.pabirds.org>>.

Birds in *Italic* typeface are uncommon or rare, but occur during this time period in most years.

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

Birds in *Italic and Underlined* typeface occur fewer than 4 to 7 out of 10 years during this time period.

Birds in **Normal** typeface are noteworthy for rarity, but are recorded annually, usually in more than one county.

Greater White-fronted Goose – *Beaver*: one at Independence Marsh 3/7-8 (Mark Vass); *Bedford*: 5 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 2/26 and 3/10 with one remaining to 4/25 (Tom Dick); *Berks*: 2 at Lake Ontelaunee 3/3 (Rudy Keller, Matt Wlasniewski), 4 at Lake Ontelaunee 3/11 (Rudy Keller), 6 at Gotwals Pond in Oley 4/4-9 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: one at Core Creek Park 3/24 (Bill Keim), one at Peace Valley Park 4/16-19 (August Mirabella); *Chester*: one at Struble Lake 3/9 (Larry Lewis), one near Struble Lake 3/15 (Kevin Fryberger); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek 3/15 (Jonathan Heller).

Ross' Goose – *Berks*: 2 at Blue Marsh Lake 3/6 (Joan Silagy), one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/7 (Rudy Keller); *Chester*: one at Struble Lake 3/9 (Larry Lewis), present at Struble Lake and Church Farm School 3/19 (Kevin Fryberger, Holly Merker); *Delaware*: one flew over Middletown Township 3/8 (Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: 2 at Middle Creek 3/1 (Chuck Chalfant); *Washington*: one near Muse 3/17-21 (Cassie Campsey).

Brant – *Bedford*: 3 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 2/14 (Tom Dick); *Tioga*: 3 near Millerton 3/26 (Larry Brown).

Mute Swan – *Bedford*: one found during the Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/9; *Crawford*: 2 at Sugar Lake 3/12 (Richard Eakin), one at Geneva 5/8-13 (no observer listed); *Dauphin*: one near Hershey 4/4-5/6 (Patricia and Richard Williams); *Erie*: a few present at Presque Isle State Park in Misery Bay 3/11 (Jerry McWilliams), 3 in Presque Isle Bay 5/24 (Mike Fialkovich, Jim Valimont); *Washington*: 2 at Washington Reservoir #4 on 3/7 (Mark Vass).

Trumpeter Swan – *Butler*: 2 at Lake Arthur 3/13-15 (Dave Darney, listserv), one of which was banded as part of a project and was being "taught" to migrate between Warrenton, VA and Shenango Wildlife Area, OH (*vide* Bill Walbek); *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 on 4/27 (Bill Oyler, Vernon Gauthier); *Luzerne*: 2 continued from last season on Harvey's Lake up to at least 3/14 (Jim Hoyson).

Eurasian Wigeon – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 2/22-4/9 (m.ob.); *Crawford* one at Custards in Geneva Marsh 3/14 and 4/9-11 (observer not listed); *Dauphin*: one on the Susquehanna River at Millersburg 3/15 (Ramsay Koury); *Lancaster*: one at Octoraro Lake 2/21-27 (Chuck Chalfant, et al.), one at Middle Creek 3/8-9 (m. ob.), *Lawrence*: one at Black Swamp 3/23-27 (Bob VanNewkirk, m.ob.).

Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal* – *Bucks*: one 3/9-4/24 at

Hidden Lake (Bill Keim, *doc submitted*).

Surf Scoter – *Bedford*: 4 at Shawnee State Park 4/11 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 4/19 (Devich Farbotnik); *Centre*: one at Colyer Lake 3/9 (Molly Heath), one at Bald Eagle State Park 4/26 (Greg Grove).

White-winged Scoter – *Beaver*: one at Rochester 3/12 (Mark Vass); *Bucks*: 2 at Nockamixon State Park 4/14 (Devich Farbotnik), 2 at Peace Valley Park 5/27 (August Mirabella); *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 3/19 and 4/3 (Ramsay Koury); *Lancaster*: 2 on the Susquehanna River at Long Level from last season were present up to 3/28 (m. ob.); *Westmoreland*: one at Derry Lake 3/6 (*vide* Karen Jackson).

Black Scoter – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 5/22 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: one at Jamestown 3/22 and one in the same area near the Pymatuning Dam 4/27 (Scott Kinzey); *Forest*: 5 at Buzzard Swamp 5/9 (Flo and Jim McGuire).

Red-throated Loon – *Bedford*: one at Shawnee State Park 4/11 (Tom Dick); *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/29 (Rudy Keller, Matt Wlasniewski); *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 5/9 (John Tramontano), 2 at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/9 (Al and Nancy Bilheimer); *Dauphin*: 3 at West Fairview 4/3 (Ramsay Koury); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 4/16 (Lee Carnahan).

Great Cormorant – *Bucks*: 5 at Bristol 5/16 (Devich Farbotnik); *Delaware*: one on the Delaware River 3/28 (Al Guarente); *Northampton*: one at Martin's Creek Quarry 3/21 (Michael Schall).

Least Bittern – *Berks*: one calling at Peter's Creek 5/30 (Jim Eckert); *Bucks*: one at Quakertown Swamp 5/16 through the reporting period (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 5/6 (observer not listed), one at Geneva Marsh 5/24 (Mike Fialkovich, Jim Valimont); *Erie*: a pair at a nest 5/8 through the end of the reporting period (Don Snyder, m.ob.); *Luzerne*: one in Bear Creek Township 3/25 (Mark Kasper); *Philadelphia*: a pair at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 5/9 to the end of the season (Greg Gorton).

Snowy Egret – *Bucks*: one at Churchville Park 4/25 (Vince DeAntoniis), and one at Nockamixon State Park 5/14 (Rob Fergus); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/1 (Ross Hollenbeck); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 6/3 (Frank Windfelder, m.ob.).

Little Blue Heron – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 4/27

(August Mirabella), one that was possibly the same individual at Bradford Dam 4/29-30 (Gail Johnson, Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one at Longwood 5/8 (Larry Lewis, Kevin Fryberger); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 4/10-5/1 (Frank Windfelder, m.ob.).

Cattle Egret – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/9 and 5/16 (Devich Farbotnik), one at Maple Knoll Farms 5/12 (Richard Smith); *Greene*: one in Morgan Township 4/29 (Michael Wilson, Ralph Bell), *Luzerne*: one in Forty Fort 5/16 (Stan Galenty).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Cumberland*: one at Cabin Road in SGL 169 on 4/16 (Andrew Markel); *Dauphin*: 9 at Harrisburg 5/16 (Tom Johnson), one at Wildwood Lake 5/16 (Chris Rebert), one near Hershey 5/22 (Heather Casey); *Delaware*: one at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 4/12 (Debbie Beer, Frank Windfelder, Al Guarente), an adult and immature present at the same location 5/2 (Frank Windfelder); *Luzerne*: compiler cites one bird posted on PABIRDS listserv which could not be relocated; *Philadelphia*: 2 (the same birds present in *Delaware*) at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 4/12 (Debbie Beer); 2 along Darby Creek 5/2.

Glossy Ibis – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/1 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: 4 in Landenburg 5/23 (Andrew Leidig); *Delaware*: 4 at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 5/28 (Al Guarente, Dave Eberly); *Lancaster*: one at Wood's Edge Pond 5/7 (Chuck Chalfant, Pam Fisher); *Lebanon*: one along Pine Road in the old Union Canal 4/27 (Brian Weaver, Gary Kinkley); *Luzerne*: one in Plains 4/21 (Kevin Ripka), 2 just north of Plains 5/1 (Jim Shoemaker); *Philadelphia*: first found at Rhawn Street at the Delaware River 4/5 with 10 there 5/10 (Frank Windfelder), 4 present in the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum area 4/18-26 (m.ob.).

Plegadis sp. – *Berks*: a flock of 11 flew over Henningsville 4/24, presumed to be Glossy Ibis (Peter Saenger).

Swallow-tailed Kite* – *Erie*: one circling over the Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle State Park 4/21 (Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*); a first record for *Erie* and northwestern Pennsylvania.

Mississippi Kite* – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 5/4 (Joan Silagy); *Lancaster*: one at the "Rocks" on the Susquehanna River south of Columbia 5/29 (Devin Bosler), 2 or possibly 3 at Chickies Rock County Park 5/29 (Chuck Chalfant, Deuane Hoffman), one remaining at that location 5/30-6/1 (Dick Cleary, m. ob); *Mercer*: one flying over Pennsy Swamp, SGL 284 (Dick Nugent, Melissa Little, *no doc*).

Northern Goshawk – *Bedford*: a total of 7 tallied during the spring count at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (m.ob.); *Chester*: one at Valley Forge National Park 3/6 (Rich Almquist), one at Black Rock Sanctuary 4/16 (Rick Keyser); *Lebanon*: one at Mt. Gretna 5/7 (Sid Hostetter); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 3/30 (Gary Stolz).

Common Moorhen – *Bucks*: a pair at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/26 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one at Longwood 5/9 (Larry Lewis); *Crawford*: present at Geneva Marsh 4/25 (MV), single birds at McMichael Road and Custards in Geneva Marsh 4/26-5/30 (m.ob.); *Forest*: one at Buzzard Swamp 5/9 (Flo and Jim McGuire); *Lawrence*: one in New Beaver 5/8 (Mark Vass); *Lebanon*: 2 at Lake

Shuey beginning 5/7 (David McNaughton).

Black-bellied Plover – *Beaver*: 3 at Little Blue Lake 5/22 (Mark Vass); *Berks*: 6 at Evansville Road near Lake Onteulane 5/29 (Ken Lebo, Matt Wlasniewski); *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/16 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: present 5/3-28; *Washington*: 2 near Bentleyville 5/26 (Andy Berchin).

American Golden Plover – *Berks*: 2 at Evansville Road near Lake Onteulane 5/29 (Ken Lebo, Matt Wlasniewski).

Piping Plover* – *Bedford*: one at Shawnee State Park 5/9 (Debbie Bodenschatz, *doc submitted*); *Erie*: one with colored leg bands at Presque Isle State Park 5/5 (Kathleen Ryan, *doc submitted*).

Black-necked Stilt* – *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 6/10 (Chuck Chalfant, *doc submitted*); *Lebanon*: one along Mount Pleasant Road 5/15 (Ramsay Koury) where it remained until 5/18 (Chuck Berthoud, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

American Avocet – *Fayette*: one at Mill Run Reservoir 5/18 (Walt Shaffer); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 4/26 (Jerry Book, Bob Schutsky).

Willet – *Allegheny*: 4 at Fox Chapel 5/6 (Brian Shema); *Butler*: 6 at Moraine State Park 5/1 (listserv, ph. Stephen Tyrone); *Erie*: 35 at Presque Isle State Park 5/1 (Jerry McWilliams); *Mercer*: 3 at Stoneboro Lake 5/7 (Melvin Troyer).

Upland Sandpiper – *Allegheny*: 2 at Imperial 4/26 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson, Geoff Malosh); *Crawford*: 2 at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 4/27 (observer not specified) and one at that location 5/24 (Mike Fialkovich, Jim Valimont); *Somerset*: reported in early May in the Berlin area (Levi Yoder).

Ruddy Turnstone – *Allegheny*: one in non-breeding plumage along the Allegheny River in Harmar Township 5/25 (Amy Henrici, Pat McShea), one in breeding plumage along the Ohio River in Pittsburgh 5/25 (Sheree Daugherty); *Crawford*: 2 at the Linesville Fish Hatchery 5/20 (Bill Searcy) where they remained 5/21 (Mark Vass); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/24 (Mike Fialkovich, Jim Valimont), *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 5/23 (Eric Witmer).

Sanderling – *Lebanon*: one at Mount Pleasant Road 5/11 (Chuck Berthoud); *Washington*: 3 at Bentleyville 5/29 (Ross Gallardy).

Western Sandpiper – *Bedford*: one at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 6/1, and 5 on 6/4 (Tom Dick); *Crawford*: one in Wayland 5/31 (observer not listed); *Lancaster*: 2 at the Conejohela Flats 5/23 (Eric Witmer).

White-rumped Sandpiper – *Adams*: 2 in a flooded field near Fairfield 5/19 (Mike O'Brien); *Beaver*: one at Little Blue Lake 5/22 (Mark Vass); *Bedford*: 5 at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 6/2-7 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: one at Bradford Dam 5/29 (August Mirabella), up to 3 at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/29 to the end of the period (Devich Farbotnik); *Lawrence*: one at Black Swamp 5/25 (Mark Vass); *Northampton*: 2 at Gremer Road 5/17-18 (Dustin Welch).

Stilt Sandpiper – *Bedford*: one at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 5/30 (Tom Dick).

Short-billed Dowitcher – *Bedford*: 18 at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 5/9 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/30 (Devich Farbotnik) was a new early date for the county; *Luzerne*: 24 at Plymouth Flats 5/17 (Kevin Ripka).

Red-necked Phalarope – *Berks*: one along Evansville Road near Lake Ontelaunee 5/16-20 (Ken Lebo, m.ob.); *Crawford*: one at the Miller Ponds at Pymatuning 5/27-28 (Tony Bledsoe, Mike Weible, Steve Nowicki, Bill Searcy); *Philadelphia*: one at Rhawn St. at the Delaware River 5/1 (Frank Windfelder).

Laughing Gull – *Bucks*: 2 at Bowman's Hill 4/26 (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/24 (Mike Fialkovich, Jim Valimont); *Lancaster*: one along the Susquehanna River at the "Rocks" 3/29 and through May (Eric Witmer); *Philadelphia*: first individuals returned 4/3.

Little Gull – *Beaver*: 3 at Ambridge Reservoir 4/17 (Geoff Malosh), probable first record for the extreme southwestern corner of Pennsylvania; *Bucks*: an adult at Peace Valley Park 3/8 (August and Judy Mirabella), one in second winter plumage at Nockamixon State Park 4/4-5 (August Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik, Howard Eskin); *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 3/29 (Ramsay Koury), one at Marysville 4/4 (Ramsay Koury, Tom Johnson); *Erie*: one at the east pier at Presque Isle State Park 4/7 (Jerry McWilliams) and one at the west pier 4/19 (Ron Leberman); *Lancaster*: one at Columbia/Wrightsville 3/23 (Drew Weber), last reported along the Susquehanna River at the "Rocks" 5/15 (Chuck Chalfant, Jonathan Heller). There were numerous reports along the Susquehanna River between Wrightsville and Long Level 3/23-5/15 with a high of 6 on 3/28 (Chuck Chalfant, Jonathan Heller, et al.).

Black-headed Gull* – *Dauphin*: one at Marysville 5/15 (Andrew Markel, Ramsay Koury); *Lancaster*: one at Muddy Run Fisherman's Park 5/26 (Chuck Chalfant), one at the Wildcat Rocks 4/10 (Jonathan Heller, Justin Bosler).

Iceland Gull – *Bucks*: up to 3 at Nockamixon State Park 3/6-4/13 (Bill Etter), 5 at the Penn-Warner Tract 3/10 with one remaining through May (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: up to 5 at the Lakeview Landfill, Tom Ridge Environmental Center and Presque Isle State Park 3/2-24 (Jerry McWilliams).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – *Bucks*: 431 at Nockamixon State Park 3/23 (August Mirabella), 50 at Peace Valley Park 3/23 (August Mirabella); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Spillway 4/14 (Scott Kinzey); *Erie*: 2 at the Lakeview Landfill 3/10 (Jerry McWilliams); *Delaware*: one at Little Tincum Island 3/30 (Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: one at the "Rocks" 5/29 (Jonathan Heller); *Philadelphia*: one from the winter was last seen at Rhawn Street at the Delaware River 3/13 (Frank Windfelder).

Glaucous Gull – *Bucks*: at least one remained through May at the Penn-Warner Tract (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one at the Southern Chester County Refuse Authority 3/5 (Andrew Leidig, Kevin Fryberger, Holly Merker); *Erie*: 3 or 4 at the Lakeview Landfill 3/2 (Jerry McWilliams), one off the east pier 3/10 (Jerry McWilliams).

Great Black-backed Gull - *Chester*: 7 at the Southern Chester County Refuse Authority 3/7 (Nick Pulcinella); *Crawford*: one at Jamestown State Park 3/22 (Scott Kinzey); *Erie*: present throughout the season.

Lesser Black-backed X Herring Gull – *Bucks*: one probable bird at Nockamixon State Park 3/21-23 (August and Judy Mirabella).

Glaucous X Herring Gull – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State

Park 5/1 (Jerry McWilliams).

Arctic Tern* – *Lancaster*: one flying upriver at the Conejohela Flats 5/29 (Chuck Chalfant, Bob Schutsky), one at the "Rocks" joined by another 5/29 (Jerry Book, et al.), 2 in the same location 6/2 (Drew Weber).

Least Tern – *Delaware*: 2 on the Delaware River 5/29 (Al Guarente); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 6/7 (Devin Bosler, Chuck Chalfant, Andy Markel, Bob Schutsky).

Black Tern – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 5/10 (Mark Vass); *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 4/11 (Tom Dick); *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 5/7 (Rudy Keller); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Spillway 5/21 (Mark Vass); *Erie*: one at Edinboro Lake 5/12 (John Tautin), one at Niagara Pond at Presque Isle State Park 5/12 and one at Gull Point at Presque Isle 5/14 (Ryan Miller, Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: 2 along the Susquehanna River at the "Rocks" 5/29-30; *Washington*: one at Greencove Wetlands 5/26 (Lauren Conkle), one in Bentleyville 5/26 (Ross Gallardy).

Eurasian Collard Dove – *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 on 5/23 (Andrew Markel).

White-winged Dove* – *Cumberland*: one visiting a feeder in Carlisle 4/22-23 (Herb Weigle, Kathy Weigle, Ramsay Koury, Vern Gauthier, Billy Weber, *doc submitted*).

Barn Owl – *Bedford*: found during the Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/9 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands where they breed (Tom Dick); *Berks*: one near Hamburg the entire period (Matt Wlasniewski); *Dauphin*: one in a nest box along Swatara Road in the Hershey IBA (Alex Lamoreau); *Huntington*: 2 found during the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center Birding Cup (Doug Wentzel, Josh Potter, et al.); *Juniata*: two in Oakland Mills 3/22 (Henry Petersheim); *Lebanon*: a pair nesting at the Lebanon Landfill 4/20 (Richard Light).

Snowy Owl – *Allegheny*: one in Pittsburgh 3/31-4/6 (Julie Ecklar, m.ob.); *Cambria*: one of the two birds from the winter season was last seen in the Patton area 4/8 (Dave Gobert); *Clarion*: one unconfirmed near Curllsville 3/15 (fide Carole Winslow).

Long-eared Owl – *Bucks*: one through 4/28 at Peace Valley Park (Howard Eskin), 7 in Ottsville 3/15 (Peter Green); *Chester*: last noted from the winter at Struble Lake 4/7 (Kevin Fryberger); *Huntington*: 2 continued from the winter season on private land 3/15 (John Clickner, Doug Wentzel, Jon Kauffman); *Lawrence*: 3 at Black Swamp 3/22 (Mark Vass).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – *Bucks*: one road killed bird found in Trevoise 3/11 (Marlin Corn); *Chester*: one at Waterloo Mills Preserve 3/11-18 (Kevin Fryberger); *Delaware*: one at Waterloo Mills 3/13 (Al Guarente); *Erie*: 2 at Presque Isle State Park 3/15 (Dave Darney), one at Presque Isle 3/26 (Jerry McWilliams); *Juniata*: one in Port Royal 2/27 (Doris Pontias).

Chuck-wills-widow* – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/29 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – *Adams*: one at SGL 249 on 5/15 (Peter Robinson) and 2 there 5/22 (Dan Richards, Mike Weible); *Bedford*: one 5/9 (Tom Dick); *Lebanon*: one at Camp Shand 5/9 (Susan Wheeler), one at Swatara State Park 5/16 (Scott Fisher, Jeff Hook); *Northampton*: one at Jacobsburg State Park 5/12-18 (Rick Wiltraut).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* – *Wyoming*: one near Lake Winola 4/26-27 (Mark Catalano, Robert Wnuk), possible first county record.

Northern Shrike – *Bradford*: one at Peck Hill 3/9 (Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze); *Crawford*: one north of Geneva 3/5 (observer not listed); *Tioga*: one at the Muck 3/14 (Gary Tyson).

Philadelphia Vireo – *Adams*: one at SGL 249 on 5/15 (Peter Robinson); *Allegheny*: one at Sewickley Heights Park 5/6 (Geoff Malosh); *Armstrong*: one near Mahoning 5/7 (Betsy Fetterman, Margaret Higbee); *Bucks*: one at State Game Lands 157 on 5/16 (Devich Farbotnik); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 5/12 (Margaret Higbee, Marjorie Van Tassel); *Washington*: one near Burgettstown 5/1 (Ross Gallardy).

Fish Crow – *Allegheny*: one in North Braddock 4/5 (Mike Fialkovich); *Cumberland*: present the entire season; *Delaware*: a flock of 40 in Media 3/10 (Brian Byrnes); *Indiana*: found near Indiana University 3/27 and 4/19 (Ray Winstead) and at Oakland Cemetery 5/9 (Tom Simmons); *Sullivan*: one or two present regularly in Dushore (Rob Megraw).

Marsh Wren – *Chester*: one at Embreeville 4/22 (Kevin Fryberger); *Crawford*: present at Conneaut Marsh 5/6 to the end of the season (m.ob.); *Erie*: present at Presque Isle State Park; *Huntington*: one at the Aitch Access of Lake Raystown 5/2 (fide Doug Wentzel), one at Old Crow Wetland 5/4 (David and Trudy Kyler).

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush* – *Northampton*: one at Katellen 5/22 (Rick Wiltraut).

Varied Thrush* – *Union*: one 3/31 (location and observer not listed, *no doc*).

Brewster's Warbler – *Allegheny*: one at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve 5/6 (Brian Shema); *Berks*: one at SGL 106 5/11-15 (Tom Clauser, Sue Schmoyer); *Cumberland*: one at SGL 230 from 5/1 through the season (Peter Lusardi, m.ob.); *Juniata*: one along Mountain Road 4/27 (Chad Kauffman, Henry Petersheim), one in the Mountain Road area 5/25 (Chad Kauffman); *Northampton*: one at Jacobsburg State Park 5/5 (Adam Smith).

Lawrence's Warbler – *Allegheny*: one at Boyce Mayview Park 5/6 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson); *Beaver*: one at Independence Marsh 5/3 (Mark Vass); *Berks*: one at SGL 102 near Morgantown 5/16 (Frank Haas); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/6 (Jerry McWilliams).

Summer Tanager* – *Westmoreland*: one visited a suet feeder at Powdermill Nature Reserve 5/18-19 (Mike Lanzone, Trish Miller, Bob Leberman, Emma DeLeone, Andy Mack).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Clarion*: first noted at the traditional breeding site at Curllsville 5/2 (Mike Weible); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/11 (Jerry McWilliams); *Juniata*: found during the Pennsylvania Migration Count 5/9; *Northampton*: one at a feeder in Williams Township 3/8 (Arlene Koch).

LeConte's Sparrow* – *Delaware*: the bird present the previous season was last reported at the Darlington Tract 3/31 (Dirk Robinson).

Harris' Sparrow* – *Lancaster*: one near Steelville 4/11-27 (Chuck Chalfant, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco – *Erie*: one continued from last season visiting a feeder in Harborcreek up to at least 3/14 (Michele Franz).

Lapland Longspur – *Chester*: wintering birds in Honeybrook Township remained up to 3/4 (Kevin Fryberger, Larry Lewis); *Mercer*: a flock of 10 to 15 at McKean Farms 3/15 (Neil Troyer).

Snow Bunting – *Chester*: wintering birds in Honeybrook Township remained up to 3/4 (Kevin Fryberger, Larry Lewis).

Dickcissel – *Bucks*: one continuing from winter in Bensalem Twp. to at least 4/10 (Dwight Molotsky); *Chester*: a pair at Runnymede Farm 5/27 (Kevin Fryberger); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 5/7 (Ron Ferry).

Western Meadowlark* – *Dauphin*: one near Gratz discovered the last week of April but reported publically 5/2 where it remained until 5/16 (Steve Zook, Chad Kauffman, Aden Troyer, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Yellow-headed Blackbird – *Lancaster*: one near Steelville 4/12-23 (Pamela Fisher, m.ob.).

Brewer's Blackbird – *Bucks*: heard leaving a roost near Doylestown 3/12-14 with a high of 45 detected 3/14 and a few observed on the ground in Plumstead Township 3/13 (John Tramontano). Two large flocks of this species were reported in the state in the middle of the 20th century but both were unsubstantiated, all other reports in the state are generally of five or fewer birds; *Lancaster*: one at a feeding station in Peach Bottom 4/20 (Bob Schutsky).

Pine Grosbeak* – *Westmoreland*: a male visited a feeder near Ligonier 3/27 (Mark Rutledge, *no doc*).

Red Crossbill – *Chester*: 6 at Kurtz Fish Hatchery 3/8 (Rick Keyser), 2 at Waterloo Mills Preserve 3/13 (Kevin Fryberger).

White-winged Crossbill – *Adams, Allegheny, Beaver, Bedford, Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Centre, Chester, Clarion, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Juniata, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Tioga, Washington*.

Common Redpoll – *Allegheny*: a flock of 30 from last season were last seen 3/1 (Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson); *Bradford*: one at Peck Hill 3/2-3 (Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze), one near Herrickville 5/9 (Robert Behrend, Marilyn Goodlow-Behrend); *Chester*: 2 at Kurtz Fish Hatchery 3/4 (Larry Lewis); *Crawford*: one at a feeder along Atlantic Lake Road 3/22 (Marvin Byler); *Juniata*: 2 at a feeder on Licking Creek Road 3/3 (Deb Brackbill); *Lebanon*: one at Mt. Gretna 3/19-20 (Sid Hostetter).

Pine Siskin – *Adams, Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford* (possible breeding), *Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Butler* (listserv), *Centre* (see banding totals), *Chester, Clarion* (carrying nesting material), *Crawford, Delaware* (pair observed), *Erie, Fayette, Juniata, Lebanon, Lawrence, Luzerne* (possible breeding), *Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton* (confirmed nesting), *Philadelphia* (attempted breeding), *Schuylkill, Snyder, Somerset, Tioga, Washington* (confirmed breeding), *Westmoreland* (gathering nesting material).

Evening Grosbeak – *Berks*: 3 at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 4/23 (Bill Etter); *Dauphin*: 9 in Paxtang 4/10 (Deuane Hoffman).

ADDENDUM: BIRDS OF NOTE – WINTER 2008-09

Lazuli Bunting* – *Columbia*: one present at a feeder in Catawissa 1/29-2/8 (John Slotterback, ph. Sally Slotterback, ph. William Brown). Documentation was submitted to PORC in the summer of 2009. See photo on p. 104 of this issue.

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*). Representing what was likely *Washington's* first of this species was this bird that frequented farm ponds in the area of Muse, present 17 to 22 January 2009, photographed here on the last day of its stay. (*Jim Hoover*)



American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Mill Hall, *Clinton*, 27 April 2009. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). This long-staying bird was present at Imperial, *Allegheny*, 11 March to 24 April 2009 (here 14 March), and was seen by dozens of birders. (*Geoff Malosh*)



American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). A nice portrait of this species' characteristic strategy for camouflage, made 23 April 2009 at Embreeville Marsh, *Chester*. (*Holly Merker*)



Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*). This pair nested startlingly close to the road at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*, photographed here 9 May 2009. They delighted many birders who were afforded a rare opportunity to study the breeding behaviors of this normally reclusive species with ease; unfortunately, the nest was believed to have failed. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). Franklin Cove, *Bucks*, 9 May 2009. (Devich Farbotnik)



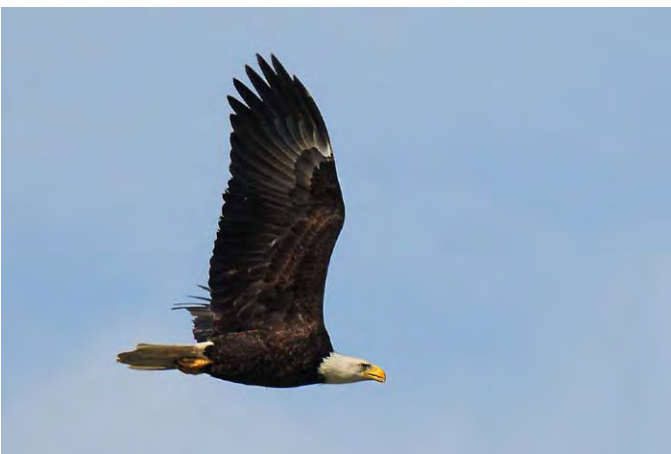
Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*). Twenty-five of the Lawrence/Butler/Mercer flock, which numbered as high as 60+ during the winter. Photographed over Black Swamp, *Lawrence*, 28 February 2009. (Mike Fialkovich)



Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). Promised Land State Park, *Pike*, 23 May 2009. (Kevin Laughlin)



Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). Totally unexpected was this bird at Shawnee State Park, *Bedford*, 9 May 2009. (Debbie Bodenschatz)



Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). A fine in-flight portrait made at Crooked Creek, *Armstrong*, 25 April 2009. (Steve Gosser)



Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*). Continuing a recent string of spring sightings in Pennsylvania was this individual at Annville, *Lebanon*, 15 (here) to 18 May 2009. (Tom Johnson)



Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). Unprecedented in *Erie* was a flock of 35 Willets at Gull Point 1 May 2009, a portion of which is shown above. The birds put down at the point but were soon encouraged to resume migrating by a passing Peregrine Falcon. (*Jerry McWilliams*)



Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). This fine individual surprisingly spent the afternoon of 25 May 2009 foraging along the Allegheny River bank behind PNC Park in Pittsburgh, *Allegheny*. Given that it stayed within a few feet of a busy sidewalk for most of the day, the bird was probably seen (or at least in a position to be seen) by well over 1000 observers during its short Labor Day stay, but only a few who could identify it to species. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). 1 May 2009, the same day 35 Willets put down at Gull Point in *Erie*, six birds were also recorded at Moraine State Park in *Butler*; two of these six are shown here. (*Stephen Tyrone*)



White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*). Greemar Road, *Northampton*, 17 May 2009. (*Dustin Welch*)



Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). One of two at Imperial, *Allegheny*, 26 April 2009, the first recorded there since 2005. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). Tullytown, *Bucks*, 29 March 2009. (*Jim Ritter*)



Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). This bird at Nockamixon State Park, Bucks, 5 April 2009, was one of two in that county this spring, but only the sixth overall, all since 2001. (*Devich Farbotnik*)



Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*). This handsome bird was photographed at Imperial, Allegheny, 10 May 2009. The species averages bi-annual appearances at that location in spring. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). A first year bird staying unusually late at the "Rocks" on the Susquehanna River, Lancaster, photographed here 17 May 2009. (*Meredith Lombard*)



Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). Eggs and hatchlings at Antes Fort, Lycoming, 21 May 2009. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). Increasing, but still notable in western Pennsylvania especially in spring after March, is Lesser Black-backed Gull; this second cycle bird was photographed at the Pymatuning Spillway, Crawford, 13 April 2009. (*Scott Kinzey*)



Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*). A bird not on anyone's radar, especially considering that this was not a significant invasion year for the species, was this Snowy Owl that appeared on Pittsburgh's North Side, Allegheny, 31 March 2009 (here). It was seen at various locations in the downtown area until at least 6 April. (*Geoff Malosh*)



Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*). Struble Lake, Chester, 6 March 2009. (Al Guarente)



White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*). Breaking the usual "one-day wonder" *modus operandi* employed by this species when it visits Pennsylvania was this individual that stayed two days at Carlisle, Cumberland, 22-23 April 2009, shown here 22 April. (Herb Weigle)



Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*). This bird was present at Imperial, Allegheny, 14 to 15 (here) May 2009, an unusual multi-day stay for that area in spring. (Geoff Malosh)



Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*). An outstanding portrait made 14 March 2009 at the Marsh Creek IBA #27 in underbirded and under-recognized Tioga. (Gary Tyson)



Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*). On nest at Linesville, Crawford, 24 April 2009. (John Fedak)



Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). A memorable image of one of Pennsylvania's most handsome spring migrants, made 30 April 2009 at Houston, Washington. (Cris Hamilton)



Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*). Whitehall Parkway, Lehigh, 8 May 2009. (Dustin Welch)



Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*). An addendum to the photo highlights from Winter 2008-09, this image came to the attention of PORC in June 2009, taken on the first day of the bird's stay in Catawissa, Columbia, 29 January to 8 February 2009. The record is currently under PORC review. (William Brown)



Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). The male half of one of at least two pairs that each attempted to nest at Shenango Reservoir, Mercer, this spring, a location where the species is not regular. Photographed here 23 May 2009. (Steve Gosser)



Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus*). Graver's Hill, Northampton, 25 April 2009. (Dustin Welch)



Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). Present near Steelville, Lancaster, 11 to 27 April 2009 (here 20 April). (Drew Weber)



Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). This bird visited an Amish farm near Lykens, Dauphin, was found in early April and seen by many birders in May, up to 21 May 2009. Photographed here 2 May. (Chad Kauffman)

Answer to Photo Quiz #24

Rick Wiltraut

This bird is obviously some kind of shorebird and appears short-necked and short-legged. Overall it appears to be a medium-sized shorebird and very "chunky." Many species of shorebirds appear plump or chunky including many *Calidris* species. Good examples are Purple Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Sanderling. Purple Sandpiper and Dunlin have finer bills than the bird pictured here. Sanderling has a shorter, stouter bill. Stilt Sandpiper and Curlew Sandpiper appear rather chunky, but have proportionately longer legs (the "knees" are not close to the body), and longer, finer bills. They are also more attenuated in the rear, in that the primary wingtips extend beyond tail tip. Many plovers are very plump in appearance, especially Black-bellied, but have shorter bills. Black-bellied and the golden-plovers have proportionately longer legs than this bird and are more attenuated. Ruddy Turnstone has short, upturned bill. Many shorebirds can appear even more plump or chunky when the neck is hunched into the shoulders and not extended, as would happen when the bird is feeding. They can also fluff up their feathers, which make them look even fatter, especially those species with short legs (as seen in the photo). Some species appear more plump or chunkier than others. Among these are Common Snipe, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Short-billed Dowitcher. All three of these species have much longer bills than the bird pictured here and can thus be eliminated. Willet is also somewhat chunky, but has longer legs and a longer bill. This can also be said for curlews and godwits. This bird somewhat resembles a Ruff, but Ruffs have longer legs and neck.

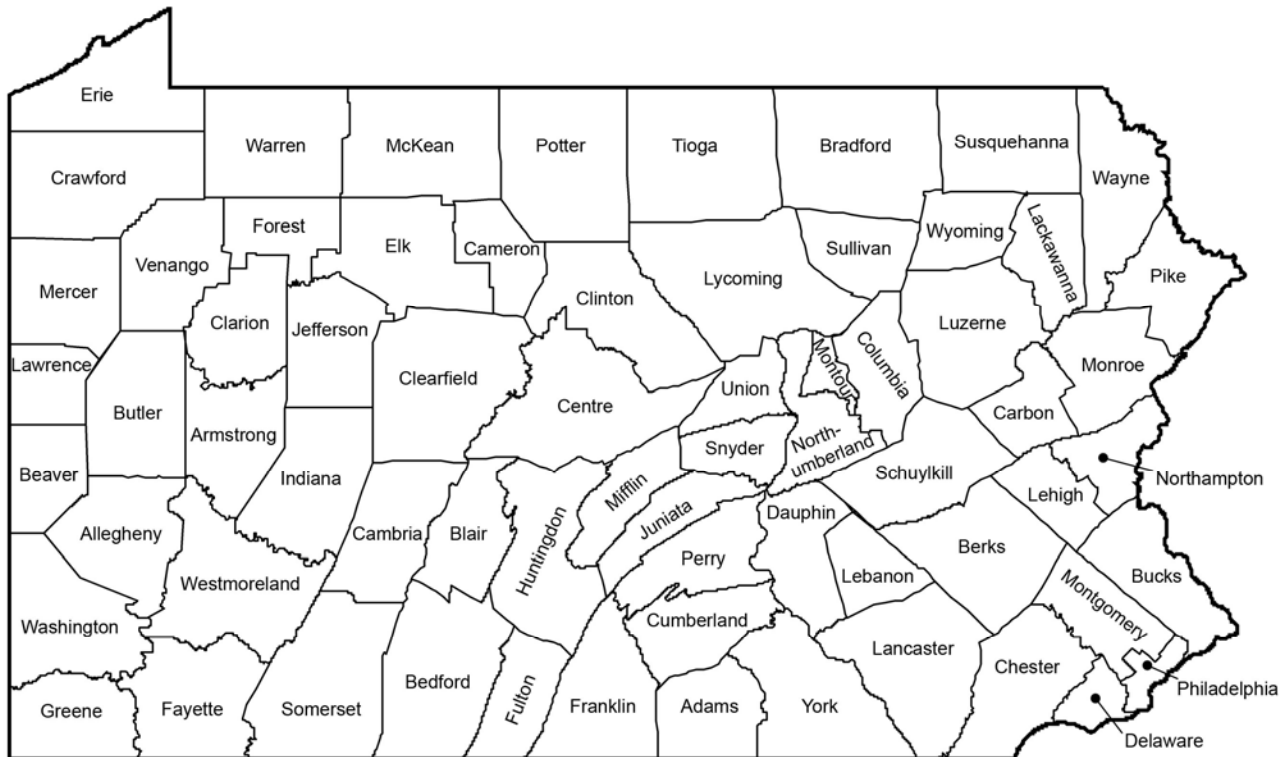


Note the medium-sized, rather stout bill on this bird. This Red Knot, the largest of the *Calidris* sandpipers, was photographed at Fort De Soto Park, Florida, in April 2008 by Geoff Malosh. The Red Knot is one of the most endangered shorebirds in the world. North American populations have been hit the hardest, mainly as a result of over harvesting of horseshoe crabs (*Limulus polyphemus*) in the Delaware Bay, which is globally recognized as an important feeding stopover for migrating shorebirds, especially Red Knots. It is estimated that nearly 90 percent of the entire population of the Red Knot subspecies *C. c. rufa* can be present on the Delaware Bay in a single day. A newly released study shows that the increase in horseshoe crab harvest has led to a dramatic decrease in the number of spawning crabs and to a 90 percent decline in crab eggs available for shorebirds to eat. Due to a 15 percent decline in Red Knot numbers at the species' wintering grounds in the 2008, and a 75 percent decline from 1985 to 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has increased the listing priority for the species. Only 14,800 Red Knots were counted in 2007 at the species' primary wintering areas.

See: <<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/mar2009/2009-03-17-091.asp>>.

A great tool for identifying shorebirds from silhouettes can be found inside the back cover of the new and outstanding book, *The Shorebird Guide* (O'Brien, Crossley, and Karlson, 2006), an identification method first seen in print in the legendary *A Field Guide To The Birds* by the late, great Roger Tory Peterson.

Local Notes – March to May 2009



ABBREVIATIONS

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

Adams County

Locations: Sachs Covered Bridge (SACB), State Game Lands 249 (SGL).

Blue-winged Teal are quite uncommon in the county, but one was at SGL 3/13 (DR), and 6 were there 4/9 along with 6 of the more common **Green-winged Teal** (DR). A **Ruffed Grouse** was found on the 5/9 PAMC. A **Wild Turkey** was seen 3/18 as it walked across Red Bridge Rd. (PJR) and another one was seen 5/26 along Newman Rd. (PK). There was a **Red-necked Grebe** on the Adams edge of Long Arm Reservoir 3/5 (PJR), and 2 were at the opposite side of the county at Long Pine Run Reservoir 3/16 and 3/17 (CG).

An **Osprey** was seen carrying a fish 3/31 near Bigglerville (DR), one was carrying a fish 5/9 at SGL (PJR), and another was found on the 5/9 PAMC (PB). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported on the 5/9 PAMC. A **Merlin** was at SGL 3/3 (DR, MW). A **Peregrine Falcon** flew over the SACB area 3/5 (MW). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found in a flooded field near Fairfield 5/19 with a few other shorebirds (MOB).

A **Barred Owl** was heard 3/3 at SACB (MW), one was seen 4/9 at SGL (DR), and two were found on the 5/9 PAMC. Two **Short-eared**

Owls were seen cruising over fields at the Gettysburg National Military Park 3/18 at dusk (PJR).

SGL was the spot for flycatchers. There was an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** there 5/22 (DR, MW), a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 5/15 (PJR), 2 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers 5/22 (DR, MW), a **Least Flycatcher** 5/9 (PJR), and another Least Flycatcher 5/22 (DR, MW). **White-eyed Vireos** are normally quite common, but seemed scarce this spring. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported on the 5/9 PAMC (PB), and there was a good view of a **Philadelphia Vireo** 5/15 at SGL (PJR). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and a **Brown Creeper** were in the big Spruce trees at SACB 3/3 (MW).

Migrant warblers were scarce, and reports of warblers were few. The exception was a **Prothonotary Warbler** that was at SGL 5/22 (DR, MW), but did not stay in spite of some suitable habitat.

There were several reports of migrant **Fox Sparrows**, beginning with 5 on 3/1 at SGL (MW), and ending with one 3/19 at an East Berlin back yard (PK). Six **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, all males, showed up 5/2 at a Carroll Valley feeder (PB). On 5/11 there was a nice flock of at least 25 **Bobolinks** feeding in a field at the corner of Christ Church Rd. and Rt. 194 (PJR). Single **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at SGL 3/18 (PJR) and 4/9 (DR). The winter invasion of White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins continued into the spring. **White-winged Crossbill** reports

included 10 at SACB 3/3 (SG, DR, MW), 14 at SACB 3/5 (MW), 10 at SACB 3/8 (DF), and two 3/14 in a Gettysburg back yard (NL). **Pine Siskin** reports included 50 in Bendersville 3/1 (MW), 24 at the Gettysburg Cemetery 3/3 (DR, MW), five at SACB 3/3 (SG, DR, MW), the last one in an East Berlin back yard 4/2 (PK), and four on the 5/9 PAMC.

Observers: **Peter J. Robinson, P. O. Box 482, Hanover, PA 17331, (717) 542-8341, pabirder@hotmail.com**, Peter Bugler, Devich Farbotnik, Carl Garner, Scott Groat, Phil Keener, Nancy Locher, Mike O'Brien (MOB), Dan Richards, Mike Weible.

Allegheny County

Locations: Dashields Dam on the Ohio River (DASH), Frick Park (FP), Imperial (IMP), Pine Township (PT).

March 10 brought **Tundra Swans** to the county with four on a pond in Findlay Twp. (SC), 20 flying over PT (PL, SL) and 100 flying over Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville (PB). A **Snow Goose** provided a rare spring record at North Park 3/19 (DN) where it remained until 3/25 (RiT).

Northern Pintail were recorded in exceptional numbers for the county. A flock of 22 were on a pond at IMP 3/1 (DW, ST). Later they were gone, but a flock of 32 flew over the area (GM) and 33 were back at the pond 3/2 (JV). It's highly likely this was a record number for the county. Four continued at the nearby Moody Road ponds in Findlay Twp. 3/7 (MF) with one remaining 3/9 (MV). A **Long-tailed Duck** on the Monongahela R. at Duck Hollow 3/19 was the only report (TM, NM). A **Ruddy Duck** was in Findlay Twp. 3/20 (MV), two were at the same location 3/22 (SC) and one was at DASH 4/10 (GM, MV, DW, MF, BM).

Common Loons were scarce this spring with just two reports. Two were at DASH 4/10 and 11 were counted in flight at that location 4/11 (GM). A single bird appeared at DASH 5/18 where it remained through the end of May (MV, et al.). A **Red-necked Grebe** was a nice find at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela R. 3/5-12 (TM, NM). Another appeared at IMP 3/11 (GM) where it remained until 4/24 (m.ob.).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was in Fawn Twp. 3/24 (DH). A **Northern Bobwhite** was a surprise at North Park 3/17 (JS, SS) but had to be a released bird.

A **Great Egret** visited a small marsh in Hamar Twp. 4/8-10 (TBy), one was at IMP 4/14 (CT, JT), one was seen in flight at DASH 4/17 (*fide* BVN), one was in Findlay Twp. 4/23 (KSJ), two were along the Allegheny R. in Etna 4/25 (DY), and one was flying along the Allegheny R. in Lawrenceville 5/9 (AB, CB). Rare for the county, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was spotted at North Park 4/15 (MS).

A pair of **Turkey Vultures** was observed mating in Homestead 3/14 (KSJ). Despite this species' widespread occurrence in the county, breeding activity is rarely observed. **Ospreys** were reported in several locations. One flew over IMP 3/28 (GM), one flew over DASH 4/9 (MV, GM, BC, DW) and 4/11 (GM, DW, ST, MF, DY), one was at North Park 4/17 (JR), one was flying over FT 4/19 (GM), and one was at DASH again 4/21 (DR). The frequency of sightings at DASH could be local birds because a pair was discovered nesting downriver in nearby *Beaver*. A **Bald Eagle** was observed along the Allegheny R. at Fox Chapel 3/2 (AH, PM). **Rough-legged Hawks** continued at IMP from last season with a final report of a light morph 4/19 (GM). A **Merlin** flew through a backyard in Natrona Heights 4/26 (PH).

Rare shorebirds were an unexpected highlight this spring. An **Upland Sandpiper** was a nice find at IMP 4/26 (DW, ST). A second bird was discovered later that day (GM). The last report in *Allegheny* was Apr 2005. Two **Ruddy Turnstones** were discovered 5/25 in two locations in the county. A bird in non-breeding plumage was sighted from a canoe on the Allegheny R. in Harmar Twp. (AH, PM). Another in full plumage was found during a bike ride along the Ohio R., just across from the point in Pittsburgh and along a busy bike and walking trail (SD). The bird in Harmar Twp. was along an island with a lot of boat activity. Amazingly, this rare species was found in two locations where human activity is intense. The last record was May 2005. A group of 4 **Willetts** were found along the Allegheny R. at Fox Chapel 5/6 (BSh) and provided the fourth county record; the last was May 2008. More common shorebirds at IMP included a **Semipalmated Plover** 5/15-16 (MV, GM), both species of yellowlegs, **Solitary Sandpipers** 4/17-5/16 with a max of eight 5/10 (MV) and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/16 (GM). **Least Sandpipers** were present 4/17-5/26 (m.ob.) with a high

count of 21 on 5/11 (GM). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were present 4/24-28 (MV) with one remaining 5/2 (SC). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were first noted 3/14 (GM); the max count during the season was 26 on 4/10 (MV) and the last were three 5/1 (MV). A good count of 20 **American Woodcock** were tallied 3/6 (DW, ST).

The gull and tern migration at DASH was studied again this spring. Seven **Bonaparte's Gulls** were tallied 4/8 (DW), 15 on 4/9 (MV, GM, BC, DW), 184 on 4/10 (GM, MV, DW, MF, BM) and 84 on 4/11 (GM, MV, DW, ST, MF, DY). **Ring-billed Gulls** appeared in small numbers this spring at DASH. **Herring Gulls** can be difficult to separate migrants from residents. Five **Caspian Terns** were observed 4/9 (MV, GM, DW, BC), ten 4/10 (GM, MV, DW, BM), and four 4/11 (GM, MV, DW, ST, MF, DY). Three **Common Terns** flew past 5/20 (GM) and were the only report of this species for the season. **Forster's Terns** passed through in good numbers with 12 on 4/10 (GM, MV, DW, MF, BM), 10 on 4/11 (GM, MV, DW, ST, MF, DY) and 2 on 5/11 (GM).

A fallout of **Bonaparte's Gulls** occurred 4/17 with 200 birds on the Allegheny R. at Lawrenceville (AB, CB) and 200 at North Park (JR). By the following day, most birds were gone; a small flock of 10 was at the Highland Park dam on the Allegheny R. (MF). This species was also noted in other locations during migration. Five were at the point in Pittsburgh 4/9 (BSh) and 45 were flying over Carnegie 4/11 (SK). Three **Caspian Terns** flew past the point in Pittsburgh 4/9 (BSh) and may have been tallied at DASH later in the morning. Three were seen along the Allegheny R. at Springdale 4/11 (AH, PM), one was in nearby Harmar Twp. 4/18 (AH, PM) and one was resting on a mudflat at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela R. 5/1 (BC). Eight **Forster's Terns** were seen along the Allegheny R. at Lawrenceville 5/9 (AB, CB). A **Black Tern** spent a few hours at Imperial 5/10 (MV, GM).

A **Snowy Owl** in downtown Pittsburgh was reported to the National Aviary 3/31 (*fide* JE). Aviary Staff confirmed the bird's identity (JE, et al.) and many locals (birders and non-birders) were pleased to see this northern visitor. The bird was perched on Calvary United Methodist Church for most of the day. By the next morning it was gone, but later discovered at Point State Park (*fide* JE). It was presumed to have moved on after a lack of reports the following day (4/2) however it was relocated 4/6 on the Brooks Brothers Building (SSa). The bird was featured in local newspapers and birders had the opportunity to educate the non-birding public since the owl was in a busy area of the city. The last Snowy Owl seen in *Allegheny* was Nov 2000. The last report of **Short-eared Owl** at IMP was 3/6 (DW, ST). A **Barred Owl** was heard calling throughout March in the Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh, near Schenley Park (EM).

Two **Whip-poor-wills** were calling at SGL 203 in Marshall Twp. 5/2 (GM). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found at IMP 5/14-15 (MV) and an **Alder Flycatcher** was there 5/15 (GM). Surprisingly, there were only two reports of **Least Flycatcher**: 4/29 at Beechwood Farms (BSh) and 5/13 at Sewickley Heights Park (GM). The only report of **Philadelphia Vireo** was a single bird at Sewickley Heights Park 5/6 (GM).

A **Purple Martin** was at IMP 5/26 (GM); sightings away from the few breeding sites in the county are rare. **Tree Swallows** were first found in Findlay Twp. 3/20 (MV). **Bank Swallows** gathered at DASH where at least 30 were counted 5/11 (GM), and they returned to the nesting colony in Kennedy Twp. again this year (MV). A **Cliff Swallow** was at DASH 5/6 (GM); the lone report for this rarest of the swallows in *Allegheny*.

An **American Crow** with white secondaries was seen in Richland Twp. 3/8 (TA). A **Fish Crow** was at the breeding site in North Braddock 4/5 (MF). **Common Ravens** continue their presence in the county with reports from IMP 4/8 (BS), 4/25 (GM) and 5/1 (MV), and one at FP 4/25 (SS, CH); a first for that location.

The **Brown Thrasher** reported last season continued visiting a feeder in Forest Hills up to 3/22 (TB). An **American Pipit** was at IMP 4/26 (GM).

A **Brewster's Warbler** was a good find at Beechwood Farms 5/6 (BSh) and a **Lawrence's Warbler** was also a good find at Boyce-Mayview Park 5/5 (DW, ST). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was singing in Boyce Park 4/30 (EH). Although a common migrant, **Nashville Warblers** were in what appeared to be higher numbers than normal at least on two days. At least seven were in a single tree at FP 4/25 (MF), and ten were at Boyce Park 4/20 (EH). **Pine Warbler** reports were good with single birds at Walker Park 4/14 (BS), FP 4/18 and 4/21 (JS, SS), Schenley Park 4/21 (KSJ), Sewickley 4/25 (GM) and PT 5/21 (PL, SL). **Prairie Warblers** returned to the traditional breeding site at IMP 4/19 (GM). **Palm Warblers** can be scarce in the county, but reports were

good. Two were at North Park 4/12 (SC), one was at Sewickley 4/24 (BVN), 2 were at IMP 4/26 (GM) and one was there 4/29-5/2 (JS, SS, MV, SC). Seven were at Harmar Twp. 4/26 (AH, PM), one was in Homewood Cemetery 4/29 (CH) and one was at Beechwood Farms 4/30 (BSh). Another uncommon species that was well reported was **Worm-eating Warbler**. Up to two were at Harrison Hills Park 4/26-5/15 (SG, MF, AH, PM) where they were confirmed breeding last year. One at Walker Park in Sewickley 4/26 (BS) was a welcomed report because this was a known breeding site in past years. One was at Beechwood Farms 4/30 (BSh) and one was at FP 5/2-14 (GM, JS, SS) where they are nearly annual. A **Northern Waterthrush** in Sewickley 5/16 was the only report (GM). A **Kentucky Warbler** was observed at very close range in the South Hills 5/6 (JFJ), one was at Sewickley Heights Park 5/6 (DN, ML) where they breed, one was at Harrison Hills Park 5/9 and 5/15 (MF, SG), another known breeding site, and one was at Boyce Mayview Park 5/12 (DW, ST). A **Mourning Warbler** was heard singing in Monroeville 5/28 (MF); the only report for the season. Three **Wilson's Warblers** were found at Sewickley Heights Park 5/13 (GM) and one was in PT 5/19 (PL, SL). Single **Canada Warblers** were at Sewickley 5/17 (MV), Harrison Hills Park the same day (JV) and FP 5/18 (JS, SS).

Fox Sparrow high counts included five at Schenley Park 4/11 (TF) and seven at Frick Park 4/12 (TF). **Eastern Meadowlarks** returned to IMP 3/9 (MV). **Rusty Blackbird** reports were good with one in PT 3/6 (PL, SL), one at FP 3/26 (JS, SS), three in Findlay Twp. 3/28 (GM), three at IMP 4/8 (SC), nine there 4/11 (DW, ST, MF) and four there 4/12 (MV).

A late **Dark-eyed Junco** was in Pine Township 5/26-28 (PL, SL). **Purple Finch** reports were good for the season with regular reports from PT where up to four birds were present (PL, SL). Two were at IMP 3/28 (GM). This species was present at FP 4/11-25 (JS, SS, MF) with a high of four 4/12 (TF), eight were at Harrison Hills Park 4/18 (PH), one was at Churchill 4/21 (WS, DS), four were at Mount Washington 4/22 (JT) and one was at Ross Twp. 4/28 (BVN).

Northern finches continued their presence in Mar. **White-winged Crossbills** remained at Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville where 30 were present 3/1 (MF). The flock quickly decreased during the month. Eight were still there 3/31 (PB). Four were in Moon Twp. 3/4 (GM) and one was in Carnegie that day (SK) and 2 were in Squirrel Hill 3/8 (YC). A flock of 30 **Common Redpolls** at IMP 3/1 (DW, ST) were the last reported. **Pine Siskins** continued in good numbers during the entire season in many locations (m.ob.). A flock of 60-80 was at IMP 4/23 (LM) where they remained until at least 4/25 (m.ob.). A max count for Apr in PT was 44 (PL, SL), and a flock of 60 were at Beechwood Farms 5/6 (DR, BSh).

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Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Elders Ridge strips (ERS), Elderton (EDT), Keystone Power Plant (KPP), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Leechburg (LB), Mahoning (MH), Sherrett (SR), Templeton (TP), Tub Mill Run (TMR).

Twenty **Tundra Swans** stopped at KR 3/19 (MH, RH). First **Wood Ducks** were 5 noted at CC 3/18 (MVT) and one the following day (MH, RH) at KR. Ten **Gadwalls** visited KR 3/24 (MH, RH). KR hosted 2 **American Wigeons** 4/10 (MH). **American Black Duck** reports included

one at CC 3/17 (MF) and 13 at KR 3/19 (MH, RH). Eight young fluff-ball **Mallards** trailed behind their mother at KR 5/19 (MH, RH). KR yielded 7 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/10 (MH) and 3 on 4/23 (MH). Three **Northern Shovelers** were noted 3/19 (MH, RH) at KR where the last was recorded 4/23 (MH). Four **Northern Pintails** were sighted at CC 3/20 (fide MVT), the lone report. **Canvasbacks** reported included a singleton 3/1 (MH, RH) at KPP and 3 at KR 3/19 (MH, RH). Three **Redheads** at KPP 3/1 (MH, RH) were the only ones noted. **Ring-necked Ducks** moved through the county between 3/17 (MF) when 3 were spotted at CC and 4/19 (KB) when 2 were found at KR. The highest count of **Lesser Scaup** was 29 at KR 3/19 (MH, RH). **Long-tailed Duck** reports included 30 at KR 3/19 (MH, RH) and 2 at KR 3/24 (MH, RH). KPP yielded the first 2 **Buffleheads** 3/1 (MH, RH) while KR harbored 32 on 3/19 (MH, RH) and 24 on 4/19 (KB); last occurred 4/23 (MH) at KR. First 2 **Hooded Mergansers** appeared at KPP 3/1 (MH, RH); best count at KR was 7 on 3/24 (MH, RH). Top **Common Merganser** tally was 28 at CC 3/22 (MVT); 2 hens, one with 5 and the other with 8 young, at CC 5/27 (MVT) set a first confirmed *Armstrong* breeding record. **Red-breasted Mergansers** noted included 81 at KR 3/19 (MH, RH), 4 at CC 3/30 (MVT), 29 at KR 4/19 (KB), and the last 18 at KR 4/23 (MH). The only **Ruddy Ducks** reported were 49 on 3/19 (MH, RH) and one 5/23 (KB), all at KR.

Ruffed Grouse were listed only at SGL 287 on 5/7 (BF, MH) and near SR 5/28 (BF, MH). **Wild Turkeys** numbered 7 at Ford Cliff 3/2 (RH) and 11 near EDT 3/19 (MH, RH).

First 3 **Common Loons** arrived at KR 3/19 (MH, RH); 9 was KR's high 4/10 (MH); 3 still lingered at KR 5/23 (KB). Fifteen **Pied-billed Grebes** at KR 3/19 (MH, RH) were first arrivals while 2 were last noted there 4/19 (KB). First **Horned Grebe** appeared at KR 3/17 (MF), and 60 was the count two days later (MH, RH); 2 on 4/19 (KB) were last. KR yielded 2 **Red-necked Grebes** 3/17 (MF) and one 4/10 (MH).

Among many, **Double-crested Cormorant** reports included first singleton at CC 3/27 (MVT), 7 at CC 4/9 (MVT), 21 at KR 4/19 (KB), and 2 at CC 5/27 (MVT). A **Great Egret** visited CC 3/29 (SG). First **Green Heron** was listed at CC 4/25 (MVT).

Ten **Turkey Vultures**, the high count, were spotted over LB 4/21 (MVT). Three **Osprey** fished at KR 4/19 (KB); another was observed at TP 4/25 (MH, RH). **Bald Eagles** nested successfully again this year at CC (fide MVT), raising two young; a second-year bird was sighted 4/23 (MH) at KR; an adult flew down river near TP 5/7 (BF, MH). A **Northern Harrier** listed at the ERS 4/16 (MH, RH) was the lone report. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted only at LB 4/4 (MVT) and at KR 4/23 (MH). **Cooper's Hawks** were noted at KR 4/19 (KB), at CC 4/25 (MVT), and near TMR 5/8 (MH, LR, JV). First **Broad-winged Hawk** arrived at KR 4/23 (MH).

American Coot reports included 2 at KPP 3/1 (MH, RH), 5 at KR 3/19 (MH, RH), and one still present at KR 4/19 (KB). First **Killdeer** were 4 at CC 3/18 (MVT); 10 were found near EDT the following day (MH, RH). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was listed 5/26 (MVT) at CC where the first **Spotted Sandpiper** was observed 4/30 (MVT). A **Wilson's Snipe** was winnowing at the ERS 4/16 (MH, RH). **American Woodcock** reports included one at EDT and 3 near Pyrra on 4/2 (MH, RH) and 2 near South Bend 4/27 (MH, RH).

The only **Bonaparte's Gulls** recorded were 2 at CC 4/6 (MVT), one at KR 4/10, 23 (MH), and 3 at KR 4/19 (KB). Top **Ring-billed Gull** counts, both at KR, were 27 on 3/19 (MH, RH) and 26 on 4/19 (KB). A **Herring Gull** was standing near the nest at Kittanning while another was seen north of Kittanning along the Allegheny R., both 4/26 (MH, RH). KR yielded 4 **Caspian Terns**, 2 **Common Terns**, and one **Forster's Tern** on 4/19 (KB). Two **Black-billed Cuckoos** and one **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were found along the Roaring Run Trail 5/26 (MH, RH).

A **Great Horned Owl** was perched in a tree at the ERS 4/16 (MH, RH). A roosting **Barred Owl** was last seen at CC 3/7 (MVT); another was hooting along Furnace Run Trail 5/26 (MH, RH). A barking **Short-eared Owl** was observed catching prey on the ground at the ERS 4/16 (MH, RH). Three **Common Nighthawks** flew over Kittanning 5/20 (MH, RH). First **Chimney Swifts** were 6 at TP 4/25 (MH, RH).

First **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** arrived near LB 5/7 (MVT) and at CC 5/8 (MH, JV).

Arrival dates included 5/22 (MVT) for **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at CC; 5/8 (MH, LR, JV) for **Acadian Flycatcher** near TMR; 5/19 (MH, RH) for **Willow Flycatcher** near EDT; 5/8 (MH, JV) for **Least Flycatcher** at CC; 3/17 (MF) for **Eastern Phoebe** at CC; 5/8 (MH, JV) for **Great Crested Flycatcher** at CC; and 5/7 (BF, MH) for **Eastern Kingbird** along the Armstrong Trail near MH.

White-eyed Vireos were first noted 5/7 (BF, MH) near MH. Earliest **Blue-headed Vireo** was near Slabtown 4/25 (MH, RH), and **Yellow-throated Vireo** was singing near TP 4/25 (MH, RH). First **Warbling Vireo** and an early **Philadelphia Vireo** were listed near MH 5/7 (BF, MH). **Red-eyed Vireos** were first found at CC 4/30 (MVT) and near MH 5/7 (BF, MH). The EDT **Common Ravens** were on nest 3/1 (MH, RH); **Common Ravens** also nested at CC this year (fide JV).

At least 25 **Purple Martins** were perched on the boxes at the colony near EDT 5/23 (JS). Arrival dates included 4/10 (MH) for **Tree Swallows**, **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, and **Barn Swallows** at KR. A **Bank Swallow** was observed near TP 5/7 (BF, MH).

Brown Creepers were found only at KR 4/23 (MH) and at CC 5/22 and 27 (MVT). **House Wrens** returned to KR by 4/19 (KB). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** reports included 5 at KR 4/23 (MH) and one in Boggs Twp. 4/25 (MH, RH), the only reports. First **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were listed 4/25 at TP (MH, RH), near Kellersburg (MH, RH), and at CC (MVT). **Hermit Thrush** was singing on territory near SR 5/28 (BF, MH). Six **Wood Thrushes** near TP 5/7 (BF, MH) were first. CC yielded the first **Gray Catbird** 4/30 (MVT) and the first **Brown Thrasher** 4/14 (MVT).

Blue-winged Warbler arrived at CC 4/30 (MVT). Two **Northern Parulas** were singing along TMR 5/8 (MH, LR, JV). First dates included 4/25 (MH, RH) for **Yellow Warbler** at four locations in the northern part of the county and 5/7 (BF, MH) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** near MH. A singing **Magnolia Warbler** near SR 5/28 (BF, MH) was the lone report. Top count of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was 27 at KR on 4/23 (MH); last noted were 4 at CC 5/9 (MVT). Two **Black-throated Green Warblers** near Slabtown and another near MH 4/25 (MH, RH) were first. Two **Blackburnian Warblers** stopped at CC 5/8 (MH, JV). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was singing along the Roaring Run Trail 5/25 (MH, RH) while 2 were found on the *Armstrong* section of the Shelocta BBS 5/30 (MH, RH). **Pine Warbler** was singing at KR 4/23 (MH). First **Prairie Warblers** were 2 near TP 5/7 (BF, MH). A **Blackpoll** near EDT 5/29 (MH) was last. **Cerulean Warbler** arrived 4/30 (MVT) at CC; other reports involved seven locations (m.ob.). April 25 (MH, RH) produced the first 3 **Black-and-white Warblers** near Slabtown and one near MH as well as the first **American Redstart** near MH. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was foraging along the river near MH 5/7 (BF, MH). **Ovenbirds** 5/7 (BF, MH) near TP were the first reported. **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were first found 4/25 (MH, RH) near Slabtown; among numerous reports were 3 along TMR 5/8 (MH, LR, JV) and 4 along Rock Furnace Trail 5/25 (MH, RH). The SR area yielded 3 **Kentucky Warblers** 5/28 (BF, MH). **Common Yellowthroats** surfaced first at CC 4/30 (MVT). **Hooded Warbler** returned 4/25 (MH, RH) near MH. A **Canada Warbler** was a nice find at CC 5/8 (MH, JV).

Scarlet Tanagers were first noted 5/7 (BF, MH) near TP and MH. **Eastern Towhee** returned 4/10 (MH) at KR. **American Tree Sparrows** lingered till 3/21 (MVT) at CC, where the first **Chipping Sparrow** was noted 4/9 (MVT). The first **Savannah Sparrow** appeared near EDT 4/23 (MH). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** singing near SR 5/28 (BF, MH) and 2 **Fox Sparrows** at CC 3/21 (MVT) were the only reports of these species. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at TMR was a nice find 5/8 (MH, LR, JV). A **White-throated Sparrow** lingered near MH 5/7 (BF, MH). Last **Dark-eyed Junco** was one at Yatesboro 4/28 (ED).

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 4/20 (ED) at Yatesboro and an **Indigo Bunting** 4/30 (MVT) at CC were first. At least 2 **Bobolinks** were at ERS 5/25 (MH, RH). First **Eastern Meadowlark** appeared near EDT 3/19 (MH, RH). **Orchard Oriole** returned 5/9 (MVT) at CC. First **Baltimore Orioles** were noted 4/30 (MVT), also at CC. Two **Pine Siskins** remained near LB 5/11 (MVT).

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Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Beaver River (BR), Big Beaver Wetlands (BBW), Hopewell Township Community Park (HTCP), Independence Marsh (IND), Little Blue Lake (LBL), Montgomery Lock and Dam (MLD), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH).

Lamentably, this county suffers from considerable underexposure,

despite having quite a bit to offer birders. The lack of coverage here is no better demonstrated this season than by a series of first dates for migrants all of which are clearly due to a lack of observers in the field and not due to a migration seriously off-kilter. Among these "firsts" were American Woodcock 4/26, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 5/22, Willow Flycatcher 5/30, Veery 5/30, Gray-cheeked Thrush 5/30, Northern Parula 5/3, Blackpoll Warbler 5/29, and Bobolink 5/22.

Despite this, *Beaver's* few birders did turn up a few headlining rarities nonetheless, including the first **Little Gull** for the extreme southwestern corner of Pennsylvania, and *Beaver's* second **Greater White-fronted Goose**. In addition, a number of other unusual birds were discovered, including multiple **Worm-eating Warblers**, **Mourning Warbler**, **White-rumped Sandpiper**, late **Great Egrets**, and a few others.

As mentioned, *Beaver's* second **Greater White-fronted Goose**, a bird at IND 3/7-8 (MV), followed closely on the heels of the county's first which was reported last season. **Tundra Swans** moved north in early Mar with 31 at Hereford Manor L. 3/9 (ER) and 26 at AR 3/10 (MV). A single swan was still at AR 3/13-17.

The only **Gadwall** of the season was one at RCH 3/8 (MV). As per usual, **American Wigeon** were not seen after Mar, but were found at BBW and IND prior to their departure. The "on year" continued for **American Black Duck**, with reports from five locations including a peak of 10 on the BR 3/21 (MV). **Blue-winged Teal** were recorded only at IND but they were a fixture there for four weeks, with a group of four present most of Apr and a peak of 10 on 4/12 (BW). The last of them was spotted 4/25. **Northern Shovelers** were two at IND 3/22 (SC), 6 on the BR (where rare) at New Brighton 4/11 (MV), and one late bird at IND 5/3 (MV). **Northern Pintail** made a characteristically early departure; the last flock was 11 at IND 3/1 (MV) which dwindled to 2 birds by 3/7 before disappearing. First **Green-winged Teal** appeared at IND 3/7 (MV), where they were then seen sporadically until 4/25 (MV, BW). Three were also at AR 3/17 (MV).

Following last season's staggering showing at RCH, **Canvasback** persisted there until 3/12, including a high count of 25 still there 3/5 (MV). **Redhead** were located at RCH until 3/8 (BW, MV, GM) and a single appeared at IND 3/8-11 (MV). **Ring-necked Ducks** had a great season, with double-digit flocks seen through 4/11; peak was 95 at gravel ponds north of BBW 3/12 (MV) and last were 2 at the same location 5/2 (MV). Four was the count of **Greater Scaup** reports: 2 at RCH 3/5, 3 at RCH 3/8, one at IND 3/29, and one at the BBW-area gravel ponds 4/16 (all MV). **Lesser Scaup** were reported a dozen times 3/5-4/11, with best counts of 18 at MLD 3/6 (MV) and 17 at RCH 4/6 (MV). A **White-winged Scoter** at RCH 3/12 (MV) may have been one of the individuals that was present last season. Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were at AR 4/17 (MV, GM) during a large fallout of Bonaparte's Gulls. **Buffleheads** had an outstanding showing, reported on 19 different dates 3/1-4/23 (m.ob.), but never more than the 15 at AR 3/19 (MV). **Common Goldeneye** left over from the winter were 2 at RCH 3/5, 21 at MLD 3/6, and one at AR (uncommonly away from the rivers) 3/19 (all MV). Two female **Hooded Mergansers** each with chicks were found at the BBW-area gravel ponds 5/19 (MV), one of which (with 9 chicks) was in *Beaver*, the other in *Lawrence*. They were still present 5/30 to become the first of their kind to be found on the *Beaver/Lawrence* BBS (GM). A male **Common Merganser** stayed on the BR until 5/15 (MV); last year one summered on the river. First **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 5 at AR 3/11, peak was 29 migrating over RCH 4/10, and last was one at RCH 5/2 (all MV). **Ruddy Ducks** were 5 at AR 3/19 and 8 at RCH 4/19 (MV).

A **Ruffed Grouse** unexpectedly wandered out into a field to feed in the vicinity of a blackbird flock at IND 3/24 (MV), the only report.

A good number of **Common Loons** moved through 4/10-11. MV found 15 at RCH 4/10, and on 4/11, observers stationed on the Ohio R. one mile from the *Beaver/Allegheny* line counted 11 headed northwest into *Beaver* (GM, MV). One or two were in evidence at AR in the second half of Apr (MV, GM, et al.). A good season for **Pied-billed Grebe** began with a high count of 6 at RCH 3/6 (MV) and ended with one at BBW 5/2 (MV). **Horned Grebes** were sporadic 3/5-22, including one at IND 3/19 (MV) where they are not expected. Best count was 8 at AR 3/22 (MV). Four **Red-necked Grebes** were at RCH 3/5 (BS, fide DW) with 2-3 remaining to 3/8. Another Red-necked Grebe was at AR 3/13-29 (MV), and yet another was back at RCH 3/21 (MV). First **Double-crested Cormorant** was one on the BR 3/21 (MV), but other than this one, reports were limited to those resulting from river monitors at the county line, who tallied 86 on 4/10 and 47 on 4/11 as they moved across the line into *Beaver* (GM, MV, DW, et al.). A **Great Egret** was

also seen 4/10 at RCH (MV). Four more **Great Egrets** were seen over Darlington during a BBS at the late date of 5/30 (GM). Another was at BBW that same day.

A new **Osprey** nest, the third known for *Beaver*, was discovered 4/11 on the Ohio R. between Ambridge and Aliquippa (SG). On 5/7, one was seen incubating eggs at the site. The well-established nest in Potter Twp. was active again; the first adult reappeared 3/26 (MV). The Midland nest, however, was probably inactive again this year for an unknown reason (SG). Late **Bald Eagles** made news this season. Three (2 adults and one immature) were over Beaver Falls 5/2 (SG), and one immature was at Monaca 5/29 (SG). The only **Red-shouldered Hawk** was one in Independence Twp. 3/8 (BW) but a few known nest locations were not checked. **American Kestrels** were starting nesting activity at Monaca and Shippingport 3/18 (SG). The **Merlin** that wintered in the town of Beaver was last seen 3/26 (MV). **Peregrine Falcons** nested again on the underside of the East Rochester Bridge. The female was likely on nest by 3/29, chicks hatched sometime around 5/9, and 2 female and one male hatchlings were banded 5/29 (SG).

Better than average habitat at IND produced some rails this spring: a **Virginia Rail** was located 4/25 (MF), and a **Sora** was present 5/3-7 (GM, MF, et al.). Five **American Coots** were on the BR 3/21-4/19 (MV, et al.) and one was at IND 4/24 (MV).

Shorebirds of significance were limited to a single day's worth at LBL. On 5/22, MV recorded 3 **Black-bellied Plovers**, 19 **Semipalmated Plovers**, 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** (the only yellowlegs of the season for the county), 20 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, 7 **Least Sandpipers**, and one **White-rumped Sandpiper**. Two **Semipalmated Plovers**, 18 **Least Sandpipers** and 5 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were also at LBL 5/15 (MV). **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen occasionally at IND (m.ob.), and one was strangely on the BR at Beaver Falls 5/15 (MV). Six **Wilson's Snipe** were at IND 3/22 (MV), the only report.

S.A.

At long last, a **Little Gull** (three, actually) came to the southwestern corner of Pennsylvania, though not where everyone thought one might appear. Since 2004, observers have watched the Ohio River in western *Allegheny* and central *Beaver* diligently in April during Bonaparte's Gull migration, particularly during the second week of the month, in the hopes of turning up a Little Gull. Six years and 3000+ Bonaparte's Gulls later, they have been unsuccessful.

But on 4/17, a huge fallout of **Bonaparte's Gulls** happened in southwestern Pennsylvania, particularly in *Beaver*, *Allegheny*, and *Washington* counties, nearly a week later than the usual peak of migration here. That day, MV found 500 Bonaparte's resting on the Ohio R. in the vicinity of Monaca and RCH. Later he visited AR and found it similarly loaded with Bonaparte's, at least 400. There were reports of large flocks of Bonaparte's also in *Allegheny* and *Washington* that day. Later that afternoon, GM followed up on the AR report and counted at least 438 birds present. Most birds were resting on the water and very distant, so it was difficult to make out much detail on them. By a great stroke of luck, after 90 minutes of searching and just before a decision to give up and leave, one of the masses took to the air and showed dark underwings, allowing an ecstatic GM to confirm *Beaver's* first Little Gull! Before long, a second Little Gull was found, and much later, near dusk, the presence of a third was confirmed. All 438+ birds were watched as darkness fall, when they took to the sky and headed off to the north to resume their migration (DW, ST).

Even aside from the large fallout of 4/17 noted above, **Bonaparte's Gulls** still had a great showing. Good counts included 30 at the BBW-area gravel ponds 4/4 (MV) and 23 at RCH 4/6 (MV). River monitoring at the county line found 184 migrants underway on 4/10 (GM, MV, MF, DW, et al.), 84 on 4/11 (GM, MV, DW, et al.), and 41 on 4/12 (GM, MV). Additionally 46 were at RCH 4/10 (MV), probably a portion of the 184 that were seen earlier downriver at the county line. Last Bonaparte's were 2 on the BR 4/19 (MV), just two days after the massive fallout 4/17. Two hundred **Ring-billed Gulls** were at RCH 3/8 (MV); otherwise the last large numbers passed though in the second week of Apr, with a peak of 107 migrating on the Ohio R. 4/10 (GM, MV). Fifteen **Caspian Terns** were counted migrating past the county line 4/10-12 (GM, MV, MF, DW, et al.), but were the only reported for

the season. Two **Common Terns** were at RCH 5/10 (MV). Twenty-five **Forster's Terns** moved though with the Caspians 4/10-12 (GM, MV, MF, DW, et al.), one was at RCH 4/17 (MV), and three were at RCH 5/10 (MV). The season's only **Black Tern** was one at Darlington L. 5/10 (MV), making for a rare three-tern day 5/10.

Barred Owls were vocal at AR from mid-Mar through the end of Apr (MV, GM). First **Common Nighthawk** appeared in Ambridge 5/15 (MV). Five **Whip-poor-wills** were calling at two sites on SGL 285 in early May (GM), and 3 were heard at their strongest SGL 285 site 5/22 (MV). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** in Economy Boro 4/27 was at the front end of their usual arrival window. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were recorded only at RCSP: one was there 3/31 (JS, SS), and 3 were counted 4/13 (KSJ).

First **Great Crested Flycatchers** were coincidentally found on both SGL 285 and SGL 189 on 4/26 (GM). Otherwise flycatchers were unremarkable. **Blue-headed Vireos** were found at AR 4/21-5/19 (the latter date somewhat late, courtesy BW), and at HTCP 4/29-30 (BW). The first **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was a bedraggled-looking bird at IND 3/28 (GM), somewhat early for this species. **Bank Swallows** nested again on the property of a gravel company just over the border in *Lawrence*, and were responsible for sightings on the *Beaver* portion of the *Beaver/Lawrence* BBS 5/30 (GM), which included a dozen or so near BBW and one at Darlington L. A **Cliff Swallow** was in that same area near BBW 5/2 (MV).

Red-breasted Nuthatches persisted at AR to at least 5/1 (MV, et al.). **Brown Creepers** were reported at RCSP 4/5-18 (KSJ). **Winter Wren** reports were one at RCSP 3/31 (JS, SS) and one also at RCSP 4/13 (KSJ). Last **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at RCSP 4/13 (KSJ), and first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was there 5 days later on 4/18 (KSJ). Ruby-crowns were still at AR 5/12 (LC).

During a BBS stop in Chippewa Twp. 5/30, GM recorded both **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and **Veery** singing from the same patch of woods, both the first and only reports of the season. Gray-cheeked was certainly not a breeder, but Veery potentially was; however the early date of this year's BBS run precluded confirmation. **Swainson's Thrushes** were better represented by singles each at SGL 189 4/26 (GM), at RCSP 4/29 (JS, SS), RCSP 5/10 (GM), and HTCP 5/11 (BW).

It was a fair season for wood-warbler diversity, but large numbers were not noted and only one day of 20 species was reported, at RCSP 5/10 (GM). A territorial battle between two **Blue-winged Warblers** at SGL 4/26 (GM) provided both the first record of the season and a photographic spectacle. A **Lawrence's Warbler**, *Beaver's* first in several years, was at IND 5/3 (MV), but was not findable just a few hours later for the half-dozen hopefuls who chased after it. **Tennessee Warblers** were one early bird at MLD 5/1 (BS) and 2 at RCSP 5/10 (GM). **Nashville Warblers** were reported eight times 4/26-5/11 (m.ob.), always in small numbers. A **Northern Parula** was still at RCSP 5/23 (MV), a good sign. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were back in the vicinity of breeding areas on SGL 285 (4 birds) and SGL 173 (3 birds) by 4/26 (GM). Last migrant was at AR 5/19 (BW). Best **Magnolia Warbler** count was 5 at RCSP 5/10 (GM). A **Cape May Warbler** was a good yard bird in Aliquippa 5/12 (BW). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were 3 at RCSP 5/10 and one at RCSP 5/12 (LC). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was still hanging around AR 5/19 (BW), where in the second half of Apr they numbered in the double digits. **Black-throated Green Warblers** were typically common, especially at RCSP. The only **Blackburnian Warbler** was at RCSP 5/10. **Yellow-throated Warbler** returned to RCSP 4/18 (KSJ). The only **Pine Warblers** of the season were one at AR 4/18 (MV) and 2 there 4/21 (BW). **Prairie Warblers** were already thick at SGL 285 by 4/26 (GM). The only **Bay-breasted Warbler** was one at RCSP 5/10 (GM). **Blackpoll Warbler** was inexplicably not reported until 5/29 at AR (MV). Usually during the peak of their migration, one almost cannot help but hear their "squeaky brakes" call in any moderately-sized woodlot. **Cerulean Warblers** were at RCSP and SGL189. Away from SGL 285 where they breed, **Black-and-white Warblers** were reported though 5/10. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at MLD 5/1-24 (MV, BS), an encouraging sign at a site where the species bred as recently as the early 2000s. Another worm-eater was at AR 5/12 (LC). A **Northern Waterthrush** at AR 4/30 (MV) was a nice find; AR is probably the best spot in the county to search for this species in the spring. First **Louisiana Waterthrush** was back at RCSP 4/13 (KSJ), slightly later than the usual first report. **Kentucky Warblers** apparently were gearing up to breed at MLD by the end of May; three were found 5/29 (MV). A **Mourning Warbler** was a great find at New Galilee on the BBS run 5/30 (GM); of course this was a late migrant and not a breeder.

A **Vesper Sparrow** at IND 4/5 (KSJ) was a bit unusual for that

location. Similarly, a **Savannah Sparrow** there 4/18 (BW) was out of place at IND. **Grasshopper** and **Henslow's Sparrows** were in place at SGL 285 by the end of April (GM). The only **Fox Sparrow** was one at RCSP 4/5 (KSJ). A **White-throated Sparrow** at IND 5/10 (BW) was late. **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported only at IND this season, 3/28-5/10 (MF, MV, BW).

A great count of 13 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** was made at MLD 5/3 (MV). **Bobolinks** were reported only at LBL 5/22 (MV), lack of coverage surely contributed to this dearth of sightings. From 6 to 14 **Rusty Blackbirds** were at IND 3/21-24 (MV). Orioles returned in the last week of April: 2 **Orchard Orioles** were in Economy Boro 4/27 (KD) and one **Baltimore Oriole** was at RCSP 4/26 (STi).

One or 2 **Purple Finches** attended a feeder in Aliquippa 3/28 and 4/12-19, and 4 were there 4/21 (all BW). Two were at IND 3/28 (GM). **White-winged Crossbills** persisted for a bit; reports included 12 in Aliquippa 3/12 (BW) and a flock in the pines at the Wildflower Reserve adjacent to RCSP 4/5 (KSJ). **Pine Siskins** also persisted but in better numbers. Most sightings were from feeders, such as 10-12 in Aliquippa that stayed into early May (BW) and a flock of 6 in Beaver Falls 4/10 (SB) that dwindled to a pair last seen 5/16 (which was also the latest date). They were also reported from RCSP, SGL 285, AR, city of Beaver, and Beaver Falls (m.ob.).

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Bedford County

Locations: Dunnings Creek Wetlands and White-tail Wetlands (DCW), Shawnee State Park (SSP), Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Allegheny Front (AF).

This quarter was the wettest this county has experienced for a very long time. Rain would fall steadily for days at a time with deluges of an inch or more. The saturated soil would continue to keep streams, lakes, marshes and impoundments high into early summer.

Five **Greater White-fronted Geese** were seen 2/26 and 3/10; one lingered until 4/25 at DCW. Three hundred and fifty **Snow Geese** were observed 3/7 at DCW. Two blue-morph and two white-morph birds stayed until 4/25. Three **Brant** arrived 2/14, possibly the same birds that come each year in Feb. A total of 2000 **Canada Geese** arrived at DCW 2/26. Rare for this county was a **Mute Swan** 5/9 (PMC). The peak numbers of waterfowl at DCW are as follows: 150 **Tundra Swan** 3/17, 225 **Wood Ducks** 3/11, 20 **Gadwall** 4/11, 52 **American Widgeon** 3/26, 180 **American Black Duck** 3/7, 450 **Mallards** 3/7, 55 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/11, 45 **Northern Shovelers** 3/9, 158 **Northern Pintails** 3/7, and 67 **Green-winged Teal** 3/21. Most diving ducks were observed at SSP with a few exceptions and are as follows: 11 **Canvasbacks** 4/11 at SSP, 48 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/16 at DCW, 250 **Greater Scaup** 4/11 at SSP, 300 **Lesser Scaup** 4/11 at SSP, 4 **Surf Scoter** 4/11 at SSP, 210 **Long-tailed Ducks** 3/26, 189 **Bufflehead** 4/11 at SSP, 6 **Hooded Mergansers** 3/31 at DCW, 33 **Common Mergansers** 3/26 at SSP, 175 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 4/3 at SSP, and 28 **Ruddy Ducks** 4/11 at DCW.

Two male **Ring-necked Pheasants** and one female were observed at DCW 4/7. **Ruffed Grouse** were abundant and seen often throughout the county and in particular on Lambert Mt. Road 5/2, 5/6 and 5/15. It appears that deer decline has hastened the return of Ruffed Grouse by reducing competition for the same food resources. Ninety-nine **Wild Turkey** were seen 3/2 on Knuff Road near New Paris.

A single **Red-throated Loon** was seen 4/11 at SSP. Forty-one **Common Loons** were observed 3/31 at SSP and 5 **Pied-billed Grebes** 3/6 at SSP. Seventy-six **Horned Grebes** arrived at SSP 4/11. The only **Red-necked Grebe** observed was at DCW 3/18. A total of 325 **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed at SSP 4/11. Two **American Bittern** first appeared at DCW 4/22. For seventeen years **Least Bitterns** have been breeding at DCW, last year a Least Bittern was predator-killed and thus far no Least Bitterns have been observed. In Aug a new five-acre marsh will be constructed by USFWS for managing Least Bitterns. Water level regulation is the key to their management.

Eighteen **Great Blue Herons** were lined up at DCW feeding on crappies 4/6. The first **Great Egret** made an early appearance 3/1 at DCW. The first **Green Herons** arrived 3/22.

The AFHW had many days of easterly wet winds reducing the number of hours of coverage, however, the net result was that on clear days with east winds we would get good flights such as 735 raptors 4/24 which resulted in our overall highest spring count at 2377. The results for the season are as follows: **Black Vulture** 9, **Turkey Vulture** 384, **Osprey** 61, **Bald Eagle** 32, **Northern Harrier** 28, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 220, **Cooper's Hawk** 57, **Northern Goshawk** 7, **Red-shouldered Hawk** 36, **Broad-winged Hawk** 854, **Red-tailed Hawk** 465, **Rough-legged Hawk** 0, **Golden Eagle** 81, **American Kestrel** 39, **Merlin** 9, **Peregrine Falcon** 3, and 92 unidentified specks. Retrospectively, the Osprey count (61) was low as compared to 2008's 185, and the 36 Red-shouldered Hawks was low compared to 2008's 110. A late **Golden Eagle** was counted 5/6. We have also noticed that some Golden Eagles would pass the Hawk Watch and drift over Dunning's Creek Wetlands to hunt geese. The hunting was also substantiated at DCW with Golden Eagles chasing Canada Geese.

With few exceptions the following were reported from DCW. **Sora** were seen 4/22 and 5/9 in wet pastures. Apparently there was no Sora nesting this year due to flooded marshes. **American Coot** maxima was 25 on 3/26 and coot lingered well into June. **Sandhill Cranes** were seen at DCW 3/11, 5/1, and 5/9. One crane had the heavy rusty tint of a maturing first year bird.

Twenty species of shorebirds were reported this year despite the rain and lack of mudflats, but many arrived late in June when draw downs produced mudflats. The late birds (June) were **White-rumped Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Western Sandpiper**. **Black-bellied Plovers** arrived in pairs at DCW 5/1 and 5/25, 8 **Semipalmated Plovers** appeared 5/27. The surprise plover, discovered at SSP 5/9, was the **Piping Plover**, a threatened species moving rapidly to endangered status. Its vulnerability is due to its open nesting on sandy habitats such as river bars, flood plains and sandy beaches, all of which are threatened by dams, off-road vehicles, dogs, cats and other human disturbance. This bird had numerous leg bands of varying colors that will soon give us an idea of where the bird originated. In the mean time, we are all thrilled that DB discovered this bird cryptically hidden in a mosaic of small stones, and managed to get photographs to confirm her find. The remaining shorebirds were found at DCW. Seventeen **Killdeer** arrived 3/11. Four **Greater Yellowlegs** arrived 4/3 and peaked at 28 on 5/21, 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** arrived 4/5, and peaked at 40 on 5/1, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** arrived on 5/13 and departed 5/25, 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** arrived 4/2, and peaked at 6 on 5/20 where much displaying took place. Four **Semipalmated Sandpipers** arrived 5/4 and peaked at 130 on 6/2, one **Western Sandpiper** arrived 6/1 and peaked at 5 on 6/4, **Least Sandpiper** first appeared 5/9 and peaked at 6 on 5/20, 5 **White-rumped Sandpiper** arrived 6/2 and remained until 6/7, 2 **Pectoral Sandpiper** were observed 6/7, 2 **Dunlin** were seen 6/1, one **Stilt Sandpiper** 5/30, 18 **Short-billed Dowitchers** landed for the day and left on 5/9, 14 **Wilson's Snipe** were counted on 4/6. **American Woodcock** began arriving in good numbers around the last week in April, over 20 were displaying on the night of 5/9.

The following gulls and terns were observed 4/11 at DCW: 49 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 320 **Ring-billed Gulls**, 16 **Common Terns**, 12 **Caspian Terns** and 7 **Forster's Terns** and on 4/22, one **Black Tern**.

On the PMC 4 species of owls were found including the **Barn Owl**, **Screech-Owl**, **Great Horned Owl** and **Barred owl**. Barn Owls continue to do well at DCW, they utilize two inactive silos. The PMC tallied the following woodpeckers from the most abundant to least: **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **Northern Flicker**, **Downy Woodpecker**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, **Hairy Woodpecker**, and **Red-headed Woodpecker**.

The only **Empidonax** flycatchers found on the PMC were **Least** and **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers**. At DCW there were 10 Singing male **Willow Flycatchers** 5/20 and 5 **Least Flycatchers** in migration at DCW May 13. On 5/9, two **White-eyed Vireos**, 2 **Blue-headed Vireos** and 2 **Warbling Warblers** were found singing along the forested Dunnings Creek.

The only swallow missing from the PMC was the **Cliff Swallow** which arrived 5/15. The following warblers were seen on the PAMC: **Golden-winged** 6, **Northern Parula** 4, **Yellow** 34, **Chestnut-sided**, **Magnolia** 4, **Black-throated Blue** 8, **Yellow-rumped** 1, **Black-throated Green** 4, **Blackpoll** 1, **Cerulean** 5, **Black-and-white** 14, **American Redstart** 50, **Worm-eating** 1, **Ovenbird** 31, **Northern Waterthrush** 1, **Louisiana Waterthrush** 1, **Kentucky** 1, **Common Yellowthroat** 39, and **Hooded Warbler** 4.

Bedford, like most counties, has its group of sparrows that are difficult to find but can be found with time spent in the field. Among those are breeding **Henslow's** and **Lincoln's Sparrows** in the field.

On 4/22, I found a small sparrow that was a possible **LeConte's Sparrow**. This sparrow was in the same location as the heavily documented Sedge Wren of 12 years ago. The area was a wet meadow. This sparrow was first noticed running around in circles between sedges like a little rodent. It was hard to flush, but occasionally jumped up on a sedge and disappeared again. I've have had similar experiences with Henslow's at DCW but always on higher ground and much easier to round up. I can't help but think I saw a LeConte's Sparrow.

As of yet we have not experienced the crash of Rusty Blackbirds at DCW. The following are dates and numbers for **Rusty Blackbirds**: 4 on 3/31, 10 on 4/3, 5 on 4/9 and 30 on 4/11 were fairly normal.

White-winged Crossbills were reported at the Allegheny Front 3/9. Another invasion species this year was the **Pine Siskin**. Many local feeders still had high numbers (30 to 40 or more) Pine Siskins at their feeders daily at the time of this writing. The result of all this is a lot more local breeding Siskins, possibly not to be repeated till the next erratic year.

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Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands (SGL) 110 & 106, Kittatinny Ridge.

March and April were cold and dry with below normal precipitation. May was cool and wet with above normal precipitation. LO was ice free by 3/9. **Greater White-fronted Geese** of possibly two subspecies visited *Berks* this season. Two distinctly pink billed birds with wide frontal shields (*frontalis?*) were among **Snow Geese** at LO 3/3 (RK, MW). Four orange billed birds were at LO with **Canada Geese** 3/11 (RK). Six orange billed birds with narrow frontal shields (*flavirostris?*) were at Gotwals Pond, Oley 4/4-9 (RK). The latter were probably a family group, as some of the birds lacked dark flank and belly speckling, characteristic of juvs. **Snow Geese** peaked at 30,000 (151 blue) at LO 3/3 (RK). Among Snows were two **Ross' Geese** at BML 3/6 (JS) and one at LO 3/7 (RK). Single **Cackling Geese** were at LO with Snows 3/8 and 15 and one was among Canadas at Gotwals pond, Oley 4/5-9 (RK).

Mute Swans reached a high count of 21 at LO 5/29 (RK), 17 non-breeders and a breeding pair with two downy cygnets. Peak migration of Tundra Swans found a total of 237 at LO and BML 3/11 (RK, JS).

With the exception of scoters (none reported), the expected duck species were seen in numbers reasonably consistent with those of recent years. A **Eurasian Wigeon** drake was among **American Wigeons** at LO 2/22-4/9 (m.ob.). A **Mallard X American Black Duck** drake was at LO 3/28-29 (RK). Single male **Ring-necked Ducks** lingered at Peters Creek near LO and Gotwals Pond, Oley past May (RK).

The long (permanent?) absence of **Ruffed Grouse** from most of *Berks* south of the Kittatinny Ridge continues. The only reports came from SGL 110 and 106 on the ridge (TC, KG). **Wild Turkey** continues to prosper, e.g., 100 courting in a field in District Twp. 3/8 (RK).

The sole **Red-throated Loon** reported was at LO 3/29 (RK, MW). There were no large fallouts of **Common Loons**, whose high count was 20 at BML 5/7 (JS). It was a good year to see **Red-necked Grebes**, which were reported on eight days at BML and LO 3/11-4/10 (m.ob.), the high count of 6 at BML 3/11 (JS). **Double-crested Cormorant** migration peaked with 310 birds at LO 4/12 (RK). About a dozen non-breeders stayed into summer.

Migrating **American Bitterns** sometimes appear in odd places, such as the bird attempting concealment in the suburban shrub and lawn habitat of Laurel Run Park, Muhlenberg Twp. 4/12 (CD). Another was in more natural habitat at Peters Creek 4/17 (I & EL). A **Least Bittern**, seldom reported now that Glen Morgan L. IBA is off limits, called for an hour in the cattails at Peters Creek 5/30 (JE). All four of the known **Great Blue Heron** colonies were occupied in May. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** arrived at their nesting colony in residential

Wyomissing Hills about the second week of Apr, with about 30 birds present by the end of the month, according to Mr. Tice, the landowner (fide RK). Birds presumably from this colony were seen at BML and LO through May. Eleven *Plegadis* ibis, presumably **Glossy Ibis**, rare and irregular in *Berks*, flew over Henningsville 4/24 (PS).

A **Mississippi Kite**, now expected annually, was seen at BML 5/14 (JS). If all known sites were occupied, there were five active **Bald Eagle** nests in *Berks* this year. A newly built nest in the Oley Valley contained three young in early May (JH, SSt), and a second year nest in the intensively farmed land of Marion Twp. contained at least two young in late May (RK). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was calling around its Norway spruce nesting grove in District Twp. 4/4 (RK). At peak **Broad-winged Hawk** migration, 36 birds were seen over Birdsboro 4/22 (JT) and 73 over District Twp. 4/24 (RK). A pair was copulating at Boyertown Reservoir 5/11 (PO). A **Rough-legged Hawk** at LO 3/7 (RK) was headed north, as was a juv. **Golden Eagle** at French Creek SP 3/1 (HH). A female **American Kestrel** was trying to catch **Cliff Swallows** at their nests on the LO dam 5/24 (MW). Reading's resident **Peregrine Falcon** pair produced 4 male chicks, which were banded 5/26 (AMc, BU).

A fairly sparse year for common shorebirds nevertheless produced a few local rarities. For a few hours after rain 5/29, six **Black-bellied Plovers** and two **American Golden Plovers** were at the much-birded rain pool on Evansville Rd. near LO (KL, MW). This is apparently the first spring record of American Golden-Plover in the 100+ years of ornithological history in *Berks*. Many more birders saw the male **Red-necked Phalarope** during its stay at this pool 5/16-20.

Besides one or two **Caspian Terns** on four days at LO 4/13-5/29 (MSa, MW), the other terns flew solo, including a **Common Tern** at BML 4/21 (JS), a **Forster's Tern** at LO 5/10 (RK), an **Arctic Tern** reported without details at BML 5/30 (JS), and a **Black Tern** at LO 5/7 (RK).

A **Barn Owl** was in residence near Hamburg all period (MW). Territorial **Barred Owls** were heard at French Creek SP 3/4 (JC) and 5/11 (HH). A wintering **Short-eared Owl** was near Robesonia 3/6 (AMa). The only reported **Whip-poor-will** was at SGL 110 5/25 (KG).

Migrating **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were near Morgantown 4/29 (HH), at LO 5/7 (RK) and in Bern Twp. 5/16-17 (JS). Breeding birds were at four locations, but the long occupied site on Kauffman Rd., Oley Twp. was vacant at the end of May (RK).

Two **Alder Flycatchers** were singing in a dry, brushy clearcut at SGL 106 5/22 (RK); one was still there in June (TC). There are previous records of territorial male **Alder Flycatchers** in *Berks*, but no recent breeding confirmations. One or two **Common Ravens** continued to be seen at LO near the Evansville cement plant until 5/5 (RK, MS). A bird was twice seen carrying food toward the same location in Apr, but nesting was not confirmed (RK). Adult **Common Ravens** with two fledged young were seen at SGL 110 east of Rte. 183 on the *Berks-Schuylkill* line 5/30 (KG).

Purple Martin colonies in Centerport, Mohrsville and near Topton were active in May (RK, PS). **Bank Swallows** had dug over 100 burrows in the peaks of mountains of sand at the active Haines & Kibblehouse Quarry at Hay Creek by 5/31 (KL, RK, MW). However, since material is continuously added to and removed from the piles, it is uncertain how successful nesting attempts are. Birders seeking crossbills in the Norway spruce plantations around LO found up to 5 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** until 4/19 (RK, MW). A flock of 110 **American Pipits** was in the Oley Valley 4/18 (RK). As in other years, hundreds of **Cedar Waxwings** moved through the county in the latter half of May (TC, RK, KG).

Birders reported 32 warbler species plus both 'winged warbler' hybrids. Except for common breeders, numbers of individuals were typically low. Arrival dates were mostly in late Apr; see specifics in the seasonal occurrence tables at <www.pabirds.org>. The only reported **Golden-winged Warbler** was at SGL 106 5/15 (TC), where a male **Brewster's Warbler** was seen 5/11-15 (TC, SSc). A much rarer **Lawrence's Warbler** was seen at SGL 102 near Morgantown on a PSO annual meeting field trip 5/16 (FH). **Cerulean Warblers** returned to breeding territories at Hay Creek, Port Clinton and SGL 106 in May (KG, RK, KL, SSc). One or two **Prothonotary Warblers** returned 5/5 for the fifth consecutive year to unconfirmed breeding territories on the Maiden Creek above LO (RK, MS, MW, SSc). After years of few records, **Kentucky Warblers** may be territorial at four locations this year (m.ob.).

Once again, SGL 110 was the **Fox Sparrow** migration hotspot, with 65 seen 3/29 (TC, KG). A female **Indigo Bunting** at LO 4/6 (RK) is

the earliest on record (the previous early arrival date in Berks is 4/19; most arrive in May). The only reported **Rusty Blackbird** was at Kernsville Dam, Hamburg 4/26 (TC).

Small flocks of **Purple Finches** visited a few feeders well into Apr. Migratory movement was noted when 67 were seen at SGL 110 4/19 (TC, KG). **White-winged Crossbills** and **Pine Siskins** from the 2008-09 irruption were seen long into spring. **White-winged Crossbills** were most consistently found in the large Norway spruce plantations around LO, often in mixed flocks with **Pine Siskins**, which climbed on the cones probing for seeds side by side with the crossbills (RK). Most crossbill flocks numbered 20 or fewer birds, but a flock of 100 crossbills and 20 siskins was at Peters Creek 3/28 (RK). On 5/5, a flock of 50 crossbills consisting about equally of males and females picked at gravel on the railroad tracks at Peters Creek (MW). The last report during this period was of a **White-winged Crossbill** flock heard at Peters Creek 5/6 (DKe). Flocks of a few to 200 **Pine Siskins** continued to visit feeders through March, or until the nyjer seed supply was cut off. Numbers declined in April, with small migrating flocks seen at SGL 110 around mid-month (TC, KG). By the end of May, a few individuals or pairs lingered at a few feeders. A flock of 3 **Evening Grosbeaks** seen near North Lookout, Hawk Mt. Sanctuary 4/23 (BE) was the only report of this finch this spring.

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Blair County

No compiler.

Bradford County

Locations: Peck Hill (PEH), Sayre Area (SAY), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach's farm near New Era (TNE), Troy area (TRO).

On 3/24 a pair of **Blue-winged Teal** were at TNE (TG), and on 4/16 one was at TRO (RYo). A **Green-winged Teal** was at TRO on 4/16 (RYo). An observer was shocked to find a juvenile **Hooded Merganser** wedged in a chimney 5/22 at TNE (TG). Sadly, two county **Great Blue Heron** colonies have been abandoned, one definitely and one probably due to lumbering (RYo).

On 3/11 two **Black Vultures** were flying near the SUR at Sugar Run, where they have been seen at least once in prior years (DB, MB). On 3/25 near New Era two **Turkey Vultures** were flying slowly and closely in unison, with identical moves and swerves, then one diving at the other, not aggressively, an instance of "follow flight" by a mated pair (TG); a **Turkey Vulture** nest under a rock outcrop was found near Ulster 5/22 (DA). There were numerous sightings of **Osprey**: one at PEH 3/5 (AV, GV); one 4/20 near the Towanda Creek near Woodside (TG); one 4/21 at PEH (AV, GV); on 4/27 a pair soaring around and diving into the ponds in the evening (CP); one on 5/1 at a beaver pond at TNE (TG); one 5/9 at TRO (RYo); and on 5/9 during the PAMC, a most amazing loose group of at least 9 way up in the sky, wheeling around and slowly moving north above the SUR in the Wyalusing (BBu, TG)! There were 2 **Bald Eagles** 3/25 over Ridgebury Lake (BBo, LB); a total of 8 were observed in the county 5/9. A male **Northern Harrier** was present 4/16 & 19 at Granville Summit (RYo); a pair was at PEH 5/17 (AV, GV). On 5/12 a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was calling at TNE, as has been the case during the spring the past few years (TG). On 5/30 a **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen twice flying fairly low and calling at TNE (TG). A hopeful **Merlin** was observed 4/23 close to the chickens on a farm on Woodside Rd (BF); one was seen 5/9 during the PAMC at SAY (MBo, IW, MZ).

A **Sandhill Crane** (which have been moving into the *Bradford and Sullivan* area in recent years) awakened one delighted observer 3/12 by flying over her house, bugling in the early morning at TNE (TG); there were two 3/16 and one 5/10 near Hollenback (RW). A **Greater**

Yellowlegs was observed 4/16 at TRO (RYo). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at PEH 5/9 during the PAMC (AV, GV).

The longed-for sounds of a **Whip-poor-will** were heard three times this spring in the county, where the species has virtually disappeared in recent years: on 4/27 one was singing for the first time in years by a pond in the New Era vicinity (CP); and twice in the early morning sometime during May, one near Cahill Mt. and one on Barclay Mt. near Franklindale (DN).

A **Northern Shrike** was at PEH 3/9 (AV, GV). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was singing 4/21 in relatively mature deciduous woods at TNE (TG); and one was at TRO 5/2 (RYo). Three **Yellow-throated Vireos** were observed 5/9 at SAY during the PAMC (MBo, IW, MZ). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at TRO 4/28 (RYo); while 6 were observed at TRO (RYo) and 4 at SAY (MBo, IW, MZ) 5/9 during the PAMC. On 5/2 at TRO a **Bank Swallow** was seen (RYo); and on 5/9 during the PAMC 4 were at TRO (RYo), 12 at SAY (MBo, IW, MZ) and 4 on the SUR (KC, DB, MBu). Two **Cliff Swallows** were at SAY 5/9 during the PAMC (MBo, IW, MZ). On 5/13 a **Winter Wren** was heard singing near a small stream in mature White Pine woods for the first known time, then was singing at the same spot 5/15 and 5/18 at TNE (TG).

There were a fair number of warbler sightings, but certainly less than during the intense work on the breeding bird atlas of the past few years. There were 2 **Blue-winged Warblers** 5/9 during the PAMC, one on Woods Road (CM, GM) and one at SAY (MBo, IW, MZ). One was at TNE 5/15 (TG). A **Nashville Warbler** was at PEH 5/8 (AV, GV). A **Magnolia Warbler** sang on 5/9 near Mud Pond, Barclay Mt. during the PAMC (BBu, TG). Three **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were found at SAY (MBo, CaH, CHH, IW, MZ); 5 others included one at Tip Top Road, one on the Gooseneck Road near Wyalusing, a pair plus a single one near Mud Pond on Barclay Mt. 5/9 during the PAMC (BBu, TG). One was at TRO 5/15 (RYo). Two **Blackburnian Warblers** were observed 5/9 during the PAMC on Barclay Mt. (BBu, TG) and one was at TRO 5/15 (RYo). Two **Black-and-white Warblers** were observed at SAY 5/9 during the PAMC (MBo, IW, MZ). There was a very unusual sighting of a **Prothonotary Warbler** 5/9 during the PAMC at a farm near Herrickville (RB, MG). The only **Northern Waterthrush** seen so far this year was at the Sugar Run Creek near Woods Road 4/18 (CM). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was heard singing by a stream at Woodside Road 4/24 (BF); one was singing 4/27 along the south branch of the Towanda Creek near the south intersection of South Branch Road and Rte. 220 (TG).

Unusual in the county, a pair of **Vesper Sparrows** were seen 5/2 in a corn stubble field at Leona (RYo). There was a **White-crowned Sparrow** on 5/1 at PEH (AV, GV); 5 were observed at various locations 5/9 during the PAMC (RB, MG, DH, IH, MM, AV, GV). Rarely seen, there was a **Rusty Blackbird** 3/24 at TRO (RYo). Although there was a great influx of **White-winged Crossbills** into Pennsylvania during the winter and spring this year, there was only one sighting in *Bradford*: on 3/11 there were 3 males and a female in a Norway spruce in Troy (RYo). A **Common Redpoll** was at PEH 3/2-3 (AV, GV); and one was observed 5/9 during the PAMC near Herrickville (RB, MG). **Pine Siskins**, present in great numbers during the winter, continued to be very much in evidence this spring: one on 3/11, 3/17, 3/24, and 3/31, 2 on 4/2, 4 on 3/19, and 4/1, and 5 on 4/14 at TNE (TG); 24 on 3/25 at a feeder in Sayre (DP, SP), on 3/25 at PEH (AV, GV); 50 on the ground and more at feeders in Sayre on 4/7 (DP, SP); 50 at feeders on Woods Road 4/12 (CM, GM), 6 at SAY (CaH, CHH) and 20 on Woods Road (CM) 5/9 during the PAMC.

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Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Quakertown Swamp

(QTS), Rohm and Haas-Bristol (RHS), State Game Land #56 (SGL56), State Game Land #157 (SGL157), US Steel-Falls Twp. (USS).

Temperatures averaged about one degree Fahrenheit above normal for the period, and rainfall was one inch below normal. In general, waterfowl and shorebird numbers were not unusual, although on the low end of normal. A four-day early heat wave 4/25-28, with temperatures about 90°F brought a large influx of summer residents. That was followed by nine cool days, with rain on several days amounting to over three inches. Although many would blame the bad weather for the poor showing of warbler, flycatcher, and thrush migrants, if there had been a lot of birds, the weather would have been credited for causing fallouts. Whatever the reason, the net result was a small number of pass-through migrants, which continues the poor showing here in recent years. Twelve species were recorded earlier than any previous spring, and 10 remained later. A total of 233 species were reported in the three-month period compared to 241 last year, not including escapes and exotics.

The Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) 5/9 had 65 participants, some participating in more than one area, providing 22 area reports totaling 156 species. The species count was slightly below the previous 10-year average. The PAMC total of 1471 individuals of 27 warbler species was below the average for the previous 10 years.

Historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson (1998) and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Diane Allison compiled and submitted highlights for the PAMC data. Weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, NJ (NOAA). All reports from private property at PWT, RHS, and USS are from Devich Farbotnik unless otherwise noted.

One **Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported at Core Creek Park 3/24 (BK) and one was at PVP 4/16-19 (AM), furnishing a new spring late date. Many **Snow Goose** flocks were passing over 3/7-18, with the largest report being 500+ at Warrington Twp. 3/7 (RFR). Individual stragglers or non-migrants seem to be increasing. Individuals were at a private pond in Bedminster Twp. 4/30-5/4 (DFa, AM), PWT 5/9, and NSP 5/17 (RFo). Surprising, was an apparent **Snow Goose** family group of 2 adults and 2 immatures at NSP 5/25 (AM, JMi, ph. HE). They remained through the end of the period (DFa). The possibility of one or both of the immature birds being young born locally this year due to plumage color and condition was considered, but no firm conclusion was reached. It is assumed the reason for them being here is injury, release, escape, or a feral population source. The last **Cackling Goose** reported was at PVP 3/14 (AM). A fly-by flock of 140 **Tundra Swans** over Warminster Twp. 3/17 (GJ) may be the largest flock ever reported here. A group of 11 was at Lake Towhee 3/13 (AM, JMi).

A count of 51 **Northern Shovelers** at RHS 3/29 was considered a very noteworthy single site high by the observer. Over 100 **Green-winged Teal** were at USS 3/6, and 54 was the peak at Hidden Lake, Newtown Twp. 4/8 (BK). A **Green-winged (Common) Teal** was found 3/9-4/24 at Hidden Lake (BK), and follows the Dec report from PWT. Origin is always a question with out of place waterfowl. Two **Canvasbacks** stopped at PVP 3/9 (AM), for the only report. Nine **Redheads** at PWT 3/6 was the best spring count there. Four stopped at PVP 3/7 (MHo). Noteworthy counts of 334 **Ring-necked Ducks** at USS 3/6 (DFa), 207 at RHS 3/6 (DFa), and 266 at SGL56 3/13(AM, JMi) were the highest single site reports. A **Greater Scaup** at NSP 5/17 (DFa) provided a new spring late date. One **Surf Scoter** 4/19 and one **Black Scoter** 5/22, both at NSP, were the only reports (DFa). Two **White-winged Scoters** waited out stormy weather at NSP 4/14 (DFa) before moving on. Two **White-winged Scoters** at PVP 5/27 (AM) provided a new spring late date. On 4/14, 5 **Long-tailed Ducks** at NSP and 7 more at PWT were grounded and provided a good local total count for this species. A count of 88 **Bufflehead** at Falls Twp. Community Park 3/20 (BK) was the highest reported. A count 3/5 of 70 **Common Goldeneyes** at Yardley, with 20 more at Center Bridge and 20 at Tinicum Twp. was a good single day tally (DFa). **Common Merganser** high counts continued into Mar, with 1475 at PVP 3/7 (AM) and 1150 at NSP 3/8 (BE). The count of twelve **Hooded Mergansers** at QTS was believed to be unusual for the late dates of 4/25-26 (DFa). A **Ruddy Duck** count of 82 at Falls Twp. Community Park 3/20 (BK) was the only high count reported.

Birders did not report **Ruffed Grouse** and **Northern Bobwhite**. A Pennsylvania Game Commission Officer (JP) informed me that **Ruffed Grouse** still exists at SGL157 and SGL56 but in extremely small numbers. Surprising, a **Red-throated Loon** at PVP (JT) and 2 at PWT

(ABi, NB) were reported for the PAMC 5/9. More expected would have been first summer plumaged **Common Loons**. A count of 21 **Common Loons** 3/31 at NSP (BE) was the only significant but small fallout reported for the spring. A total of 15 on the PAMC 5/9 was three times the previous 10-year average. Stragglers continued with the last May reports being 2 at PVP 5/27 (AM) and one at PWT 5/28. Our only known breeding pair of **Pied-billed Grebe** was at the normal USS location. The highest count for **Horned Grebe** was 14 at PVP 3/19 (DFa). **Red-necked Grebe** was well reported, with one at PVP 3/5 (AM), 2 at NSP 3/11 (DFa), one at Mud Island 3/25 (DFa), and 3 at NSP 3/25-4/8 (DFa, MS). One lingered at NSP to at least 4/15 (BK). The highest **Double-crested Cormorant** report was 270 at PVP 4/22 (AM). Five **Great Cormorants** lingered at Bristol 5/16 (DFa).

A total of 16 migrating **American Bitterns** were noted leaving QTS on seven of nine evening visits between 4/16-30 (DFa). One was at PVP 4/18 (JF). A **Least Bittern** was detected at QTS 5/16 (DFa) and remained through the period. All known **Great Blue Heron** colonies were counted this year. We can assume two of the colonies have been abandoned but total numbers are stable or increasing slightly. See table.

GREAT BLUE HERON NEST COUNTS

Colony	Nests	Date	Obs.
Quakertown Swamp	34	5/10	DFa
Richland Twp.	48	4/28	DFa
E. Rockhill Twp.	34	5/11	AM
NSP (adjacent)	26	5/11	AM
Prah's Island	2	April	DFa
Springtown Twp.	10	April	LS
Upper Makefield	0	5/18	BK
Penn-Warner	0	April	DFa
TOTAL NESTS	154		

Between 3/25-5/27, there were about 21 **Great Egrets** reported from nine sites (m. ob.). A **Snowy Egret** was at Churchville Park 4/25 (VD) and one was at NSP 5/14 (RFe), for rare spring reports. Also rare in spring, an adult **Little Blue Heron** stopped at PVP 4/27 (AM), and possibly the same bird was at BRD 4/29-30 (GJ, DFa). A rarely reported **Cattle Egret** was at PWT 5/9 and 5/16. Another stopped at Maple Knoll Farms 5/12 (RS). Both locations have been the source of most reports of this species in recent years. The total number of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** from six sites between 3/19-5/27 was approximately 20 (m.ob.). Varying numbers were seen at PWT 3/22-4/20, with 12 there 4/11 being a very good county high count considering that there are no reported current breeding colonies. A **Glossy Ibis** at PWT 4/1 was the only sighting this year.

Again, **Ospreys** returned to nests at Riegelville (DFa) and Mud Island (DFa, BK). There may be two nests at Mud Island. At least four **Bald Eagle** nests now exist in the county (GD, JMr, JMo, JP), with others likely. A fifth one was under construction and will probably be active next year (BK). At the end of the period, the nests had a total of 11 young, including a Philadelphia Zoo hatched eaglet that the Pennsylvania Game Commission added to the two young in the New Britain Twp. nest (JMr). A migrant **Rough-legged Hawk** was detected at Warwick Twp. 3/22 (CW) for our only report. An immature **Golden Eagle** furnished a rare spring sighting at SGL157 4/19 (BL) and was the latest ever seen here in spring. The male of a pair of **American Kestrels** at a box at PVP (AM) was wing tagged, possibly in New Jersey (PK). The two known **Peregrine Falcon** nests produced young, with a total of 7 banded, but one was found dead after fledging (AMc). **Virginia Rail**, after no reports since early Jan, was at QTS starting 3/25 (DFa), a new spring early arrival date. **Sora** was heard starting 4/23 at QTS (DFa). One was at E. Rockhill Twp. 5/8 (HR) and last reported there 5/25 (DFa). The **Common Moorhen** pair was not at the usual USS location, but was at PWT starting 5/26.

Shorebird habitat was available at PWT, BRD, and RHS, among others, and 17 species were reported in mostly small numbers. The more noteworthy species' reports follow. One **Black-bellied Plover** was at PWT 5/16. **Solitary Sandpipers** weren't so solitary, with 14 near Warminster Community Park 5/7 (GJ) and up to 23 at BRD 5/11-13 (AM, GJ). A **Greater Yellowlegs** at PWT 3/19 furnished a new spring early arrival date. One **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at BRD 5/29 (AM), and up to 3 were at PWT 5/29 through the end of the period. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at PWT 4/15, and the only other report was one there 5/26, which furnished a new spring late date (DFa). Two **Dunlin** were at PWT 4/20, followed by one 5/3 and 5/26. BRD hosted

one 5/17 (GJ). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** stopped at PWT 4/30 providing a new spring early arrival date. The highest single site **Wilson's Snipe** report came from New Britain Twp. where 45 were seen 4/16 (AM), but probably many more were at PWT but could not be counted.

Two **Laughing Gulls** at Bowman's Hill 4/26, was the northernmost report this spring (DFa). An adult **Little Gull** made a surprise early visit to PVP 3/8 (AM, JMi), and one in second winter plumage stopped at NSP 4/4-5 (AM, DFa-photo, HE-photo). These provided only the fifth and sixth county reports, all since 2001. The PVP bird was surprisingly not in the company of **Bonaparte's Gulls**, but the NSP bird was with 27 (AM, DFa). A count of 41 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at PWT 4/11 was the highest report, and a count of 20 was reported from PVP 4/20 (MHo). A flock of 29 at PWT 5/9 seemed high for that late. One at Mud Island 5/30 furnished a new spring late date. After two winter reports of tagged **Ring-billed Gulls** from Massachusetts, another adult was found at Silver Lake Park 3/7 (DFi). It had been tagged 1/9/09 at Wachusett Reservoir, with fluorescent orange wing-tags marked A161. Another adult 3/13 was first spotted at the Quakertown Kohl's and then later at NSP (DFa). It had been tagged 12/29/08 at the Walmart in Northborough, with orange wing-tags marked A154. A peak count of 1800 **Ring-billed Gulls** was reported from NSP 3/12 (BE). The NSP high count for **Herring Gull** was 800 3/21 (BE), while 2000 were reported 3/20 from Falls Twp. Community Park (BK). Again, NSP was a reliable spot for **Iceland Gull** away from the Falls Township area. Up to 3 were there 3/6-4/13 (BE). Five remained at PWT 3/10, and at least one remained there through May. The highest tally of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was 431 at NSP 3/23 (AM), which was believed to be the highest actual count ever made there (*fide* CR). With an additional 50 at PVP that day (AM), the total of 481 is also a high count for the two-site total. A probable hybrid **Lesser Black-backed Gull X Herring Gull** was at NSP 3/21-23 (AM, JMi). At least one **Glaucous Gull** remained through May at PWT providing a new spring late date. Two **Caspian Terns** were noted at PVP 4/7 (BG) for a new spring early date, one was at PWT 4/20, and 3 stopped at PVP 4/24 (AM). One **Common Tern** at PWT 4/11 established a new spring early arrival date. One or two medium sized *Sterna* terns thought to be **Common Terns** were at PWT 5/9 and included for the PAMC (ABi, NB).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at PVP 4/28 (HD) and a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Maple Knoll Farms 4/28 (RS), both provided new spring early dates. **Barn Owl** went unreported again. A **Barred Owl** at a new site in Doylestown Twp. continued from the winter season (MH). A pair was also at QTS (DFa). A **Long-eared Owl** was seen regularly through 4/28 at PVP (HE), providing a new spring late date. This is the second year in a row for a late report, and it was hoped that breeding attempts might be the reason. Seven were reported from Ottsville 3/15 (PG). The last **Northern Saw-whet Owl** report was of a road kill 3/11 in Trevoise (MC).

A **Chuck-wills Widow** was found at PWT starting 5/29 providing the county's eighth report, the last being in 2002 (*no doc.*). A **Chimney Swift** count of approximately 300 at Yardley 5/18 (BK) is noteworthy considering the declining numbers indicated by the PAMC counts. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** provided a new early arrival date 4/16 at Tinicum Twp. (DA). The Tinicum Twp. resident **Red-headed Woodpecker** pair continued (DFa, DA), and at least one was at Haycock Twp. outside of SGL157 starting 5/13 (DFa), for the only reports. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was at Langhorne in May, which is in the southern part of the county where it is considered rare (JMn). An occupied nest hole at PVP was the first ever found there (AM). For the second year in a row, the PAMC total of 13 was a new record high. These reports continue the evidence of apparent slowly increasing numbers here.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at PVP 5/14 (CC) was the only report. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** went unreported. Also, the only report, an **Alder Flycatcher** was at SGL157 on 5/16 (DFa). The only reports of **Least Flycatcher** were from PWT 5/10 (DFa), PVP 5/12 (JMi, AM), and Giving Pond 5/18 (EB). A nesting **Eastern Phoebe** at PVP had severe feather damage from lice, giving it a dark breasted appearance (ph. HE, *fide* SW). A rare spring **Philadelphia Vireo** was heard only at SGL157 5/16 (DFa). **Common Raven** was spotted at Van Sant Airport 3/21 (DFa), SGL157 4/19 (BL), and New Hope 4/26 (DFa, BHo), continuing the string of recent sightings. A bird brought to the AARK wildlife rehabilitation center 5/31 from East Rockhill Twp. turned out to be a fledgling **Common Raven** (MS, ph. AM). The bird still had feather sheaths and a pink gape. It died of unknown causes shortly after arrival. It is assumed that it came from a nearby quarry and adds to last year's

evidence of nesting in the county. It has been sent to the Academy of Natural Sciences. **Horned Larks** continued at Shady Brook Farm, Lower Makefield, with a report 3/18 of 90 (BK), Warminster Community Park area 3/6, with 20 (GJ), and Maple Knoll Farms had the last report 4/24 (RS). The 19th season for the Upper Makefield Twp. **Purple Martin** colony started 4/5 with the arrival of 2 birds (JMa). Two were also at NSP (AM, JMi) and one was at PVP (RfO) the same day. A **Tree Swallow** 2/27 at Falls Twp. Community Park (DFa), a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** 3/11 at Playwicki Park (BK), and a **Bank Swallow** at PWT 4/4, all provided new spring early arrival dates. Durham Twp. is believed to still have resident **Black-capped Chickadee**, resulting in a count of 8 for the PAMC 5/9, of which 4 were babies in a nest (HR, JR)! **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was very scarce with only a handful of reports, most from NSP, and the last report 5/6 from Upper Southampton Twp. (EH). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was particularly scarce, with less than 20 reported. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** seemed rather common for about a week in the middle of Apr, with the peak counts being 20 at SGL157 (BL) and 19 at PVP (AM), both on 4/19. **Swainson's Thrush** and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reports are normally low, but the handful of reports was even lower this year, with about 20 and 5 respectively. An **American Pipit** at Maple Knoll Farms 5/19 (RS) provided a new spring late departure date.

A total of 33 warbler species was reported. **Golden-winged Warbler** and **Cerulean Warbler** were missed. In addition, of the expected warblers, the PAMC missed **Cape May Warbler**, **Palm Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, and **Mourning Warbler**, which except for **Palm Warbler**, are normally rarely noticed here each year. The wintering **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Langhorne remained to at least 3/3 (GD). There were only 3 **Tennessee Warbler** reports (MR, BE, HR). A **Magnolia Warbler** 4/27 at Bowman's Hill (LM) provided a new early arrival date. The only **Cape May Warbler** reports were of one at Bowman's Hill 5/2 (LM) and one at PVP 5/12-13 (AM, JMi, RfE). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** at Kintnersville 5/9 provided a now rare report for this species (HR, JR). Another was heard at Bowman's Hill 5/25 (DFa). Wintering **Pine Warblers** continued at New Hope until 3/3 (BHo) and Durham Twp. into Mar (BF). There were only 3 **Bay-breasted Warbler** reports (HD, GJ, AM, JMi). **Prothonotary Warbler** continues to be rare here. One was discovered at PVP 5/23 (AM) and remained through the period. Another was at USS 5/23. **Kentucky Warbler** hangs on as a local breeder, with reports, but not necessarily nesting, at Tyler State Park 5/9 (WM), SGL56 5/26 (LW), SGL157 starting 5/17 (DFa, HD, WK), and Bowman's Hill 5/21 (DFa). About 6 **Hooded Warblers** were reported, but the only regularly reported breeding site is SGL157, with 3 on 5/9 (BE). **Mourning Warbler** was noted at SGL157 5/24 (BS) and BRD 5/31 (NZ, VD) for the only reports. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at PVP 4/27 provided a new spring early arrival date (AM), and a pair was presumed breeding there through the period. One was near Bristol 5/9 (PAMC), one was at PWT 5/16 (DFa), and 2 were at Giving Pond 5/23 (GG).

One **Vesper Sparrow** at PVP 4/11(AM) was the only report. **Grasshopper Sparrow** was reported at Tinicum Twp. starting 4/26 (DFa) at its usual handful of locations. Three were tallied for the PAMC. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at PVP 5/12 for the only report (AM, JMi). A count of 61 **White-throated Sparrows** on the PAMC 5/9 was 150% of the previous 10-year average. A late one was at East Rockhill Twp. 5/20 (HR, JR). A **Dark-eyed Junco** at SGL157 established a new spring late departure date 5/25 (JMi, DFa, AM), unless it was trying to breed there. A **Blue Grosbeak** at USS 5/9 was the first noted this spring, and another was at PWT 5/16. The **Dickcissel** that wintered in Bensalem Twp. remained to at least 4/10 (DM). **Bobolink** was last known to nest in southern *Bucks* in the early 1990s (MC). So, birds at Active Acres Farm in Upper Makefield Twp. starting 5/9 (TB) and continuing throughout May (BK) were noteworthy. Breeding success will depend on mowing schedules. A flock of 24 **Rusty Blackbirds** 3/21 at Silver Lake Park was considered high for that location (DFi). An observer, who has experience from living out west, heard **Brewer's Blackbirds** leaving a roost near Doylestown in a mixed flock of blackbirds 3/12-3/14 (JT). The peak count was 45 on 3/14, and a few were found on the ground in nearby Plumstead Twp. 3/13 (JT). To my knowledge, the few county reports have all been sight records only, and photo or audio documentation would be highly desirable. The PAMC yielded 303 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, a new record compared to the previous 10-year average of 210. The **Baltimore Oriole** at New Hope finished its 5th winter 4/10 (SM), two days later than last year. After being scarce this winter, **Purple Finch** was barely noted in migration, with the last on the PAMC 5/9. **White-winged Crossbills** were regular

until Mar 22, with a later report on 4/14 (HS). Spring season reports came from 12 sites by eight observers, for a total of at least 86 birds. This brought the very conservative total for the winter and spring to 369 individuals. Large numbers of **Pine Siskins** continued through the third week of Apr and diminished thereafter, dwindling to 19 tallied for the PAMC 5/9. A few lingered at the end of the period, but breeding was not detected (WM, CE).

EXOTICS: Three **Egyptian Geese** were at NSP 5/25 (AM, JMi) and remained through the period. One was a leucistic bird similar to but not necessarily the same bird as appeared at PVP in the fall of 2007. Two others were at New Hope 4/29 (BHo).

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Butler County

No report.

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Cambria County

Locations: St. Joseph Church Area (SJ), St. Lawrence Area (SL), Patton Area (PA), Prince Gallitain State Park (PG).

Waterfowl present at PG included **Tundra Swans** (200+) on 3/7 (DG, JS), **Gadwall**, **American Wigeon**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Canvasback**, **Redhead**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Common**, **Hooded** and **Red-breasted Mergansers**, and **Ruddy Ducks** (DG, JS).

A lone **Great Egret** was present 5/7-9 (DG, JS). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was at PA on 4/16 (DG), and the last sighting of **Rough-legged Hawk** was at PA 3/21 (DG). **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were first seen at PG 4/24 (JS). Very few shorebirds were present due to high water at PG. A lone **Forster's Tern** was noted 5/7-9 at PG (DG). The last of 2 **Snowy Owls** was seen 4/8 at PA (DG).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was seen at PG 5/30 (JS). A **Swainson's Thrush** was at PA 5/5 (DG). Warblers were spotty with mostly residents seen. A **Henslow's Sparrow** was seen at SJ on 5/22 (JS). A few **Rusty Blackbirds** were at PG 4/7 (DG). The last **Pine Siskin** was noted 5/3 (JS).

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Cameron County

No compiler.

Carbon County

No report.

Compiler: **David Hawk, 521 Walnut Street, Lehighton, PA, 18235, (610) 377-2407, finch@ptd.net**

Centre County

Location Abbreviations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Colyer Lake (COL), Millbrook Marsh (MM), Penn State University at University Park (PSU), Remediation wetlands west of Julian (JUL), Scotia Barrens (SCB), State College (STC), Toftrees Pond and adjacent areas (TOF).

More information about some of locations mentioned is available at <www.scbirdcl.org>. SCB is an IBA, see Important Bird Areas at <pa.audubon.org>. Most of the species information comes from postings to the State College Bird Club listserv group SCBIRDCL.

Rare/uncommon species/events reported below: **Sandhill Crane**, **Caspian Tern**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, and the irruptions of **White-winged Crossbill** and **Pine Siskin**.

A late **Common Loon** in winter-plumage was found at BESP 5/2 (TA). A **Red-necked Grebe** was among a large fallout of waterfowl at COL 3/10 (TA), 3/11 (MH, GG), and one was seen there 3/19 (MB); one in breeding plumage was seen very near the dam at BESP 5/2 (TA).

An **American Bittern** was seen in a flooded area on the edge of a corn field at TOF 4/15 (JV). A **Black-crowned Night Heron** was an unusual visitor at MM 4/24 (J&CM, SK, NAB). A **Great Egret** was seen at JUL 4/27 (NAB), and one of a pair had unusually bright green lores at the pond at SCB 5/13 (JV).

Two or three flocks of **Tundra Swans** were heard in the early hours of the morning, and one flock of about 45 was seen flying low over North Atherton STC at 02:00, well lit by the strip malls 3/19 (AW). About 375 **Tundra Swans** were among a fallout of several species at COL 3/10 (TA); the swans left later the next day 3/11 (GG). A flock of 93 **Tundra Swans** heading north came down low over Howard (next to BESP), but decided to continue north, disappearing over the foot hills of the plateau 3/10 (BS). Among a large contingent of other species at COL were 7 **Redheads**, 9 displaying **Long-tailed Ducks**, 3 male **Red-breasted Mergansers**, and 4 female **Common Goldeneyes** 3/19 (AW); many of the waterfowl seen that morning had departed by about 13:00, notably the swans and dabbling ducks 3/19 (MO). A drake **Surf Scoter**, among many other waterfowl, was observed at COL 3/9 (MH), and another was on the lake at BESP near the dam breast 4/26 (GG).

At least 3 or 4 immature **Bald Eagles** were seen regularly from the Rte. 26 causeway bridge near Howard, west to the end of the lake at Bald Eagle Creek 3/2 (BS). A **Bald Eagle** adult that had been on previous days observed sitting on its nest was still there BESP 3/11 (BS), and by 3/24 the eaglets had hatched and were seen being fed 3/24 (MHe); an adult and two fuzzy chicks could be seen in the nest 4/19 (JL). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen hovering over a field opposite the Taylor Hill Rd. entrance to COL 3/4 (MH). Four **Red-shouldered Hawks**, one with prey in its talons, and all of them vocalizing, were seen at COL 3/23 (MH). A **Cooper's Hawk** buzzed (JH) as it raced around a corner chasing an **Eastern Bluebird** at STC 3/4. A **Merlin** was seen flying over JUL 4/11 (GG, DG), and a perched **Merlin** was seen at BESP 4/23 (JL).

A **Virginia Rail** was heard calling multiple times, and also heard calling was a **Sora** at JUL 4/18 (JK). A "ker-wee" call and descending whiny call of one (possibly two) **Sora** were heard at JUL 5/3 (NAB). A **Virginia Rail** was heard grunting and at least 2 (possibly 3) **Sora** were doing their "ker-wee" call and whiny 5/8 at JUL (NAB). A midnight flock of very loud and noisy **Sandhill Cranes** was heard flying over the observer and the nearby Lowes on Valley Vista Rd. at STC 3/19 (JH).

Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen at JUL 4/11 (GG, DG), and 6 at SBP 4/12 (JV). A **Least Sandpiper** feeding on a small mudflat was spotted in the retention area between Daybridge and the Penn Stater parking area at PSU 5/24 (JV). A **Wilson's Snipe** was found in the water garden pools at Lowes, STC 4/13 (JV), and five at SBP 4/12 (JV).

An odd sight was 3 **Ring-billed Gulls** circling over Electrical Engineering West and Deike buildings at PSU 4/30 (MO). A single breeding plumage **Forster's Tern** was seen at the BESP beach with about 18 **Ring-billed Gulls** and one **Bonaparte's Gull** BESP 5/2 (TA). Four **Caspian Terns** flew over JUL 4/11 (GG, DG).

Several **Whip-poor-wills** were heard calling near the shotgun range at SCB, and a few were seen along the dirt road on the way in

and out 4/26 (AM). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a welcome return after a two year absence near Sinking Creek 5/1 (LR). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen on the sharp S-curve near the intersection of Brush Valley Road and Hylbert near Linden Hall 5/5 (DGr). A mating ritual tale: "A **Northern Flicker** pair engaged in what I suspect is their mating ritual. The female was two body lengths above the male in a leafless 25-foot tree. Simultaneously, the flickers would open their beaks, fan their tails, and rapidly unfold and refold their wings two times and then sit quietly for 15-seconds before repeating the dance. The pair continued this ritual for about 20-minutes before flying off together." TOF 3/10 (DR).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** spent a few minutes along the power line cut that parallels the road in the vicinity of the second parking area on the left after the research station at SCB 5/17 (MO). A **White-eyed Vireo** visited some backyard trees looking for insects in Howard 5/4 (BS), and one was seen near the entrance to the game lands coming from TOF 5/17 (JV). A few **Purple Martin** scouts had been in Howard for nearly two weeks 4/25 (BS), and a month later, three or four pairs of **Purple Martins** were building nests in a martin house and gourds Howard 5/28 (BS).

Five thrushes: **Wood Thrush**, **Veery**, **Swainson's Thrush**, **Hermit Thrush**, and **American Robin** were seen almost simultaneously in the road at SCB 4/29 (JC). A flock of 28 **American Pipits** were seen flying low over JUL 4/9 (AW); a flock of at least 25-30 were foraging in a very muddy barn yard on Wagner road 4/15 (GG), and about 15 were seen on Nixon Road 5/4 (JK).

The spring warbler migration IBA at SCB received good coverage that resulted in the following 27 warblers between 4/12 and 5/18: **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Golden-winged Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Northern Parula**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Pine Warbler**, **Palm Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Blackpoll Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Mourning Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded Warbler**, **Wilson's Warbler**, **Canada Warbler**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** (JV, JC, MR, AW).

Twenty three **Nashville Warblers**, mostly around the bog, was an unusually high count at Black Moshannon State Park 5/9 (NB).

A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found at Millbrook Marsh 4/25 (JV), and at PSU 4/28 (MO). A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen at TOF 4/24 (NK). About 25 **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen near the pond at TOF 3/21 (SL), and more than 50 on the eastern side of the largest pond at TOF 3/21 (DR). A pair of **Orchard Orioles** was observed at Sinking Creek area 4/27 (LR), and one first summer male was seen at MM 5/23 (NAB).

The **White-winged Crossbill** irruption that began during the previous quarter, ended this quarter with the last report on 5/7: a flock of about 6 or 7 males and females were seen in spruce trees next to the Earth and Engineering Science Building at PSU 3/2 (SF). A pair was drinking out of a small residential pond in STC 3/18 (KE); two pair did the same on 3/21 (KE), and two adult males, one juvenile male and a female did the same 4/7 (KE). Two were seen foraging under a hemlock at a STC home for about an hour, and one flew over 5/7 (JK).

The companion 2009 irruption of **Pine Siskins** that also began during the previous quarter, mostly ended this quarter around 5/20: about 100 were at feeders after having only 30-50 each day the previous week 3/2 (BS); The 400th **Pine Siskin** was banded by (NK) at his STC home 3/2 (NK), and the total was 560 (since mid-Jan) on 3/14 (NK). Some were seen in Rothrock Forest, and a few were seen in the upper Coopers gap area towards Penn Roosevelt 4/13 (LW). A few at feeders appeared sick (MH 4/8, LW 4/13, PS 4/13), and (KO) received a report 5/11 that four dead siskins were found. On 4/15 NK (see above) reported that his banding total was 915. A few were around Howard 5/6 (BS); some in Boalsburg 5/8 and then none by 5/14 (TP). About five that had consistently been around during April were still seen at feeders on Bald Eagle Mountain 5/20 (DB).

Twelve female and 6 male **Purple Finches** visited feeders at Boalsburg 4/22 (TP).

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Miller, Matt O'Donnell, Tom Pluto, Larry Ramsey, Matthew Rockmore, Dave Ryan, Bob Snyder, Paul Schwiderske, Joe Verica, Leah Wasser, Andy Wilson.

Chester County

Bucktoe Preserve (BTPR), Church Farm School (CFS), Chambers Lake (CHLA), Coatesville Reservoir (CORES), Honeybrook Sewage Treatment Plant (HBSTP), Kurtz Fish Hatchery (KFH), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Southern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA), Struble Lake (STLA), Waterloo Mills Preserve (WMPR), White Clay Creek Preserve (WCC).

There was a massive movement of **Snow Geese** over the county 3/9 with 385 over Longwood (DK), 1000 at CHLA (LL), 4000 over BTPR (JS) and a remarkable 10,000 at STLA (LL). This flight of Snow Geese also brought a **Greater White-fronted Goose**, a **Ross's Goose** and 6 **Cackling Geese** to STLA (LL). A **Great White-fronted Goose** was also found near Struble Lake 3/15 (KF). Additional **Ross's Geese** were at STLA and CFS 3/19 respectively (KF, HM). Single **Cackling Geese** were also at CORES 3/4 (HM) and MCSP 3/18 (NP). The northbound flight of **Tundra Swans** that started in late Feb, continued through Mar with 12 at CORES 3/4 (HM), 8 at KFH 3/9 (LL) and 6 at MCSP (AG).

The county's lakes and ponds provided resting areas for a variety of migrating waterfowl. Some of the higher numbers were 8 **Gadwall** at KFH 3/10 (KF); 20 **American Wigeon** at HBSTP (LL); 15 **Blue-winged Teal** at Longwood 4/23 (CM); 21 **Northern Pintail** at MCSP 3/7 (JW); 70 **Green-winged Teal** at Longwood 4/11 (LL); 5 **Redhead** at MCSP 3/9 (LL); 175 **Ring-necked Duck** at HBSTP 3/9 and 159 at the Rte. 100 Water Treatment Plant in Upper Uwchlan Twp. 3/12 (HM); 20 **Bufflehead** at Westtown Lake 4/10 (TS); 118 **Hooded Merganser** at MCSP 3/4/09 (HM); 250 **Common Merganser** at MCSP 3/7 (JW); 30 **Ruddy Ducks** at STLA 4/16 (AG). A few unusual finds were single late **Northern Shoveler** at the Route 100 Water Treatment Plant and a late **Greater Scaup** at MCSP both 5/29 (NP); one **Long-tailed Duck** at STLA 3/19 (KF) and 6 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at STLA 3/12 (HM).

Wild Turkeys continue to be found at new locations with 6 at CFS 3/19 (HM) and a single at Longwood 4/13 (HF).

The peak of the **Common Loon** flight was 3/29 when 11 were observed at MCSP (BB). The last of the flight was a single bird observed over BTPR 5/11 (JS). **Pied-billed Grebes** continued through Apr with a high of 4 at MCSP 4/3 (KF). The single observer high for **Horned Grebes** was 6 at MCSP 3/19 (HM). **Red-necked Grebes** were very evident this spring with 3-5 at MCSP 3/4-29 (HM, m.ob.), one to 3 at CORES 3/4-4/5 (HM, m.ob.) and one at STLA 3/4 (LL). The spring migration of **Double-crested Cormorants** is usually marked by northbound flocks overhead. The first were noted at STLA 3/22 (NP) and the largest of overhead flocks was 12 over East Goshen Twp. 5/21 (NP).

A single **American Bittern** were at the Great Marsh 4/17 (BB) and Embreeville Marsh 4/23-24 (KF, ph. HM). Two **Great Egrets** were in East Goshen Twp. 5/12-19 (NP) and up to 2 were at Longwood 3/31-5/31 (CM, et al.). A **Little Blue Heron**, unusual in spring, was at Longwood 5/8 (LL, KF). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Deep Willow Pond from 4/8 (HM, et al) and 4 **Glossy Ibis** returned to a location in Landenburg 5/23 (AL) where they were found last summer.

An early **Osprey** was at CHLA 3/26 (JM) and mid-Apr was their peak migration with 6 over Caln Twp. 4/18 (LL) and 5 at CHLA 4/22 (RR). Single **Northern Goshawks** were seen at Valley Forge N.P. 3/6 (RA) and Black Rock Sanctuary 4/16 (RK). The first **Broad-winged Hawk** was a single at Hibernia Park 4/12 (PF). High numbers were recorded 4/18 with 55 over BTPR (JS) and 30 over Longwood (JH). The **Golden Eagle** present at Doe Run during the winter season was last noted 3/2 (LL). Single **Merlins** were at BTPR 3/16 (JS) and Great Valley 5/2 (NP). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were at STLA 3/4 (HM) and WMPR 4/10 (KF).

A **Common Moorhen**, rare and irregular in *Chester*, was found at Longwood 5/9 (LL). A **Semipalmated Plover** was near Thorndale 5/11 (KF), the only report. An early **Solitary Sandpiper** was in West Bradford Twp. 4/9 (HM) and **Greater Yellowlegs** made an early appearance at Brandywine Pond 4/2 (HM). A single observer high of 5 **Greater Yellowlegs** was at CFS 4/21 (HM). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were present 5/9-25 with a high of 3 at Longwood 5/25 (JF). **Least Sandpipers** were more numerous with good counts of 30 at Longwood 5/9 (LL) and 11 at CFS 5/14 (HM). Three **Pectoral**

Sandpipers, uncommon in spring, were along Brandywine Rd. 5/4 (KF). High numbers for **Wilson Snipe** included; 37 at Brandywine Wetland 3/26 (KF); 30 at Longwood 4/11 (LL) and 23 at Longwood 4/23 (CM). Seven **American Woodcock** were at WMPR 3/11 and 6 were found at MCSP 3/18 (NP, SP).

Single migrant **Bonaparte's Gulls** were found at MCSP 4/6 (HM) and KFH 4/23 (HM) while 2 were at STLA 4/7 (KF). Visits to SECCRA paid off with 3 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** 3/4-7 (KF, AL, HM, NP), 7 **Great Black-backed Gulls** 3/7 (NP) and a **Glaucous Gull**, an irregular visitor to the county, 3/5 (AL, KF, HM). A single **Caspian Tern** was noted at CHLA 4/15 (RR) and 2 were at KFH 4/23 (KF). A **Common Tern** visited both KFH and STLA 5/29 (NP, KF, HM) and a **Forster's Tern** was at STLA 4/17 (BB).

Wintering **Long-eared Owls** at STLA were last noted 4/7 (KF), and the wintering **Short-eared Owls** in the Doe Run area were last found 3/6 (AL). At least 7 **Short-eared Owls** were noted in this area 3/2 (LL). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at WMPR 3/11-18 was a good find in this "off year" for this species (KF, et al.).

Spring reports of **Common Nighthawk** are usually sporadic. This year only two reports were received; one at BTPR 5/9 (JS) and another in Downingtown 5/23 (HM). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was a bit early with a single bird in Downingtown 4/19 (JH). A late **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was reported from Crosslands 4/24 (DK). The only report of non-breeding *empidonax* was a **Least Flycatcher** at BTPR 5/20 (JS). **Blue-headed Vireos** were reported widely 4/18-5/6 (m.ob.). **Tree Swallows** arrived 3/8 (AG) with a max of 150 reported at Longwood 4/23 (CM). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were in good numbers with 55 reported at WCC 5/6 (KF). **Bank Swallows** were early with 2 in Caln Twp. 4/18 (LL). Two **Cliff Swallows**, an irregular breeder, were at Longwood 5/18 (KF, m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scarce with only 2 at Longwood 3/14 (LL) and 2 at Nottingham Park 4/23 (TA). **Marsh Wren**, a rare, irregular migrant in Chester, was reported at Embreeville 4/22 (KF). An early **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at the Struble Trail 4/6 (HM) and good numbers were reported during the season with 15 at WMPR 4/27 (KF) and 19 at the Laurels Preserve 5/9 (KF).

Gray-cheeked Thrush was early with a single bird at WMPR 5/8 (KF) but migrant *Catharus* thrushes were generally hard to find. Occasionally, a **Brown Thrasher** will attempt to over-winter if food is available and weather is not harsh and either that was the case at The Crow's Nest Preserve or the bird present 3/6 (AG) was an early migrant. A good find at Runnymede Farm was 21 **American Pipits** 4/1 (KF). **Cedar Waxwings** were in low numbers through Mar and Apr but came on strong in May with 87 in West Goshen Twp. 5/9 (NP) and 96 at Longwood 5/9 (CM).

The **Orange-crowned Warbler** that wintered on suet in a West Chester backyard was last reported 3/9 (NP). Most migrant warblers were reported in low numbers this season. There was only one report for **Nashville Warbler** and that was a single bird at WMPR 4/30 (KF). A single **Cape May Warbler** was reported also from WMPR 5/5 (KF). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were a bit more numerous with 8 at MCSP 5/2 (HM). Twelve **Black-throated Green Warblers** were counted at Valley Forge N.P. 5/2 (EV) and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was also at Valley Forge 4/10 (KF). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was also recorded in Caln Twp 4/19 (LL). **Palm Warblers** were recorded in good numbers in Westtown with 20 on 4/20 (TS). An early **Bay-breasted Warbler**, a male, was showing itself well at Stroud Preserve 4/27 (BB). The only other report of this species was a single at WMPR 5/8 (KF). Single **Prothonotary Warblers** were at Hibernia Park 4/17 (KF) and WCC 5/6 (KF). **Hooded Warbler** was in good numbers at the Natural Lands Trust property on Templin Rd. where 5 were heard singing 4/27 (LW). Single **Wilson's Warblers** were observed at WMPR 5/8 (KF) and Welkenweir 5/16 (RK). Three **Canada Warblers** at Hibernia Park 5/13 was a single-observer high.

An astonishing 34 **Scarlet Tanagers** were at the Laurels Preserve 5/9 (KF). Uncommon were a **Vesper Sparrow** and 22 **Savannah Sparrows** at Runnymede 4/1 (KF). The only report of **Lincoln's Sparrow** was a bird in Phoenixville 5/16 (VS ph). **White-throated Sparrows** remained until at least 5/13 and **White-crowned Sparrows** until 5/12 both at Landenburg (AL). Twenty **White-crowned Sparrows** at BTPR 4/13 was the max count this spring (JS). Wintering **Lapland Longspurs** and **Snow Buntings** in Honeybrook Twp. were last reported 3/4 (KF, LL). A male **Blue Grosbeak** spent 4/29-5/12 at a feeder in Willistown Twp. (MP). A pair of **Dickcissels** was found at Runnymede Farm 5/27. This is the same location where they were suspected of breeding in 2008.

Rusty Blackbirds were reported from several locations including 5 at WMPR 3/6 (KF), 9 in Penn Twp. 3/9 (MD), 5 at Great Marsh 3/22 (BB) and 2 at BTPR 4/20 (JS).

Purple Finches, scarce this winter, occurred sporadically beginning 3/29 with 6 in Glenmore (BB). The high count was 10 in Phoenixville 4/19 with the last reported there 5/20 (VS). Unusual in a non-irruptive year were 2 **Common Redpoll** at KFH 3/4 (LL). **Red Crossbill** was reported twice with 6 at KFH 3/8 (RK) and 2 at WMPR 3/13 (KF). **White-winged Crossbills** continued their splendid invasion with many reports from all corners of the county (m.ob.). Some of the higher counts included 10 near Thorndale 3/4 (LL) and 20 at BTPR 4/13 (JS). This was also the last reported date. Unquestionably, this was the most extensive irruption of this species in Chester history. **Pine Siskin** numbers waned somewhat from their double and triple digit figures that occurred during the winter season, but birds continued to be reported all over (m.ob.). It is not unusual in irruption years, that **Pine Siskins** remain until mid-May, but reports this season continued into mid- Jun. It will be interesting to see, though not unprecedented, if breeding occurs.

Observers: **Nick Pulcinella, 613 Howard Rd., West Chester, PA 19380, (610) 696-0687, nickpulcinella@verizon.net**, Rich Almquist, Tom Amico, Barry Blust, Molly Daly, Pam Fisher, Judy Ford, Dale Kendall, Hank Fisher, Kevin Fryberger, Al Guarente, Jennifer Harned, Rick Keyser, Andrew Leidig, Larry Lewis, Carol Majors, Holly Merker, John McNamara, Martin Page, Sharon Pulcinella, Rick Robinson, Joe Sebastiani, Tim Sterrett, Laura Wagner, Jeff Wahl, Ellie Wolf.

Clarion County

Locations: Clarion (CL), Curllsville (CV), East Brady (EB), Kahle Lake (KL), Mount Airy (MA), Mount Zion (Piney Tract IBA) (MZ), Shippenville (SV).

One of the usual harbingers of spring, **Tundra Swans** were first heading north over SV 3/9 and continued in flocks totaling over 100 seen at Marble 3/10 (MB, PD). Flocks of over one hundred again were last noted passing 3/19 (MB). **Wood Ducks** were also first seen back on 3/9 at a small pond in SV, with 8 birds present (MB). Waterfowl present at KL 3/12 were varied, including **American Wigeon**, **Gadwall**, **Hooded Merganser** (MB), and also present in the county were **scaup sp.**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, and **Redheads**, not usually common in spring for Clarion (MW). **Long-tailed Ducks** made an unexpected appearance at KL with 2 present there 3/22 (MW). A large number of **Red-breasted Mergansers** for KL were also spotted there with 20 birds present 4/21 (MB, TB). A first noted presence for **Common Loons** this spring was also at KL 4/20 (TB).

A **Great Egret** was reported 3/21, very early in the season for KL (MB). **Turkey Vultures** were also somewhat early this year, first spotted at CV 2/28 (CW). On 4/14 a migrating **Osprey**, the first one noted of the season, was seen diving into a small private lake near Kossuth (CW). An albino **Red-tailed Hawk** was reported from outside of Knox 4/23, reported to have been present for the past several years (DF). Along the Clarion River, **Bald Eagles** were present starting 3/3 at a nest site first reported last year, and at least one chick was seen along with both adults at the nest 5/1 (CW). Happily, these magnificent birds can no longer be considered migrants for the county as they are now seen regularly year-round, especially with open water in winter. For shorebird reports, **Killdeer** made an especially early and cold return this year, first spotted in a partially flooded and snowy field in CV 2/22 (CW). A **Solitary Sandpiper**, not regularly reported in spring in the county, was noted in a small flooded area in a local pasture 4/30 near CV (CW). Also in CV, **Wilson's Snipe** returned to their usual fields 3/8, an early date, and were last noted 4/14, high numbers up to 17 (CW). **American Woodcock** were later returning than the past several years, display flights and calls first seen and heard at several sites near CV 3/13 this year (CW).

Bonaparte's Gulls were reported from KL twice this season, with 2 birds present 3/26 (MW), and 5 present 4/21 (MB, TB). **Ring-billed Gulls** started their spring migration through the area 2/28, with birds seen over some local mall areas near CL (CW), and last noted at KL 4/21 (MB, TB). An interesting and as yet unconfirmed report is a sighting of a **Snowy Owl** at the same location near CV where one was sighted in Feb. The bird was noted alongside the road eating a rabbit and the date was fairly late for these birds, 3/15 (CW). In some of the most reliable local areas for **Short-eared Owls**, sightings were good for the

spring season with 1-3 birds seen at various times through the end of April at Stockdill Road in MZ, CV strips area, Rankin Road near CV, and MA (CW). **Common Nighthawks** appear to have continued in decline with only one spring report and the first bird noted of the season, seen 5/15 over CL (MW). Another species with fewer reports than in the past is **Whip-poor-will**, with again only one spring report 5/11 from the wooded hillside near EB, present through the end of the month (PW).

Purple Martins returned early to one of their regular colony sites near Knox again this year, first noted at nest sites 4/5 (MB). A **Swainson's Thrush** was seen at CV, very early for this species here, first seen 4/25 and continuing through 4/26 (CW). The first **Wood Thrush** was also early this year, reported on 4/21 at SGL 63 (TB).

For warbler species, a good push of migrants was noted for the county 4/24-25 but seemed to stall with weather changes, and further new arrivals seemed later than usual into the second week of May. **Golden-winged Warblers** were reported from Champion Road near Leatherwood 5/2, no physical evidence of hybridization noted (MW). A rather early **Nashville Warbler** was seen at the university in CL in a small hawthorn 4/24 (MW). Also noted for first arrivals on 4/24-25 were **Chestnut-sided, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine, and Palm Warblers**, and **Common Yellow-throat** (CW, MW). In an unusual warbler sighting for the county, a single singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen in Norway spruce in a yard in CV, along with a **Pine Warbler**, both seen 4/24 (CW, MW). On 4/29, **Worm-eating Warblers** and **Cerulean Warblers** were both found returned and singing on territory in their usual locations on the wooded hillsides along the Allegheny River near EB (CW). At MZ in a swampy wooded area, a late **Northern Waterthrush** was seen singing 5/20, followed up as a potential breeder but absent by late May (CW).

American Tree Sparrows lingered late this year, last seen on 4/18 in the fields near CV, and overlapped **Chipping Sparrows** arrival this year on 4/4 by two weeks (CW). **Clay-colored Sparrows** had returned and were singing on territory 5/2 at their usual areas at the CV strips site (MW). In a rather late date for the past several years, **Henslow's Sparrows** were not seen and heard back in their breeding areas until 4/25 this year, noted then also at CV strips site (CW). A group of 4 **Fox Sparrows** were seen at MZ 3/16 for the first species report of the season, the last being 4/18 at a feeder in CV (CW).

Bobolinks were another species with an early arrival date this year, spotted at a reclaimed strip mine field area 4/28 at the eastern edge of the county (MW). **Red-winged Blackbirds** also earlier than the past several years, noted as usual at a feeder initially in EB 2/18 (PW). **Rusty Blackbirds** continue to show dwindling numbers with few reports, one from 3/12 with 12 birds near Leatherwood (MW), and a second report of just 2 birds in CV 3/13 (CW). In yet another record early arrival this year, **Orchard Orioles** were spotted back 4/25 in CV with an adult male feeding in a large blooming japonica (CW).

For finch reports, sightings of **White-winged Crossbills** continued as late as 5/5 in CL, with apparent pairs seen 3/29, and numbers reported to be increasing into mid-Apr before tapering off into May, though no definitive breeding activity was recorded. **Pine Siskins** also lingered late into May with the last report also on 5/5. A single bird was also noted exhibiting nesting activity in CL 4/23, seen carrying nesting material near appropriate habitat (MW).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjal@windstream.net**, Margaret Buckwalter, Ted Buckwalter, Pete Dalby, Deb Freed, Lorna Vowinckel, Mike Weible, Paul Winslow.

Clearfield County

Locations: Curwensville Dam (CD), Mahaffey Area (MA), Westover Area (WA).

Waterfowl at CD 3/20 included 150 **Tundra Swans, Ring-necked Ducks, Common Merganser**, and **Red-breasted Merganser** (DG, JS).

The first **Osprey** of the spring was in the WA 4/11 (DG) and the first **Broad-winged Hawk** was there 4/21 (DG).

Over 70 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at CD 4/11 (DG, JS). **Least Flycatchers** were noted at WA 5/2 (DG, JS). **Veery, Hermit Thrush**, and **Wood Thrush** were all present on the hills above WA 5/1 (DG).

Warbler migration was spotty with mostly residents observed. The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at WA 4/11 (DG).

Vesper, Savannah, and Grasshopper Sparrows were present in the Newburg Area 5/2 (DG). About 15 **Rusty Blackbirds** were a nice find at a wetland near the Newburg Area (DG, JS).

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

Clinton County

Locations: Mill Hall (MH), Susquehanna River (SR).

A somewhat late **Common Loon** was on the SR at Lock Haven 5/18 (JS). The first seasonal sighting of an **American Bittern** was in the wetlands at MH 4/9 (SH) and there again from 2/26 through 4/28 (JD, WL, JS). At this same location in MH a single **Great Egret** was found 4/26 (JD), and on 4/29 three **Great Egrets** were also there (WL).

Throughout the period, the resident pair of **Peregrine Falcons** was observed regularly along the SR in the McElhatten/Woolrich area (m.ob.).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA, 17745-8153, (570) 748-7511, wlaubsch@kcnet.org**, Jim Dunn, Shonah Hunter, Jeff Schaffer.

Columbia County

No report.

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

Crawford County

Locations: Atlantic Lake Road (ALR), Athens Township (AT), Conneaut Lake (CL), Jamestown State Park (JSP), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Custards (C), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Hartstown Marsh (HM), Meadville (M), Pymatuning Area (PYM), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Lake (PL), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), McMichael Road (McM), Sugar Lake (SL), Tamarrack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

Red-Necked Grebe reports include 2 off the PC 3/9 (SK), 2 at PC 3/15 and one at HM (m. ob.), one at CL 4/18 and one at WL 4/19. **Horned Grebe** were reported from 3/9 to 4/19 at many locations with 27 the highest total 3/22 at CM, CL, and PL. **Pied-billed Grebe** were found all this period (m. ob.) but in low numbers with 3 being the best total. **Common Loons** also were found in lower than usual numbers with a high total of only 8 reported 4/15 at PL (DR). Single numbers were reported from WL, TL, CL, Sugar Lake, and PYM (m. ob.). One **Great Black-backed Gull** was noted at JSP 3/22 and a good find was a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at PS 4/14 (SK). **Herring and Ring-billed Gulls** were in good numbers this period. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported from 3/29 PC (TCN) through 4/24 (7) at PGMA with 175 at PS 4/19 the best count.

One to 3 **Caspian Terns** were seen at FH and PS areas 4/13 to 4/26 (m. ob.). A lone **Forsters Tern** was noted at FH 4/16 and 2 **Common Terns** were feeding off FI 5/2. A **Black Tern** was noted at PS 5/21 (MV). There were several sightings of **Common Mergansers** this period; 29 were the most reported at one location that was WL 3/14. A good count of 457 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were found in western Crawford mainly at PL. **Hooded Mergansers** appeared in small numbers this season with 130 at the PYM, L and CL 3/14, the best total. I found 86 **Gadwall** at C 3/14 and totals of 12 to 80 were at various locations (m. ob.). A single male **Eurasian Wigeon** was seen at C 3/14 and 4/9 (BS) and up real close 4/11 at C. Custards provided the best reported total of **American Wigeon** of 226 birds 3/10. **Green-winged Teal** seem to be doing well with 80 noted at HM 3/15 (MB) and reported on 25 different days in this area (m. ob.). Likewise, a total of 32 **Blue-winged Teal** at CM 4/10 was better than usual. **Northern Shoveler** numbers were average and **Northern Pintail** were found often with 140 at Geneva 3/7 and reports up to 8 still at Geneva 4/25 (MV). **Wood Ducks** were found here on 26 different days. The earliest were 5 at Geneva 3/6 (BVN). The last **Redhead** was 4/18; a female at PGMA

(MB). I found a group of 88 at Geneva 3/18 and 100 were reported near the PS 3/9 (SK). On WL I counted at least 360 Canvasback 3/9, and that same day, 600 were at PS (SK). That is nearly 1000 here in *Crawford* which is very unusual. MB found 40 **Greater Scaup** at Mead Lake HM on 4/5 that may be a recent high count, and a very large group of 3500 **Lesser Scaup** were found at CL and PYM combined. Some 1470 **Ring-necked Ducks** were found at CM 3/25. **Common Goldeneye** were seen in fairly small numbers with 20 at WL 3/10 and 20 off the PC 3/5, the high total. **Buffleheads** were found (m. ob.) at usual locations with 60 on WL 4/19 the high total. On WL 3/20 I found 7 **Long-tailed Ducks** and 8 were seen at SL (RE) on that date also. However on 3/23 I counted 89 at WL, a recent high for this area. A **Black Scoter** was present at JSP 3/22 and a lone bird was found at that area near the PYM Dam 4/27 (SK). There were 2 **Surf Scoters** at Geneva CM 4/11 and 5 at SL and one there 4/30 (both found by RE). **Ruddy Ducks** were found all period with 207 off the PS 4/19. An unusual high count of 125 **Snow Geese** was found in the PYM 3/15 (TW) a good birder from Erie PA. A Single bird was found there 4/9 to 4/20 at the Miller Ponds (BS, RT, SL, MB). Two **Mute Swans** were reported at SL 3/12 (RE), one was at G 5/8-13. **Tundra Swans** were reported by m.ob. and some good counts came in including 300 at SL 3/10 and 400 there 3/19 (RE). Single **American Bitterns** were found at SM, one at G 4/24 and 5/25 and one at McM 5/21. A **Least Bittern** was noted at PGMA 5/6 and one at G on 5/24 (MF, JV). Migrant **Great Blue Herons** were first found at HM 3/15 and seemed to be in normal numbers.

A **Great Egret** was noted on the Ohio side of PC 4/10 and one was reported at SL 4/12 (RE) and 3 at FH 4/27 (SK). **Green Herons** seemed to arrive here late this spring, maybe due to cold weather in late April and early May although one was found in the PYM 4/27 (SK) and 2 in Wayland east of Meadville 4/28 and one at SL 4/28 (RE). I watched a lone **Black-crowned Night-Heron** fly past the FH 5/9 headed for FI. From one to 6 **Sandhill Cranes** were found and reported from 3/7 to 5/23 at PYM, CM HM ENWR and Crossingville by TW, DS, SK, DS, MB and the high count 6 were at PGMA 5/15 (DW).

Two **Virginia Rails** were located at McM 4/25 (MV), one thru 5/8 (RE), and 2 at Geneva 5/25 (BG, LM). One pair of **Sora** were found at McM 4/30 and single bird across the road from the FH 5/2. Two **Common Moorhens** were sighted at G 4/25 (MV) and single ones at McM and C 4/26 to 5/30 (m. ob.).

A female **Red-necked Phalarope** was spotted at the Miller Ponds (PGMA) 5/27-28 (TB, MW, SN, BSe). **American Woodcocks** were reported at HM 3/13-4/3 (MB). Several **Wilson's Snipe** were found at PYM, CM, HM and SL from 3/25 through 5/30; a high total of 18 were seen 4/25 on Marsh Road. From one to 11 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were located at PGMA 4/18-5/21 (m. ob.). **Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers** (from one to 6) were recorded at Wagland and PYM (m. ob.). Mark Vass recorded the only **Dunlins** (4) at FH 5/21. A **Western Sandpiper**, unusual in spring, was noted at a Wayland farm pond 5/31. There were lots of reports of **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**, most from PYM 3/20-5/24. A high count of 75 **Greater Yellowlegs** at the Miller Ponds PGMA 4/20 were found by SK. Several **Solitary Sandpipers** were noted at PYM, CM and SL (m. ob.). There were 2 **Upland Sandpipers** at Rte. 285 and Wilson's Road PGMA 4/27, and one was seen there 5/24 (MF, JV). There were 4 **Spotted Sandpipers** on the bank of French Creek south of Meadville 4/29 and one was noted at PGMA 4/28 (SK). Mark Vass recorded a **Black-bellied Plover** at FH on 5/21 and it remained up to 5/28. **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen at the FH also on 5/21 (MV). A pair of **Ruddy Turnstones**, a rare bird in *Crawford*, were found at the FH 5/20 (BSe) and one was there 5/21 (MV).

Two **Ruffed Grouse** were located near SL 3/20 (RE). The first reported **Turkey Vulture** was seen 3/29 (2) near Meadville. Single **Northern Harriers** were seen at SL, CM, and PYM 3/22-4/25 (m. ob.). Lone **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted 3/23 and 4/12 near HM (MB) and one was seen near PC 4/24. Single **Cooper's Hawks** were seen at FI 5/2 and Meadville 5/30 and one was noted near the PPG plant south of CM 5/25 (m. ob.). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Meadville (my front yard) 5/18 and one was seen along Towpath Road at CM 5/25 (m. ob.). A pair of **Rough-legged Hawks** remained at PGMA to 4/12 (MB). An adult **Golden Eagle** was well studied at McM 3/7. **Bald Eagles** continue to expand in this area. Up to 12 were found a number of times at CM and PYM this period. The only report of a **Peregrine Falcon** was at Mead Lake near the HN 4/5 (MB). Two **Osprey** were on a nest at WL 4/11 a second pair nested there by 5/9. Singles were noted at TL 4/19 and SL 4/20 (RE).

A **Barred Owl** was seen at SL 3/6 (RE), one at Meadville 3/31, one at Wayland 4/11, 2 at McM 5/24 (MF, JV) and one at ALR, HM 5/10 (MB). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found at FI 5/28 and one was recorded at Geneva at CM 5/19 (MB). Two **Black-billed Cuckoos** were seen in AT 5/13 (MBr), one at SL 5/7 (RE) and one along ALR 5/14 (MB). Two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were seen at SL 4/7 (RE), one at McM 4/25 (MV) and one at Geneva 5/24 (MF, JV). A single **Red-headed Woodpecker** was heard calling along Brooks Road at PYM 5/30. Three **Chimney Swifts** were first noted in Meadville 4/24 and 4 were recorded at ALR-HM (MB). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen near HM 5/1(MB).

The first **Eastern Kingbird** was spotted near SL 4/28 (RE). Most all the flycatchers seemed to arrive here rather late and were not calling much, maybe due to colder and windier conditions than usual. Rich Eakin reported **Common Ravens** near Cambridge Springs 3/3, Wayland 4/25, SL regularly and ENWR 5/16.

A **Northern Shrike** was noted just north of G 3/5. A **Red-eyed Vireo** was seen 5/8 at HM (MB). Matt Brody reported a **Philadelphia Vireo** in AT 5/19. A pair of **Warbling Vireos** were singing at McM 4/26 with good numbers in the area all of May. **Yellow-throated Vireos** were noted 5/4-30 in HM (RE, MB). Single **White-eyed Vireos** were found at CM 4/26 and 5/23, at PYM 5/9 and 5/21.

Purple Martins returned in good numbers ranging from one to 40 on many reports from 4/12-5/31. **Cliff Swallows** returned to the PYM by 4/10. Despite a total of 200 at PYM 5/13, the nesting pairs at the FH were way down from last year. All the other swallow species seemed to be in normal numbers.

Carolina Wrens were noted near SL 4/10-11 (RE) and a **Winter Wren** was along Pine Road at HM 4/12 and 5/10 (MB). Single **Marsh Wrens** were at CM 5/6-30 (m. ob.). Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen along Pine Road at HM 4/12 (MB). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was sighted Pine Road at HM 4/10 (MB) and one was near SL 4/28 (RE). An early **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was found at McM 4/10 and many were reported to 5/11 at CM (MV) and SL (RE).

Warblers seemed rather scarce this spring maybe due to cold wet and windy conditions most of April and May. None-the-less some good finds were reported. **Prothonotary Warblers** were noted at CM 4/29 to 5/24 (MF, JV). A **Worm-eating Warbler** 5/25 was on Nickle Plate Road SW of Cockranton (LM, BG). A **Cerulean Warbler** was along Towpath Road at CM 5/15. A **Blackburnian Warbler** was near SL 4/28 (RE) and a **Prairie Warbler** was in AT 5/13 (M Brody). Eighteen **American Pipits** were found along ALR 4/5 (MB).

A **Northern Mockingbird** was seen at PGMA near Blairsville Road 3/10 and one was along Pine Road at HM 4/10 (MB). The first reported **Wood Thrush** was 4/25 (RE) near SL. There were 20 plus along Towpath Road at CM 5/9. All the thrushes were reported in low numbers except for **American Robin** and **Eastern Bluebirds** which seem to be doing very well.

The best total of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was 16 at FI 5/9. **Indigo Bunting** returned to CM 5/2 and to many area feeders there on. The first report of **Scarlet Tanager** was one near SL 4/28 (RE).

Four **Vesper Sparrows** were present at HM 4/5-12 (MB) and singles were noted at CL 5/15 and CM 5/30. The first sighting of **Savannah Sparrows** were 4 at SL 4/7 (RE), 6 were at PGMA 5/21. A **Lincoln Sparrow** was noted near SL 5/5 (RE) and one was found at FI 5/15. Two **Swamp Sparrows** were seen at McM 3/7 and no less than 18 thru 4/18. There were many reported **Fox Sparrows** from 3/12-4/16, mostly single birds. A high count was 8 along Pine Road at HM 4/10 (MB). The first **Eastern Towhee** was noted at Brooks Road in the PYM 4/5.

Three **Bobolinks** were noted near SL 4/28 which was early. Thirty-eight **Rusty Blackbirds** at McM were the best count on 3/25. Single **Orchard Orioles** were found at SL 5/2 (RE), 5/9 at McM and 5/20 at Pine Road in HM 5/2 (MB). The first reported **Baltimore Oriole** was noted 4/28 near SL (RE).

Purple Finch were scattered about the area from late March to end of May in small numbers. **White-winged Crossbills** were noted near SL with 8 on 3/7 and 3/11 (RE), 2 were at Springboro 3/26 (TCN) and 3 were near the ENWR 3/30 (LAR). The only report of a **Common Redpoll** was one at a feeder on ALR-HM 3/22 (MB). One to 40 **Pine Siskin** were reported at SL and HM up to 5/31 (RE, MB).

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Cumberland County

Locations: Big Spring (BS), Mudlevel Road (MLR), State Gamelands 169 SGL169, State Gamelands 230 (SGL230).

The spring of 2009 was a fairly unremarkable migration season with only nine common species of shorebirds reported, which is a stark contrast to the bumper spring season of 2008. The main reason for this was that the fields on MLR did not flood this year, providing little habitat. It also seemed that reports of warblers were down this year. If that was due to low coverage and reporting, or to an actual downturn in numbers of warblers is unknown. The finds of the period ended up being two species of doves that made their way to *Cumberland*.

One first year **Trumpeter Swan** was reported at SGL169 marsh 4/27 (BO, VG), and one **Red-breasted Merganser** was at the pond on Creekview Road 4/6 (VG). Additionally, 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported at SGL169 3/10 (AM, BO), one at Colonel Denning 4/6 (VG), and 4 on the Conodoguinet 4/18 (BO, VG) near the confluence of the BS.

Once again, up to 25 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported throughout the period at the Cabin Road area of SGL169. As in previous years no sign of nesting was reported. A first year **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was also reported among them 4/16 (AM). **American Bitterns** were reported 4/3 at MLR (AM), 4/19 at SGL169 (VG), and 4/24 at SGL119 (BO). A **Common Moorhen** was at BS 4/18 (BO, VG). Undated reports of **Sora** and **Virginia Rails** present at the SGL169 marsh were also submitted. One **American Coot** was reported at SGL169 from 4/6-27 (m.ob.), and one was at Hunter Road 4/18 (BO, VG). The only raptor of note was one **Merlin** reported near Carlisle at SGL230 4/14 (VG).

Two groups of 3 **Caspian Terns** (perhaps the same birds) made an appearance just a short distance from one another within a few days. They first appeared above a couple of small kettle ponds on Stamy Road in Newville 4/11 (VG), and then at the SGL169 marsh 4/16 (AM).

An astounding find of a **White-winged Dove** was reported coming to a feeder in a Carlisle backyard 4/22-23 (HW, KW, RK, VG, BW). This bird of the southwestern United States provided the first record for *Cumberland* and one of the few state records. Not quite as surprising but still a great find was a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** near the barn at SGL169 5/23 (AM), providing the second *Cumberland* record and the first photographed in the county.

Highlights for the annual Pennsylvania Migration Count held on 5/9 not mentioned elsewhere in this report included 4 **Whip-poor-Will**s, 2 **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers**, one **Least Flycatcher**, one **Blue-headed Vireo**, one **Swainson's Thrush**, and 5 **Pine Siskins**.

As for warblers, no Cape May, Prothonotary, Mourning or Wilson's Warblers were reported during the period. **Cerulean Warblers** were reported though the period at Three Square Hollow and Elk Hill Road. **Kentucky Warbler** was reported at Thompson Hollow, near Three Square Hollow and SGL230. A **Brewster's Warbler** was reported at SGL230 throughout the period, as was a **Blackburnian Warbler** at Elk Hill Road. A single **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported at SGL169 on 4/16 (AM), and then a half mile away on Oakville Road 4/17 (VG). It was the probably same bird. Finally, one **Golden-winged Warbler** was seen on Elk Hill Road 5/15 (VG).

The **White-winged Crossbill** invasion finally came to an end. The last reported were at the Spring Hill cemetery in Shippensburg 5/8 where they had been reported through the winter through (AM).

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Dauphin County

Locations: East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Hershey (HER), Haldeman Island (HI), Hershey IBA #45 (HIBA), Hummelstown (HUM), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), Fishing Creek Valley (FCV), SR from Fort Hunter (SFH), SR at Harrisburg (SHB), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), SR from Marysville (SMV), SR from Millersburg (SMB), Susquehanna River in

general (SR), SR from West Fairview (SWF), Tobias Lake (TL), Halifax, Wildwood Lake (WL).

Some species of note for this quarter include: **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Merlin**, **Black-headed** and **Little Gull**, **Sandhill Crane**, **Western Meadowlark** (first documented county record), **White-winged Crossbill**, and **Evening Grosbeak**.

A single **Cackling Goose** was found on HI 3/21 (SB, AW). Both **Snow Geese** and **Tundra Swans** were reported through much of Mar with the last **Snow Goose** noted 3/21 on HI (SB, AW) and the last flight of **Tundra Swans** 3/22 at HIBA (RW). Just a few days earlier, on 3/19, 200+ **Tundra Swans** were at SWF (RK). One **Mute Swan** spent about a month, from 4/4-5/6, on the Swatara Creek along Boathouse Rd. near HER (PW, RW).

The first **Blue-winged Teal** of the season were found in the HIBA where 2 were noted 3/11(RW). About 20 **Northern Pintails** were at SWF 3/2 (KH). An **Eurasian Wigeon** was reported SMB 3/15 along with a single **White-winged Scoter** (RK). Many of the dabbling species remained at WL well in to the "spring" season including **Gadwall** to 4/25, **Northern Shoveler** to 4/16, **Northern Pintail** to 4/18, **Green-winged Teal** to 4/25, and **Blue-winged Teal** to 5/4 (CR).

Both **Redhead** and **Canvasback** were found at SMB 3/7 (G&TR) and at SWF 3/19 (RK). **White-winged Scoter** was also observed at SWF on both 3/19 and 4/3 (RK). There were 9 **Long-tailed Ducks** and 8 **Common Goldeneye** at SHB 3/22 (RW) and 10 **Long-tailed Ducks** were at SWF and another 8 at SMV 3/29 (RK). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was found at SMV 3/15 (AM).

Eleven **Common Loons** and 3 **Red-throated Loons** were at SWF 4/3 (RK), and **Red-necked Grebe** was reported from both SWF and SMV from 3/13-24 (RK, PW & RW). On 3/19, 29 **Horned Grebes**, the highest count of the season, were at SWF (RK).

An **American Bittern** was reported at WL 3/27 and again 4/16 (LI), while a much later observation of one occurred along the Swatara Creek 5/12 (AL). The first **Great Egret** sighting came from WL 3/10, a few days earlier than usual (SL, CR), while the first **Double-crested Cormorants** of the season were noted at SMV 3/15 (RK). The results of this year's Wade Island Nest Survey, conducted 4/29 by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, showed increases for all three nesting species. The 197 **Great Egret** nests counted represented the highest since the survey began in 1985. That was up 19 from the 2008 count and four above the previous high of 193 in 2003. The **Black-crowned Night-Heron** nest count was 116, the first time over 100 since the 128 counted in 2004 but far below the 1990 total of 345 nests. And, of course, the **Double-crested Cormorant** nest count also increased to 120, but up only eight from last year (*fide* DB). The first **Double-crested Cormorant** nest at the Wade Island rookery was confirmed in 1996. The **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** colony in the Bellevue Park section of HBG is also doing well. An unofficial "count" found six active nest sites with a total of 9 adults 5/16 (TJ). One was also observed at WL 5/16 (CR) and another at the Bull Frog Valley Rd. pond near HER 5/22 (HC).

A **Black Vulture** nest was found in a barn outside Middletown with two chicks 5/30 (GK). This is the second year for a nest at this location. Four **Bald Eagles**, including two adults, were present on HI 3/21 (AW) and two adults were found in the HIBA 4/1(RW) while an adult and one third year bird were there 4/4 (AL). Two **Bald Eagles** were also reported at SWF 3/28 (KH). Individual **Bald Eagle** reports continue to be numerous (m.ob.). A **Cooper's Hawk** was observed nest building in a Highspire neighborhood off Lumber Rd. 4/2. This is the same location Cooper's nested last year (KK).

Since 1997 a pair of **Peregrine Falcons** has made their home on the 15th floor ledge of the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg. The falcon pair has successfully reproduced since 2000, and this Spring, the female again laid a clutch of eggs beginning 3/21 and by 3/31, five were in the nest. The first hatching occurred 4/30 and by 5/4 all five eggs had hatched! At the 5/27 banding event, the PGC banded four female nestlings and one male. All five of the eyases were treated for mites; all are doing well. See <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon/recent_news.html>. After a number of "winter" reports a **Merlin** was still present in the HIBA 3/1 (PW, RW), and one was also reported at WL 3/11 (MP).

American Coot was reported at WL 3/7 (CR) and 2 were observed at SWF 3/21 (CK). "Shorebird" reports were sparse. The first was of a **Greater Yellowlegs** viewed from the Harvey Taylor Bridge over the SR 3/28 (BO, KS). **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Solitary Sandpipers** were noted from late Apr through mid-May at a variety of

locations (m. ob.). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were in a wet field along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA 5/6 (RW).

Eight **Wilson's Snipe** were found along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA 3/16. The number increased to 16 on 3/27 and some remained through, at least, 4/8 (PW, RW). Four were noted in Conawago Twp, south of Hershey, 3/18 (LW) and 13 were found at Troxell's Swamp in EHT 3/29 (S&RZ). The last reported **Wilson's Snipe** was on 4/26 in EHT (S&RZ). **American Woodcock** had returned to both EHT and SHT by the second week of Mar, 3/9 and 3/14 respectively (S&RZ, JG). A single **Sandhill Crane** was reported at TL 5/6 but unfortunately it was not present three days later for the PAMC (fide SB).

The only report of **Black-headed Gull** came on 3/15 when one was found with about 25 **Bonaparte's Gulls** "working" the river for stoneflies at SMV (AM, RK). **Bonaparte's Gull** numbers continued to increase along the SR with counts in excess of 100 by the end of Mar. On 3/29 the first **Little Gull** was observed at SWF (RK) and, 4/4 another was found at SMV (RK, TJ). The last report of **Bonaparte's Gull** was 5/9 when 15 were observed SFH (RW). Terns were reported the first week of May with one **Caspian Tern** 5/5 and two 5/7, eight **Common Terns** 5/6 and three 5/7, and three **Forster's Terns** 5/7, all at SWF (RK).

A **Barn Owl** was found at a nest box on 5/20 along Swatara Road in the HIBA (AL) and two were being observed outside Linglestown the last week of May (DMc). The only **Common Nighthawk** report was of one flying over the Swatara Creek near HUM 5/16 (AL). A "family" of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was found at TL for the PAMC 5/9 (SB). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported along Pine Road in EHT just inside the county line 5/30 (GK).

Swainson's Thrush was reported from two locations 5/8 with one observed on the Hotel Hershey grounds (GK) and others were heard in flight, along with **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, **Veery**, and **Wood Thrush**, during pre-dawn in Paxtang (DH). Another **Swainson's Thrush** was observed at WL 5/15 (CR).

Warbler reports began in early Apr with **Louisiana Waterthrush** in SCV 4/6 (SB) and **Palm Warbler** in HIBA 4/8 (RW). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was observed along Sleepy Hollow Rd. 4/18 in FCV which matches the earliest "first date" for this species in the county (M&RB). Some of the "latest" reports, for non-nesting species, included a **Mourning Warbler** at WL 5/20 (CR), and a **Blackpoll Warbler** 5/30 on the grounds of The Hotel Hershey (GK).

The first **Fox Sparrow** reports came on 2/28 from both EHT (S&RZ) and from the Milton S. Hershey School campus (NM). On 3/6 **Fox Sparrow** was found at WL (LI, CR) and was noted in SHT through at least 3/23 (PW & RW). Both **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrow** were still present in the HIBA to 5/6 (RW), and **Dark-eyed Junco** was still visiting feeders at WL 5/7 (CR). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at the Dery Twp. Park on Boathouse Rd. 4/2 (RW), 6 were at Little Meadow Park in SHT 4/13 (PW, RW) and 2 were reported at WL 4/19-21 (RK, LI).

Arguably, the highlight of the season was the presence of a **Western Meadowlark**, first noted the last week of Apr, and first reported 5/2 on a farm just east of Gratz (SZ, fide CK, AT). During the next few days it was observed, photographed, and recorded by many. It remained through mid-May with the last report coming 5/16 (TJ). This is the first documented record for this species in *Dauphin*.

Although **Common Grackles** are usually not included in my quarterly summaries, 5000 (+/-) observed in the Laural Woods area south of Hershey on 3/8 warrants mention. "Their calls were deafening as they sat in the trees," according to GB.

Continuing the major irruption of this past "winter" season, a pair of **White-winged Crossbills** were found in the HIBA 3/1, and a flock of about a dozen were feeding on hemlock cones at the Turkey Hill Market on Hersheypark Dr. 3/3 (PW, RW). **White-winged Crossbills** were also noted at Zoo America through most of Mar, with the last report from that location coming 3/28 (TB). The last report in the county was in SHT along Hillymeade Rd. 4/5 (CT). **Purple Finch** returned to two SHT location 3/22 (JG, PW, RW) and in the Laural Woods section of HER 3/31 (GB). Sightings of this species, especially at yard feeders, continued through Apr (m.ob.).

Pine Siskins remained ubiquitous through Apr, visiting feeders (m.ob.) and even nest building behavior was noted 4/10 in Paxtang near HBG and, more recently, fledged young (DH). Breeding was also considered probable in Halifax 4/10 (SB) and, a possible fledging was observed in HER 4/27 (AS). Numbers began to decline through May but a few were still present at the end of the quarter. A single **Pine Siskin** continued to visit a Swatara Township feeder through at least May 26

(LU) and some were also present in Paxtang at the end of the quarter (DH). **Evening Grosbeak** has been a rare winter visitor for the past 15 years so the report of nine in Paxtang "foraging for seeds on the ground and loafing in a nearby Norway spruce" on 4/10 was noteworthy (DH).

Some other "first of the season" reports included: **Tree Swallow** in the HIBA 3/8 (J&BH), **Eastern Phoebe** 3/9 in Highspire (KK), **Brown Thrasher** 4/7 in SHT (JG), **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 4/9 in SCV (RK & JR), **Yellow Warbler** 4/16 at WL (CR) and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** atop Blue Mt. 4/22 (M&RB).

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Delaware County

Locations: Big Bend Farm (BB), Crum Reservoir (CR), Darby Creek watershed (DC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Haverford College (HC), Hildacy Farm (HF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Swarthmore College (SC), Tyler Arboretum (TY).

The season began with a nor'easter 3/2 that brought a nice 6" snowfall to the county. After that the weather settled into a mild, pleasant, and average spring. We said goodbye to the Le Conte's Sparrow and the White-winged Crossbills and to most—but not all—of the Pine Siskins, and hello to a few interesting spring migrants.

A single **Ross's Goose** was among 1500 **Snow Geese** that flew over Middletown Twp. 3/8 (AG). This was the second *Delaware* record for **Ross's Goose**; the first was on the CBC this past Dec. Fifteen **Tundra Swans** were on SR 3/11 (AG). There was a smattering of the usual ducks. Of interest were eight **American Wigeon** at SR 3/7 (AG). **American Black Duck** were reported in single digit numbers except for 22 at TI 3/8 (BB). This group included one **American Black Duck X Mallard** (BB). Two **Northern Pintail** were in a flock of **Canada Geese** over Middletown Twp 3/19 (AG). Other reports of interest were four **Greater Scaup** 3/20 at SR (AG) and 2 **Lesser Scaup** 3/7 at SR (AG). Also at SR 3/7 were 3 **Common Goldeneye**, all females (AG). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was spotted flying upriver on the DR 3/24 (AG).

The **Wild Turkeys** were confirmed to be still residing on Little Tinicum Island on the DR 5/30 (DE). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were on CR 3/15 (DE) and one **Red-necked Grebe** was at DC 3/8 (BB). This was likely the same individual reported 2/22 at the same location (DE). Ever more frequently reported, **Great Cormorant** was on the DR 3/28 (AG).

Listed as irregular and rare in *Delaware* a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was found on the *Delaware* side of Darby Creek at TI 4/12 (DB, FW, AG). A few weeks later one adult and one immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** were seen to fly deep into the marshes of TI 5/2 (FW), raising the question of nesting. Cooperative target birds for the day were 4 **Glossy Ibis** flying around the marshes at TI 5/28 (AG, DE).

Osprey nested again on the DR 3/15 (AG). **Bald Eagles** were still on nest at the same site as last year 3/5 and 4/7 (AG). A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen carrying nesting material at TY 3/25 (TR). Unfortunately there was no spring hawk watch at Rose Tree Park this season. Some hawk watchers did find their way to the park and 94 **Broad-winged Hawks** were tallied 4/18 (JL). That same day, 39 **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen at HC 4/18 (SJ). The status of **American Kestrels** in *Delaware* is a concern so ten reports from around the county was gratifying (m.ob.). This included a pair of hunting **American Kestrels** spotted from a taxying airplane at PHL 3/26 (DE). **Merlins** were seen at SC 3/2 (JS) and flying in from the New Jersey side of the DR 4/11 (AG).

Shorebird reports were sparse this season. Single **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen at TI 5/18 (AG) and 5/28 (AG, DE); two were at PHL

5/29 (AG). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at PHL 5/2 (AG). About three weeks earlier than their usual arrival date were 4 **Least Sandpipers** at PHL 4/5 (AG) and 50 **Least Sandpipers** were at TI 5/28 (AG, DE). Four **Pectoral Sandpipers** were a good find at PHL 5/2 (AG) and one **Dunlin** in breeding plumage was found at TI 5/28 (AG, DE). A surprising 57 **Wilson's Snipes** were at PHL 3/29 (AG). One or two **American Woodcock** were displaying in the predawn at DT 3/9 (DE).

Another species being reported with increasing frequency is **Lesser Black-backed Gull**; one was sitting on Little Tinicum Island in the DR 3/30 (AG). Rare in *Delaware*, two **Least Terns** were on the DR 5/29 (AG). This species nested in the county in the 1950s. Since 1959 there have been two other reported sightings: 8/15/1985 and 8/2-9/2/1994.

Barred Owl reports appear to be increasing. At least one report from each season since Feb 2008 has been received. Two were heard calling at RCSP 5/12 (GS). Another nice find was a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at Waterloo Mills 3/13 (AG).

Only two **Common Nighthawk** sightings were recorded; 2 individuals were spotted in Middletown Twp 5/15 (AG) and one was flying low over a back yard in Swarthmore in the early morning hours 5/16 (DE). **Chimney Swifts** seemed a little late this year. The first report was in Swarthmore 4/25 (DE). This is about two weeks past the usual early date for this species.

Many reports of **Pileated Woodpecker** were received from throughout the county. They seem to be doing well. **Fish Crows** appear to be increasing. Most reports come from Media and Swarthmore. A group of 40 were reported from Media 3/10 (BB). **Horned Larks** are becoming more difficult to find so 2 individuals among the **Wilson's Snipe** reported above at PHL 3/29 (AG) were a nice find. **Purple Martins** first returned to the colony in Aston 4/4 (BC). **Cliff Swallows** were first spotted at the RCSP stables 5/12 (AG).

The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** report came from the expected location, RCSP, 5/20 (AG). Seemingly numerous last year, **Swainson's Thrushes** were scarce with just two reports, both from the Bridle Path at RCSP, 4/26 (AL) and 5/21 (AG, DE). SJ was happy to find 5 **Hermit Thrushes** together at HC (4/18). An uncommon migrant, an **American Pipit** was spotted at DR 4/5 (AG).

Last spring was considered a good year for wood warblers with 30 species reported and many in good numbers. Warblering was not so great this spring with 26 species reported and numbers seemed low. **Nashville Warblers** at SC 5/2 (JS) and RCSP 5/3 (AG), **Worm-eating Warbler** at RCSP 4/26 (AG), and a singing male **Cerulean Warbler** at SC 5/2 (DE) were highlights. Probably the best warbler of the season was a **Prothonotary Warbler** at Hoy Pond, TI 5/3 (BK, fide DM). **Kentucky Warblers** actually seemed to be at above average numbers mostly at RCSP (m.ob.), as were **Hooded Warblers** including 6 near a picnic area at RCSP 5/5 (AG). The uncommon in *Delaware* **Yellow-breasted Chat** first arrived at BB 5/15 (NP) and at RCSP 5/21 (AG).

The much heralded **Le Conte's Sparrow** first found 1/25 by AG managed to make it into the spring report. It was last reported at DT 3/1 (DR). **Fox Sparrows** were not widely reported but 6 were at RCSP 4/12 (AG).

Rarely reported is **Blue Grosbeak** so individuals at HF 4/29 (MP) and BB 5/15 (NP) were welcome. **Eastern Meadowlarks** are not easy either so a report of one at DR 3/29 (AG) was welcome.

Purple Finch numbers were down this winter, but 2 individuals at a feeder in Lima 4/26 (AL) indicated at least some were around. **White-winged Crossbills** lingered well into the spring. The latest report was of a "flaming bright male" drinking from a water feature in a back yard in Middletown 4/26 (AG). **Pine Siskins** stayed through the entire spring. Peak movement appeared to be in early Apr as witnessed by a careful feeder count in Media (JL). Breeding was hoped for but not confirmed. Two individuals apparently acting as a pair were in Swarthmore 5/2 (DE). The latest spring report was from Middletown Twp 5/27 (AG) and I have received at least one summer report so far of a pair in Media.

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Elk County

No compiler.

Erie County

Location: Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC), Presque Isle State Park (PISP).

Presque Isle Bay started to become ice-free in early Mar, but few waterfowl were seen concentrating in the bay until 4/7 when at least 50,000 ducks appeared, with about 90% **Red-breasted Merganser**.

This was the first full spring season of hawk watching at the new official hawk watch site at TREC. Since this is a new site there are no comparative data. On 4/21 and 4/24, good flights of **Broad-winged Hawks** passed the hawk watch, totaling 3264 and 3347 respectively. Most exciting at the hawk watch was northwestern Pennsylvania's first **Swallow-tailed Kite**, followed minutes later by an albino **Broad-winged Hawk**, see details below.

Passerine passage was not the best without any significant fall outs, but there was a fairly steady flow of birds from late Apr through the third week of May. **Sandhill Cranes** continue to be seen nearly regularly from mid-Mar through Apr. Who would have thought that they would be so frequently observed that there would be too many to list here individually?

This past winter's invasion of **White-winged Crossbills** and **Pine Siskins** continued well into the spring season. Daily flock sizes of 40 or more **Pine Siskins** passing by the hawk watch through Apr were not unusual, with smaller numbers reported at feeding stations to at least mid-May.

The following unusual birds were recorded from PISP unless noted otherwise.

Noteworthy was the flock of about 50 (white) **Snow Geese** seen flying past North East 3/19 (JL). A couple of **Mute Swans** were present in Misery Bay 3/11 (JM), and 3 were in Presque Isle Bay 5/24 (MF). A tardy **Tundra Swan** remained through May in Misery Bay (JM), and one was also reported from Edinboro Lake through May (*fide* DS). A **Common Goldeneye** was still present on the late date of 5/25 in Misery Bay (MB). Single **Red-necked Grebes** were reported in the surrounding waters of PISP 3/5-4/17, totaling five birds for the period (JM).

A total of 4 **American Bitterns** were present around Niagara Pond and at Gull Point 4/16 -5/18 (JM, BC). A pair of **Least Bitterns** on a nest containing at least four eggs was discovered at Niagara Pond 5/8 (DS). The bitterns were observed by many people to the end of the reporting period. However, the nesting was believed to be unsuccessful, since the nest was abandoned before young could have fledged. **Great Egrets** were reported 4/1-5/19, with at least 10 individuals observed through that period. A very rare find was a **Snowy Egret** feeding along Misery Bay 5/1 (RH). The only **Black-crowned Night-Heron** reported was one 4/21 at the mouth of Walnut Creek (BP).

A most exciting find, and a first for northwestern Pennsylvania, was a **Swallow-tailed Kite** that circled over the Presque Isle hawk watch at TREC 4/21 (JM). Minutes later an albino **Broad-winged Hawk** passed over the hawk watch (JM). Rarely reported in *Erie* was an adult **Golden Eagle** circling over Erie Bluffs State Park 4/24 (JTC, RS).

No less than 25 individual **Sandhill Cranes** were reported along the Lake Erie shore, mostly as singles or small family groups 3/7-5/13 (m. ob.). Very exciting was the discovery of an adult **Piping Plover** with colored leg bands during a Piping Plover survey at Gull Point on 5/4 (KR). Most amazing was the large flock of **Willetts** containing a whopping 35 individuals that settled down at Gull Point 5/1 (JM). The flock was soon frightened away by a passing **Peregrine Falcon**.

The only **Laughing Gull** reported for the season was an adult identified at Gull Point 5/25 (MF). A single **Little Gull** was off the east pier 4/7 (JM) and another was at the west pier 4/19 (RL). A total of 5 **Iceland Gulls** were observed at the Lake View Landfill, TREC, and PISP 3/2-3/24 (JM). The only **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** reported this spring were two birds at the Lake View Landfill 3/10 (JM). Three or 4 **Glaucous Gulls** were present at the Lake View Landfill 3/2 and one was off the east pier on 3/10 (JM). A **Glaucous Gull X Herring Gull** was at Gull Point 5/1 (JM). **Black Terns** are becoming rarer every year with only two reports this spring. One was on Edinboro lake 5/12 (JT) and singles were at Niagara Pond and Gull Point 5/12 and 5/14 (RM, JM, resp.).

A single **Short-eared Owl** on 4/25 along Gull Point Trail was the only one reported this spring (BC). Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were

found in the pines on PISP 3/15 (DD), and a single bird was near B-trail 3/26 (JM). A record early **Chimney Swift** was heard calling overhead on PISP 4/5 (DD).

A **Prairie Warbler** was found at Thompson Circle 4/27 (JM). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was located at Fry's landing 5/5 (NB, JM), and another was found at Gull Point 5/12 (RK). A very rare male **Lawrence's Warbler** made a brief appearance at Gull Point 5/6 (JM). **Orange-crowned Warblers** made a good showing this spring with at least 6 individuals reported 5/4-16 at various sites on PISP (CW, JM).

A single **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at Beach 11 parking lot 5/7 (JM). Rarely reported anywhere in *Erie* was a **Grasshopper Sparrow** at Niagara boat launch 5/2 that was mist-netted and banded (SS). The male **Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco** reported in the winter season remained at a feeding station in Harborcreek to at least 3/14 (MFr). A few **White-winged Crossbills** remained into the spring season with 3 present in Edinboro 4/27 (DS) and 3 along Pine Tree Trail 5/13 (RK, JM).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd. Erie, PA, 16508-2129, (814) 868-3059, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Nancy Baker, Mary Birdsong, Ben Coulter, Jean & Toby Cunningham (JTC), Dave Darney, Mike Fialkovich, Michele Franz (MFr), Ross Hollenbeck, Ramsay Koury, Ron Leberman, Julie Leonard, Ryan Miller, Brian Pardini, Kathleen Ryan, Sara Sargent, Don Snyder, Ruth Swaney, John Tautin, Carole Winslow.

Fayette County

Locations: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL), Ohiopyle State Park (OSP), Springfield Township (ST)

Spring always brings more observations and a Breeding Bird Survey through Springfield, Stewart, Henry Clay and Wharton Townships, and Ohiopyle State Park adds a tremendous amount of data. In addition there were observations from several areas that usually lack birding activity.

Waterfowl fallouts are common events during rainy days in spring at GRL. A good fallout occurred 3/19 with the following tallied at the lake: 13 **Gadwall**, 6 **American Wigeon**, 14 **Northern Shoveler**, one **Northern Pintail**, 5 **Green-winged Teal**, 29 **Redhead**, 28 **Ring-necked Duck**, 5 **Lesser Scaup**, 4 **Long-tailed Duck**, 22 **Bufflehead**, 9 **Common Goldeneye**, 14 **Hooded Merganser**, 63 **Red-breasted Merganser**, 12 **Ruddy Duck**, 4 **Pied-billed Grebe**, 10 **Horned Grebe** and 6 **American Coot** (MF). Eleven **Greater Scaup** at GRL 3/7 (LH, LiH) were the only report.

A **Ruffed Grouse** was at Bear Run Nature Reserve 4/18 (BC).

A **Common Loon** was at Mill Run Reservoir 5/19 (WS) and one was at GRL 5/27; two were there 5/29 (MF). **Pied-billed Grebes** were present 3/7-4/17 at GRL (MF, LH, LiH). A **Red-necked Grebe** was a nice find at GRL 3/7 (LH, LiH) where it remained until 3/26 (MF).

An **American Avocet** was a rare find at Mill Run Reservoir 5/18 (WS) and provided the second county record (the first was 8/9/1996 at the same location). Eight **Spotted Sandpipers**, a **Semipalmated Plover** and 4 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were there 5/18 (DW, ST). The **Semipalmated Plover** remained 5/19 (MF). A **Greater Yellowlegs**, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** were at Mill Run Reservoir 5/11 (WS). An **American Woodcock** was found at Isaac Walton Park 5/5 (LD).

Bonaparte's Gulls were present at GRL during the season with one 3/19, five 3/26 and 25 on 4/17 (MF). A flock of 15 **Ring-billed Gulls** were at the lake 4/3 (MF).

An **Osprey** was perched in a tree at GRL 4/3 (MF), and 2 were present 5/1 (MF). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen at close range at OSP 5/30 (MF) and a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was in ST 5/31 (GM). Four **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were at OSP 5/31 (GM).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at Spring Valley 4/20 (LD). Numerous **Eastern Wood-Pewees** and 5 **Acadian Flycatchers** were found in various locations during a Breeding Bird Survey 5/31, along with a **Least Flycatcher** in Stewart Twp. (GM). Two **Least Flycatchers** were in the Mill Run Reservoir area 5/11 (WS). **Eastern Phoebe** returned to GRL by 3/25 (MF). On 5/5 a **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at Isaac Walton Park and an **Eastern Kingbird** was at Mill Run Reservoir (LD). An **Eastern Kingbird** was also in ST, a **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at Mill Run Reservoir 5/11 (WS) and Henry Clay Twp. 5/31 (GM).

Probably for the first time I received reports of all the vireos this season. On 5/5 **White-eyed Vireo** was at Fort Necessity Battlefield and **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Bear Run Nature Reserve (LD). **Blue-headed Vireo** was reported at OSP 4/18 (BC) and 5/31 (GM), Fort Necessity 5/5 (LD) and Henry Clay Twp. 5/31 (GM). **Warbling Vireos** were at Fort Necessity 5/5 (LD) and OSP 5/31 (GM). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was a nice find at Fort Necessity 5/5; the first report in years (LD). A great total of 86 **Red-eyed Vireos** were tallied in various locations during a Breeding Bird Survey 5/31 (GM).

A **Common Raven** was seen at OSP 4/18 (BC) and another was near Mill Run Reservoir 5/11 (WS). A **Purple Martin** was seen in Eliotsville 5/5 (LD). **Cliff Swallows** were back in Ohiopyle 5/31 (GM).

Thrush reports were good with **Veery** at OSP 5/5 (LD), 2 in ST and one in Stewart Twp. 5/31 (GM), **Gray-cheeked Thrush** and **Swainson's Thrush** at Spring Valley 4/20 (LD), and **Hermit Thrush** at OSP 4/18 (BC). A total of 17 **Wood Thrushes** were found in various locations during a Breeding Bird Survey 5/31 (GM).

A **Magnolia Warbler** was in the Mill Run Reservoir area 5/11 (WS). A **Cape May Warbler** was a nice find at OSP 5/5 (LD), a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at Spring Valley 5/5 (LD). **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, and **Louisiana Waterthrush** were all at OSP 4/18 (BC). **Prairie Warblers** were at Fort Necessity Battlefield 5/5 (LD) and one was at OSP 5/30 (MF). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was singing at GRL 5/19 (MF), a **Cerulean Warbler** and a **Kentucky Warbler** were at OSP 5/5 (LD). Single **Kentucky Warblers** were at Mill Run Reservoir 5/19 (MF) and Henry Clay Twp. 5/31 (GM). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was a nice find at OSP 5/31 (GM). Although this species breeds in the park, reports are few.

Other warblers found during the Breeding Bird Survey 5/31 include: 4 **Northern Parulas**, 10 **Yellow Warblers**, 5 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 8 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, 16 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, 2 **Blackburnian Warblers**, 9 **Black-and-white Warblers**, a great count of 49 **American Redstarts**, 22 **Ovenbirds**, a **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Common Yellowthroats**, and **Hooded Warblers** (GM). For the second spring in a row, **Golden-winged Warblers** were not found at the traditional location at OSP.

Grassland birds are scattered in the county and it takes some searching of back roads through farmland to find them. Five **Savannah Sparrows** and 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** were in ST 5/31 (GM). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was also at Eliotsville 5/5 (LD).

A singing **Blue Grosbeak** was an excellent find along the Breeding Bird Survey route in ST 5/31 (GM). The bird was probably an overshoot migrant; it was not relocated. A good total of 42 **Indigo Buntings** were tallied during the survey in various locations 5/31 (GM). The same survey resulted in 10 **Bobolinks** and several **Eastern Meadowlarks** in ST.

Purple Finches were found in Springfield and Stewart Townships 5/31 (GM). The only northern finch reports included a **Pine Siskin** in a small cemetery in Bullsken Twp. 4/17 (MF) and several in Spring Valley 5/1 (LD).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, Ben Coulter, Larry Durgin, Len Hess, Linda Hess (LiH), Geoff Malosh, Walt Shaffer, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton.

Forest County

Locations: Buzzard Swamp (BS), German Hill (GH), Red Brush (RB), Tionesta Creek (TC), Tionesta (TI).

With only three observers, the county did not get good coverage this spring; nevertheless, a good variety of species were seen. Highlights include 5 **Black Scoters**, a **Great Egret**, and a **Common Moorhen**, all found at Buzzard Swamp on the PA Migration Count on May 9.

Flocks of **Tundra Swans** were heard 3/10 and 3/21, then a flock of 150 was seen 3/22 near TI (FM, JM); the latest migrant was reported 4/21 at BS (TB). The cool windy weather 5/9 might have contributed to the presence of 5 **Black Scoters** at BS for the PAMC (FM, JM). This is our first county record. Five **Bufflehead** were seen 3/15 at BS, and a pair of **Hooded Mergansers** was found on Council Run near TI 3/21 (FM, JM). Small flocks of **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported from several areas from 4/11-5/9 (TB, FM, JM). Two single **Great Egrets** were seen 5/9: one at BS and one near TI (FM, JM).

An adult **Bald Eagle** 4/21 at BS was being harassed first by a **Common Raven**, and then dived on by an **Osprey** (TB). First **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen 5/3 at GH (FM, JM).

A **Common Moorhen** and **American Coot** were nice finds at BS 5/9 for the PAMC. The first **Killdeer** arrived 3/15 at BS (FM, JM). A pair of **Greater Yellowlegs**, a **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Wilson's Snipe** were seen 4/29 at BS (TB). Three **American Woodcock** were peening at Muzette 3/11, representing *Forest's* earliest record. **American Woodcock** were found in several locations on 3/21 and 5/9. Eight **Common Terns** flying near Whig Hill were a nice find 5/9. (FM, JM).

A **Whip-poor-will** was heard 5/9 at RB. Twenty-seven **Chimney Swifts** were seen 5/9 at TI. The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrived 4/25, the first **Least Flycatcher** was heard 4/26, the first **Eastern Phoebe** was seen 3/28, and the first **Great Crested Flycatcher** was noted 4/28, all near TI. The first **Eastern Kingbird** was spotted 5/9 at RB, the earliest **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen 4/21 near TI. A **Warbling Vireo** at TI 5/9 was a nice find. The first **Red-eyed Vireos** were found 5/9 at several locations (FM, JM).

The earliest **Tree Swallows** were reported 4/21 at BS (TB). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** arrived 4/27 at the Tionesta Outflow, **Bank Swallows** were found 5/9 at TC, **Cliff Swallows** had returned to the Kellettsville Bridge 5/3, and the first **Barn Swallows** were seen 5/3 at GH. **House Wrens** were found at two locations 5/9 (FM, JM).

The first **Hermit Thrush** of the season was seen 4/27 at TI (FM, JM). The first **Wood Thrush** was reported 4/21 at BS, and the earliest **Gray Catbird** was spotted 4/29 at BS (TB). The first **Brown Thrasher** was seen 4/25 near TI (FM, JM).

The earliest **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen 4/29 at GH; **Nashville Warblers** were spotted 4/26, 4/30, and 5/9 at GH; **Northern Parula** was first heard 5/3 at TC; three **Yellow Warblers** and 2 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** arrived 4/27 at GH; **Magnolia Warblers** were discovered at four locations 5/9; **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were found at three locations 5/9. The first **Black-throated Green Warbler** was heard 4/27 at GH; 32 of them were found 5/9 in *Forest*. The first **Blackburnian Warbler** was spotted 4/30 at GH (FM, JM). A **Pine Warbler** was a nice find 4/29 at BS (TB). Three **Palm Warblers** were seen foraging in some fallen trees 5/9, when 3 **Black-and-white Warblers** were found at separate locations in RB. The first **American Redstart** was seen 5/3 at TC, and the first **Ovenbird** 5/4 at GH. On 5/9, 40 **Ovenbirds** were tallied in *Forest* (FM, JM). **Common Yellowthroat** was first reported 4/29 at BS (TB). Seven **Hooded Warblers** were found 5/9 at GH, and 6 others at different locations (FM, JM).

The first **Scarlet Tanager** was noted 5/9 at GH; **Eastern Towhee** arrived 3/14 near TI. The last **American Tree Sparrow** was seen 3/15 near TI, where the first **Chipping Sparrow** was spotted 4/6, the last **Fox Sparrow** noted 4/10, the last **White-crowned Sparrow** was seen 5/9, and the first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen 4/25. The first **Indigo Bunting** was noted 4/29 at GH, and thirteen **Bobolinks** were seen 5/9 at RB. **Red-winged Blackbirds** were first noted 3/8 at feeders near TI, and 50 were tallied 5/9 at RB. The first **Baltimore Oriole** was spotted 4/29 at GH (FM, JM).

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Margaret Buckwalter, Ted Buckwalter, Jim McGuire.

Franklin County

No report.

Compiler: **Dale L. Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256, (717) 860-5799, dgearhart01@comcast.net**.

Fulton County

A **Lesser Scaup** was observed at Buck Valley ponds to at least 5/18. In the Buck Valley area 5/18, **Northern Bobwhite** was detected. Along McKibbin Lane two individuals were countersinging and another bird was calling by Buck Valley Rd. It is worth noting that two miles away a person raises this game bird. Undoubtedly these Bobwhite records were stocked individuals.

Two very vocal **Red-shouldered Hawks** were discovered along Tonoloway Creek north of Needmore 5/10.

Fish Crow records were reported as far north as Hustontown 5/19.

Numerous migrant warblers were observed: including **Tennessee Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, and **Wilson's Warblers**.

A few **Blue Grosbeaks** were found: a pair nesting at the Buck Valley Church 5/18 and a male along Dublin Mills Rd. near Hustontown 5/19.

Mid-May still had **Bobolinks** lingering in the county with a high of 8 at W. Orchard Rd. 5/11.

Observers: **Dan Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan_snell@hotmail.com**.

Greene County

Locations: Claylick Road (CL), East View (EV), Hunting Hills Farm (HH), Kern Farm (KF), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Richhill Township (RT), Rogersville (RV), Sycamore (SY), Waynesburg Sportsman Club (WSC).

This year, March started out quite cold in *Greene*. Regardless of—or maybe because of—the weather, the birds flocked to the feeders, and even though the cold hung for several days, the “summer” birds started turning up and tuning up. Nearly every day in March it seemed one observer or another reported their “first” sighting or hearing of a species returning for the breeding season. Not much can be said about April and May except that they were cold and wet. Thankfully the birds went about doing what they were here to do, providing us with some good bird watching and listening in the meantime.

A **Mallard** nest was discovered 6/6 at LCR under a shrub next to the mailbox, just two feet off the busy road. There was a nice depression in some leaves with a few feathers and remains of five eggs, all cracked in half. I had seen Mallards in the yard earlier and actually chased them out of the water garden a few times, but didn't know they had nested so near the road (MLP). **Wood Ducks** made their appearance at CL 4/1 (LA). On 4/21 four **Blue Winged Teal** were spotted at WSC (JH). This pond is not large but is nicely sheltered by pine, and since we don't have many other bodies of water, it makes for a stop-over spot for the migrants.

The **Wild Turkeys'** displays seem to be more stunning every year. At LCR they began in late Mar and lasted through the first half of Apr. On 4/18 MLP tells of one lone Jake that wandered under her feeders where a pair squirrel was feeding. The squirrel actually tried to attack the much larger bird several times as if he were trying to protect his stash of food on the ground. The Jake had to jump high to avoid contact with the squirrel.

While watching from her back porch (her favorite “perch”) in RV on 3/6, several **Great Blue Herons** were spied returning to their rookery for the summer (MG). Once in a while we get a surprise visitor in *Greene* such as the **Cattle Egret** that MW found in his yard in Morgan Twp. He quickly called RKB who positively identified the bird 4/29. A lone **Black Vulture** was seen with 3 **Turkey Vultures** at HH Farm by D&J 5/18. The earliest **Turkey Vultures** were noted in RV 3/5 (MG). She noted there was a kettle of at least 50 individuals. Several observers noted an **Osprey** at Enlow State Game Lands 4/26. Another **Osprey** was seen in RV 4/29 and again 5/26 and 5/31 (MG).

The first **Broad Winged Hawk** was reported in RT 5/9 (MH). These hawks are getting to be hard to find in *Greene*. A lone **Spotted Sandpiper** was found at CL 4/15 (LA). The cuckoo family members appeared mid-May. The first **Black Billed Cuckoo** was heard at RBF 5/16 (RBK) and the first **Yellow Billed Cuckoo** was noted 5/9 in RT (MH). A rare treat was a **Whip-poor-will** heard at RBF by CDB 4/29 in the early morning. It was heard again that evening (RBK) but apparently moved on as it was not heard again. The first **Chimney Swift** was reported in RV 4/24 (MG). Always arriving early, the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted at CL 4/9 (LA). A **Belted Kingfisher** was found at CL 3/14 (LA).

The first **Eastern Phoebe** showed up at KF 3/8 (KK), and the first **Eastern Kingbird** was found 5/9 at LCR (MLP). A **White Eyed Vireo** found HH to his liking 3/27 (SS). The early **Purple Martin** scout returned to RBF 4/1, but was later than the **Tree Swallows**, who arrived there 3/18 (RKB). By 3/31 the **Tree Swallows** at LCR were checking out the bluebird boxes, but unfortunately the House Sparrows won (by 6/10 MLP had cleaned out 4 sparrow nests, each with 5 eggs in it). The **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** swooped in 4/8 at WSC (JH), while the **Barn Swallows** showed up 4/8 at CL (LA).

The last time a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was heard at RBF was

4/5 RKB. **House Wrens** showed up at EV 4/25 (MH). Near SY, 4 **Carolina Wren** fledglings left their nest 4/28 (JC). RBF hosted the latest **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 4/13 (RKB). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** appeared at EV 4/12 (MH). **Eastern Bluebirds** were found to be feeding young in a nest box in the yard at LCR by 4/26, the same day the **Wood Thrushes** returned (MLP). **Gray Catbirds** arrived the same day but in SY (JC). Both were later than the **Brown Thrasher** 4/10 at SY (JC). The holly berries at RBF drew in 7 **Cedar Waxwings** (RKB).

An early **Blue Winged Warbler** arrived 3/27 at HH (SS). A **Northern Parula** arrived 4/25 at EV (MH) and a **Yellow Warbler** arrived at RBF the same day (RKB). First noted at EV 4/12 was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** (MH). Long a stronghold for **Cerulean Warblers**, the first was 4/24 at RBF (RKB). The earliest **Black-and-white Warbler** came to the WSC 4/27 (JH) and two were seen at RBF 5/7 (CDB). **Ovenbirds** arrived at HH 3/27 (SS). Always listening for the **Louisiana Waterthrush** at RBF, RKB heard the first of the season 4/5.

A **Scarlet Tanager** arrived at HH 3/29 (SS), while on 3/10 an **Eastern Towhee** and 3/29 a **Chipping Sparrow** came to RBF (RKB). The first **Field Sparrow** was at HH 4/22 (SS). Lingered until 4/28 **White-throated Sparrows** were not seen again at HH (SS). Found very late was a **White-crowned Sparrow** 5/31 near Garard's Fort during a Breeding Bird Survey (KK, SS). The **Dark-eyed Juncos** left RBF 4/23 (RKB).

Near SY a **Rose Breasted Grosbeak** showed up 4/27 (JC). On 3/29 at HH an **Indigo Bunting** started setting up territory (SS). With one of the shorter stays on breeding grounds, **Bobolinks** were not found until 5/5 at RBF (RKB). **Eastern Meadowlarks** had arrived 3/7 (RKB). One would think the orioles would show up about the same time, but not so this year. The **Orchard Oriole** was first observed 4/25 at SY (JC), and a **Baltimore Oriole** had come to HH 3/28 (SS).

At the feeders at LCR, 4/18 was the last day for **Purple Finches** to show up (MLP). Though **Pine Siskins** were quite abundant this winter they left RBF at the usual time of 4/22 (RKB). There seem to be no shortages of **American Goldfinches** at LCR. In late Apr more than 40 were counted on the thistle and sunflower feeders (MLP). She states her still bare apple tree looked like it had bright yellow Easter eggs hung all over it. Thanks to all observers for their contributions and comments.

Observers: **Kathy Kern, 322 Kennel Road, Waynesburg, PA, 15370, (724) 627-5376, n3xsj@windstream.net**, Lyn Argent, C. David Bell (CDB), Ralph K. Bell, Jan Churney, Myra Gibson, Jerry Howard, Marj Howard, Mary LaPlante, Don and Joan Pattison, Sally Sisler, Michael Wilson.

Huntingdon County

Locations: Aitch Access Lake Raystown (AA), Alan Seeger Natural Area (AS), Greenwood Furnace SP (GFSP), Lake Perez (LP), Lake Raystown (LR), Lower Trail at Water Street (LT), Old Crow Wetland (OC), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Summit Schoolhouse Road (SSR), Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch (TMHW), Whipple Dam SP (WDSP).

The spring waterfowl migration over TMHW was excellent (JK, NB). A total of 1731 **Tundra Swans** was recorded with a high of 696 on 3/13. The high count for **Canada Geese** was 820 on 3/10. **Common Loons** were well represented with a total of 668 and a high of 107 on 3/31. On 4/24, 80 **Double-crested Cormorants** passed the watch.

Notable ducks at LP included 12 **American Wigeons** 4/3, 7 **Northern Shovelers** 3/19, and 34 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/18 (DW). A raft of 35 **Red-breasted Mergansers** was at AA 4/15. A **Red-necked Grebe** was on LR near Entriaken 3/7-21 (DK, TK). Four **Great Egrets** at AA 4/1 were notable both for number and early date (DK, TK).

It was an excellent season also for the raptor flight at TMHW. The feature bird is, of course, **Golden Eagle**. The season total of 200 was the second highest ever (following the 225 in 2008) (JK, NB, CW, et al.). High counts of Golden Eagles occurred on 3/5 (28), 3/7 (32), 3/9 (27), and 3/18 (37). Several other raptors were also above average: **Osprey** (97), **Bald Eagle** (36), **Red-shouldered Hawk** (51), **Broad-winged Hawk** (661), **Red-tailed Hawk** (492), and **American Kestrel** (57).

A **Virginia Rail** was heard at OC 5/6 (TK, DK) and 5/9 (GG). **Sandhill Cranes** are reported with increasing frequency in central Pennsylvania. At TMHW, cranes were seen in passage over the ridge on three occasions: 4/18 (2), 4/24 (2), and 4/25 (3) (NB, JK). Five **Wilson's Snipe** were found near Marklesburg 3/26 (DK, TK). Two

Caspian Terns were in the area of the dam at LR 4/11 (DK, TK).

Two **Barn Owls** were found by teams doing the SCEC Birding Cup (DW, JP, et al.). **Barred Owls** were heard at AS, a regular location, on several occasions. Two **Long-eared Owls** were still at a winter location on private land in northern *Huntingdon* 3/15 (JC, DW, JK). **Common Nighthawks** are hanging on as summer residents and presumed breeders in *Huntingdon*; the first back was on 5/7 (DK, TK). Two or 3 **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, hard to find in the county, were at SSR 5/1 (DW) and 5/8 (DK, TK), a location where they have been found with some regularity in recent years.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at AS 5/2 was a bit early (GG, DG, TK, DK). Unusual in spring was a **Philadelphia Vireo** at GFSP 5/9 (DG). **Fish Crows** are well-established summer residents, but a count of 15 at OC 4/8 was unusually high (DK, TK). While manning TMHW, JK watched **Common Ravens** carry sticks throughout the day 3/31. A Penn State ornithology class outing to WDSP led by Margaret Brittingham found a **Common Raven** nest with young attended by the adults 4/22. A **Marsh Wren** was found at AA 5/2 (*fide* DW); another was at OC 5/4 (DK, TK).

Rare in spring, a **Cape May Warbler** was near *Huntingdon* 5/27 (DK, TK). By 4/18, **Yellow-throated Warblers** had returned to LT, the most reliable location in *Huntingdon* for this locally rare breeder (DK, TK). Common breeders at LT, **Cerulean Warblers** were back 4/25 (DK, TK). There have been only one or two previous records of **Prothonotary Warbler** in *Huntingdon*. However, this spring there were two reports, one at LT 5/9 (JK) and a second at GFSP 5/24 (JZ). A **Kentucky Warbler**, another rare *Huntingdon* breeder, was found on Bunn Mt. 5/29 (DK, TK). Very early were 2 **Mourning Warblers** at AA 4/29 (DK, TK).

A **Swamp Sparrow** was seen carrying nest material in a cattail marsh near Mill Creek on the Juniata River 4/21 (DK, TK); Swamp Sparrows are very rare nesters in the county, especially at low elevation locations such as Mill Creek.

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Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Creekside (CS), Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Reservoir Hill in Indiana (RH), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TR), West Lebanon (WL), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

All waterfowl reports are from YC unless otherwise noted. Twelve **Snow Geese** flew over YC 3/13 (LC). Top **Canada Goose** count was 668 on 3/7 (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH). First **Tundra Swans** were 294 on 3/10 (LC, MH); another 512 passed through the park 3/13 (LC); the last noted was a singleton 4/10 (LC).

The date of return for many waterfowl species was 3/7, a day which also produced many peak numbers. Thirty-three was the high **Wood Duck** count 3/7 (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH), the same day the first 14 **Gadwalls** arrived; high count of 27 Gadwalls occurred 3/10 (LC, MH), and the season's last were 2 on 4/2 (BJ). First **American Wigeons** were two at Tide 3/1 (LC) while YC's high tally of 27 occurred 3/7 (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH). Top counts of 28 **American Black Ducks** and 103 **Mallards** were respectively achieved 3/3 (LC) and 3/7 (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH). **Blue-winged Teal** first showed up 3/7 (EF, MF) with the high of 48 on 4/10 (LC); last spotted was one 4/29 (LC, MH, DL). After the first 4 arrivals 3/7 (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH), **Northern Shoveler** numbers peaked at 18 on 3/19 (LC); one 4/14 (LC, MH) was last. **Northern Pintails** continued moving through 3/10 (LC, MH) when 44 were noted. Top tally of **Green-winged Teal** was 28 on 3/7 (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH). **Canvasbacks** spiked at 16 on 3/19 (LC); a female still lingered on the lake 4/24 (LC, MH, GL, DL, MVT). YC yielded 176 **Redheads** 3/19 (LC) and 340 **Ring-necked Ducks** 4/10 (LC, MH). **Greater Scaup** moved through between 3/10 (LC, MH) and 4/23 (LC) with high count of 13 on 3/31 (LC, MH, MVT). Top **Lesser Scaup** tally was 182 on 3/19 (LC). **Long-tailed Ducks** was first noted 3/19 (KB) at Conemaugh Dam; YC yielded 33 on 3/19 (MH) and 2 on 3/31 (LC, MH, MVT). **Buffleheads** did not appear in their usual high numbers with best count a mere 59 on 4/10 (LC); last reported were 6 on 4/29 (LC, MH, DL). Three **Common Goldeneyes** 3/7 (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH) comprised the entire report for this species. A good count of 61 **Hooded Mergansers** was achieved

3/13 (LC); six were last noted at YC 4/16 (EF, MF). A single **Common Merganser** near Nashville 5/9 (SBa) was the lone report. First **Red-breasted Mergansers** arrived 3/7, both at YC (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH) and at TR (LC); top tally of 112 occurred 3/19 (LC); last noted were 3 on 5/19 (MH). Forty **Ruddy Ducks** landed at YC 3/10 (LC, MH), providing the highest count; last reported were 6 at Timber Lake (GL, GS) and 3 at Musser's Lake (MS, JT), all 5/9.

Only 6 **Ruffed Grouse** were counted on this year's PAMC, only one-third as many as the 2008 count. **Wild Turkeys** were mentioned at many locations with largest flock including 116 n. of IN 3/4 (SB); that flock gradually dwindled to 11 individuals by 5/31 (SB).

A **Red-throated Loon** stopped on the lake at YC 4/16 (LC); another was spotted at YC 5/9 (EF, MF, GL, GS). First **Common Loon** 3/8 (MH) flew over SH; last noted was one at YC 5/19 (MH). **Pied-billed Grebe** first appeared 3/7 (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH) at YC while the rather low top count of only 19 occurred 3/21 (LC, MH, RH). **Horned Grebes** numbered 25 at YC 3/19 (MH); last reported were 2 at YC 5/9 (GL, GS). YC harbored a **Red-necked Grebe** 3/19 (MH) and 2 on 3/31 (LC, MH, MVT).

A **Double-crested Cormorant** appeared at YC 3/20 (EF, MF, MH); 20 was YC's high 4/10 (LC); 8 flew over SH 4/22 (MH), and one lingered at YC through the end of the season. The Plum Creek herony contained only 3 active **Great Blue Heron** nests 5/9 (JT). First **Great Egret** visited YC 3/7 (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH) while another stopped at Nolo 4/25 (AB, DB). First **Green Heron** arrived at YC 4/21 (LC, MH, MVT). A well described **Black Vulture** was found on the PAMC 5/9 (BB), a second county record. First **Turkey Vultures** were spotted near IN 3/12 (RH) and at YC 3/13 (LC); by 4/7 (LC) 28 had congregated at TR.

Ospreys moved through YC between 3/28 (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH, JSc, TS) and 5/2 (LC), but none stayed to nest. The 13 **Bald Eagle** reports received included a first-year bird and 2 second-year birds at YC 3/7 (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH); single adults at Saylor Park (LC) and near LV (DC, MC), both 3/13; one at Conemaugh Dam 3/19 (KB); and an adult at Nolo 3/27 (CL, GL) and again 4/26 (AB, DB). YC yielded a **Northern Harrier** 3/17 (LC, MH, MVT); last recorded was one near Penn Run 5/11 (LC). **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were respectively listed at 13 and 10 locations during the period. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were noted only at YC with the resident pair ushering an interloper from their territory 3/10 (LC, MH). **Broad-winged Hawks** arrived 4/14 (LC, MH) at YC and 4/16 (MH) near SH.

The YC **American Coots** peaked at 157 on 3/27 (LC), little more than half last spring's peak number; 5 were still present 5/12 (MH, MVT). A **Sandhill Crane** flew over the LV area 3/8 (MC). First 2 **Killdeer** arrived 3/7 (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH) at YC. One to 4 **Greater Yellowlegs** visited YC on ten days between 3/27 (LC) and 4/24 (LC, MH, GL, DL, MVT); 12 was a nice count at YC 4/16 (EF, MF). Single **Lesser Yellowlegs** appeared at YC 4/16 (LC) and 4/29 (LC, MH, DL); another was found 5/9 (MS, JT) at Ernest. Three **Solitary Sandpipers** at YC were first arrivals 4/28 (LC, MH, MVT); last noted were 2 at WL 5/9 (MC, AS). Arrival date for **Spotted Sandpiper** was 4/24 (LC, MH, GL, DL, MVT) at YC where a pontoon ride 5/5 (MA, MH, JS, MSh, MVT) yielded 4 spotties. **Dunlin** reports included 2 on 4/16 (EF, MF) and 4/17 (LC) and one 4/21 (LC, MH, MVT), all at YC. First 2 **Wilson's Snipe** were found at YC 3/24 (LC) while last noted occurred there 4/24 (LC, MH, GL, DL, MVT). First **American Woodcocks** were not found until 4/8 (ED) near SH and 4/17 (AB, DB) at Nolo; one was still performing its mating ritual near CS 5/31 (MH).

Top **Bonaparte's Gull** tallies included 86 on 4/10 (LC) and 262 on 4/17 (LC) at YC. The highest **Ring-billed Gull** count of 92 occurred at YC 3/7 (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH). One **Caspian Tern** 4/16 (EF, MF) and 2 on 4/24 (LC, MH, GL, DL, MVT) were the only ones reported. Twelve **Common Terns** were found at YC 5/9 (EF, MF). A **Forster's Tern** arrived 4/17 (LC); 65 was a healthy count 5/9 (EF, MF, GL, GS). A **Black Tern** 5/9 (GL, GS) was the only one reported.

Cuckoo arrival dates included 5/8 (MC) near LV for **Black-billed Cuckoo** and 5/9 (m.ob.) for **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** at Saltsburg (MAD) and near LV (MC, AS). Four fledgling **Eastern Screech-Owls** were photographed near CS 5/22 (fide ED). **Great Horned Owl** was noted at Nolo 3/19 (DB), and the food begging calls of the young were heard at Hemlock Lake 5/9 (SC, MH, RH, JJ). **Barred Owls** were noted at only 3 locations (m.ob.) this spring. A **Short-eared Owl** at WL 4/16 (MH, RH) was observed catching and eating a vole. First **Chimney Swifts** were found 4/27 (MH, RH) near WL and 4/28 (LC, MH, DL) at YC. First **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** arrived 4/25 (MC) near LV and 4/26 (MA) near CS.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** appeared 5/9 (GS) near Nolo. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were last sighted near SH 4/16 (MH) and at BS 4/18 (LC, MH, RH, BM).

Eastern Wood-Pewees and **Acadian Flycatchers** in various parts of the county (m.ob.) appeared first on 5/9 (m.ob.). Singing **Alder Flycatchers** were also found 5/9 at Saltsburg (MAD) and in Center Twp. (LC, RC). May 19 (MH) was the date of return for **Willow Flycatcher** at YC. YC yielded the first **Least Flycatchers** 4/28 (LC, MH, MVT). The earliest **Eastern Phoebe** occurred 3/13 (AB, DB) at Nolo. **Great Crested Flycatchers** were first found in various parts of the county 5/9 (m.ob.). **Eastern Kingbird** returned 4/27 (MH, RH) near WL and 5/5 (MA, MH, JS, MSh, MVT) at YC. Vireo dates of return included 4/27 (MC) for **White-eyed Vireo** near LV; 4/14 (LC, MH) for **Blue-headed Vireo** at YC; 5/1 (PJ) for **Yellow-throated Vireos** on RH; 5/9 (EF, MF) for **Warbling Vireo** at Conemaugh Dam; and 5/1 (PJ) for **Red-eyed Vireos** on RH. A **Philadelphia Vireo** found at YC 5/12 (MH, MVT) was the lone report.

Fish Crows were found near the IUP co-op 3/27, 4/19 (RW) and at Oakland Cemetery 5/9 (TSi). Four **Common Ravens** were found 5/9 (m.ob.) across the county. A **Purple Martin** visited YC 4/24 (LC, MH, MVT), the lone report. Arrival dates included 3/20 (EF, MF, MH) for **Tree Swallow**, 3/31 (MH) for **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, 5/9 (v.o.) for **Bank Swallow**, 4/14 (LC, MH) for **Cliff Swallow**, and 4/7 (LC, MH) for **Barn Swallow**, all at YC. A **Carolina Chickadee** continued near LV 5/9 (MC). A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** excavated a cavity near SH 4/16 (MH), but no activity was seen at the site after the hole was completed. The nuthatches, however, were present through the end of the period in the same area.

First **House Wren** returned 4/15 (JM) to IN, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** arrived 4/11 (3RBC, TBC) at YC. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** appeared at YC 4/21 (LC, MH, MVT). The only **Veeries** reported were 2 near LV 5/9 (MC, AS) and one near Blairsville 5/29 (AW). Three **Swainson's Thrush** passed overhead near LV 5/9 (MC, AS), and one was observed at BS 5/22 (MH). April 21 (LC, MH, MVT) yielded 4 **Hermit Thrushes** at YC; 8 were listed on the PAMC 5/9 (m.ob.). First **Wood Thrushes** appeared 4/25 near LV (MC) and the following day at Nolo (GL). After several reports of wintering **Gray Catbirds**, returnees arrived near WL 4/27 (MH, RH) and at YC 4/28 (LC, MH, MVT). **Brown Thrasher** was seen first 4/5 both at YC (AW) and near LV (MC).

Once again this year warblers dribbled through our region with no major fallouts. Four **Blue-winged Warblers** were found at YC 4/28 (LC, MH, MVT). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a nice find at Blacklick Valley Natural Area 5/23 (LC, MH, RH). **Tennessee Warblers** migrated through our county between 5/9 (m.ob.) and 5/19 (MH). **Nashville Warbler** arrived 4/25 (MC) near LV while the last 7 were listed 5/9 (m.ob.). **Northern Parula** arrived 4/28 (LC, MH, MVT) at YC and 5/1 on RH (PJ). First **Yellow Warblers** appeared 4/24 near SH (MH) and 4/26 (MH, RH) near CS (MH). Other warbler first dates included 4/29 (DL) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at YC; 5/1 (PJ) for **Magnolia Warbler** on RH; 5/9 (MAD) for **Cape May Warbler** at Saltsburg, the only report; 5/9 (EF, MF) for **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at YC; and 4/11 (3RBC, TBC) for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at YC. Best **Yellow-rumped Warbler** count was 13 at YC 4/28 (LC, MH, MVT); 2 at YC 5/15 (CG, MH, RH, LW) were last. Earliest **Black-throated Green Warbler** and **Blackburnian Warbler** occurred respectively on 4/16 (EF, MF) at YC and 5/9 (m.ob.) on the PAMC. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were noted at three locations 5/9 (m.ob.). **Pine Warblers** returned to YC 3/14 (EF, MF) and near SH 3/24 (MH, RH). The SH area yielded the season's first **Prairie Warbler** 5/1 (MH). The only location producing **Palm Warblers** this spring was YC where 4 were noted 4/28 (LC, MH, MVT) and 2, the following day (LC, MH, DL). The season's only **Bay-breasted Warblers** were found 4/29 (DL) at YC, 5/9 (PJ) on RH, and 5/12 (MH, MVT) at YC. **Blackpoll Warblers** were first recorded 5/12 (MH, MVT) at YC; other reports included as many as 6 at YC 5/19 (MH) with last report of 2 at BS 5/22 (MH). **Cerulean Warblers** included one found on 5/9 (MC, AS) in Young Twp. and one near Blairsville 5/31 (MH, RH). First dates included 4/28 (LC, MH, MVT) for **Black-and-white Warbler** at YC; 5/9 (m.ob.) for **American Redstart** across the county; 5/5 (MA, MH, JS, MSh, MVT) for **Worm-eating Warbler** at YC; and 4/27 (MH, RH) for **Ovenbird** near WL. **Northern Waterthrush** was recorded only at BS 5/11 (MH) and at YC 5/15 (CG, MH, RH, LW) and 5/19 (MH). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was first found at YC 4/21 (LC, MH, MVT) and near WL 4/27 (MH, RH). Other first dates included 5/9 (m.ob.) at four locations for **Kentucky Warbler** and 4/28 (LC, MH, MVT) at YC for both **Common Yellowthroat** and **Hooded Warbler**. YC yielded the first **Yellow-breasted Chat** 4/2 (LC, MH, DL).

First **Scarlet Tanager** surfaced near LV 4/26 (MC). First returning **Eastern Towhee** occurred 3/27 (LC) at Saylor Park. **American Tree Sparrow** lingered 3/26 (SB) n. of IN and 4/6 (MC) near LV, where the first **Chipping Sparrow** arrived 3/31 (MC). First **Vesper Sparrow** was found near SH 5/7 (RH). **Savannah Sparrows** were found at seven locations 5/9 (m.ob.). Four **Grasshopper Sparrows** were singing at the Gipsy strips 5/9 (SC, MH, RH, JJ). A nocturnal trip to the WL strips added 12 **Henslow's Sparrows** to the PAMC count (MC, AS); the usual SGL field near Gipsy for Henslow's had been treated with herbicide and was barren 5/9 (SC, MH, RH, JJ) so no birds were present. **Fox Sparrows** moved through our area between 3/3 (LC) and 4/15 (CL, GL). A **White-throated Sparrow** remained near Smicksburg through 5/9 (MM, NS). **White-crowned Sparrows** were noted between 5/6 (MH) and 5/16 (LC) with 6 counted at Oakland Cemetery 5/9 (TSi).

Arrival date was 4/24 (MH) for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** near SH. Dates of return included 4/27 near LV (MC) for **Indigo Bunting**; 5/7 (CL, GL) both near Strongstown and at Spruce for **Bobolink**, and 3/7 (LC, RG, SG, MH, RH) for **Eastern Meadowlark** at YC. **Rusty Blackbirds** were once again in low numbers with all reports at YC; 7 was the best count 3/31 (LC, MH, MVT) and a single bird 5/12 (MH, MVT) seemed late. **Orchard Oriole** was first listed 4/28 (BM, KM) near Jacksonville while **Baltimore Orioles** arrived 4/25 (MC) near LV. **Pine Siskins** were still reported near Home (JT) and n. of IN (SB) 5/13.

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Jefferson County

No report.

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Juniata County

Locations: Cedar Springs Road (CSR), Cocolamus Dam (CD), Cuba Mills Road (CMR), Hower Gap Road (HGR), Juniata Forest (JF), Licking Creek Road (LCR), Locust Run (LR), Lost Creek Shoe Shop (LCSS), Mifflintown River Access (MRA), Mountain Road (MR), Muskrat Springs River Access (MSRA), Oakland Mills (OM), Port Royal River Bridge (PRRB), Thompsontown River Bridge (TTRB), Texas Hollow Road (THR).

Bad weather 2/27 brought down large numbers of **Tundra Swans**, **Snow Goose** (including blue phase), and **Ring-billed Gulls** to add to larger than usual **Canada Goose** in the area (CK, BM, AT). Fifteen **Tundra Swan** were observed at PRRB 3/19 (AM). A raft of 28 **Common Mergansers** were at TTRB 2/9 (LW).

The Winter Raptor Survey occurred this year 2/3, and we had some great birds and numbers. We had a deceptively dark buteo that resulted in a lot of questions and suggestions, but evidence seemed to indicate a western race of the **Red-tailed Hawk**. We counted 51 species of birds with 9 raptors. An immature **Golden Eagle** was the other highlight of the count (CK, BM, MM, AT). Two **Bald Eagles** were found at TTRB 2/9 (LW). The third **Bald Eagle** nest was confirmed in our county 2/17. Just two years ago we didn't have any nests, just rumors. From the three nests, 7 eaglets fledged with one perishing just a week after fledging (CK, JS, AT, DW).

Flooded fields provided some shorebird habitat for our area. **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Killdeer** were found in OM 5/4.

Late evening birding 5/4 provided some great looks at **Whip-poor-**

wills at MR, with several confronting each other on the black top road. It was not known whether they were opposite sex courting, or the same sex fighting (CK, AT). The first **Whip-poor-will** of the spring was found 4/18 at JF (AnT). Two **Barn Owls** were seen flying and around a barn silo in Oakland Mills 3/22 (HP). A single **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was seen perched on a Port Royal back porch 2/27 (DP).

A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was visiting flowers at the LCSS 4/20 (MT). The first **Purple Martin** of the year was seen at MSRA (EP) 4/27 and the first **Cliff Swallow** visited a barn at CMR 4/27 (RS). The first **Tree Swallows** were bickering at LCSS 3/23 (AT, MT). A singing **Winter Wren**, **Swainson's Thrush**, and **Dark-eyed Junco** and were located on a Breeding Bird Atlas run along MR and HGR (CK, HP).

Golden winged Warblers as well as a single **Brewster's Warbler** were found in three locations around MR 5/25 (CK). A **Brewster's Warbler** was seen and heard at MR 4/27 (CK, HP). First of the year birds found at the JF 4/18 included **Magnolia Warbler** and **Worm-eating Warbler** (AnT). On 4/30 a **Kentucky Warbler** was seen at MR (AT).

A flock of approximately 50 **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen at LCSS 3/23 (AT, MT).

Several **Purple Finches** were visiting area feeders during the season (CK). Three **White-winged Crossbills** were seen at a feeder in OM 2/9 (HP). A few female **White-winged Crossbills** were frequenting a feeder for several days around 3/2 at THR (DW). Two **Common Redpolls** visited a feeder at LCR 3/3 (DB). Extremely large numbers of **American Goldfinches** and **Pine Siskins** visited feeders in the area with numbers over 200 of each species at times (CK, AT).

The PAMC was conducted 5/9, totaling 147 species by 23 observers. This included 7 species of waterfowl, 11 raptors, 7 shorebirds, 4 owls, 6 flycatchers, 4 vireos, all swallows except Bank, 27 warblers, and 12 sparrows. Highlights of the count were: **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **American Pipit**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Golden-winged Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Palm Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Kentucky Warbler**, **Canada Warbler**, **Clay-colored Sparrow**, **Dark-eyed Junco**, and **Purple Finch**.

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Lackawanna County

Locations: Beaver Pond Clarks Summit (BP), Hoppy Rd (HR), Jack Stroney Soccer Field (JSSF), Lackawanna State Forest (LSF), Lackawanna State Park (LSP), Lake Scranton (LS).

Note: P&LM reported all sightings from the PAMC 5/9.

Six **Common Mergansers** were seen 4/1 at BP (CL) and one remained for the PMC. A lone **Snow Goose** was seen on the PMC. Two **Wood Ducks** were seen 4/1 at BP (CL), 2 were on HR 5/2 (CL) and 3 were on the PMC. On 3/25, 8 **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen at Ford's Pond (CL). Two **Great Blue Herons** were seen 4/1 at BP (CL) and 3 more were seen on the PAMC. **Green Herons** were seen 4/29 and 5/8 at Orchard Rd. and Clarkson Rd. respectively (CL).

Ruffed Grouse were seen at HR 5/2 (CL). The PAMC also produced 3 **Turkey Vultures**, one **Cooper's Hawk**, and one **Red-shouldered Hawk**. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were also nesting in Dalton over this reporting period (CL). Other raptors of note: **Bald Eagle** at Glenburn Pond 3/25 (CL), single **Osprey** at LSP 4/26 (GWWAS) and 5/2 at Hoppy Rd (CL) and **American Kestrel** on the PAMC 5/9 and at JSSF (JG).

Shorebird reports were scarce. **Killdeer** were seen 5/9 on the PAMC and at JSSF (JG). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** and one **Spotted Sandpiper** were seen on the PAMC. Also on the PAMC was a **Belted Kingfisher**.

Pileated Woodpeckers were seen on HR 5/2 (CL) and on the PAMC, which also counted a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**. A **Brown Creeper** was seen 5/5 at LSF (CL).

Migrant **Eastern Kingbirds** arrived by 5/9 for the PMC and on 5/13 at LSP (CL). **Eastern Phoebe** was seen starting 5/2 at Hoppy Rd

(CL) and 5/9 on the PAMC. On 5/29, **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was at LS and in the general area was an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** (DB). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were seen on the PMC and at LS 5/29 (DB). Seven **Red-eyed Vireos** were on the PMC and they were also seen at LS 5/29 (DB). Two **Common Ravens** were seen on the PAMC. **Barn Swallows** returned in *Lackawanna* by 5/8 when they were seen off Erhardt Rd. (CL) and on the PAMC 5/9. The PAMC also reported 10 **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, one **Purple Martin**, and 58 **Tree Swallows**. Other swallow reports included early migrant **Tree Swallows** 4/1 at BP (CL).

House Wren was seen on the PAMC. On 5/8, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen at Erhardt Rd. (CL). Seven **Hermit Thrushes** and 2 **Veery** were reported on the PAMC. **Hermit Thrush** was also seen 5/10 on Bear Hollow Rd (CL) and **Veery** was also spotted along HR (CL). **Gray Catbirds** returned by 5/8 (CL).

Thirteen warbler species were reported this period. **American Redstart** was seen 5/8 at HR (CL) and on the PAMC. **Black-and-white Warblers** were spotted 5/2 at HR (CL) and 5/5 at LSF (CL); 3 on the PAMC and at LS 5/29 (DB). **Blackburnian** and **Blackpoll Warblers** were seen on the PAMC and 5/29 at LS (DB). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were seen 4/26 at LSP (CL), 16 were tallied during the PAMC and 5/29 at LS (DB). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were seen on both the PAMC and 5/9 at JSSF (JG). **Common Yellowthroats** were seen at Old Rocky Glen Park 4/29 (CL) and 8 were on the PAMC. Nay Aug Park held a **Louisiana Waterthrush** 5/5 (TG). **Ovenbirds** were reported 5/5 at LSF (CL), 26 on the PAMC and 5/29 at LS (DB). The PAMC produced a single **Prairie Warbler** and 16 **Yellow Warblers**. In addition, **Yellow Warblers** were seen 4/29 at Port Royal Rd, 5/2 at HR and 5/8 at Orchard Rd. (CL). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was spotted 5/2 at HR (CL).

Scarlet Tanagers returned by 5/8 when they were seen at HR (CL). Also, 13 **Scarlet Tanagers** were seen on the PAMC and 5/29 at LS (DB).

Chipping Sparrows were back by 5/9 on the PAMC, which also reported 5 **Dark-eyed Juncos** and 4 **Field Sparrows**. **Eastern Towhee** were heard near JSSF 5/9 (JG) and 5/29 at LS (DB). A **Swamp Sparrow** was reported at LSP (GWVAS).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported 5/5 and 5/8 at LSF and Orchard Rd (CL) and 5 were reported on the PAMC. **Baltimore Orioles** returned by 5/2 where CL saw one at HR and 5/8 at Orchard Rd. **Baltimore Orioles** were also heard on 5/9 at JSSF (JG) and 15 were counted on the PMC. Two **Bobolinks** were seen 4/29 at Ford's Pond and more were seen 5/8 at Erhardt Rd (CL). The PAMC also tallied 5 **Bobolinks** as well as the only report of a single **Eastern Meadowlark** and 102 **Red-winged Blackbirds**.

The PAMC also reported 2 **Purple Finches**.

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Lancaster County

Locations: Susquehanna River (SR), Middlecreek WMA (MC), Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SCRF), Susquehanna River, Long Level (SRL), Wood's Edge Pond (WE), Octoraro Lake (OL).

This year marked the fourteenth year that *Lancaster* has participated in the Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC). The rarest species reported from the count was a **Little Gull**. The compiler Bruce Carl writes, "the Lancaster County PAMC species count came in at 167 species for the day. All 14 years that Lancaster County has participated with count we have been at 160 species or above. Some of the species highlights are as follows: **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Bufflehead**, all 3 mergansers, **Ruddy Duck**, **Northern Harrier**, **Merlin**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Wild Turkey**, **Northern Bobwhite**, **Black-bellied Plover**, **Dunlin**, **Little Gull**, **Bonaparte's Gull**, **Common Tern**, **Common Nighthawk**, seven woodpecker species, **Horned Lark**, **Swainson's Thrush**, **American Pipit**, all 6 swallow species, **Blue-headed Vireo**, 30 warbler species which included **Tennessee**, **Cape May**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Blackburnian**, **Yellow-throated**, **Pine**, **Prairie**, **Palm**, **Blackpoll**, **Cerulean**, **Prothonotary**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Kentucky**, **Wilson's**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat**, **Blue Grosbeak**, **Vesper**

Sparrow, **Lincoln's Sparrow**, **White-throated Sparrow**, **White-crowned Sparrow**, **Purple Finch**, and **Pine Siskin**.

This year **Snow Geese** peaked at MC around 3/12 with about 110,000 counted (MC staff estimate). Two **Ross's Geese** were reported at MC 3/1 (CC), but that was the only report received. **Cackling Goose** was reported from MC 3/8 (m.ob.) and a single **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at the same location 3/15 (JH).

Lingering waterfowl at SCRF this year included **Gadwall** 5/23, **American Wigeon** 5/9, **Bufflehead** 5/31, **Common Goldeneye** 5/29, **Common Merganser** 5/20, **Red-breasted Merganser** 5/31, and **Ruddy Duck** 5/28. **Pied-billed Grebe** was also a lingerer until 5/23. The last report was 5/30. **Eurasian Wigeon** is not quite annual in *Lancaster*, but this year there were two reports. The first was at OL 2/21-27 (CC, et al.) and the second was at MC 3/8-9 (m.ob.). Based upon the dates it is always possible that these were the same birds. The pair of **White-winged Scoters** first discovered in Feb was present at least through 3/28 (JH, et al.). **Hooded Merganser** is one of *Lancaster's* rarest breeding species, but this year family groups were noted along Prescott Road near Bainbridge where 6 young were seen with the hen 5/4 (CC) and also at the new wetlands area behind Riverfront Park just north of Marietta where 10 young were seen with their mother 5/6 (CC, et al.). **Red-necked Grebes** were present this year from early Feb until 4/25. This was a decent spring for them although it did not compare to some of the biggest invasion years in the past. The highest count was of 11 along the Susquehanna from Wrightsville/Columbia to Long Level 3/28 (JH, et al.).

The only **American Bittern** was reported near Octoraro 4/18 (CC). The only **Glossy Ibis** was at WE 5/7 (CC, PF). The ibis was feeding along the edge of the pond and was cooperative enough to be photographed.

Mississippi Kite is always a rare bird in *Lancaster*, but usually the sightings are quite brief. This year at least two kites put on a show for several days in a row. On 5/29 the first kite was seen hawking insects over the 'Rocks' (JB). This is an area on the Susquehanna River just south of Columbia where rocks usually protrude above the water level. It has been a good spot for many rarities over the years and is often an area that produces a good hatch of insects in the spring. The kite only spent about 5 minutes and could not be relocated at this location so CC and DH decided to spend some time at the Breezyview Overlook at the Chickies Rock County Park. Over the years this is the area that has produced the most sightings of kites. Reports generally come in at least every other year. They were able to see two and possibly as many as three Mississippi Kites the same afternoon. One was reported to be an adult and the other a subadult. A kite was still present 5/30 at the same location (DC) and single kites were seen both 5/31 and 6/1 when many people were present. Another (or one of the same) Mississippi Kite was seen at the intersection of Vinegar Ferry Road and route 441 6/1 (EC).

Merlin was seen at MC 3/5, at the *Lancaster/Lebanon* line along Pinch Rd 4/24 (RM), on the migration count and at Lancaster County Central Park 5/20 (CC, et al.). Pairs of **Peregrine Falcons** were present both at Holtwood and near the Wrightsville Bridge, but I did not receive any reports on whether or not there were any successful breeding attempts.

Virginia Rail was at WE 5/9 and **Sora** remained at the same location into June (CC). Another **Sora** was near Quarryville 5/2 (CC). This year's **Sandhill Crane** put in a very brief appearance near Stop 1 at MC 4/8-9 (CC, et al.).

This spring both numbers and variety of shorebirds were widely reported to be lower than normal. There were reports of only 15 species of shorebirds from SRCF with another, **Black-necked Stilt**, received 6/10 (CC). This total is down from previous years, but some of the highlights were **American Avocet** 4/26 (JB, BS) and 5/10 (CC, BS), **Ruddy Turnstone** 5/23 (EW), and 2 **Western Sandpipers** (a spring rarity) 5/23 (EW). Earlier in the spring, a significant count of 60+ **Wilson's Snipe** was recorded in a pasture along the east branch of the Octoraro Creek 4/18 (CC).

This year **Little Gulls** were again reported with **Bonapartes Gulls** on many occasions. The season started with one basic plumaged adult 3/23 on the SR at Columbia/Wrightsville (DW). The last report of the season was a first year bird at the 'Rocks' 5/15 (CC, JH). In between these dates there were numerous sightings along the SR mostly between Wrightsville and Long Level. The highest count reported in this area was 6 on 3/28 (CC, JH, et al.) and from 5-7 reported at the same location 3/29 (EW). **Black-headed Gulls** are slightly less than annual, but this year, first year birds were reported from Muddy Run Fisherman's Park 3/26 (CC) and at the Wildcat Rocks just upriver from

the Accomac Inn 4/10 (JH, JBo). Other Larid highlights included **Laughing Gull** 3/29 (EW) and sporadically through the end of May and **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at the 'Rocks' 5/29 (JH).

Terns put in a good show this spring and the highlight certainly was several **Arctic Terns** seen at SRCF and the 'Rocks' area. The first was reported flying upriver the morning of 5/29 at SRCF (CC, BS). That same day another was seen at the 'Rocks' (JB) where it was soon joined by the first. They remained through the end of the day (JH) and were seen by many during the afternoon. A search the morning of 5/30 failed to produce any Arctic Terns, but several **Black Terns** were seen. Two **Arctic Terns** were seen at the same location 6/2 (DW) so it is possible the same birds remained in the area over several days. **Common Tern** was reported several times this spring with the first sighting 5/9. **Black Terns** were scarce with sightings 5/29-30. Another highlight was a **Least Tern** seen briefly at SRCF 6/7 (DB, CC, AM, BS).

Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were in good supply this spring. On an outing around MC 5/15 both species seemed to be very common (CC, JH). **Short-eared Owls** were in good numbers again at MC all winter and were last reported 4/9. This sighting is about two weeks later than normal. **Common Nighthawk** was reported on the PAMC 5/9. This is a species that continues to be reported less frequently and in lower numbers in recent years. **Whip-poor-will** used to be a regular breeder in *Lancaster*, but has gone unreported in recent years. That is why a sighting 5/1 in the southern end of the county near the Maryland border is quite exciting. Unfortunately there were no reports after that date so the bird may have just been passing through. A **Yellow-billed Sapsucker** reported on the migration count 5/9 was quite late.

Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Lancaster County Central Park 5/20 (CC, et al.). **Least Flycatcher** was noted at MC 5/9 (JH) and off of Pinch Road 5/29 (RM). **Alder Flycatcher** was a good find at the same location 5/29 (RM). A **Winter Wren** was singing north of Manheim 4/5 (RM)

As usual thrushes were in very limited supply again this year, but there were at least three reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at MC from 5/12-5/17 (BC, CC, JH, DH). One of these sightings from 5/15 involved two birds. **Swainson's Thrush** were seen from 5/9-15, but were quite scarce. **American Pipits** were still around at various locations for the migration count 5/9.

Migrant warblers were reported in better numbers and variety than last year, but numbers were still quite low. There were a number of reports of more than 20 species being seen in a single day and the most exciting report was of 29 species 5/12 (CC, DH) in a countywide foray that produced a total of 140 species of birds and also 23 species 5/6 primarily in the areas of Pumping Station road, the Kettle Creek Property and Gamelands 156. While the number of species reported was quite encouraging, the numbers were quite low where I received specific reports. For example, the report of 23 species 5/6 did list specific numbers and most of the migrant species were represented by one or two individuals. The only migrant species in double digits were 20 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** and 12 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, two of our most common migrants.

Cape May Warbler was reported three times 4/29-5/6. **Mourning Warbler** was reported from MC 5/15 (CC, JH) and two were heard at SRCF 5/21 (BS). No reports were received of **Golden-winged Warbler** this spring as this migrant continues to be reported even less frequently. One bright spot were significant numbers of **Prothonotary Warblers** at SRCF where nine of 11 nest boxes are reported active 6/7 (EW). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was also singing along Prescott Rd. in the Bainbridge area and at a yard in Peach Bottom (BS).

Lincoln's Sparrow was coming to a feeding station in Peach Bottom 5/1 and others were seen at MC 5/9, 5/15, and 5/17. The highlight of the season was *Lancaster's* first recent record of **Harris's Sparrow**. Chuck Chalfant discovered this immature bird with about 45 **White-crowned Sparrows** along a farm road near Steelville in southern *Lancaster*. Many people were able to see it the next day and hundreds saw it during its stay up until 4/27. This is a perfect example of how there are many unappreciated areas that can be really loaded with birds. This area was mostly farmland with healthy hedgerows composed of multiflora rose and small trees and bushes. A total of 86 species of birds were observed at this location in early Apr including a female **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, which is a rarity in its own right and was found by PF and seen by many from 4/12-23. Yellow-headed Blackbird is seen most years in *Lancaster*, but it usually is not an easy bird to find or relocate. Both the sparrow and the blackbird were well photographed and would regularly be eating feed within easy view of the road.

Blue Grosbeak arrived early this year with the first sighting 4/28. A single **Dickcissel** singing at MC 5/7 (RF) was a one day wonder. **Rusty Blackbird** is another species that seems to be reported less frequently each year and this year there were no reports during the spring migration. A male **Brewer's Blackbird** was seen coming to a feeding station in Peach Bottom 4/20 (BS). Unfortunately it was not a cooperative as the Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Purple Finch was last reported from the migration count 5/9 and **Pine Siskins** were reported regularly into early May. One lingerer was still being reported from a feeder in the Narvon area 6/2 (FH). **White-winged Crossbills** were reported into early Apr at various areas in the county. A high count of 75 was still at Conestoga Pines off of Pitney Road 3/8 (DF). Crossbills remained at this area into early Apr and at least two pairs of **Pine Siskins** were building nests in Norway Spruce at this location 4/5 (JBo). There were also a number of singing males and other courting pairs. A single bird was at a feeder in Bowmansville 4/2. Between 10 & 20 **White-winged Crossbills** and 12 **Pine Siskins** were seen feeding in spruce trees along route 441 near Marietta 4/17 (ML). The last report was of 22 individuals 4/22 in the pines at Safe Harbor (CC, et al.).

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Lawrence County

Nine **Tundra Swans** were in Black Swamp 3/23 (BVN). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was a nice find at Black Swamp 3/23-27 (BVN, m.ob.).

Common Loon reports included one at a pond on McConahy Road 5/17 (AH, PM), and one at the Three Rivers Gravel Pond in New Beaver 5/19 (MV). A **Red-necked Grebe** was a nice find at a marsh along Copper Road 4/5 (MV). Two **Great Egrets** were at a marsh on Copper Road 4/26-5/8 (MV). One remained 5/15 (MV). One was at Black Swamp 5/16 (AH, PM).

An **Osprey** was seen in New Beaver 4/23-26 (MV), and one was at Black Swamp 5/16 (AH, PM). Two **Bald Eagles** were observed in flight over Black Swamp 3/23 (BVN). A **Sora** and a **Common Moorhen** were at the marsh along Wampum New Galilee Road 5/8 (MV). **Sandhill Cranes** continued to be seen in the county during the season. The large flock decreased during March. Two birds were observed flying into Black Swamp at dusk, apparently to roost 3/27 (MF).

Spotted Sandpipers were observed mating at the Three Rivers Gravel Pond in New Beaver 4/19 (MV). Ten **Least Sandpipers** and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** and were found at Black Swamp 5/19 (MV). Four **Semipalmated Plovers**, 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, a **White-rumped Sandpiper** were at Black Swamp 5/25 (MV). At the Three Rivers Gravel Pond one **Semipalmated Plover**, 11 **Least Sandpipers** and 4 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were present 5/16 (MV). **American Woodcocks** were heard at Black Swamp 3/24 (DW, ST). Numerous birds were heard calling and performing flight displays at dusk along most of the roads near Black Swamp and the Volant Strips 3/27 (MF).

Three **Long-eared Owls** were found near Black Swamp 3/22 (MV). A **Long-eared Owl** was observed in flight near Black Swamp at dusk 3/24 and a **Great Horned Owl** was heard calling (DW, ST).

An **American Pipit** flew over Black Swamp 3/27 (MF). A **Winter Wren** was at McConnell's Mill State Park 5/4 (SS). A **Northern Parula** was at McConnell's Mill State Park 5/4 (SS). A **Mourning Warbler** was at Black Swamp 5/19 (MV).

Ten **Rusty Blackbirds** were in New Lawrence 3/21 (MV). **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Black Swamp 3/24 (DW, ST) and they continued in area marshes along with large flocks of **Common Grackles**, **Brown-headed Cowbirds** and **Red-winged Blackbirds** 3/27 (MF). A **Vesper Sparrow** and 4 **Savannah Sparrows** were along Britton School Road in New Beaver 4/23 (MV). A **Purple Finch** was singing near Black Swamp 3/27 (MH, MF, et al.). In New Castle at least 12 **Pine Siskins** continued at least to 5/10 (CG).

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No compiler.

Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand (CS), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Marquette Lake (ML), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middlecreek Wildlife Management Area (MC), N. Mt. Pleasant Road (MPR), Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC), Reistville Ponds (RV), SGL #80, #145, #156, and #211, Second Mountain Hawk Watch (2nd Mtn.), Swatara State Park (SSP).

The PAMC on 5/9 had 135 species. Two teams were missing that had an effect on the count. Some of the highlights were **Tundra Swan** (one), **Bufflehead** (one), **Bald Eagle** (10) – tied the one day spring total, **American Woodcock** (3), **Black-billed Cuckoo** (7), **Whip-poor-will** (7), **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** (one), **Least Flycatcher** (one), **Brown Creeper** (one), **Swainson's Thrush** (2), **Cerulean Warbler** (one), **Northern Waterthrush** (3), **Yellow-breasted Chat** (3), **Grasshopper Sparrow** (7), **Lincoln's Sparrow** (one), **Pine Siskin** (10) was new to the count.

Snow Goose numbers peaked at about 80,000 at MC in early March (MC Staff). No **Ross' Geese** were seen on the *Lebanon* side of MC this spring. **American Wigeon** were seen from only 3/8 at ML (GK) to 4/1 at MC (RCM). Only one **Blue-winged Teal** was seen 4/23 at SGL 145 (DZ). **Northern Shoveler** and **Northern Pintail** were last seen at MC 4/1 (RCM). Eight **Green-winged Teal** were at MC 5/4 (RCM). There were 14 **Redheads** at Risser's Pond MC 3/11 (CC). **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen from 3/8 (m.ob.) to 4/25 (RCM) with 32 at ML 3/20 (GK). Three **Greater Scaup** were at MC on 3/11 (CC). Four **Common Mergansers** were at the Swatara Creek 5/3 (DD). A female **Red-breasted Merganser** was at MLSP from 4/23 (RCM) to 4/25 (B, JH). A male basic plumage **Ruddy Duck** was at MPR on 5/28. The last **Common Loon** was a single at MLSP on 5/6 (MC). A single **Horned Grebe** was at MLSP 4/20 (GK) to 4/29 (MC).

American Bitterns were seen at MLSP 4/11 with one (B&JH) to 4/16 where 2 were seen (JW). The **Great Blue Herron** count of 36 on 5/9 was a new Lebanon County high during the PAMC. Eighteen were at the Beck Creek colony with 10 nests and 8 young (FH). The first **Green Heron** was at Cavalry Dam 4/23 (DZ). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported along Swatara Creek 5/2 (DD). The fifth county report of a **Glossy Ibis** was along Pine Road in the old Union Canal 4/27 (BW, GK). Of good habitat but it was not found the next day.

An **Osprey** on 3/21 flying over Gov. Dick Tower was early by one week (RCM, KM). 2nd Mtn. had 13 on 4/24 (BW). **Northern Harriers** were seen all quarter with 15 at MC 3/15 at Stop #3 for a new spring high count (SB). An adult **Northern Goshawk** was found in Mt. Gretna 5/7 for a possible breeder (SH). At 2nd Mtn., 84 **Broad-winged Hawks** were the first of the season (m.ob.). A **Merlin** 4/24 flying over SGL 145 was the last one reported (RCM, SH). Two pairs of **Sora** at FIG were seen carting nesting material 5/7 (DM). At Lake Shuey there were 2 **Common Moorhens** from 5/7 (DM). They are rare in the county. **American Coot** were seen until 5/9 (RS) with 29 on 3/20 at MLSP (GK). A **Sandhill Crane** was along Spangler Road from 5/20/28 (PR). One was there in 2007.

A **Black-necked Stilt** was the highlight of the quarter. A female was found on 5/15 (RK) along MPR. It was last seen 5/18 (CB) and furnished the second county record. The other was near stop #3 at MC on 5/16/1995 (HM, m.ob.). There were 22 **Lesser Yellowlegs** along MPR 5/2 (GK). Another good shorebird at MPR on 5/11 was a **Sanderling** for a third county record (CB). There were 34 **Least Sandpipers** at MAR on 5/2 (GK). **American Woodcocks** were here all quarter. Ten **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen at MLSP 4/11 for the only report (GK).

Both **Cuckoo** species were found from 5/8 (m.ob.). **Barn Owls** were nesting at the Lebanon Landfill with 7 eggs on 4/20 (RL). The last report of **Short-eared Owls** at MC was 4/9 with two (RF). A **Whip-poor-will** was at 2nd Mtn. 4/25 for the first of the season (B & SH).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 5/15 at SGL 145 was the only spring report (RCM, m.ob.). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported twice: one 5/9 at CS (SW) and one 5/16 at SSP (SF, JH). An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing west of Pinch Road at the powerline cut 5/29

(RCM, SH). A **White-eyed Vireo** 4/16 was early by 4 days on SGL 145 (RCM). **Blue-headed Vireo** was first seen in Lebanon 4/21 (DDo). A **Red-eyed Vireo** was found at MLSP 4/25 (B&JH).

Common Ravens were seen all quarter. One was seen near Palmyra around an old quarry 3/29 (M&LM). **Tree Swallows** were at MC 3/15 (AC). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found until 4/16 at SGL 145 (RCM). A **Winter Wren** was found at CS 5/9 (SW). There are many records for this area but no breeding yet. A **Swainson's Thrush** 5/29 tied the late date at FIG (DM). A **Wood Thrush** at Clarks Road 4/26 was in a housing area (GK). An **American Pipit** on MPR 3/9 was the only report (RCM).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was singing on SGL 145 on 5/5 (RCM). **Nashville Warblers** were common in migration this year (m.ob.). A **Magnolia Warbler** at MLSP 4/26 was early by one day (GK). Three **Yellow-throated Warblers** 4/22 near Box Car Rocks at SGL 211 represented only the third county report (SB). They were not there the next day. A **Prairie Warbler** was at MLSP 4/25 (B&JH). A **Prothonotary Warbler** 5/3 along Swatara Creek near Lickdale Campground was a sixth county report (DD). The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** was singing at CS 4/3 (SW). A **Mourning Warbler** on 5/19 at SGL 145 was the only one reported (RCM). Four **Hooded Warblers** 4/27 at SGL 145 set a new early date (RCM). **Scarlet Tanagers** were first found 4/25 with 2 at MLSP (B&JH). **American Tree Sparrows** were found until 3/20 on SGL 80 (GK). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found from 5/4 at MC (RCM). Two **Fox Sparrows** 4/16 at SGL 145 were the last ones reported (RCM). A **White-crowned Sparrow** at MLSP 5/9 was the last for the season (DM, RS). **Bobolinks** were found at MC with 7 on 4/28 (MC).

Rusty Blackbirds were seen until 3/20 with 3 at SGL 145 (SH, RCM). **Baltimore Orioles** were almost early with two reports 4/26: one at MLSP (GK) and one at SSP (SF). A **Common Redpoll** was in Mt. Gretna 3/19-20 for the only report (SH). A **Pine Siskin** 5/22 at the same feeder set a new late date (SH).

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Lehigh County

No report.

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Luzerne County

Locations: Francis Slocum State Park (FSSP), Harveys Lake (HL), Kirby Park Natural Area (KP), Moon Lake County Park (ML), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), PA Fish & Boat Commission Union Twp. Access Area (PFBA), Plymouth Fats (PLYF), Susquehanna River (SR).

Snow Geese are not all that common in *Luzerne* so the several reports of large flocks flying over were a welcome surprise including a flock of 200+ that flew over the author's home in Shavertown 5/9 (RK, JH, et al.). The wintering pair of **Trumpeter Swans** on HL where last seen on 3/14 (JH). We learned that these birds were part of the reintroduction efforts in Ontario. Both were born in the wild from introduced stock and were captured and banded in 2007. The biologist that captured these birds for study was able to provide us with the details. Several reports of **Tundra Swan** were also received with up to 3 on HL 3/22 (JH).

At least 2 **American Bitterns** were discovered this period with one individual 4/15 at Lee Swamp (JH) and another on the same date at Plains (KR). A remarkable find for *Luzerne* was a **Least Bittern** in Bear Creek Twp. 3/25 (MK). This bird appeared to have a wing injury and was captured and taken to a wildlife rehab center. The last we heard is

that the bittern is eating very well but still has not been able to fly. A **Great Egret** made an appearance for the spring migration count 5/9 (JS). The second known county record for **Cattle Egret** was reported on 5/16 near the SR in Forty Fort (SGa). Unfortunately for me the bird flew north along the SR 15 minutes prior to my arrival and could not be relocated. Another remarkable sighting was of a **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** that was posted on the PA Birds Listserv by a visiting birder, but could not be relocated after numerous attempts by local birders that live near where it was seen. Continuing with the exciting wading bird finds this past spring, a **Glossy Ibis** was in Plains on the east side of the SR 4/21 (KR). Ten days later, 2 **Glossy Ibis** were seen at a small pond on the west side of the river just north of the site in Plains (JS).

Merlins are becoming regular visitors with at least 2 individuals seen this season; one on 5/14 at FSSP (BT) and another at PLYF 5/17 (RK, KR, JH).

Both **Virginia** and **Sora** were found at Lee Swamp 3/17 (JH). There were several nice shorebird records submitted including a **Black-bellied Plover** on HL 5/28 (JH, KR), 3 **Dunlin**, and 24 **Short-billed Dowitcher** at PLYF 5/17 (KR). Also on 5/17 at PLYF a **Common Tern** and **Forster's Tern** were photographed side by side which helped facilitate the correct identification (KR).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was seen 5/22 at FSSP and spent the day in the area but couldn't be found the following day (RK). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was found on the spring migration count singing a **Blue-winged Warbler** song. There was no other indication other than the song that this bird may have mixed parentage.

It's been several years since we've found a **Prothonotary Warbler** so the individual seen and photographed 4/25 in Kingston (KR) was a nice find. At least 2 **Cerulean Warblers** were observed at the PFBA 5/3 (JH). A **Kentucky Warbler** was heard singing near Wapwallopen 5/24 (RK) and despite a real effort remained hidden from view in the foliage. There was a **Mourning Warbler** at ML that was first discovered 5/20 and was still present in the exact location 5/24 (JH). At least one **Yellow-breasted Chat** returned to the power line cut in Harding 5/30 (JH).

There were several **Vesper Sparrows** in the Hobbie area 5/24 (RK).

White-winged Crossbills continued after their huge incursion this past winter until at least 4/4, when several flew overhead at FSSP (JH, KR). **Pine Siskins** may have bred in the Plymouth area with several observed gathering nesting material along with courtship displays in early May at St. Mary's Grove (SGa).

Observers: **Jim Hoyson, 88 Ridge St., Shavertown, PA 18708, (570) 696-4925, birdder@aol.com**, Stan Galenty (SGa), Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Ed Johnson, Mark Kasper, Rick Koval, Kevin Ripka, Jim Shoemaker, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski.

Lycoming County

No compiler.

McKean County

No compiler.

Mercer County

Locations: Lake Latonka (LL), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Grove City (GC), Pennys Swamp (PS), Williamson Road (WR).

A blue morph **Snow Goose** lingered at LW 4/1-10 (MT, NT). **Tundra Swan** skeins moved through 3/10-31. LL and LW were great places to find waterfowl from Mar to early Apr. They included rafts of **Redhead**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Ruddy Duck**, and a single **Long-tailed Duck**.

Twelve **Common Loon** were found at LW 4/5, and a "baby" **Pied-billed Grebe** was at PS 5/18 (HB, LD). Six **Horned Grebe** showed up at LW 3/21, with 3 there 4/5. Eighty or more **Double-crested Cormorants** were on LW 4/5 (HB, LD), and hundreds were there 4/10 on the water and in surrounding trees 4/10 (NT). **Broad-winged Hawk** was sighted 4/25-5/31, and a **Merlin** on Bestwick Rd. 3/21 was notable (HB, LD). **Sandhill Cranes** continue to be present in the east/southern edge of the county.

Identified by their call notes and distinctive wing pattern, 3 **Willet**

(rarely seen here) were at Stoneboro Lake 5/7 (MT). In spite of a snowy Mar, **American Woodcock** appeared as early as 3/7. **Common Nighthawk** is still scarce, but was noted 5/19. A single **Whip-poor-will** was calling early in the morning 4/25 at SGL 130 (JT).

Eastern Wood Pewee arrived 5/9, and **Eastern Phoebe** 3/15. All **vireos** were seen except Philadelphia. A pair of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** nested again in a wall drainage pipe in a food store parking lot. LD had a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at a feeder 4/10. **Winter Wren** moved through 3/16-5/31, as did **American Pipit** 4/26.

NT reports that this spring was the best for warblers in years. Twenty-five warbler spp. were recorded 5/9, and 20 on 5/10, due to a major weather system causing a spectacular fallout. Outstanding were one **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Golden Run, one **Northern Parula** and 2 **Cape May Warblers** at Nicklin Lane, all on 5/9, one **Pine Warbler** 4/21 at WR, 3 **Pine Warblers** at SGL130, and a **Worm-eating Warbler** along Poole Rd. 5/10 (NT).

Fox Sparrow was spotted 3/9-4/22, and **Lincoln's Sparrow** 5/9. **Dark-eyed Junco** left the area 4/25. McKean Farms (a reliable place) produced 10-15 **Lapland Longspurs** 3/15 (NT). The last **Pine Siskin** departed 5/11. HB complained that she fed up to 50 all winter!

Observers: **Marty McKay 841 E. Lake Rd., Transfer, PA 16154, (724) 962-7476**, Harriett Bauer, Lynne Doolan, Jerry Troyer, Melvin Troyer, Neil Troyer.

Mifflin County

Locations: Barrville (BA), Belleville (BE), Bunker Hill Road Pond (BH).

A **Hooded Merganser** with chicks was reported from at BH on about 5/23 (KP). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen over fields near BE 4/15 (JZ). A **Virginia Rail** was found near BE 5/25 (IB, IBJ). Flying near BA were 3 **Sandhill Cranes** 5/24 (CK). Four **Wilson's Snipe** were at BH 3/16 (JZ). **Eastern Screech-Owls** had fledged by 5/31 near BE (JZ).

Purple Martins and **Barn Swallows** returned to JZs farm near BE 3/29 and 4/6, respectively. A flock of 50 **American Pipits** was in a field near Allensville 4/5 (JZ). The Bylers reported 21 warbler species in Big Valley for the PAMC 5/9, including 10 **Prairie Warblers**, 3 **Bay-breasted Warblers**, 13 **Black-and-white Warblers**, 6 **Worm-eating Warblers**, and 12 **Yellow-breasted Chats** (IB, IBJ).

Observers: **Greg and Deb Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg Pa. 16669, 814 667 2305, gwg2@psu.edu, dsg4@psu.edu**, Ivan Byler, Ivan Byler, Jr. (IBJ), Chad Kauffman, Katie Peight, Jay Zook.

Monroe County

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

Other than the several days of near ninety degree temperatures in late Apr, the spring weather was seasonable with average rainfall. The two **American Bitterns** at Skytop 5/4 were likely migrants (JS). A canoe trip at Long Pond 4/13 produced 2 adult **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, a former Pocono breeder, as well as 10 species of waterfowl including a calling male **Blue-winged Teal**, numerous **Green-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, and 2 pairs of **Buffleheads** (BH, DS). A first for Skytop Lake was a **Long-tailed Duck** 4/8 (JS). **Hooded Merganser** successfully nested at MCEEC for the second year in a row: a pair was first seen 3/9, and 10 eggs were found in a nest box 4/9, with hatching on or about 5/2 (BH).

A **Merlin** was seen in the Tannersville Bog 5/17 (JS, DS); despite subsequent searches, it was never seen again. This species is a confirmed breeder in neighboring *Pike*. The earliest reports for **Whip-poor-will** were 4/28 in Mt. Pocono (PF) and 5/7 on Hypsy Gap Road near Long Pond (BC). There were no **Red-headed Woodpeckers** reported from their Bushkill swamp stronghold at the DWGNRA headquarters.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen near Bushkill in DWGNRA 5/17 (JS, DS). Two **Barn Swallows** at Long Pond 4/13 were a bit on the early side (BH, DS).

Some warbler highlights included a **Tennessee Warbler** at Skytop

5/3 (JS), and the territorial **Yellow-throated Warbler** in sycamores along the Brodhead Creek south of Canadensis 5/25 was a good find away from the Delaware River (RW). The 5 **Bay-breasted Warblers** seen 5/9 foraging in oak trees in Paradise Township's Skywood Park was exceptional (PF). **Cerulean Warbler** was noted at Skytop 5/3 (JS).

After the winter invasion of **White-winged Crossbills**, the only spring report was a single male in Mountainhome 5/23 (AP). Up to 2 **Pine Siskins** were seen at MCEEC's feeders through the end of May (BH).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Bud Cook, Pat Fellion, Ana Pazos, John Serrao, Darryl Speicher, Roger Spotts, Craig Todd, Rick Wiltraut.

Montgomery County

Locations: Evansburg State Park (ESP), Haverford College (HC), Green Lane Reservoir (GLR), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Frederick Township (UFT), Upper Gwynedd Township (UGT), Upper Hanover Township (UHT), Upper Perkiomen Valley Park (UPVP).

The spring season brought fairly average temperatures and widely fluctuating precipitation in Montgomery County. After an 8 inch snowfall to start the month, March was unusually dry. April precipitation was about average, and May brought a whopping 6.88 inches of rainfall.

Waterfowl variety was very good with 26 species reported, but most of the big numbers of birds had pushed through in Feb. As usual in the county, **Snow Geese** were represented by fly-over flocks numbering in the hundreds (m.ob.). One to 2 **Cackling Geese** were at Green Lane Res. until at least 3/14 (m.ob.). All expected dabbling ducks were observed, including 2 **Blue-winged Teal** at Haverford College 4/10 (SJ) and 2 at Church Road, GLR 4/19 (JG). A respectable 25 **Gadwall** were at UPVP 3/13 (GAF).

Diving ducks were equally impressive, with all species except the scoters represented. All sightings from Walt Road GLR, except where noted. Best of the bunch were a **Greater Scaup** 3/5 (KC), 429 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/11 (GAF), 2 **Redheads** at UPVP 3/7+ (A&JM, m.ob.), 4 **Canvasbacks** 3/9-10 (GAF), 2 **Common Goldeneye** 3/11 (KC), a male **Long-tailed Duck** on a Perkiomenville Pond 3/20-22 (A&CH, m.ob.), and a high of 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 4/1 (GAF).

The season's first **Common Loon** was at Walt Road, GLR 3/29 (GAF), and last seen 5/7 when 12 flew over the GLR Nature Center 5/7 (KC, DC). **Horned Grebe** was scarce, with only a single bird at Walt Road 3/14 (RG). **Double-crested Cormorants** were right on time 3/22, reached a high of 84 by 4/28, and remained through the end of the period (GAF, m.ob.). Herons of note included a **Great Egret** at Church Road, GLR 4/19 (JG) and another at UPVP 5/14 (RG). An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Church Road 4/25 (GAF).

Raptor reports included a hatch at the Green Lane **Bald Eagle** nest 3/21 (L&JH, GAF), and a very large eaglet in the nest by the end of May. (GAF, m.ob.). An **Osprey** along Knight Road, GLR 3/25 was the season's first. (GAF). Two different **Northern Harriers** were at Church Road 3/2 and 3/5 (KC), and a late-moving bird was there 5/2 (GAF). A **Merlin** at Walt Road 3/10 was nice, but not totally unexpected for the venue (GAF). More surprising was one at the Montgomeryville Mall 3/7 (A&JM). Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** in the Unami Creek Valley 5/8 was a welcome report of a species in decline (RG).

Shorebirds have never been a spring specialty in the county, so the 7 species reported was about average for the season. **Solitary Sandpiper** reached a maximum of 3 in the UCV 5/8 (RG), and **Spotted Sandpiper** arrived at GLR 4/27 (GAF). **Greater Yellowlegs** were at Church Road, GLR 4/5 (JG) and 5/2 (GAF). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was there 4/30+ (JG). An early **American Woodcock** was at Walt Road 3/9 (KC). **Least Sandpiper** reached a high of 7 at Church Road 5/2 (GAF).

An early **Caspian Tern** was at Church Road 4/4, marking our only report of the period (JG).

Common Nighthawks had another dismal showing with singles from Pennsburg 5/12 (GAF, KC), Schwenksville and Perkiomenville 5/15 (KC), and Upper Gwynedd Township 5/16 (A&JM). This was likely their poorest showing ever in county.

The riddle of western *Montgomery's* **Common Ravens** continued this season. Single birds were seen in the UCV 4/27 (KC) and UFT 5/9 (RG). This seems unremarkable on the face of it, but the last sighting

was 9/29/2008. The existence of five observations in roughly 12 months begs the question, how do they escape detection between reports? The proximity of several large stone quarries suggests that the birds may be attempting to nest, but the quarries are (not surprisingly) posted against entry.

A **Purple Martin** was a bit early at Walt Road, GLR 4/12, and reached a maximum of 6 birds there 5/10 (KC). **Bank Swallows** reached an impressive high of 100 birds 5/18 at Walt Road GLR, along with a lone **Cliff Swallow** (GAF). **Swainson's Thrush** reports came from Lansdale 5/11 (SK), 3 in the UCV 5/1-3 (GAF), and 2 at Gwynedd Preserve 5/20 (A&JM). **Veery** has been a breeding species in decline in *Montgomery*, but migrants were seen 5/2 at ESP (JG) and UCV (GAF), and UGT 5/7 (A&JM). A **Hermit Thrush** was in UGT 5/3 (A&JM). **Brown Thrasher** was at Church Road, GLR 5/2 (JG), Walt Road 5/12 (GAF), and UCV 5/16 (JG).

Keeping with the trend of recent years, warbler variety was excellent with 28 species reported, but numbers were low overall. Warbler highlights included **Tennessee Warbler** at Bryn Mawr 5/3 (SJ) and GLR 5/7 (KC), 3 **Nashville Warblers** at Walt Road, GLR 5/12 (GAF), 2 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** at ESP 5/2 (JG), **Cape May Warbler** in UFT 5/22 (RG), 2 **Yellow-throated Warbler** in the UCV 4/25 (P&AG) and another in Ambler 5/25 (SK), **Pine Warbler** in the UCV 4/5 (JG) and 4/8 (GAF), **Northern Waterthrush** 5/2 at Haverford College (SJ) and UCV (GAF), 5/15 in UFT (RG), and 3 at Gwynedd Preserve 5/20 (A&JM), **Kentucky Warbler** in Lansdale 5/8 and UCV 5/16 (RG), **Mourning Warbler** in Lansdale 5/20 (SK), and **Wilson's Warbler** in the UCV 5/14 (RG).

Sparrows worthy of note included a **Fox Sparrow** in UGT 3/1-11 (A&JM), at GLR Nature Center 3/4-10 (KC), and 3 in UFT 3/2 (RG). A **Swamp Sparrow** was at Church Road, GLR 4/17 (JG), and a high of 6 **White-crowned Sparrows** were at a Pennsburg feeder 3/29 (GAF).

Purple Finch continued into the spring season in modest numbers, and were last seen at GLR Nature Center 3/7 (KC), and in UHT 3/22 (JG). After an incredible winter season, **Pine Siskins** persisted well into spring. While most appear to have departed in the last days of Apr, birds lingered in UGT until 5/5 (A&JM), and 2 birds in the UCV until 5/2 (KC). **White-winged Crossbills** also lingered into the spring season. Twelve were seen near Knight Road, GLR 3/4 (RG, m.ob.), and 7 were at Haverford College 4/8 (SJ).

Observers: **Kevin Crilley, P.O. Box 100, Sumneytown, PA 18084, (215) 234-6867, kcrilley@mail.montcopa.org**, Diane Cameron, George A. Franchois, Joe Greco, Ron Grubb, Paul & Anita Guris, Len & Judy Hillegas, Al and Carol Huber, Sheryl Johnson, Steve Kerr, August & Judy Mirabella.

Montour County

No report.

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

Northampton County

Location: Jacobsburg State Park (JSP).

A **Tundra Swan** was on the Lehigh R. near the Cementon Bridge 3/20-21 (DW). The bird may have been sick or injured as I found it deceased a week after it was discovered. There were 70 **Northern Pintails** and 60 **Green-winged Teal** 3/15 at Green Pond (RW). A pair of **Lesser Scaup** was at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 5/2 (MS). Welch also located male **Red-breasted Merganser** at the Cementon Bridge 4/6. Martins Creek quarry had a **Great Cormorant** 3/21 (MS). An **American Bittern** was seen at Monacacy Nature Center 5/10. Immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found at East Bangor Dam 5/2 and the Baglyos Rd. pond in Bethlehem Twp 5/9 (MS).

Not many **Golden Eagles** are seen away from the Blue Mt. but on 4/14, a **Golden Eagle** was seen in Lower Mt. Bethel Twp (PK). A **Virginia Rail** was heard at School Rd. by Bangor HS during the 5/9 PAMC (MS). There were 4 **Sandhill Cranes** flying over Hanoverville Rd. 3/30 (EV). Shorebird migration was mainly poor and boring. Highlights were a **Dunlin** 5/9 and 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 5/17-18 (DW) at Gremar Rd. in the Nazareth area. A **Whip-poor-will** was calling 5/9 at Little Gap (MS). The regular springtime gull gathering at Green

Pond was mostly a wash. Previous high numbers of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** never occurred.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported at JSP 5/12-18 (RW). **Alder Flycatcher** was found in the upper fields at JSP 5/18 (RW, SB) and in Mt. Bethel 5/21-22 (MaS). Also at JSP, a **Carolina Chickadee** was a regular visitor at the feeders this spring. Another was found at the Bethlehem Boat Club 5/9 during the PAMC (MS). This year we had five participants searching the county on PAMC day finding 130 species. That day a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Graver's Arboretum (LF). Another **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was located on Institute Dr, Upper Mt Bethel Twp 5/21(MaS). At Katellen, a **Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's** type **Thrush** was found 5/22 (RW). There was a **Brewster's Warbler** at JSP 5/6 in an area where it has been seen in previous years (AS). A **Kentucky Warbler** was found at JSP 5/10 (KS). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at feeders in Williams Twp 3/8 (AK). Multiple **Lincoln's Sparrows** were seen at JSP 5/11-12 (RW). A late **White-throated Sparrow** was in Pen Argyl 5/30 (DZ).

Up to 50 **White-winged Crossbills** were at Valley View Restaurant 3/1 (MaS). More amazing is that not all the crossbills headed north. Nazareth Boro Park had **White-winged Crossbills** as late as 5/24-28 (RW, BE) with as many as 20 individuals seen. RW noted the crossbills using mainly Norway spruce, and also white pine and Douglas-fir. Several **Pine Siskins** decided to stick around and nest. A fledgling was being fed in Bath 5/7 (SB). Another **Pine Siskin** was gathering nesting material at Graver's Arboretum 4/25 (LF). At JSP, a high count of 170 **Pine Siskins** occurred 4/1 (RW).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath PA, 18014, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Steve Boyce, Bill Etter, Linda Freedman, Paul Karner, Arlene Koch, Matt Sabatine, Kathy Sieminski, Adam Smith, Ed Vermillion, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltraut, Dan Zmoda.

Northumberland County

No Compiler.

Perry County

No report.

Compiler: **Deuane Hoffman, 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg, PA 17111, (717) 564-7475, corvuscorax@comcast.net**.

Philadelphia County

Locations: Art Museum (AM), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Darby Creek (DC), Delaware River (DR), East Park Reservoir (EPR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Naval Business Center (aka Navy Yard) (NBC), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Rhawn St. at the Delaware River (R-DR), Schuylkill River (SR), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

Despite the unusually cold days and nights of April and early May, we enjoyed a strong migration culminating in a huge fallout 5/7. However, on the evening of 5/8 our migrants flew north and a large blocking front moved in and stalled to the south of us. On 5/9, the day of the PAMC, only 22 species of warbler were found by nine parties covering the county! Our total of 129 species was a poor showing compared to what might have been just a few days before. Migration slowed to a trickle for the remainder of the season. Our multi-year, on again, off again drought ended with 18 consecutive days of rain which severely impacted **Tree Swallow** survival. More than 75% of the swallow hatchlings in hundreds of nest boxes at different locations around the county were found dead in their nests. Lack of food and certainly hypothermia after soaking rains were dual causes. By comparison, 10 **Barn Swallow** nests, a tiny sample, did not show any mortality.

Snow Goose was reported more frequently than usual, including 35 birds over the Andorra Natural Area on 3/19 (AA). Some very late Snow Goose reports exist, but I've not seen any as late as 6/8 when AJ photographed a group of four geese feeding on grass in the 6200 block of Lindbergh Blvd. On the impoundment at TI, 3 **Tundra Swan** were

found 3/11 (NC) and **Wood Duck** returned 3/8. The expected dabbling ducks were present in good numbers at FDR and TI and the Seasonal Chart gives a reasonably accurate picture of the species present and the duration. **Blue-winged Teal**, attracted to the wild rice at TI, were present for two months. The rafts of hundreds of **American Black Duck** on the DR are missing or unreported again this season. Supporting the observation is the USFWS's midwinter index for Black Duck in the Atlantic Flyway which was 16% below the flyway's 10-year average and the Atlantic Flyway Breeding Waterfowl Survey which showed no recent decline, but cited a 2009 decline of 42% over the 1993-2009 average. EPR was visited only once, 3/15, and 35 **Canvasback** were present (KR). **Hooded Merganser** lingered at TI until 4/19 and a late, out of place **Common Merganser** was found in the Manayunk Canal 6/26 (JS). Although **Ruddy Duck** departed around 4/21, a lone individual at FDR was good for the PAMC 5/9 (MD). On 3/17 six **Horned Grebe** were at Glen Foerd and along the DR at the Frankford Arsenal boat ramp, 2 **Red-necked Grebe** were seen 3/14-17 (TF, FW).

An **American Bittern** was at TI (TF, LR, m. ob.) 4/13-21 and most likely a different bird was seen 5/13. A pair of **Least Bittern** were found and heard at the south end of TI 5/9 and thereafter (GG). **Snowy Egret** was not reported until 6/3 and **Little Blue Heron** were at TI 4/10-5/1 (FW, m.ob.). An adult and juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** delighted DB when she found them at TI 4/12 and two birds were again seen 5/2 on the Darby Creek border with Delaware. **Glossy Ibis** were reported five times from 4/5 with 10 seen at R-DR on 5/10 (FW). Most commonly 4/18-26 a group of 4 ibis was noted in the TI area (m. ob.).

Three pairs of **Bald Eagle** were active with two birds successfully fledged from one of the nests. **Cooper's Hawk** successfully nested for the third time at TI. At TI on 3/30 a **Northern Goshawk** was seen (GS). Our only **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at BRSP 5/16 (FW) since the pair which has traditionally wintered at TI was not found. **Rough-legged Hawk** was a terrific find especially in spring in the fields of the Eastwick property next to TI (PP, JD). A newly reported **American Kestrel** pair nested on the Temple University campus on the church at Berks and Liacorous Walk (TC). Multiple pairs of **Peregrine Falcon** nested successfully at traditional nest sites (AM).

Philly's only(?) **Ring-necked Pheasant** pair resides in the Eastwick property bordering TI and is heard more than seen when it occasionally strays onto TI. At least two **Wild Turkey** pair raised a minimum of two broods at TI for the daily delight of birders and most likely red fox.

A **Virginia Rail** 5/31 was a relatively late bird for TI (DB).

Waders were hard to find given high water conditions at TI, but even at TI, R-DR, Morris Arboretum, and EPR, ten species were tallied. In addition to the usual **Greater Yellowlegs** showing at TI and the shoreline at low tide at R-DR 4/5-5/15, BB found a bird in the new wetland area of Morris Arboretum 4/24. **Lesser Yellowlegs** arrived later at TI and stayed until 5/24. **Solitary Sandpiper**, common at TI and D-DR, was also at EPR 5/22 (KR). In addition to **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and **Least Sandpiper** at R-DR and TI, a **Dunlin** "molting into alternate plumage" was found 4/11 (FW). Forty **Wilson's Snipe** seen at TI 3/25 increased to a group of 60 by 4/9 and steadily dwindled in number until 5/4. Wilson's Snipe was also found at R-DR (FW, TF). It was an off year for **American Woodcock** which did not display as hoped for by many citizens who come to TI for the evening "Woodcock Walks." A lone woodcock rested on the Temple Univ. campus 3/5 (SS). Last, and best, was a female **Red-necked Phalarope** in "high breeding plumage" which FW observed landing close at hand in shallow water at R-DR 5/1.

Laughing Gull returned 4/3 and **Bonaparte's Gull** were present for almost a month from 4/11. The lone winter-resident **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was reported 3/13 (FW). **Caspian Tern** were common along the DR and at TI from 4/11 (TF, FW) and at TI (m.ob.) until 5/30. **Forster's Tern** was found consistently and often in good numbers 4/11-6/18. Late spring migrants and post-breeding wandering Forster's Tern probably overlap. As usual beginning in mid to late-Jun adult terns chased by begging juveniles were present at TI (DM).

Black-billed Cuckoos were reported at TI 4/30-5/2 (DB, LR), in the Wissahickon 5/1 (MC), and at TI 5/15 (FW). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** on Cathedral St. in ne. Philly must have been a late migrant (FW).

Barred Owls were heard in nw. Philly along the WC at Northwest Ave. 4/14 and in the Upper Gorge (CH). Two pair of **Eastern Screech-Owl** had broods in CW (EB). **Common Nighthawk** were reported from older neighborhoods with flat roofs in s. Philly, Mt. Airy, and from TI 5/12 (MDe, SC, GS). Three great finds in CW were **Whip-poor-will** 4/25 (EB), a **Red-headed Woodpecker** 5/1 (MDr), and a lingering **Yellow-**

bellied Sapsucker 5/9 (EB).

Six reports of **Least Flycatcher** came from: CW 5/8 (KR), PEC 5/9 (FW, TF), TI on 5/2, 5/12, and 5/20, and from FW's ne. Philly residence 5/19. That's a nice showing for a regular but not so abundant migrant.

Horned Lark was reported at R-DR 3/25 (FW). **Tree Swallow** returned by 3/8 (MDe). Only the briefest looks at 2 swallows with "orange throats and strong orange flanks" caused FW to err on the side of caution by naming them only as *petrochelidon*, while advising that "We should not be afraid to look for [Cave Swallows] in early spring." It's understandable that after his fall 2008 discovery of Cave Swallow, he would be reluctant to record a spring sighting without certainty.

Red-breasted Nuthatch, so scarce last winter, were at Woodland Cemetery in w. Philly 5/9 (DA) and at FDR (MDe). A good late date for **Hermit Thrush** is 6/4 when FW saw one in the NE section of the city.

Thirty species of warbler were reported. See the seasonal chart for arrival and departure dates and note that the quantity of Parulidae dropped off noticeably after 5/8. A singing **Magnolia Warbler** on 6/9 was a surprise late find at TI (BB). Though never an abundant migrant, **Cape May Warblers** have been scarce since 1996 but seem to have begun a rebound since 2007 (KR). Five Cape May were seen: in the Upper WC 4/28 (RP), at FDR (AP), at Andorra Natural Area 5/9 (RP), and two were in CW 5/13 (KR). TF reported at least one **Yellow-throated Warbler** at TI 4/9 and two individuals were seen there 4/24-26 (TF, EP, m.ob.). **Pine Warbler** was numerous at TI from 4/1 and a pair was found nesting at Glen Foerd 4/23 (FW). **Cerulean Warbler** was seen twice, on 4/28 at Bell's Mills Rd. and at Andorra Natural Area 5/9 (RP, m.ob.). **American Redstart** attempted to nest at TI for the second time, but the nest was destroyed. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was at TI 5/1 (TC).

On 5/1 DM saw 7 **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, what I considered a fallout, which I believe will be reported elsewhere, in a small area in FP. Those seven were the individuals I was able to observe without binoculars, while working. Since **Blue Grosbeak** no longer breed in Philly, three sightings were very encouraging. Male Blue Grosbeak were seen in CW 5/7 (SJ), at Blue Hill Park 5/8 (MS) and at SL where nesting habitat exists on 5/24 (FW).

Vesper Sparrow was a good find at Andorra Natural Area 3/31 where it fed with six species of expected sparrows (AA). Only 3 **White-crowned Sparrow** were reported between 5/1-10 (TF, DM, DA). The two good locations for **Rusty Blackbird**, TI and FDR where they were last seen 5/17, held over 100 birds 4/9-4/14. **Purple Finch** didn't participate in the winter finch irruption, but finally on 5/2 and in CW on 5/9 (KR), they arrived. Ten or more **White-winged Crossbill** flew over Germantown 4/2 (EA). A *Philadelphia* breeding record was set when a pair of **Pine Siskin** attempted to breed at GF. They built a neat nest 13 feet up in a spruce tree, but the nest was ripped apart after 4/27 (FW). Our last glimpse of Pine Siskin was in CW 5/9 (KR).

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484, mcgovern100@comcast.net**, Andrew Albright, Dave Allen, Elie Armsbury, Leigh Ashbrook, Debbie Beer, Erica Brendel, Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Skip Conant, Ned Connolly, Mark Crawford, Tony Croasdale, Jim Deasey, Martin Dellwo (MDe), Michael Drake (MDr), Steve DuPont, Todd Fellenbaum, Gregg Gorton, Cliff Hence, Alan Jackman, Ken Januski, Pete Kurtz, Chuck Lyman, Steve Maciejewski, Art McMorris, John Miller, Abigail Parker, Edie Parnum, Ruth Pfeffer, Paul Pulcinella, Lynn Roman, Keith Russell, Brian Schultz, Matt Sharp, Sandy Sorkin, Gary Stolz, Frank Windfelder.

Pike County
No Compiler.

Potter County
No report.

Compiler: **David Hauber, RR 2 Box 153, Coudersport, PA 16915, (814) 274-8946, haubers3@penn.com.**

Schuylkill County

Locations: Landingville Dam (LVD), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tumbling Run Dam (TRD).

For the second straight year waterfowl were reported in fairly low numbers. **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported in very nice numbers at LVD. A **Great Egret** was present at LVD through the first two weeks of Apr (TC), and another was reported from the Tamaqua area 4/12 (LG).

A **Peregrine Falcon** flew over Hawk Mountain's Acopian Center for Learning 5/26 (LG), and a **Merlin** and an immature **Bald Eagle** flew over 4/24 (LG). Three adult **Bald Eagles** and one juvenile **Golden Eagle** flew over New Ringgold 4/19 (DW).

Yellow-throated Vireos were reported more often than in previous years from various locations, including New Ringgold 4/19 (DW), Port Clinton gamelands 4/26 (DK) and LVD 4/20 (TC). **Brown Creepers** were reported in very nice numbers from various locations, including TRD 4/5 (TC), Owl Creek Watershed 4/5 (DK), and SAL 4/5 (DD). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were heard singing near Tuscarora State Park 5/16 (DK), and probably breed at that location.

Nashville Warblers were reported from various northern sectors of the county throughout Apr (DK). **Pine Warblers** were reported from SAL 4/5 through 4/10 (DD), and likely breed at that location, as well as TRD 4/8 (TC). **Palm Warblers** were numerous at LVD, with over 30 at that location 4/10 (TC). A male **Prothonotary Warbler** returned to LVD 5/23 for the second straight year, attempting to unsuccessfully establish a territory and attract a mate (TC). **Worm-eating Warblers** were reported as numerous on Sharp Mountain near Pottsville 5/7 (TC), with over a dozen singing.

Various flocks of **Pine Siskins** were reported from the Black Creek area, with over 300 estimated on 4/4 (DK). **Pine Siskins** were also reported from SAL and TRD, and may very well breed in those areas for possibly the first time on record (DD,TC). There were also 10 **Pine Siskins** at Schwartz Valley Road at a late date of 4/11 (SW).

The PAMC was reported as very successful this year, with 150 species recorded 5/9 (MW).

Observers: **Tom Clauser, 701 W. Market St., Pottsville, PA 17901, (570) 622-1818, runner01@comcast.net**, Leigh Ashbrook, Jonathan DeBalko, Denise Donmoyer, Scott Fisher, Laurie Goodrich, Dave Krueel, Nancy Krueel, Ann Marie Liebner, Dan Schwartz, Devin Schwartz, Sandy Schwartz, Mike Ward, Scott Weidensaul, Doug Wood.

Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), Walker Lake (WL).

The highlights of a visit to FL 3/25 included one **Redhead**, one **Red-breasted Merganser**, and 6 **American Coot** (AT). On 4/10 four **Blue-winged Teal**, one **Gadwall**, 2 **Northern Shoveler**, 12 **Common Merganser**, and one **Pied-billed Grebe** were found at FL and, 5 **Blue-winged Teal** were at SGL 188 along Creek Rd. Also, on the same date a single **Red-necked Grebe** was at WL (PW, RW).

One **Great Egret** was observed at FL 4/10 and 9 **Double-crested Cormorants** were present 5/15 (PW, RW). One **Least Sandpiper** and 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** were at the Wetlands Restoration Area in SGL 188 along Creek Rd. 5/14 (PW, RW).

An adult **Bald Eagle** was found at the east end of WL 4/10 (PW, RW). There were also **Bald Eagle** sightings, near the end of May, at both FL and WL (DU). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed along Rte. 235 just south of Troxelville 5/15 (PW, RW).

On 5/14 **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Warbling Vireo**, **Orchard Oriole** and **Baltimore Oriole** were found at the Covered Bridge over Middle Creek along Covered Bridge Rd. This has been a reliable nesting site for all four of these species (PW, RW).

A **Northern Parula** was singing along Rte. 235 near Beaver Springs 5/13 (PW, RW). A visit to Jack's Mt. Trail Head Parking along Rte. 235 on 5/13 yielded **Yellow-rumped**, **Blackburnian**, **Pine**, **Hooded**, **Black-throated Green**, and **Black-and-white Warblers**, among other species, and along Hunter Rd. **Chestnut-sided** and **Worm-eating Warbler** were added, as well as **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Common Raven**, **Acadian Flycatcher**, **Winter Wren**, and **Dark-eyed Junco** (PW, RW). All of these are either "probable" or "confirmed" nesting species for the recent Breeding Bird Atlas project in this portion of Bald Eagle S.F.

Three **Fox Sparrows** were found along the path at WL 4/10 (PW, RW) and a flock of about 50 **Pine Siskins** were at feeders along the Mattern Hatchery Rd. access to FL (PW, RW). **Pine Siskins** were also present in Selinsgrove into, at least, the first week of May (DU).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, RWPuffin@aol.com**, Chad Kauffman, Aden Troyer, Don Ulrich, Patricia Williams.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Garrett Mud Flats (GMF), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL).

The most significant overall news of the season was the early arrival of many Neotropical, long distance migrants. April 26 was preceded by a warm night with southerly winds and turned out to be an unseasonably warm 80F. **Baltimore Oriole**, **Indigo Bunting**, and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** were 5-7 days early (based on about 8 years of arrival dates in compiler's records) as well as 5 of 9 warbler species seen that day. Waterfowl migration was generally good and drawn out with good species counts, but there were no major weather systems causing large numbers of birds to fall out on any given date. Shorebirds were largely missed, probably due to lack of effort in appropriate time.

Horned Grebe numbers peaked at about 20 on 3/26 at SL. On this same date and place a less than annual **Red-necked Grebe** appeared and the same bird, or perhaps a different bird, molting into alternate plumage was present until 4/4. **American Bittern** migrants included the first found at BC 4/19 and an energetic, mid-day "thunder-pumping" bird heard in a wet field at GMF 5/3. **Great Egret** first showed at SL 3/20 and a high for the county 3 birds were present 3/29. An exciting find by CP at SL 4/4 was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** which is a rare migrant (or seldom detected) in the county.

Black Vulture was first seen 3/16 near Summit Mills (EB), while an exceptionally early **Turkey Vulture** 2/3 near Meyersdale preceded by a month the next bird arriving at a more normal date of 3/9 near Summit Mills (EB).

A small **Snow Goose** at SL 3/7, somewhat bigger than the numerous Ring-billed Gulls and slightly smaller than the Herring Gull with which it was swimming, was scrutinized for Ross's characteristics but felt to have too much bill and the wrong head shape. It was felt to be either a small Snow Goose subspecies or possibly a hybrid. As mentioned above ducks showed a nice species mix with all expected species (especially at SL) but no major fallouts occurred. There were days with high hundreds of waterbirds but not thousands. **Long-tailed Duck** only touched down briefly once with 9 present 3/26 (LP) A new location for breeding **Common Mergansers** was Will's Creek near Fairhope in the Potomac River drainage where a photograph of a hen with 9 ducklings was taken 5/27 (fide JC).

An immature **Bald Eagle** first seen 3/6 at SL was seen of and on through April. A near adult was fishing a small lake near Glencoe until too much harassment by the local Red-tailed Hawk and Canada Geese seemed to cause it to depart. **Virginia Rail** was first heard at BC 4/25 and birds were calling at SL and New Centerville on 5/3. American Coots numbered slightly more than 100 4/17 at SL.

Shorebirds were not searched for in late May and early Jun when the more unusual migrants usually slip through. Both **Yellowlegs** passed through with Lesser outnumbering Greater. A very early **Solitary Sandpiper** was in BA 4/4 followed by normal early May birds. The only report of **Upland Sandpipers** was "early" May in BA (LY) with no birds being found with modest effort in a couple of traditional breeding areas. **Least Sandpiper** was found near Summit Mills (EB) 5/10 as well as a **Pectoral Sandpiper** 4/13. Highest number of **Wilson's Snipe** was 38 on 4/4 in BA.

Bonaparte's Gulls passed through in SL from 3/20 through Apr in decent numbers with 4-30 birds present at any given inspection. **Caspian Terns** first showed at SL 4/17 and there were 4 **Common Tern** and one **Forster's Tern** there 5/2. Black Tern was not found.

Early were **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 4/28 at PP, **Whip-poor-will** 4/26 along Allegheny Mountain and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at PP 4/25. The first **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found near Meyersdale 4/30 by EB. Flycatchers had fairly normal arrival dates except that **Eastern Kingbird** was a bit early 4/28. All expected vireos were found at the usual times. Swallows (except for the missed, now rare migrant Purple Martin) were all present with the earliest being **Cliff Swallow** 4/16 near Summit Mills. **Gray Catbird** at PP 4/25 was about 5 days early. **American Pipits** were at Summit Mills 4/3 (EB) and a little

"pipit" snow on 4/7 in BA brought them as well as **Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrows** close to the road.

Twenty-three species of warblers were found this spring. Good for the county was **Blue-winged Warbler** near Confluence 5/3. **Golden-winged Warbler** on territory near Glencoe were not looked for and found until 6/15. Amongst the early arrivals 4/25 at PP were **Nashville Warbler**, **Northern Parula**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Black and white Warbler**, **Ovenbird** and **Common Yellowthroat**. **Black-throated Blue Warbler** and **Blackburnian Warbler** showed up 4/27. A very cooperative **Yellow-breasted Chat** was near Confluence 5/3.

Henslow's Sparrows were first found at GMF 5/3, **Fox Sparrows** in modest numbers (up to 6) at PP starting 3/7, and **White-crowned Sparrows** seemed scarce and first appeared 5/3. The first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at PP 4/46. **Indigo Bunting** 4/25 at PP was about 5 days early.

Rusty Blackbird numbers peaked at 50-60 at BC 3/24. Both **Orchard Oriole** 4/25 (EB) and **Baltimore Oriole** 4/25 at PP were early.

Pine Siskins from the massive fallout gradually dwindled away through early May. Sick and dying birds were widely reported especially during warm spells which may have indicated Salmonella or other bacteria thawing out under feeders. A rough estimate of sick or dead birds at PP throughout winter and spring would be 20 with the maximum number of birds visiting the feeders at any one time being about 200. Thus 5-10% of the invading birds at this location may not have returned north.

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Elmer Brenneman, John Coughenour, Meg Moses, Chris Payne, Laurretta Payne, Levi Yoder. Note: all unattributed observations by Payne's.

Sullivan County

Locations: SGL 66, Cherry Township, Loyalsock State Forest, Briskey Mtn., SGL 13.

Sullivan is mostly rural farm land and second growth eastern deciduous or mixed forest on State Forest and State Game Land. It is not a heavily birded area except by a few individuals and then primarily from the breeding season through early fall migration. Most of the birding occurs at an elevation near 2000 feet on North Mountain.

Several species were recorded for the first—and last time in some cases—in the county during the President's Day weekend in Feb. The winter finch invasion of the past year that brought so many **Pine Siskins** and **White-winged Crossbills** to Pennsylvania did not miss *Sullivan*. Both species were observed in the county over the President's Day weekend; the crossbills for the last time. **Pine Siskins** were seen again 4/26. All other species seen during these four days were of year round residents or summer breeders known to migrate further south. Notable finds included 7 **Tufted Titmouse** and 3 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**. Neither species is considered common in the county. Three **Cedar Waxwings** in downtown Eagles Mere were also a surprise at such an early date.

No further observations were recorded until the weekend of 4/25-26.

April 25 and 26 were extremely hot days for such an early date. The temperature in downtown Dushore reached 85F. Resident breeding waterfowl included **Wood Duck** and **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers**. Migrating waterfowl included **Ring-necked Duck** and **Bufflehead**. A lone female **Bufflehead** was observed as late as 5/24 in the Eagles Mere area. Both **Great Blue** and **Green Heron** were seen for the first time in the season. First of season raptors included **Osprey**, **Bald Eagle**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and **American Kestrel**.

A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** was found in the same vicinity that the species has been observed every year since first found very early in the decade. The birds were seen in an area thick with last year's cattails and seemed to both be standing in a water channel between the vegetation when first one and then the second bird stood. The birds were then observed to change positions and each sat back down where the other had been. Two adult **Sandhill Cranes** were observed again on 5/16 in the same general area with two fledglings.

Only two through migrants were observed 4/25-26. A single **Lesser Yellowlegs** was found. The other migrant was a passerine. Eight **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were seen. **American Woodcock** were

observed performing their display flight in two locations. **Killdeer** had returned and a **Barred Owl** was heard calling on the night of the 4/24. Other first of season sightings included **Belted Kingfisher**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and **Northern Flicker**. Many county breeders had already returned by this date. Quite a few of these had arrived in solid numbers; although it is possible that some of these could still be migrating. This included 13 **Blue-headed Vireo**, 42 **Tree Swallows**, 35 **American Robins**, 27 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, 10 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, 45 **Chipping Sparrows**, 12 **White-throated Sparrows**, 12 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 15 **Common Grackles** and 12 **American Goldfinch**.

Breeders found in lesser numbers included **Eastern Phoebe**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Brown Creeper**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Nashville**, **Blackburnian**, **Black-and-white Warblers**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Eastern Towhee**, **Field**, **Song** and **Swamp Sparrows**, **Eastern Meadowlark**, **Brown-headed Cowbird** and **Purple Finch**.

Several species seemed early. This could possibly be due to the warm weather. It is also possible that sporadic records this early in the season have just not revealed their presence. They include single sightings of **Barn Swallow**, **House Wren**, **Gray Catbird**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Prairie Warbler** and **Baltimore Oriole**.

An interesting find is **Fish Crow**. This bird was unknown at higher elevations until spring 2008. A trip to Dushore now will find one or two virtually every time. The April trip also included a singing **Pine Warbler** on Dutch Mtn. This is only my second record for this bird in the county. This bird remained on my property until at least Memorial Day weekend and was always found by the sound of its song.

The below list of observers arrived on North Mountain had enjoyed a weekend of bird watching 5/15-17. The group recorded over 90 species during the three day period. All but one of these species would be considered a resident breeder or a bird not migrating further north. The number of species observed is considered slightly low for the weekend before Memorial Day. Weather was mostly dreary and overcast including some periods of very heavy rain. Several breeders were not found to have returned. This did not dampen the mood as many interesting observations were made.

Two **Barred Owls** were heard in the High Knob area calling back and forth at about 10 AM on Saturday under mostly cloudy conditions. **Least Flycatcher** was the only *Empidonax* we found. All five eastern breeders can be found in the county. One **Warbling Vireo** was heard singing. This vireo is uncommon in the county and has only consistently been seen in recent years. A **Northern Mockingbird** was found near Dushore. This bird has remained in this location through the spring. Mockers are not at all common in the county. Seventeen species of warbler were counted and are all breeders in the county. Two singing male **Mourning Warblers** were found in the High Knob area. The second bird was seen in hot pursuit of a female. **Canada Warbler** was seen and heard in the traditional location of Shanersburg Bog, however, **Northern Waterthrush** was not discovered at the bog for another week. A beautiful **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at the Meadow in Ricketts Glen State Park in the late morning of Sunday. The lone through migrant that the group found was a single **White-crowned Sparrow**.

Species recorded for the first time within the county on this trip included **Broad-winged Hawk**, **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, **Eastern Kingbird**, **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Veery**, **Brown Thrasher**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue** and **Hooded Warblers**, **American Redstart**, **Ovenbird**, **Scarlet Tanager**, **Savannah Sparrow**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Bobolink**.

Memorial Day was also a mostly cloudy affair. Regardless of the poor weather; the species tally was 95. The highlight of the weekend was an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** spotted in the High Knob area. **Whip-poor-will** was heard calling on the night of 5/22. **Alder** and **Willow Flycatchers** had returned to traditional breeding locations and **Great Crested Flycatcher** was seen. Other returning breeders included **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Wood Thrush**. Another good find was a **Carolina Wren** singing in Dushore. This is another species uncommon at the high elevations. A gorgeous breeding plumage male **Cape May Warbler** was observed on Dutch Mountain Memorial Day popular. **Blackpoll Warbler** was also seen in the same location on the same day. This was most likely a transient although blackpolls have been found nesting close by. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found at Shady Nook on 5/22 (SC)

Several other breeders were not found until June. It is likely they were present but undetected mostly due to sporadic coverage but also

because of continued poor weather keeping birds less vocal and birders indoors. The best find was a **Grasshopper Sparrow** found 6/7 in a farm field of high grass near Dushore. Other late finds include **Chimney Swift**. This bird was first observed on 6/6 in Dushore where they are usually seen when one makes a trip to town. The continued poor weather this June has kept the skies clear of swifts on most trips. **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was not found until 6/7 and very few records exist this year. Finally, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was first seen 6/7.

Observers: **Rob Megraw 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Skip Conant, Tom Reeves, Gary Becker, Mike Brawley.

Susquehanna County

No report.

Compiler: **Jerry Skinner, Woodburn Preserve, RR 6 Box 6294, Montrose, PA 18801, (570) 278-3384, jskinner@epix.net.**

Tioga County

Locations: Cowanesque Lake (CL), Darling Run Access to Pine Creek Rail Trail (DR), which is also a part of Pine Creek Gorge Important Bird Area #28, Hammond Lake/lves Run Recreation Area (HL), Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), Muck/Marsh Creek Important Bird Area #27 (Muck), Tioga Lake (TL).

Spring was very unsettled this year with many unusually warm days—temperatures as high as 80 degrees—and many very cold days with temperatures in the teens. The county's major lakes started to open up as early as 3/12, and the ice was completely gone by the last week of March, a week to a week and a half earlier than in the last several years. There were also many clear days in late March and early April, which may have facilitated rapid migration northward. In any case, waterfowl numbers and variety did not seem to be what they have been in past years.

Flocks of **Tundra Swans** were seen flying over on several occasions, often mixed with **Canada Geese**, but rarely on the water. Nevertheless a few were seen at Cowanesque Lake 3/12 with **Northern Pintails**, **Green-winged Teals**, and **Mallards** (RF). A flock of about 50 **Tundra Swans** was observed at the Muck 3/14, accompanied by **Hooded Mergansers**, **Green-winged Teals**, and **Wood and Ring-necked Ducks** (GT). A **Long-tailed Duck** was reported 3/21 at CL, and a **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen 3/21 at HL (JH). A fair variety of waterfowl was reported at HCSP 3/23, including **Gadwalls**, **American Wigeons**, **Common Mergansers**, **Hooded Mergansers**, **Lesser Scaups**, and **Buffleheads** (JP, GT). Three **Brant** were seen 3/26 near Millerton (LB). The first **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported 3/22 at TL (JH), but **Horned Grebes** showed up much later, with several seen at HCSP 4/18 (GT). **Common Loons** began to arrive around 3/31 at HCSP and were present as late as 5/30 (GT).

An **American Bittern** was reported 4/17 on the new section of the Pine Creek Rail Trail near the intersection of Rte. 287 and Rte. 6 (RF, TF). **Virginia Rails** and **Soras** were first seen or heard at the Muck 5/12 during the PAMC (DF, RR). **Bald Eagles** on nests at CL and HL were incubating eggs by 3/21 (JH). Unfortunately, the nest at HL eventually failed; no report was received on the success of the CL nest. **Bald Eagles** nesting at DR fared better, with three fledged eaglets (GT). A **Golden Eagle** was seen 3/19 near Ansonia on the Pine Creek Rail Trail (RF, GT).

With the exception of **Killdeer** and **Spotted Sandpipers**, there were not many shorebird sightings reported this year. A single **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen 5/2 at HCSP (GT). Two **Wilson's Snipes** were seen 3/11 and two **American Woodcocks** were seen 3/21 in the Millerton area (LB).

A **Black Tern** was seen 4/25 at the Muck (SD), and a **Bonaparte's Gull** was seen 4/6 working the lake at HCSP (GT).

Barred Owls at HCSP successfully fledged two young around Memorial Day (GT). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** of the season was seen near Roseville 4/26 (BS).

First **Tree Swallows** were reported 4/4 at HCSP (RF); first **Barn Swallows** 4/11 at HCSP (RF); first **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** 4/14 at HL (RF); first **Cliff Swallows** in Roseville 4/25 (BS); and first

Bank Swallows 5/2 at HCSP (AP). A **Northern Shrike** was seen 3/14 on the wires by the parking lot at the Muck (GT). First **Blue-headed Vireo** and first **Red-eyed Vireo** were seen 4/25 at HCSP (AP, GT). First **Warbling Vireo** was seen 5/6 in Roseville (BS). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen 5/12 at the Muck (DF, RR). Several **Northern Mockingbirds** were reported in the Millerton area 3/16 and 3/29 (LB).

This year's migrating warbler show got underway 4/11 at HCSP with a **Palm Warbler** (GT) followed by **Pine Warblers** 4/25 at HCSP (AP). By 5/1 **Ovenbirds** and **Black-throated Green Warblers** could be heard in the trees in many forested locations (GT). On the whole, warbler sightings this year were very disappointing, although most species that normally pass through the county were eventually seen (GT).

The first **Scarlet Tanager** of the season was reported 5/8 near Roseville (BS); first **Wood Thrush** was reported 4/24 at DR (AP). First **Baltimore Oriole** was reported 4/28 at the USGS Laboratory west of Wellsboro (GT).

The large numbers of **Pine Siskins** seen throughout the state over the winter remained in the area until the end of Mar, and small numbers were seen in various locations through most of Apr (GT). A single **White-winged Crossbill** was seen during a guided bird walk 4/11 at HCSP, accompanied by several **Pine Siskins**. No other crossbills were seen or heard at the time or reported elsewhere (AP, GT).

Observers: **Gary Tyson, 130 Hills Creek Drive, Wellsboro, PA 16901, (570) 724-5789, gnats3@ptd.net**, Larry Brown, Scott Davis, Rich Faber, Terry Faber, Dianne Franco, Jeff Holbrook, Audrey Patterson, Jason Patterson, Robert Ross, Barbara Silverstein.

Union County

A **Varied Thrush** stopped by *Union* 3/31.

Observers: **Christy Bowersox, 968 Furnace Road, New Columbia, PA 17856, (570) 205-5434, cabowersox@yahoo.com**.

Venango County

No report.

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

Warren County

No compiler.

Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Avella (AV), Bavington (BAV), Bentleyville (BENT), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Robinson Township (RBT), City of Washington (WASH), Washington Cemetery (WCEM), Washington Park School Pond (WPSP), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

A **Ross's Goose** discovered near Muse 3/17 (CC) was probably *Washington's* first. The bird frequented ponds along both Cumer and Ciaffoni Roads, both of which were quite close to the roadside, offering dozens of observers a satisfying close encounter. It was last seen 3/22 and was photographed. Two **Mute Swans** were at R4 on 3/7 (MV), the only report.

Strong low pressure 3/8 brought a significant fallout of waterfowl to the BENT area as noted below. Otherwise duck reports were pedestrian. The **Wood Duck** maximum was 6 at CL 4/24 (RT); groups of 2 to 4 were reported throughout the county and throughout the period. Reports of dabblers were sub-par. The only **American Wigeon** were 2 at R4 on 3/23 (MV). **Blue-winged Teal** was the only dabbling duck with a good showing; seven reports included a nice flock of 12 at GCW 4/8 with 9 continuing 4/9 (JB). Five **Northern Shoveler** appeared at a pond in BENT during the 3/8 storm (AB). One was still there 3/19. The only other report was of a flock of 6 at GCW 3/23 (JB). The female **Northern Pintail** that winters at WCEM was last seen 3/7 (MV) and also provided the only report of this species in the spring season. A superb *Washington* total of 37 **Green-winged Teal** were in BENT 3/8,

but were also the only of their species reported this season. Gadwall was missing completely this spring.

Five **Canvasbacks** were at R4 3/7 (MV). Sixty-four **Redhead** at R4 on 3/7 (MV) was an outstanding count but was thoroughly outdone by the 147 in BENT during the 3/8 storm (AB). Following last year's memorable showing, **Ring-necked Duck** numbers were down this year. Besides 71 at R4 on 3/7 (MV) and 31 at BENT 3/8 (AB), ring-necks were limited to one or two appearing here and there through 4/27. Thirty-eight **Greater Scaup** at BENT 3/8 (AB) was a great total; the only other report was 2 at R4 on 3/23 (MV). Likewise, **Lesser Scaup** peaked 3/8 (AB), when 80 appeared with the other hordes in BENT. Last were 2 slightly late birds in BENT 5/3 (AB). **Buffleheads** were reported four times from three locations. **Hooded Mergansers** were typically easy to come by, led by 19 in BENT 3/19 (AB). A female with a chick in tow was already in evidence at GCW 4/24 (JB). **Red-headed Mergansers** were thrice reported: one at BENT 3/8-19 (AB), 4 at R4 on 3/23 (MV), and one at GCW 4/8 (JB), where they are not expected. Best **Ruddy Duck** tally among six reports 3/23-5/3 was 12 at BENT 4/23 (AB). Missing were Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, all scoters, and Long-tailed Duck.

A few **Ring-necked Pheasants** were seen in the vicinity of GCW in May, certainly released. **Ruffed Grouse** was reported only from a traditional area near Burgettstown 5/1 (RG). Three **Common Loons** were found: one at R4 on 3/23 (MV), one also at R4 on 4/11 (LC), and one at BENT 4/21 (AB). **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported in small numbers to 4/11 (m.ob.). Fifteen **Horned Grebes** at R4 on 3/23 (MV) was a good *Washington* total. One remained there to 3/28.

Double-crested Cormorants were unusually well-represented this season, with 10 reports including a flock of 19 in BENT at the late date of 5/26 (AB). In fact, seven of the 10 reports were made after 5/1, which is doubly unusual for *Washington*, where most reports are made in Apr. CL was once again southwestern Pennsylvania's best hotspot for **Great Egrets**, with 10 reports from 3/14-5/27 at the lake and nearby Boone Res. (m.ob.). Some sightings many have repeated long-staying individuals; the peak one-day total was 3 at CL 4/13 (MV).

S.A.

The putative **Great Blue Heron x Great Egret hybrid** reappeared at CL this season on 3/14 (JiB), the earliest known arrival date by nearly a month. Most intriguingly, it was found at the **Great Blue Heron** rookery on Chartiers Creek in North Strabane Twp. 4/11 (PB), where it occupied one of 54 active nests this season. Periodic monitoring by PB revealed that the bird was parent to three young as of early Jun. In the days after hatching, the young did not seem to differ from nearby Great Blue Heron chicks in any noticeable way, but as they aged they all began to look paler overall, including the appearance of paler crowns, and one of them had a nearly complete yellow bill, compared to its siblings which showed black upper mandibles. As of this writing they were not yet fully developed so look for further reports next season.

The revelation that this bird is a viable breeder is another interesting bit of evidence as to its identity. One can only speculate whether a hybrid heron x egret would be capable of producing offspring. Additionally, reports of a possible second "hybrid heron" in previous years at CL may well have been the offspring of our "hegret" from a previous season. It also makes difficult the task of determining whether the same bird has been involved in all sightings in previous years at CL. Finally, in this author's opinion, the current "hegret" seems to differ slightly in overall appearance compared to the original images of the bird made in 2004. It may well be the same bird, but perhaps too the original "hegret" is actually no longer present at CL. Certainly this will warrant much more study during the summer and fall, and should reopen the issue as to the most agreeable identification of the white headed heron(s) in *Washington*, specifically whether the unlikely label of "hybrid heron" should be removed. An update to the discussion will be provided in a future issue.

Osprey were found in California 4/1 (JoT), at Boone Reservoir 4/13 (MV), and at CL 4/24 (RT). The only **Bald Eagle** was a late immature at Cherry Valley Res. 5/25 (RT). **Northern Harrier** was only reported from the BENT area, where one was found 5/3 (AB); normally this species is given in RBT in spring and summer. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** in BENT 5/8 (AB, RG) was the only report of what might be an

otherwise slightly over-reported species, particularly in urban areas. A pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** nested at AV this spring, first reported 3/31 (JB). Unfortunately, predation, probably by crows, caused nest failure, but the birds were still in the area to at least 5/23. There was another red-shouldered sighted in Hickory 4/25 (AB). **Broad-winged Hawk** returned to WPSP on time 4/22 (LC). A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was found in Taylorstown 3/23 (JB), where it remained and was enjoyed by many observers through at least 4/11.

A **Sora** at GCW 5/3 (MD) was the only report. The resident **American Coot** remained at AMD this season; otherwise there were only a handful of other reports, mostly from R4 in Mar (MV, et al.).

The best of the shorebirding once again came from an undisclosed location near BENT, primarily in the latter half of May. Away from that location, shorebirding was pretty much boring as usual in *Washington*. A duo of **Black-bellied Plovers** near BENT 5/26 (AB) were the only report. Similarly, **Semipalmated Plovers** were also recorded only at the BENT-area location, when up to 7 stopped there 5/22-26 (AB, RG). Amazingly, **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were only reported once and twice respectively, and not at BENT; the former 4/15 at GCW (JB), and the latter at Buck Run Wetlands 4/5 (LC) and CL 5/11 (MV). **Solitary Sandpipers** peaked at 16 at CL 4/27 (MV); last was one still there 5/11 (MV). Three **Sanderlings** put down for all of 10 seconds at the BENT-area location 5/29 (RG), adding to the already surprising and impressive list of Sanderling sightings in *Washington* in recent years. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** did not appear until 5/24, when 22 appeared in BENT (AB). One was a bit unexpected at Cherry Valley Res. 5/25 (RT). Best **Least Sandpiper** tally was 13 in BENT 5/24 (AB). The only **Pectoral Sandpiper** was a late bird at BENT 5/29 (AB), and the only **Dunlin** was a pair in the same spot 5/9 (AB). **Wilson's Snipe** were present at CL 3/19-4/27, with a nice count of 10 on 4/17 (RT). First **American Woodcock** was at BENT 3/8 (AB); they were reported from three locations this season.

A huge fallout of **Bonaparte's Gulls** occurred 4/17 in southwestern Pennsylvania (see especially the *Beaver* report); *Washington's* contribution was a flock of 125 over Peter's Twp. (RT). These birds were probably resting on one of the nearby reservoirs and were picked up by the observer as they resumed their migration as darkness fell. A nice count of 125 **Ring-billed Gulls** at BENT 3/8 (AB) was the top. Surprising was a single **Herring Gull** in BENT 5/24 (AB). Six **Forster's Terns** were at R4 on 5/7 (SG). Single **Black Terns** were found at separate locations 5/26, one at GCW (LC) and one at BENT (RG).

A branch carrying a row of four fledgling **Eastern Screech-Owls** with one attending adult in a WASH backyard was a pleasing find for LC 5/17. **Barred Owls** were found at AV (JB) and Buck Run Road (LC, MC). Last **Short-eared Owl** from the winter at BURT was located 3/24 (KS, BS). Reports of single **Common Nighthawks** began trickling in 5/13. First **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was in West Pike Run Twp. 4/25 (WJS). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** spent some time in a BENT backyard 4/19-30 (AB). One **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** continued from the winter at WCEM to 3/28 (MV), and another was in AV 4/15 (JB).

A very early **Eastern Wood-Pewee** appeared in Coal Center 4/20 (AT), where it remained into May. An **Alder Flycatcher** was located near Canonsburg 5/19 (RG), rare for the county. A day-long birding event netted 30 **Willow Flycatchers** countywide 5/25 (RT). A **Least Flycatcher** at CL 4/24 (RT) was a bit early. **Great Crested Flycatchers** were found in five locations, including AV where they are an annual breeder. All of the vireos appeared more or less on time, except a hurried **Philadelphia Vireo** that appeared near Burgettstown 5/1 (RG), at least a week earlier than expected, though this was not record-setting. **Common Ravens** continue in the county; this season 2 were in Coal Center 4/1 (JoT) and one in AV 4/2 (JB).

A **Horned Lark** was on territory 5/24 at BENT (AB). Good number of **Purple Martins** moved through BENT 4/10-19 (AB), including a peak of 15 on 4/19. First **Tree Swallow** was at CL 3/19 (MV). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** remained at WCEM through the period (MV, RT, PB, RG). Only two **Brown Creepers** were noted, in at AV 4/15 (JB), and at WCEM 5/3 (RG). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** stayed at WCEM to at least 3/23 (MV). The only **Veery** was one at Scenery Hill 5/16 (AB). An early **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported on Lake Road 5/1 (MD). First **Swainson's Thrush** was similarly a tad early at WPSP 4/26 (LC).

Wood-warblers were a highlight of the passerine migration this season. Some outings featured 20+ species, as at Scenery Hill 5/2 (AB) and in the general area of BENT 5/8 (AB, RG). A male **Golden-winged Warbler** was a great find at WCEM 5/7 (SG); notably this specific date coincides with a few sightings in nearby *Allegheny* and *Beaver* in recent

years, where this species is now just as rare as anywhere else in southwestern Pennsylvania. A great count of 12 **Tennessee Warblers** was made near BAV 5/13 (RG). **Nashville Warblers** found their way onto most daily lists in the first two weeks of May. **Northern Parulas** were reported at Enlow Fork 4/23 (RN, ML), at California 5/2 (AB) in an area where they have bred in recent years, and at BENT 5/8 (AB, RG). Four each were reports of **Chestnut-sided Warblers** and **Magnolia Warblers**, pretty much as scheduled in the first two weeks of May. **Cape May Warblers** are more difficult to score in spring than fall, so four reports were noteworthy: one at BENT 5/8 (AB), one at Coal Center 5/11 (AT), 5 at BAV 5/13 (RG), and one at BAV 5/25 (RT). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** continued from the winter at WCEM to mid-Apr when they were joined (or replaced) by migrants. The species was once again ubiquitous at CL, a location strangely reliable for them in spring; best tally there this year was 18 on 4/28 (RT). Surprisingly low was the total of just two reports of **Blackburnian Warbler**: one at Scenery Hill 5/2 (AB), and one at BAV 5/13 (RG). **Palm Warblers** were 2 at CL 4/28 (RT) and one at Scenery Hill 5/2 (AB). The only **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at AV 5/15 (JB). **Blackpoll Warblers** were in evidence at several locations 5/13-25. Three singing **Cerulean Warblers** were at a traditional location on Buck Run Road 5/2 (LC, MD) were a measure of logging has occurred recently, unfortunately likely another setback for this species locally. A great count of 10 ceruleans, including pairs, was made at AV 5/15 (JB). Three reports of **Worm-eating Warbler** were outstanding: one at Burgettstown 5/1 (RG), one at Lake Road 5/1 (MD), and one at BAV 5/25 (RT); this last record raises the possibility of a new nesting location in the county. **Kentucky Warblers** opened the season with one at Burgettstown 5/1 (RG). Also exciting were two reports of three total **Mourning Warblers**: two separate birds were located in BENT 5/8 (AB, RG), and one was at WCEM 5/18 (SG). A **Wilson's Warbler** was at BENT 5/8 (AB, RG). A total of 30 warbler species were listed in the county this season.

Wintering **Field Sparrows** were still at GCW 3/10 (CC). First **Vesper Sparrow** was in RBT 4/18 (SC). **Savannah** and **Grasshopper Sparrows** were in evidence, particularly in BENT 5/8 (AB, RG). **Henslow's Sparrows** were found in BAV (RN), the Buffalo Creek IBA (RT), and RBT (m.ob.) in May. **Fox Sparrows** were one on East Findlay Twp. 3/16 (PH) and one on Colby Young Road 4/5 (LC). **White-crowned Sparrows** were as expected at GCW in early May, with a top count of 10 on 5/3 (MD). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were strangely abundant at WCEM in Mar, including a single flock of over 50 on 3/28 (MV). An **Indigo Bunting** in North Strabane Twp. 4/3 was wildly early (PB); the next to appear in the county was a much more timely bird at Burgettstown 5/1 (RG).

Bobolink reports from six locations was encouraging, including a report of "many across the county" during an all-day birding event 5/25 (RT). The first **Eastern Meadowlarks** were 5 at BENT 3/21 (AB). The only report of **Rusty Blackbird** was 2 at CL 3/19 (MV). **Orchard Orioles** were early by a few days, led by one in Coal Center 4/24 (AT). First **Baltimore Orioles** appeared the next day separately in Scenery Hill (AB) and North Strabane Twp. (PB).

Purple Finches were represented by 10 birds within feet of the county line at RBT 3/28 (MF), one at BENT 4/5 (AB), and a handful at WCEM 5/3 (RG). **White-winged Crossbills** continued at WCEM deep into May. After the last sighting of 20 on 3/7 (MV), they were not seen for nearly a month, until a flock of 15 was found independently by PB and JB 4/4. They became scarce again for another month, until RG pinned down a flock of 39 on 5/3, which included several pairs engaging in bonding behaviors such as the sharing of food. The flock was still 36 strong 5/20 (LC), and 12 were counted 5/25 (RT). It remains to be seen whether they will continue into the summer. Unfortunately no further breeding behavior was reported after 5/3, but with hints at breeding behavior in crossbills also reported in locations elsewhere the state, it seems the WCEM population was of high potential to produce a nesting record. Look for an update next season. **Pine Siskins** also persisted in the county into May, but from several more locations—seven in total. Most reports were of small flocks of up to 8 birds that appeared sporadically at feeders (m.ob.). Happily, breeding was confirmed for this species, when at least two juveniles were observed begging from adults in a WASH yard from 5/17 to at least 5/20 (SG). One of the juveniles was also observed taking seed from a thistle feeder, allowing extended study of its buffy plumage. So sad it was one year too late to qualify for the core years of the second Breeding Bird Atlas effort!

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Berchin, John Boback, Jim Bohn (JiB), Paul Brown, Cassie Campsey, Mike Campsey, Shawn Collins, Lauren Conkle, Michael Dietrich, Mike Fialkovich, Ross Gallardy, Bobby Greene, Sayre Greenfield, Cris Hamilton, Pat Hutchinson, Melissa Little, Richard Nugent, Kathy Saunders, Wendy Jo Shemansky, Becky Smith, Amy Taracido, José Taracido, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass, Dave Wilton.

Wayne County

No compiler.

Westmoreland County

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

Their northward migration seemed rather light this spring, but a flock of 42 **Tundra Swans** did put down on Beaver Run Reservoir 3/19 (KB), and L& LH reported 40 flying overhead near Stahlstown the next day. My best count of **American Wigeons** was of 10 at Donegal Lake 3/8, and 3 **Gadwall** were there the same day. Three **Northern Shovelers** and 2 **Blue-winged Teal** had put down at BRR 4/6 (JE). Best count of **Green-winged Teal** was of 7 at DL 3/6 (L&LH). A flock of 45 **Ring-necked Ducks** put down at TRR 3/30-31 (RCL). A **White-winged Scoter** was a good find at Derry Lake 3/6 (*fide* KJ). A flock of 6 female **Common Mergansers** flew over Conemaugh River Lake, West Penn Trail 5/18 (TV).

Two **Common Loons** had arrived at TRR by 3/30 (RCL). A **Red-necked Grebe** spent several days during the first week of Mar at Derry Lake (EF, m.ob.). A flock of 30 **Double-crested Cormorants** was an excellent sighting at BRR 3/30 (KD). AV flushed an **American Bittern** from a small pond at PNR 4/18.

Two **Black Vultures** were over PNR on 4/18 (AV), for the first spring record ever at the Reserve. The first **Osprey** of the season had returned to its DL nest by 3/20 (RCL), and 2 were at Keystone State Park the same day (TV). **Bald Eagles** were, as usual in recent years, regular in the BRR area, but an immature at TRR 4/20 (RCL) was noteworthy. An early **Northern Harrier** was at Acme 3/14 (DB). The season's only **Peregrine Falcon** was reported from Delmont 3/9 (KB).

A lone **Semipalmated Plover** was at DL 5/24 (RCL). A somewhat late **Solitary Sandpiper** was at a small farm pond on School House Lane, Jones Mills 5/25 (RCL). A **Common Tern** was a good find at DL 5/1 (RCL), and there were 2 early **Forster's Terns** there 4/12 (RCL).

A **Common Nighthawk** was noted in Latrobe by 5/14 (TV). The first **Chimney Swifts** of the season were reported by MF over downtown Mt Pleasant 4/20. The first **Eastern Phoebe** of the season appeared at PNR 3/10 (RCL). An early **Wood Thrush** had returned to Bell Twp. by 4/19 (KD). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was banded at PNR 4/25 (AV). Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were captured for banding at PNR 4/25 (AV). Two early **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were at Cedar Creek Park 3/27 (RN). Unusual for *Westmoreland*, was the second-year male **Summer Tanager** that appeared at a suet feeder at PNR 5/18-19 (ML, TM, RCL, ED, AM). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were in good numbers this spring, with the first migrant appearing under a feeder at PNR 4/23 (RCL).

The winter finch of the season was an adult male **Pine Grosbeak** that appeared in MR's yard just ne. of Ligonier 3/27 (observer familiar with the species). A **Pine Siskin** was watched gathering nesting material from a plastic bag full of dog hair in a Murrysville back yard 4/16 (DM, *fide* DB).

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Wyoming County

Locations: Grist Flats (GF), Lake Carey (LC), Lake Winola (LW), Oxbow Lake (OL), Vosburg Neck (VN), Scottsville Road.

One hundred thirty-three species were reported in *Wyoming* for the period.

The highlight of the spring in *Wyoming* was the appearance of a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in the eastern part of the county. The bird was seen 4/26 by MC, and again 4/27 by RW, on a farm along Erhardt Road near Lake Winola. A number of others spent time along the road near the farm with no success. All I got for my stops there was a visit from the local police, who informed me that folks were concerned about my hanging around with binoculars. Fortunately, I had talked with the landowner and explained why we were there. The policeman wished me good luck and left me to my task. The bird was not seen again after 4/27. It is unknown whether this is a first sighting for the county.

The PAMC for the county, although it netted 104 species, eight more than the last one, in 2007, was below the average of 115-120, and well below the record 129 of 2002. The highlight of the count was an **American Bittern**, which posed for more than 20 minutes at the edge of a pond on the Scottsville end of Cemetery Road (JD). This is the first migration count American Bittern in at least five years. The PAMC also netted 2 **Northern Bobwhite** (BD), which we expect were escapees. We have heard few bobwhites around here lately.

Beyond all this, there was little else to generate excitement. There were but a few species of waterbirds reported, in addition to the ever-present **Canada Goose**, including **American Wigeon**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, and a single **Double-crested Cormorant**. **Common Loons** were calling as late as 5/9 on Lake Carey (AT). There were reports of sightings beyond that date, but I suspect the identifications were incorrect. In addition, only a few sightings of shorebirds were reported, including **Killdeer**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Wilson's Snipe**, and **American Woodcock**.

Nineteen species of warbler were reported in the period, the highlights including **Blue-winged** (JD), **Nashville** (BD), **Magnolia** (JD), and **Cape May** (RL) all 5/9. The Cape May was the first in over five years of the PAMC. Additionally, **Blackburnian** 4/30 (JD), and **Blackpoll** 5/9 (JD) were reported.

Finally, **Henslow's Sparrow** was reported on a preserved property in Mehoopany 5/14 (NK). I was unable to find them in a familiar spot near Jenningsville, where I have found them in past years. That property is being newly developed, and that may have driven them out.

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York County

No report.

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Photo Quiz #25

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



PUBLICATION SCHEDULE: Materials to be included in the publication are needed by the due dates below.

Issue	Sightings due to Compilers by...	Articles due to Editor by...	Publication Date
Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)	31 March	15 May	July
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 June	15 August	October
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 August	15 October	December
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 December	15 February	April

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