

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

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## Contents

- 1 PSO Organization
- 2 The 2012-13 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania. . . . . Nick Bolgiano
- 20 The Year at the Lake. . . . . Mike Lanzone
- 22 The 2013 Winter Raptor Summary in Pennsylvania. . . . . Greg Grove
- 26 Twentieth Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee  
. . . . . Nick Pulcinella
- 31 Summary of the Season. . . . . Greg Grove
- 35 Book Review – *Sparrow*. . . . . Gene Wilhelm
- 37 Birds of Note – December 2012 to February 2013
- 39 Photographic Highlights
- 45 Local Notes
- 76 Suggestions to Contributors

In Focus ... Inside Back Cover

**Cover:** Cover: Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*). Up to 4 Cave Swallows joined the famous wintering flock of Northern Rough-winged Swallows at the Northeast Water Treatment Plant in Philadelphia this season. At least one was found nearly daily from 29 October 2012 to 2 February 2013, and were seen by hundreds of birders. This bird was photographed at the plant 5 January. (George Armistead)

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# The 2012-2013 Christmas Bird Count in Pennsylvania

Nick Bolgiano

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held for the 113th time from 14 December 2012 to 5 January 2013. (For the purpose of this report, the year is the one in which Christmas occurred; the 113th count is referred to as occurring in 2012.)

Following the warm temperatures of the previous count, the weather during the 113th count was seasonal. Seventy-four sites reported, with three new sites: Benezette, where Elk, Cameron, and Clearfield Counties adjoin, with Mark Johnson as compiler; Gordon Glen, near Belsano in western Cambria County, with Robert Gordon III as compiler; and York Springs, where Adams, Cumberland, and York Counties adjoin, with Vernon Gauthier as compiler.

The 5779 party-hours were 30 hours more than any previous year. The statewide species total was 170, the third highest total, trailing only the 180 species in 2006 and the 173 species in 2011. There were also 9 count-week species.

The 2012 count saw notable irruptions of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Red and White-winged Crossbill**, and **Common Redpoll**.

## Species Numbers

Southern Lancaster County reported 115 species, the 5th most species reported on any Pennsylvania CBC, trailing only Harrisburg's 119 in 2007 and Delaware County's 116-117 in 1977-79. Harrisburg was second with 106 and Western Chester County was third with 100. The top 10 list is usually composed of southeastern sites, but a western site, Butler County, made this season's list. The below table shows the top 10 list and Figure 1 shows a map of site species totals.

### Top 10 Sites by Species Counted

1	Southern Lancaster County	115
2	Harrisburg	106
3	Lancaster	105
4	Western Chester County	100
5	Delaware County	99
6	Southern Bucks County	98
7	Butler County	97
7	Upper Bucks County	97
9	Lititz	95
10	Central Bucks County	93

## Hits and Misses

A "hit" is an unlikely species found in 2012, (recorded in less than 40% of previous 30 years), and a "miss" is an expected species not found (recorded in more than 60% of previous 30 years).

There were 17 hits and only 2 misses for the 2012 CBC.

### Hits

Trumpeter Swan  
Eared Grebe  
Prairie Falcon  
Purple Sandpiper  
Black-headed Gull  
Parasitic Jaeger  
Eurasian Collared-Dove  
Rufous Hummingbird  
Allen's Hummingbird  
Blue-headed Vireo  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Black-throated Green Warbler  
Wilson's Warbler  
Clay-colored Sparrow  
Le Conte's Sparrow  
Yellow-headed Blackbird  
Hoary Redpoll

### Misses

Northern Bobwhite  
Black-crowned Night-Heron

## Count Highlights

Count week species included **Brant** at Wild Creek-Little Gap, **Greater Yellowlegs** at Erie, **Least Sandpiper** at Western Chester County, **Dunlin** and **Little Gull** at Erie, **Say's Phoebe** at Gettysburg, **Cave Swallow** at Pennypack Valley, **Black-and-white Warbler** at Delaware County and Pennypack Valley, and **Dickcissel** at Western Chester County.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported from Lehigh Valley and Southern Bucks County, and **Ross's Goose** was reported from Bethlehem-Easton, Hamburg, and Lehigh Valley. The 41 **Cackling Geese** were reported from 12 southeastern sites, Erie, and Pocono Mountain; this total constituted a new statewide CBC high. Three **Trumpeter Swans** were reported from Linesville and one from Erie.

**Gadwalls** were plentiful for the second consecutive year. The 7 **Blue-winged Teals**, including 5 at Linesville and singles at Erie and Harrisburg, were the most reported statewide since 1992. The total of 1311 **Ring-necked Ducks** was a new state high, with 307 at Elverson and 193 at Butler County. All three scoters were reported from the western half of the state, including 22 **White-winged Scoters** at Erie and 13 **Black Scoters** at Butler County. The total of 2117 **Hooded Mergansers** was a new state high, with 588 at Linesville. The nearly 25,000 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Erie almost equaled the sum of all Red-breasted Mergansers

reported during all previous years of the Pennsylvania CBC.

**Ruffed Grouse**, Pennsylvania's state bird, continued a downward trend; the 80 grouse were the fewest recorded since 1971, when effort was much lower. **Red-throated Loon** was found in Butler County, Erie, Indiana, and Reading. **Pied-billed Grebes** were abundant, with 266 across 32 sites. Two **Eared Grebes** were at Bethlehem-Easton and one was at Lebanon County, the ninth and tenth reports for the Pennsylvania CBC. **Great Cormorants** were observed at Delaware County, Pennypack Valley, and Southern Bucks County, and **Great Egret** was at Delaware County, Erie, and Harrisburg.

**Black Vultures** continued their upward trend and are now found at nearly half of all sites. **Osprey** was at Bushy Run and Butler County. The total of 443 **Bald Eagles** was a new high, with 50 at Linesville, 35 at Southern Lancaster County, and 27 at Lancaster. The 22 **Rough-legged Hawks** were on the low end, with 6 at Northern Lycoming County providing the high site count. The 9 **Golden Eagles** included 3 each at Benezette and Emporium, whose circle centers are just 17 miles apart. **Prairie Falcon** was seen at Newville for the fourth consecutive year and the fifth year of the past seven.

The statewide total of 73 **Sandhill Cranes** was a new statewide high, with 47 at Linesville and 26 at Butler County. **Purple Sandpiper** at Erie was the fourth Pennsylvania CBC report.

The **Black-headed Gull** at Butler County was the third Pennsylvania CBC report. The 7262 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, with 6381 at Erie, were the most statewide since 1990. The 26 **Iceland Gulls**, with 22 at Southern Bucks County, set a new state high. The 316 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were fewer than in some recent years; this included 154 at Southern Bucks County and 130 at Upper Bucks County. **Parasitic Jaeger** at Johnstown was a second Pennsylvania CBC report.

The 4 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** found at Bernville was just the third time this species has been found during a Pennsylvania CBC.

The 11 **Barn Owls** were the most statewide since 1994. This included 3 each at Lewisburg and Lewistown, 2 at Hamburg, and one each at Curtin, Dubois, and Southern Lancaster County. Owling at Upper Bucks County netted 165 **Eastern Screech-Owls**; Upper Bucks County again led Pennsylvania owl totals. The 53 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** recorded state-wide was a new

### Top 10 Owling Sites

	Barn	E Scr	GH	Barr	LE	SE	NSW	Total
1. Upper Bucks County	0	165	27	5	2	0	7	206
2. Southern Lancaster Co.	1	74	38	8	4	0	10	135
3. Western Chester Co.	0	76	11	2	0	0	1	90
4. Lewistown	3	55	24	3	1	0	1	87
5. West Chester	0	42	12	0	0	0	0	54
6. Lebanon County	0	24	19	2	1	0	1	47
7. Dallas Area	0	16	14	4	0	2	8	44
8. Harrisburg	0	18	16	4	0	0	4	42
9. Central Bucks County	0	31	6	0	3	0	0	40
9. Huntingdon	0	25	11	1	3	0	0	40

high and included 10 at Southern Lancaster County, 8 at Dallas Area, and 7 at Upper Bucks County.

Two **Rufous Hummingbirds** were reported from Lititz and one each from Lewistown and Pittsburgh. **Allen's Hummingbird** at Central Bucks County was a new species for the Pennsylvania CBC.

The 51 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** included 17 at Gettysburg, 10 at Butler County, and 9 at York. **Blue-headed Vireo**, at Lock Haven-Jersey Shore, was the ninth report from a Pennsylvania CBC. The total of 8 **Northern Shrikes** was average. **Common Raven** numbers continued their upward trend. Pennypack Valley reported 150 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, and Harrisburg and Lehigh Valley each reported one.

The 1197 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were comparable in number to the large irruptions of 1997 and 2005, but not of the same magnitude as the huge 1981 irruption (Figure 2). Two **House Wrens** were at Southern Lancaster County and one was at Linesville. The 516 **Winter Wrens** were a new state high, and with 5531 total birds, **Carolina Wrens** were nearly as abundant as in the peak year of 2006. Two **Marsh Wrens** were at Delaware County.

Among warblers, **Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler** is widespread and **Common Yellowthroat**, **Palm Warbler**, and **Pine Warbler** are found nearly every year. In recent years, **Ovenbird** has joined **Orange-crowned Warbler** and **Yellow-breasted Chat** in the next level of frequency, being found about every other year. **Ovenbird** was at Pennypack Valley and Upper Bucks County, **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Pennypack Valley, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, a third report for the Pennsylvania CBC, was at Delaware Valley, two **Wilson's Warblers** were at Southern Lancaster County, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Bethlehem-Easton.

The 122 **Chipping Sparrows** were

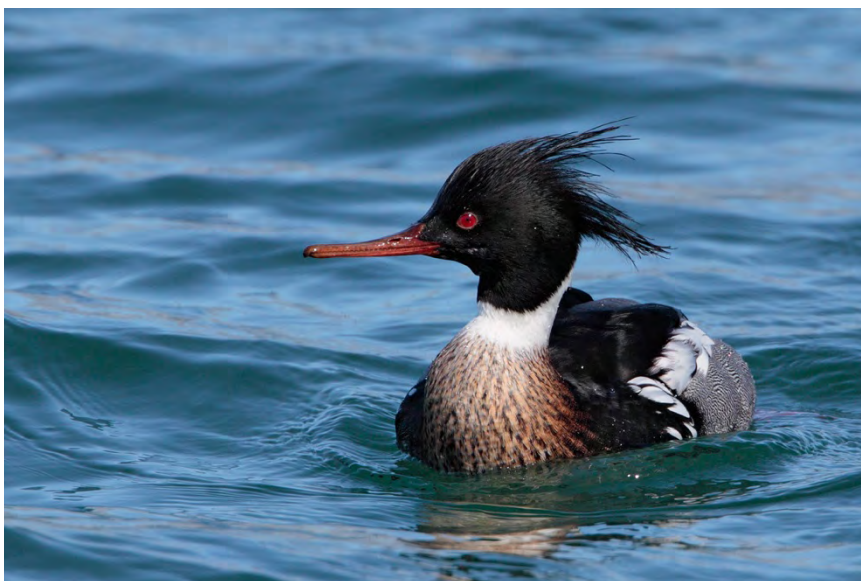
a new statewide high, but comparable to other past high counts when adjusted for effort. The 246 **Savannah Sparrows** were a new statewide high; adjusted for effort, this was the highest level since 1962. A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, providing a fifth Pennsylvania CBC report, was at Reading, and **Le Conte's Sparrow**, a third for the Pennsylvania CBC, was at Delaware County. **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at Lehigh Valley and Western Chester County. Two **Oregon Dark-eyed Juncos** were at Butler County.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** was at Western Chester County. The lone **Baltimore Oriole** was at Pittsburgh.

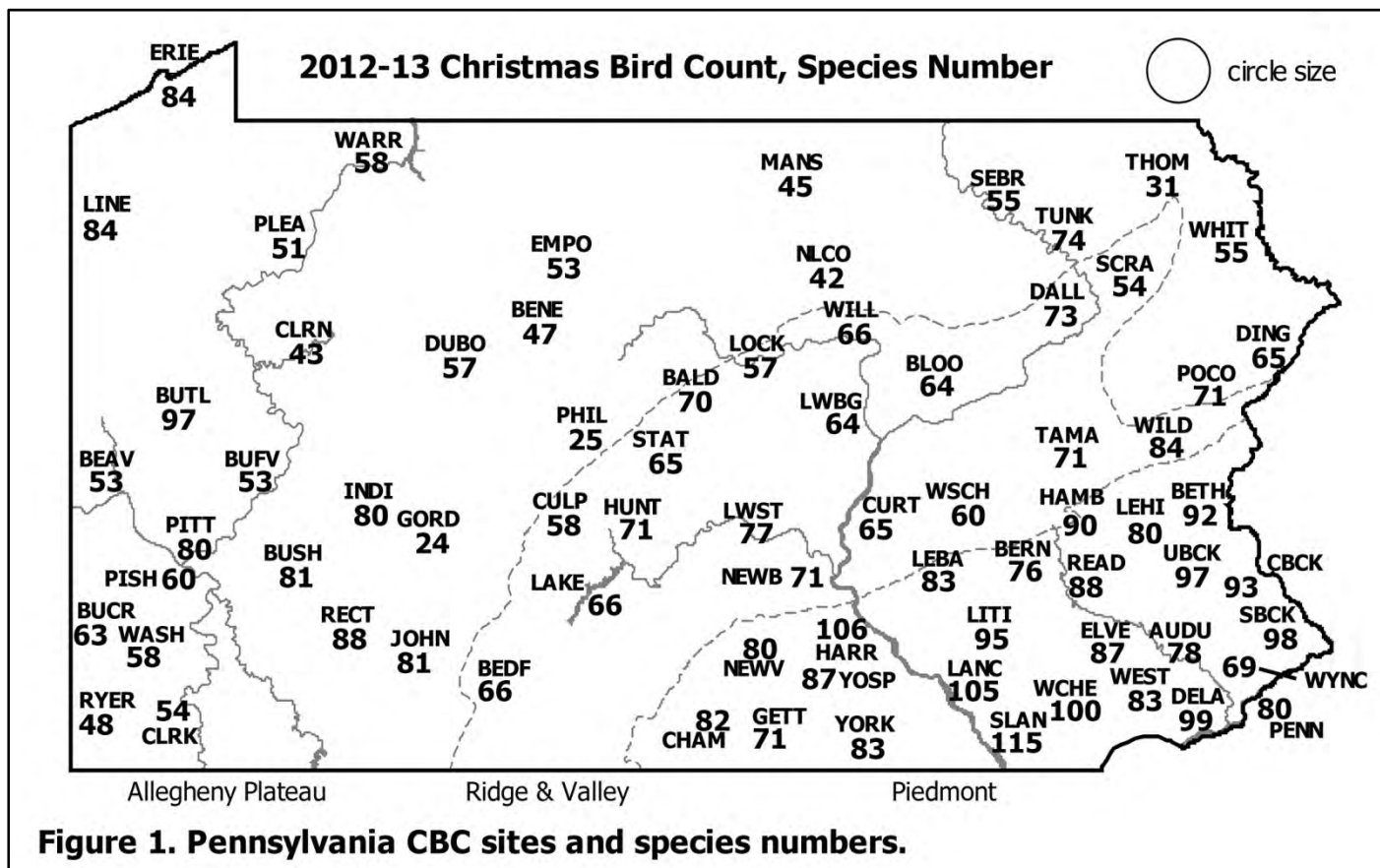
Winter finches were a highlight of the 2012 Pennsylvania CBC. Crossbills were widespread, with **Red Crossbills** recorded at 16 sites and **White-winged Crossbills** at 33 sites. This count ranks among the top years for both species. Red Crossbill numbers were highest near the Laurel Highlands and the Allegheny Front, with a lesser concentration near the Lehigh Valley, while White-winged

Crossbills were concentrated between Linesville in the northwest and the southern Susquehanna Valley (Figure 2). **Common Redpolls** were reported from 29 sites, mostly in the northern half of the state (Figure 2); this year's irruption ranks among the top 10 for this species. A **Hoary Redpoll** at Northern Lycoming County was the third Pennsylvania CBC report. **Pine Siskins** were fairly widespread, recorded at 47 sites, but their numbers were consistent with a small irruption (Figure 2). **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported from 10 sites, with the 164 grosbeaks being the highest statewide CBC tally since 1999. However, this was far lower than numbers recorded from the 1960s through the 1980s (the 1985 maximum exceeded 11,000). The high count was at Pleasantville, where 95 were counted. Smaller numbers were elsewhere, mostly at higher elevations (Figure 2).

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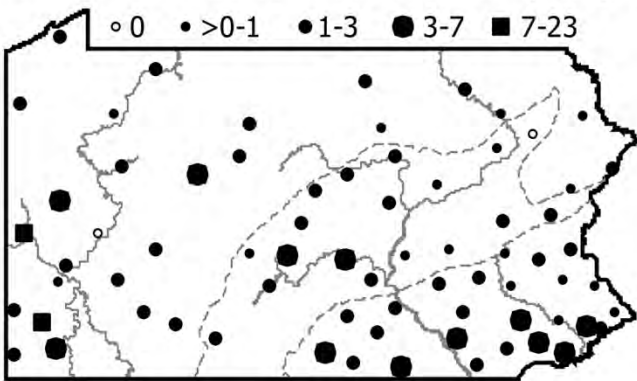
The 24,973 **Red-breasted Mergansers** tallied on the 2012 Erie Christmas Bird Count nearly equaled the combined total of all Red-breasted Mergansers counted during all 112 previous Pennsylvania CBCs. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)



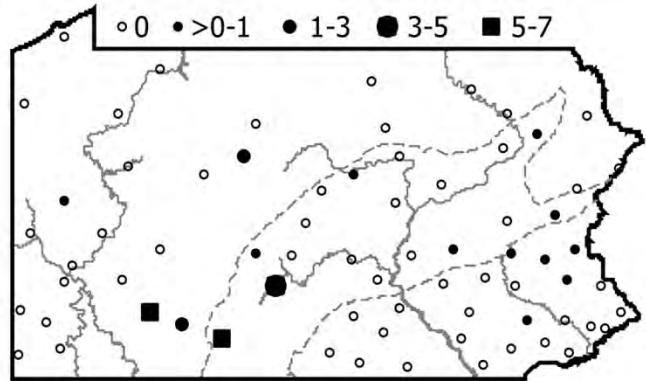
#### Site Abbreviations

AUDU	Audubon	DELA	Delaware County	LINE	Linesville	SEBR	Se. Bradford Co.
BALD	Bald Eagle S.P.	DING	Dingman's Ferry	LITI	Lititz	STAT	State College
BEAV	Beaver	DUBO	Dubois	LOCK	Lock Haven-Jersey Shore	TAMA	Tamaqua
BEDF	Bedford County	ELVE	Elverson	MANS	Mansfield-Wellsboro	THOM	Thompson
BENE	Benezette	EMPO	Emporium	NEWB	New Bloomfield	TUNK	Tunkhannock
BERN	Bernville	ERIE	Erie	NEWV	Newville	UBCK	Upper Bucks County
BETH	Bethlehem-Easton	GETT	Gettysburg	NLCO	Northern Lycoming Co.	WARR	Warren
BLOO	Bloomsburg	GORD	Gordon Glen	PENN	Pennypack Valley	WASH	Washington
BUCK	Buffalo Creek	HAMB	Hamburg	PHIL	Philipsburg	WCHE	Western Chester Co.
BUFV	Buffalo Creek Valley	HARR	Harrisburg	PISH	Pittsburgh South Hills	WEST	West Chester
BUSH	Bushy Run S.P.	HUNT	Huntingdon	PITT	Pittsburgh	WHIT	White Mills
BUTL	Butler County	INDI	Indiana	PLEA	Pleasantville	WILD	Wild Creek-Little Gap
CBCK	Central Bucks Co.	JOHN	Johnstown	POCO	Pocono Mountain	WILL	Williamsport
CHAM	Chambersburg	LAKE	Lake Raystown	READ	Reading	WSCH	Western Schuylkill Co.
CLRN	Clarion	LANC	Lancaster	RECT	Rector	WYNC	Wyncote
CLRK	Clarksville	LEBA	Lebanon County	RYER	Ryerson	YORK	York
CULP	Culp	LEHI	Lehigh Valley	SCRA	Scranton	YOSP	York Springs
CURT	Curtin	LWBG	Lewisburg	SBCK	Southern Bucks Co.		
DALL	Dallas Area	LWST	Lewistown	SLAN	Southern Lancaster Co.		

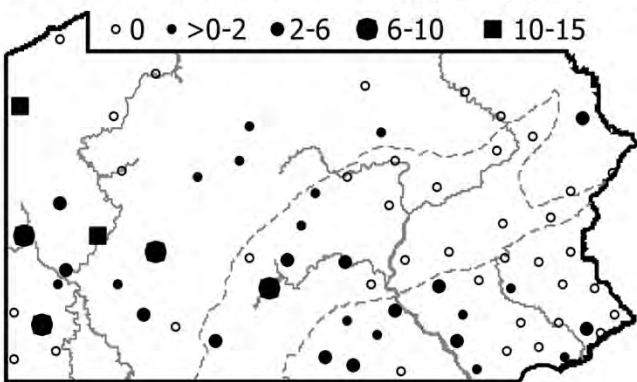
**Red-breasted Nuthatches/10 party-hr**



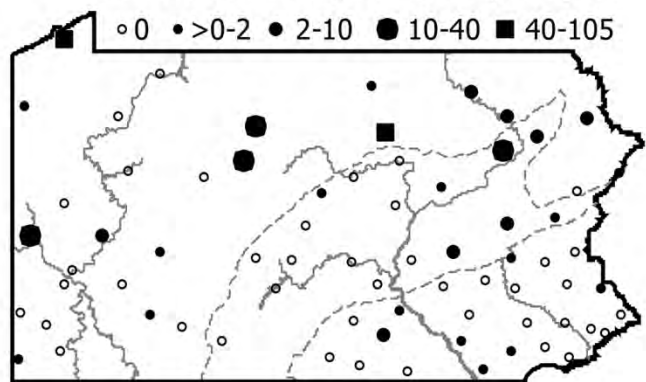
**Red Crossbills/10 party-hr**



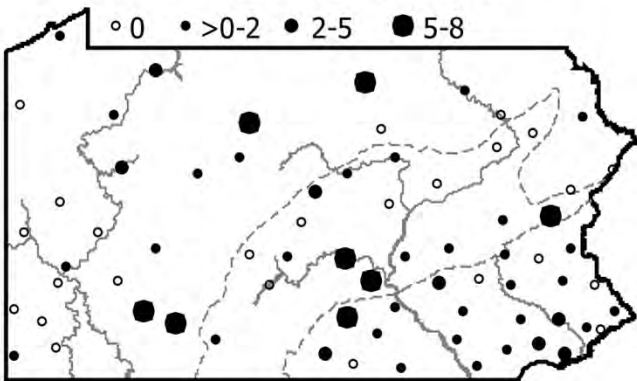
**White-winged Crossbills/10 party-hr**



**Common Redpolls/10 party-hr**



**Pine Siskins/10 party-hr**



**Evening Grosbeaks/10 party-hr**

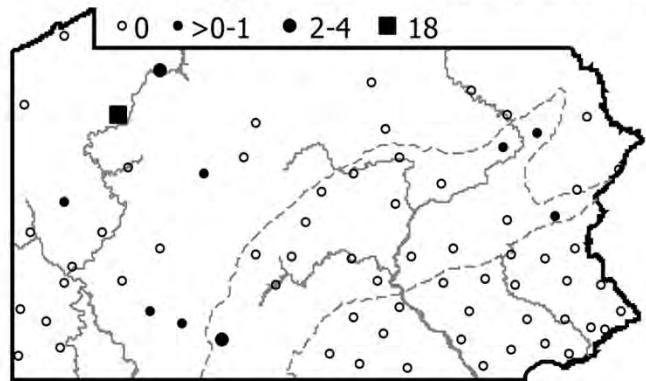


Figure 2. Individual species maps.

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BENE	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Gr. White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	864	-	-	-	-	2336	34221	-	-	-	-	-	427	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	11216	235	213	225	196	1910	8493	1548	451	116	493	493	18129	998	889	246	-	1401	3065
Mute Swan	6	-	1	-	-	10	4	-	3	-	4	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	91	-	-	139	CW	-	-	-	-	1	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	1	1	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	1	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	171	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
American Black Duck	25	14	5	-	-	21	119	59	-	-	4	7	10	4	-	-	8	76	-
Mallard	314	103	49	79	-	155	1045	253	52	37	249	112	470	994	62	23	188	209	399
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	1
Green-winged Teal	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	1	7	-	-	1	2	2
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	CW	-	-	-	193	9	-	-	-	-	-	25
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	1	35	7
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	31	1	-	1	-	-	6	1	-	-	6	88	7	-	-	-	7	-	52
Common Goldeneye	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	10	57	-	52	-	6	2	2	-	-	20	78	5	-	-	-	50	-	84
Common Merganser	17	446	9	28	-	11	139	67	3	8	70	4	442	-	-	-	-	2	264
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	40	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	3	495	3	2	-	-	6	-	157
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	5	-	6	1	3	10	-	2	1	1	1	3	1	8	5	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	2	-	CW	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Wild Turkey	-	58	36	13	4	11	39	7	114	-	117	151	5	9	65	88	-	112	28
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	4	5	-	-	5	-	1	-	5	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	36	5	13	4	-	8	21	13	6	2	6	15	17	36	-	2	3	3	7
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	259	-	-	1	-	16	21	-	-	-	-	-	194	5	-	-	-	26	-
Turkey Vulture	256	-	-	-	-	219	27	-	11	-	2	-	277	7	-	-	-	8	-
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	6	5	2	1	2	3	3	4	-	1	2	4	7	2	-	-	1	6	7
Northern Harrier	-	3	-	4	-	7	9	5	1	4	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	10	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12	1	2	2	1	5	6	5	3	1	4	4	4	10	1	1	2	3	7
Cooper's Hawk	13	4	5	3	3	7	10	5	3	1	8	9	4	15	4	4	3	6	7
Northern Goshawk	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	-	1	-	1	-	CW	-	3	1	4	2	7	CW	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	119	15	13	35	13	88	66	83	72	9	55	40	100	97	22	10	24	51	42



	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BENE	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	1	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	9	310	-	1	-	-	-	-	60
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	19	2	-	-	-	11	3	4	2	-	2	15	28	2	-	-	2	6	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	-	-	1	3	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	204	56	167	1	-	8163	2395	3	-	7	1	207	490	-	1	-	2	7	-
Herring Gull	-	1	26	1	-	606	20	-	-	11	1	2	71	-	-	-	-	10	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	-	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parasitic Jaeger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	264	219	401	543	-	502	670	600	307	202	124	523	528	1308	153	207	300	253	314
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	382	151	262	357	121	786	471	269	504	106	476	355	335	2031	1018	178	80	450	563
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	9	8	-	3	1	9	7	12	4	3	3	5	31	5	6	1	2	1	16
Great Horned Owl	6	3	-	3	1	8	5	14	-	-	3	4	6	5	1	1	3	1	14
Barred Owl	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Allen's Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	25	4	5	8	-	5	28	5	12	4	7	12	11	23	-	1	7	3	11
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	116	21	41	31	11	59	85	29	202	27	81	47	68	132	16	23	22	36	32
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	10	1	-	-	-	3	7	-	5	-	1	-	3	10	-	2	-	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	175	44	51	46	20	69	151	54	41	42	77	60	98	140	43	12	31	37	43
Hairy Woodpecker	36	9	14	3	5	10	21	5	54	5	16	29	16	26	13	5	8	-	19
Yellow-shafted Flicker	75	4	8	6	-	15	34	6	83	4	12	3	32	85	2	5	1	7	1
Pileated Woodpecker	6	11	5	15	5	1	5	11	24	7	20	14	4	17	3	2	10	5	11
American Kestrel	2	6	9	21	-	26	5	53	16	6	12	10	12	26	6	9	12	51	5
Merlin	2	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	1	-	-
Blue-headed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	78	245	163	147	159	95	70	179	314	38	207	166	61	323	327	87	26	75	148
American Crow	469	292	205	322	96	370	24400	621	1190	92	436	213	358	319	270	106	92	808	320
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	69	4	-	-	-	-	41	4	-	-	-	-	4
Common Raven	-	12	-	9	41	1	1	-	3	-	7	1	4	4	-	2	13	9	14
Horned Lark	-	-	-	126	-	-	225	8	4	13	120	153	160	645	-	-	-	845	16
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	314	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	498	6	72	-	186	69	-	-	-	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee	8	167	99	137	238	3	352	211	1	128	73	207	9	211	238	-	70	85	286
chickadee sp.	39	-	104	-	-	146	-	-	35	112	-	-	60	-	91	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	206	100	100	93	36	98	256	147	257	69	169	121	177	204	98	60	44	95	109

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BENE	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Red-breasted Nuthatch	12	8	44	8	12	9	12	5	12	-	16	24	10	66	14	7	2	5	5
White-breasted Nuthatch	149	59	63	53	68	66	153	93	236	37	127	70	98	194	66	20	34	33	67
Brown Creeper	25	2	-	-	3	2	12	14	7	5	4	4	7	29	-	2	1	2	11
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	12	2	-	1	-	3	5	-	3	1	-	1	5	11	-	1	1	2	2
Carolina Wren	136	28	61	13	5	77	106	39	181	23	57	11	85	147	3	9	20	53	68
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	40	13	6	19	22	11	16	27	45	17	41	11	19	77	-	3	12	13	55
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	1	-	-	-	3	5	2	-	-	-	2	2	3	-	-	-	1	-
Eastern Bluebird	190	25	40	72	10	194	134	168	287	19	73	53	123	114	-	34	7	82	35
Hermit Thrush	1	1	-	-	-	4	4	1	-	2	1	2	2	7	1	-	-	-	-
American Robin	871	2	26	6	2	87	30	-	27	2	124	137	568	175	-	21	1	-	5
Gray Catbird	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Northern Mockingbird	47	5	16	15	-	49	35	57	48	7	47	7	68	142	-	10	2	33	14
Brown Thrasher	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	3466	1046	659	1511	12	5375	1784	1880	1472	91	825	1259	2228	17980	715	340	325	1868	1003
American Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	30	2	-	-	-	6	10	53	49	-	-	-	74	-
Cedar Waxwing	48	-	16	-	-	53	18	-	11	4	1	76	5	29	2	25	-	1	-
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	3	-	-	-	60	30	24	-	-	2	-	5	37	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	16	1	6	-	-	7	11	7	3	2	9	-	9	14	-	4	-	-	1
Black-thr. Green Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	8	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	14	-	11	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	3	109	7	3	67	53	33	149	246	19	137	96	9	9	163	12	12	29	264
Chipping Sparrow	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	5	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	13	2	4	-	10	2	7	5	11	-	-	5	4	22	4	2	4	2	2
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	19	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-
Le Conte's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	5	4	-	-	1	2	-
Song Sparrow	291	23	63	11	27	161	199	91	247	35	176	26	195	168	8	24	20	62	89
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	2	-	-	-	1	13	6	7	21	-	15	11	9	5	-	-	-	2	4
White-throated Sparrow	907	199	4	23	10	704	1105	203	35	52	83	3	801	502	11	18	22	231	132
White-crowned Sparrow	2	5	2	15	1	32	15	21	90	2	55	-	14	96	-	3	1	41	2
Oregon Junco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slate-colored Junco	1296	1220	174	428	554	482	1739	938	225	118	574	223	1240	1408	1236	118	118	1385	415
Northern Cardinal	334	118	206	103	42	169	342	177	340	108	323	193	315	499	213	159	33	148	141
Red-winged Blackbird	74	17	-	1	-	2	22	7	1	1	1	3	243	80	40	22	50	-	80
Eastern Meadowlark	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	9	-	-	3	-	14	-	-	4	10	-	502	318	50	-	1	-	1	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	1	-	-	-	-	10	5	2	-	5	-	8	242	-	2	-	17	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	-	-	5	8	1	2	CW	2	-	-	3	3	7	31	19	7	-	2	-
House Finch	195	24	122	58	7	109	291	174	169	9	70	131	140	450	31	36	63	81	103

	AUDU	BALD	BEAV	BEDF	BENE	BERN	BETH	BLOO	BUCR	BUFV	BUSH	BUTL	CBCK	CHAM	CLRN	CLRK	CULP	CURT	DALL
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	32	9	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	CW
White-winged Crossbill	-	1	28	25	1	-	-	-	-	44	3	32	-	39	-	-	-	-	CW
Common Redpoll	-	2	75	-	142	-	CW	2	-	12	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	220
Hoary Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	37	12	-	5	9	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	14	-	-	2	-
American Goldfinch	193	95	139	88	31	48	101	119	299	38	95	137	107	289	171	50	40	21	79
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
House Sparrow	168	131	515	445	30	186	291	290	829	74	445	173	127	1176	24	136	52	201	181
<b>Number Individuals</b>	24304	5564	4317	5345	2180	24119	80177	8808	9222	1729	6456	7682	30148	32002	5983	2238	1845	9057	9237
<b>Number Species</b>	78	70	53	66	47	76	92	64	63	53	81	97	93	82	43	54	58	65	73
<b>Party Hours</b>	139.6	36.75	34.89	59.75	56	76.25	96	101.5	105	42	75.5	62.5	113	151.75	51	23	40	63.5	68.5

	DELA	DING	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	GORD	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Gr. White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Snow Goose	1	-	-	2584	-	-	-	-	1356	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4668	-	-
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	3010	350	1043	2569	CW	605	629	1	5371	2127	46	1110	711	352	7902	3105	14940	704	487
Mute Swan	12	5	-	10	-	3	4	-	6	-	2	-	5	-	4	2	6	-	-
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	76	-	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	533	8	45	7	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	3
Gadwall	14	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	40	106	-	12	43	6	12	36	-	-	-
American Wigeon	8	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	52	-	3	4	4	3	4	3	-	-
American Black Duck	211	13	CW	44	-	108	2	-	13	173	2	17	12	2	69	7	41	13	21
Mallard	867	41	376	199	-	515	133	4	331	1082	50	137	184	62	1101	285	718	348	289
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	164	-	-	43	-	2	3	-	-	13	-	CW	-	-	5	-	1	-	-
Northern Pintail	181	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	8	-	1	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	181	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	7	54	-	CW	1	-	13	1	3	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	32	119	307	-	14	9	-	-	1	-	18	52	-	-	-	25	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	3	-	52	-	-	-	14	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	8	1	5	2	-	746	-	-	-	1	-	32	CW	-	13	-	-	-	-
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	1569	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	14	28	28	16	-	115	-	-	2	38	-	25	15	4	31	3	-	20	-
Common Goldeneye	-	39	CW	-	-	48	-	-	-	2	2	1	2	-	90	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	24	8	48	3	-	176	21	-	-	126	19	20	119	99	2	1	4	-	-
Common Merganser	9	17	CW	5	4	7	-	-	6	34	-	4	13	109	50	5	20	54	6
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	24973	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	257	16	66	188	-	44	14	-	-	2	-	223	50	-	11	16	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	6	1	1	3	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	4	3	3	3	1	3	3
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	3	-	27	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wild Turkey	4	30	165	109	38	21	-	23	55	13	67	31	19	17	4	15	22	12	151
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	1	-	CW	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	5	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	5	-	CW	3	-	48	-	-	2	1	-	25	19	7	5	-	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	1	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	1	3	-	-	-	-
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

	DELA	DING	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	GORD	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Double-cr. Cormorant	72	-	-	-	-	42	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	24	1	CW	23	1	48	4	-	10	56	12	3	10	4	25	15	23	12	35
Great Egret	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	42	1	-	86	-	-	27	-	150	64	4	-	-	7	92	24	31	-	2
Turkey Vulture	103	1	-	199	-	-	110	-	116	172	7	-	-	2	185	79	138	-	1
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	12	12	3	7	2	4	2	-	11	3	3	-	2	3	27	7	1	3	4
Northern Harrier	2	-	1	1	1	-	4	-	6	2	CW	4	1	-	1	-	-	4	20
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11	-	-	3	1	2	2	-	5	7	2	5	3	-	6	3	6	1	5
Cooper's Hawk	19	2	3	9	3	4	1	-	13	13	7	2	8	1	9	8	12	9	7
Northern Goshawk	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	10	1	-	4	-	-	10	3	1	6	7	-	CW	-	4	-	-	CW	2
Red-tailed Hawk	95	16	12	95	11	16	33	8	103	88	33	51	33	28	63	91	134	100	97
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	CW	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	CW	-	3	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	6	-	1	-	-	3365	-	-	-	3	-	186	19	-	15	108	-	-	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	30	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	8	1	1	-	CW	-	1	6	7	14	78
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	-	-	3	-	-	5	2	-	13	4
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	6381	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	767	300	-	8025	-	40079	5	-	5	1122	62	17	4	103	8938	547	25	312	-
Herring Gull	54	4	-	101	-	3402	-	-	6	52	-	-	-	-	181	20	4	2	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	25	-	-	4	-	121	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	264	5	-	-	-
Parasitic Jaeger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	659	8	351	206	52	508	285	-	677	540	871	392	581	129	623	706	708	608	1984
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	578	157	216	171	331	41	111	83	727	741	403	919	419	52	377	663	1584	936	1086
Barn Owl	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Eastern Screech-Owl	21	5	-	27	1	1	-	-	23	18	25	-	2	4	1	24	16	7	55
Great Horned Owl	11	2	2	6	2	CW	5	-	10	16	11	4	3	3	9	19	10	9	24
Barred Owl	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	CW	-	4	1	1	4	-	2	2	2	-	3
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Allen's Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	32	2	12	14	2	1	4	-	7	35	5	5	4	4	21	14	35	21	32
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	124	3	9	104	12	3	43	1	76	238	62	65	21	31	103	65	111	62	156
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	13	3	-	17	2	-	9	-	6	21	7	2	CW	1	7	3	15	-	6
Downy Woodpecker	186	26	24	110	42	48	45	4	94	184	90	85	42	52	96	93	170	103	186
Hairy Woodpecker	44	5	16	29	16	10	10	3	29	36	20	30	15	9	21	15	40	19	32
Yellow-shafted Flicker	52	1	2	34	-	4	24	-	29	52	10	4	-	4	38	27	35	15	37
Pileated Woodpecker	11	6	9	16	10	2	7	3	16	11	32	31	7	8	12	17	14	11	37
American Kestrel	3	-	4	10	-	3	10	1	14	12	22	17	16	12	11	18	10	67	39
Merlin	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	1	-	-	1	-	CW	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

	DELA	DING	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	GORD	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Phoebe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Blue-headed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	200	45	118	54	270	60	117	18	93	231	321	325	141	126	78	154	117	271	267
American Crow	599	102	303	554	127	84	90	23	620	1231	437	363	560	272	16063	1081	3101	1137	577
Fish Crow	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	276	-	-	-	-	38	5	-	-	-
Common Raven	-	11	2	1	68	-	5	-	2	2	18	4	7	6	-	5	-	9	25
Horned Lark	-	-	12	100	-	5	-	-	749	1	50	129	501	425	124	106	419	3	499
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	479	-	-	314	-	-	61	-	-	466	-	-	-	-	253	-	70	-	14
Black-capped Chickadee	3	219	305	5	360	127	3	23	-	36	288	411	255	96	6	11	425	333	286
chickadee sp.	-	-	-	8	-	-	40	-	378	196	-	-	-	-	61	174	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	324	104	52	189	84	41	73	9	260	305	152	236	80	72	147	268	126	330	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	96	9	28	31	11	18	9	-	3	34	46	24	12	9	39	13	21	13	32
White-breasted Nuthatch	191	42	45	105	109	25	65	11	124	190	150	107	48	50	148	90	205	123	232
Brown Creeper	28	3	-	9	3	2	5	CW	18	68	8	5	1	5	32	12	15	21	74
House Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	40	2	-	11	CW	1	1	-	6	38	2	2	3	3	19	5	19	3	19
Carolina Wren	169	4	10	114	9	2	59	-	101	303	68	19	7	45	184	76	130	86	284
Marsh Wren	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	54	7	18	43	26	5	14	-	24	153	146	19	20	28	71	19	28	56	185
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12	-	-	5	2	-	1	-	6	7	-	-	-	-	8	2	5	-	1
Eastern Bluebird	125	16	16	311	5	8	108	-	151	273	112	35	11	51	145	235	161	129	227
Hermit Thrush	5	9	-	12	-	-	1	-	4	4	6	-	1	-	-	-	7	-	2
American Robin	1293	25	-	70	1	9	23	-	1	197	7	-	11	9	67	12	218	5	6
Gray Catbird	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	1
Northern Mockingbird	99	4	1	55	1	CW	63	-	60	84	20	13	1	5	65	40	105	58	86
Brown Thrasher	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	CW	-	-	1	1	-	-
European Starling	1724	2	559	2125	334	248	869	11	8922	5696	1017	662	3602	224	1245	2106	5190	2754	4974
American Pipit	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	2	-	-	9	2	89	-	-	-	81
Cedar Waxwing	28	-	3	2	-	-	87	-	1	52	37	1	CW	6	4	10	16	21	48
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	4	-	-	24	-	44	16	-	17	19	7	1	1	-	26	-	7	-	3
Black-thr. Green Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	22	-	-	13	2	-	-	-	2	14	-	2	CW	-	7	-	6	-	2
American Tree Sparrow	3	19	34	36	70	53	8	2	169	29	92	96	59	127	60	127	78	86	87
Chipping Sparrow	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	2	-	CW	-	-	4	-	-	CW
Clay-colored Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	24	1	1	44	2	2	9	-	9	15	6	-	CW	2	4	6	19	5	9
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	4	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	43	-	-	2	-
Le Conte's Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	18	-	-	9	-	-	1	-	3	9	1	1	-	-	6	1	1	-	-
Song Sparrow	385	45	20	317	29	9	52	-	270	452	88	61	35	53	501	122	496	73	231
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	31	-	1	33	-	-	3	-	6	29	6	3	9	-	11	5	14	1	2

**PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**

	DELA	DING	DUBO	ELVE	EMPO	ERIE	GETT	GORD	HAMB	HARR	HUNT	INDI	JOHN	LAKE	LANC	LEBA	LEHI	LWBG	LWST
White-throated Sparrow	1308	213	6	599	28	2	125	-	1819	828	132	52	3	127	1086	405	1760	228	373
White-crowned Sparrow	-	24	-	2	-	-	9	-	26	6	6	30	1	11	35	27	39	44	169
Oregon Junco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slate-colored Junco	1189	1719	271	1283	655	48	248	168	4314	897	610	1201	223	849	805	792	1528	663	919
Northern Cardinal	478	42	56	217	106	61	73	21	322	602	131	339	102	151	378	146	410	204	472
Red-winged Blackbird	219	-	2	9	-	-	10	-	1	31	2	55	CW	19	4	1	31	1	10
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	17	-	-	-	-
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	20	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	7	9	-	92	CW	-	9	-	11	11	-	-	-	-	2	1	74	4	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	2	-	-	-	-	3	15	2	-	1
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW
Purple Finch	4	-	9	-	5	1	5	1	5	12	6	22	1	1	2	4	-	4	-
House Finch	265	6	46	130	33	23	71	-	298	419	163	152	52	8	336	139	616	190	277
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	18	-	15	-	-	1	-	-
White-winged Crossbill	16	-	6	-	1	CW	15	-	36	23	23	62	-	42	55	21	-	-	30
Common Redpoll	-	7	-	-	88	461	-	-	9	7	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Hoary Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	46	-	8	12	44	8	CW	-	9	17	3	4	40	-	6	25	-	-	38
American Goldfinch	221	17	116	87	136	44	39	-	104	215	286	191	142	45	185	92	164	160	224
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	CW
House Sparrow	285	21	277	129	177	194	79	2	221	484	270	410	347	162	335	128	444	587	485
<b>Number Individuals</b>	18116	3873	4848	22536	3354	84841	4073	426	28557	21593	6615	9096	8784	4213	48070	12448	39800	10893	16486
<b>Number Species</b>	99	65	57	87	53	84	71	24	90	106	71	80	81	66	105	83	80	64	77
<b>Party Hours</b>	165.5	40.25	66	88	82.6	65.25	45	8	111.05	122.5	75	101.5	70.25	42	109.15	99.25	105.75	106	68

	LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK
Gr. White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Snow Goose	1	1347	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	104	1600	-	-	-	201
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
Canada Goose	4918	6905	76	833	396	698	14	1201	66	408	1577	1363	763	3963	1005	73	2076	10842
Mute Swan	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	28	-	-	2	52
Trumpeter Swan	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tundra Swan	-	1210	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	26	-	-	-
Wood Duck	8	2	5	2	-	5	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
Gadwall	15	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	16	-	5	20
American Wigeon	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
American Black Duck	101	97	7	-	2	2	-	76	-	-	7	28	17	108	31	-	8	207
Mallard	526	768	372	52	161	290	CW	329	30	266	634	26	502	851	85	51	59	565
Blue-winged Teal	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	34	145	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	19
Northern Pintail	15	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	43	43	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	19
Canvasback	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	12	-	9	44	2	-	-	154
Greater Scaup	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Lesser Scaup	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	3	-	9	-	-	-	-	15
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

LINE	LITI	LOCK	MANS	NEWB	NEWV	NLCO	PENN	PHIL	PISH	PITT	PLEA	POCO	READ	RECT	RYER	SCRA	SBCK
170	1	-	-	12	-	-	39	-	-	7	-	3	5	3	-	-	107
Common Goldeneye	1	-	-	8	-	-	7	-	-	4	-	-	1	1	-	-	18
Hooded Merganser	588	4	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	4	17	14	5	-	9	63
Common Merganser	273	14	11	49	65	-	-	-	-	-	152	45	11	-	-	63	109
Red-breasted Merganser	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ruddy Duck	39	23	2	-	-	-	64	-	-	-	-	43	60	27	-	30	171
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	13	1	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	9	11	-	1	3	3	15	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	9	11	84	13	29	53	15	124	157	4	4	57	1	48	37	-	-
Red-throated Loon	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	1	-	1	4
Pied-billed Grebe	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	4	4	-	-	52
Horned Grebe	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Great Blue Heron	89	34	CW	12	18	-	8	-	7	13	1	7	22	6	3	3	80
Great Egret	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW
Black Vulture	-	43	-	71	33	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	149	10	-	-	12
Turkey Vulture	-	204	-	63	12	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	328	30	24	-	78
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	50	16	CW	12	1	-	3	-	1	-	7	7	5	2	-	1	19
Northern Harrier	3	9	2	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	8	1	4	2	-	8	-	3	9	1	2	4	4	1	3	9
Cooper's Hawk	1	18	3	8	9	1	9	1	10	26	3	1	11	3	1	5	10
Northern Goshawk	10	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	6	-	5	3	4	-	-	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	28	101	11	56	49	18	18	1	48	50	19	16	85	20	49	20	79
Red-tailed Hawk	1	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
American Coot	1504	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	33	-	-	-	331
Sandhill Crane	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	67	-	-	4	27	-	-	-	-	CW	-	4	1	1	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	13	-	-	2	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	850	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-billed Gull	583	38	16	2	624	69	785	-	-	306	30	22	1322	2	-	1875	12408
Herring Gull	13	3	-	1	-	-	12	-	-	17	-	8	181	-	-	39	28713
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	154
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Great Black-backed Gull	-	1	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4669
Parasitic Jaeger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	76	445	290	455	380	589	35	129	89	56	546	77	1754	93	-	584	234
Eurasian Collared-Dove	107	501	337	152	141	846	136	443	29	421	502	97	832	81	170	106	696
Mourning Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barn Owl	-	11	4	2	11	5	10	-	3	9	10	13	15	1	1	1	12
Eastern Screech-Owl	-	10	3	-	3	4	4	2	1	10	2	4	10	-	CW	-	3
Great Horned Owl	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	2	CW	-	-
Barred Owl	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Long-eared Owl	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-







PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	TAMA	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK	YOSP
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	-	-	12	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	22	-	5	-	-	-	3	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	7	-	1	-	-	19	22	-	35	125	2	2	1	1	-	-	42	-
Greater Scaup	2	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	6	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	-	6	9	5	-	-	2	-	-
scaup sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	22	-	-	5	-	7	2	44	2	18	57	23	16	-	-	-	3	-
Common Goldeneye	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	35	-	-	13	-	98	45	40	7	20	31	41	15	-	-	3	18	2
Common Merganser	347	12	-	4	-	243	31	172	36	41	10	1	221	-	-	9	221	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	102
Ring-necked Pheasant	6	2	-	5	1	2	4	1	1	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	2	-
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	14	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Wild Turkey	20	5	32	47	61	152	21	11	10	28	85	54	84	66	-	20	8	-
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	3	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	4	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	4	6	-	2	1	CW	4	2	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	79	-	9	4	-	4	20	4	28	28	-	1	1	3	13	16	10	-
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	431	3	6	-	-	-	40	-	77	167	-	-	-	-	2	28	139	-
Turkey Vulture	587	-	-	-	-	-	112	-	107	227	-	3	-	-	19	158	185	-
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	35	10	-	7	-	8	3	12	17	5	10	8	CW	19	-	4	7	-
Northern Harrier	6	2	1	4	-	2	2	-	9	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	3	1	3	-	3	4	-	9	13	-	4	3	1	9	1	4	-
Cooper's Hawk	12	2	4	4	1	4	7	2	11	16	-	5	8	1	4	9	9	-
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	1	6	1	2	-	3	1	2	8	-
Red-tailed Hawk	64	22	58	29	3	55	123	10	63	90	20	55	44	36	37	51	105	-
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	9	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	1	75	1	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	28	-	-	2	-	-	49	-	27	26	-	4	1	3	-	1	40	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	11	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	7	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	6	-
American Woodcock	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	18926	-	-	-	-	7	1217	100	4067	68	265	261	550	1	95	253	167	-
Herring Gull	86	-	-	-	-	3	76	2	1153	-	4	12	CW	-	1	-	5	-

	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	TAMA	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK	YOSP
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	-	-	-	-	-	130	-	-	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	5	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Parasitic Jaeger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	1694	265	757	347	30	404	389	659	219	851	344	128	164	483	293	208	541	521
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	645	287	645	355	32	874	1245	272	78	885	384	37	390	193	209	351	235	858
Barn Owl	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech-Owl	74	-	9	6	-	22	165	7	2	76	42	-	16	15	5	3	-	12
Great Horned Owl	38	1	1	1	-	1	27	3	-	11	12	-	7	6	1	5	5	6
Barred Owl	8	CW	CW	1	CW	1	5	3	-	2	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	2
Long-eared Owl	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Saw-whet Owl	10	-	2	-	-	4	7	-	-	1	CW	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Rufous Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Allen's Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	50	-	14	1	-	10	22	11	2	21	15	2	6	5	3	10	14	6
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	208	10	47	31	4	28	111	48	49	104	120	2	37	20	30	53	76	88
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	24	2	4	-	-	1	11	-	5	5	18	-	2	-	9	9	7	-
Downy Woodpecker	207	26	69	55	18	53	154	85	53	79	119	17	57	40	35	80	76	69
Hairy Woodpecker	44	8	29	10	11	19	37	26	11	29	30	6	10	10	9	22	9	16
Yellow-shafted Flicker	128	2	14	2	-	7	172	2	11	44	51	-	6	8	8	23	23	63
Pileated Woodpecker	34	3	20	4	2	8	17	6	9	11	5	3	9	8	12	1	6	13
American Kestrel	24	3	9	9	-	7	7	1	5	21	3	-	5	14	16	2	11	60
Merlin	4	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Phoebe	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	1	-
Blue-headed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	110	90	244	163	15	90	227	408	96	110	204	49	66	167	91	112	85	189
American Crow	515	268	1454	584	14	623	1516	179	63	430	1063	156	1590	641	327	101	337	293
Fish Crow	31	-	18	-	-	1	1	-	-	30	12	-	1	18	-	-	2	31
Common Raven	4	7	14	7	3	11	-	13	-	-	-	-	3	8	8	-	1	5
Horned Lark	540	50	-	136	-	1	-	-	-	571	-	-	37	-	105	-	25	485
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	461	-	-	-	-	-	278	-	98	193	301	-	-	-	-	191	133	113
Black-capped Chickadee	14	134	265	192	94	267	44	566	35	2	2	178	262	234	-	1	7	7
chickadee sp.	77	-	29	29	-	-	126	-	21	-	58	-	-	-	162	-	26	68
Tufted Titmouse	370	47	142	133	18	87	305	99	104	157	262	41	122	107	98	106	108	136
Red-breasted Nuthatch	48	4	13	10	2	3	12	15	63	11	38	1	10	5	1	21	30	10
White-breasted Nuthatch	217	27	173	59	19	105	142	130	58	94	190	31	69	64	48	76	77	80
Brown Creeper	69	4	3	11	2	4	16	14	5	15	13	4	15	8	13	8	9	11
House Wren	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Wren	68	-	6	3	-	2	24	1	1	20	20	-	2	1	11	14	2	10
Carolina Wren	400	13	81	24	-	69	184	25	51	125	182	2	42	39	57	48	64	101
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	162	5	34	45	6	26	61	23	13	28	19	9	45	29	31	11	14	31
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	19	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	5	1	1	1	1	2	4	1	3
Eastern Bluebird	364	8	62	54	7	93	244	6	43	141	353	36	141	136	48	19	188	173
Hermit Thrush	27	1	5	6	-	4	4	1	1	5	8	-	-	-	-	1	3	8
American Robin	49	1	1	8	-	4	37	13	33	155	441	-	48	1	1	548	23	44
Gray Catbird	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

	SLAN	SEBR	STAT	TAMA	THOM	TUNK	UBCK	WARR	WASH	WCHE	WEST	WHIT	WILD	WILL	WSCH	WYNC	YORK	YOSP
Northern Mockingbird	151	-	42	29	-	3	97	-	15	89	108	-	35	12	32	36	54	74
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
European Starling	6642	596	1975	1254	16	1070	3978	556	223	4571	6387	299	1063	11846	993	1358	2531	3142
American Pipit	327	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	425	30	-	1	-	-	-	93	54
Cedar Waxwing	76	-	5	25	-	-	2	-	26	1	31	1	18	1	38	4	70	80
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Snow Bunting	2	50	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	12
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Myrtle Warbler	56	-	1	-	-	-	43	-	2	25	9	-	3	-	-	-	43	18
Black-thr. Green Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Towhee	27	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	2	20	4	-	-	1	-	3	4	5
American Tree Sparrow	14	48	63	142	5	84	104	32	2	18	10	25	192	154	84	-	5	52
Chipping Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Clay-colored Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	30	-	1	4	-	2	6	2	1	51	26	-	22	8	11	7	3	15
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	22	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	15	1	-	6	-	-	3	1	-
Le Conte's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	16	-	2	1	-	1	2	3	6	6	6	-	2	-	-	3	-	5
Song Sparrow	697	12	40	112	-	82	266	6	56	371	417	2	109	37	117	111	152	238
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	58	1	4	-	-	3	20	1	2	27	30	-	7	1	2	1	23	9
White-throated Sparrow	1982	29	232	329	-	156	626	16	13	887	620	8	306	141	238	402	476	1109
White-crowned Sparrow	134	-	2	1	-	1	36	-	1	111	8	5	3	-	4	-	12	68
Oregon Junco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slate-colored Junco	1171	415	468	1659	34	442	1324	322	103	1440	962	94	1265	625	672	503	340	2011
Northern Cardinal	693	107	146	182	7	150	283	150	108	371	368	12	141	90	83	135	182	373
Red-winged Blackbird	2714	1	13	11	-	154	431	-	1	31434	250	-	-	-	-	166	303	200
Eastern Meadowlark	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	11	-	-	-	-	-	59	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Common Grackle	25800	-	45	-	-	1	31	-	-	181734	150	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	911	1	-	100	-	37	18	-	1	115	16	-	3	-	6	-	2	1261
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	6	1	2	6	-	-	3	2	22	-	-	12	-	40	-	4	1	1
House Finch	189	95	147	51	10	141	164	83	54	175	362	-	252	114	90	162	39	124
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
White-winged Crossbill	11	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	8	-	-	-	12	-	2
Common Redpoll	2	9	-	40	CW	15	-	-	-	3	-	32	3	-	24	-	-	32
Hoary Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	22	4	-	3	4	CW	6	43	-	1	53	2	40	1	2	3	2	1
American Goldfinch	171	81	185	48	11	121	136	153	99	107	263	56	88	87	106	104	84	58
Evening Grosbeak	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	486	191	190	338	9	74	162	250	297	457	98	55	71	58	135	146	26	237
<b>Number Individuals</b>	<b>79359</b>	<b>5056</b>	<b>8369</b>	<b>9944</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>8870</b>	<b>25723</b>	<b>5788</b>	<b>2407</b>	<b>251248</b>	<b>23951</b>	<b>2591</b>	<b>23588</b>	<b>17474</b>	<b>5246</b>	<b>7433</b>	<b>9664</b>	<b>15331</b>
<b>Number Species</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Party Hours</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>37.75</b>	<b>94.39</b>	<b>68.83</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>68.45</b>	<b>154.15</b>	<b>122.5</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>77.5</b>	<b>124.33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>72</b>

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2012 CBC SUMMARY

SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT	SPECIES	TOTAL	SITES	HIGH	HIGH COUNT
Gr. White-fronted Goose	2	2	1	1	Killdeer	553	38	78	19
Snow Goose	74636	22	34221	1	Purple Sandpiper	1	1	1	1
Ross's Goose	5	3	2	2	Wilson's Snipe	125	24	23	23
Cackling Goose	41	14	10	3	American Woodcock	8	4	3	3
Canada Goose	183337	72	18129	1	Black-headed Gull	1	1	1	1
Mute Swan	208	34	52	4	Bonaparte's Gull	7262	4	6381	6
Trumpeter Swan	4	2	3	1	Laughing Gull	1	1	1	1
Tundra Swan	2262	17	1210	56	Ring-billed Gull	116074	56	40079	74
Wood Duck	95	31	8	34904	Herring Gull	38	28713	38	38
Gadwall	611	27	171	26	Iceland Gull	26	4	22	22
American Wigeon	178	19	52	316	Lesser Black-backed Gull	316	13	154	154
American Black Duck	2783	54	468	5	Glaucous Gull	5	3	3	3
Mallard	21436	71	1101	5139	Great Black-backed Gull	16	16	4669	16
Blue-winged Teal	7	3	5	1	Parasitic Jaeger	1	1	1	1
Northern Shoveler	482	17	164	31460	Rock Pigeon	71	71	1984	71
Northern Pintail	233	15	181	4	Eurasian Collared-Dove	4	4	4	4
Green-winged Teal	435	29	181	32212	Mourning Dove	74	2031	2031	74
Canvasback	39	6	15	11	Barn Owl	6	3	3	3
Redhead	14	6	4	918	Eastern Screech-Owl	62	165	165	62
Ring-necked Duck	1311	28	307	405	Great Horned Owl	60	38	38	60
Greater Scaup	112	12	52	73	Barred Owl	73	33	8	33
Lesser Scaup	929	26	746	19	Long-eared Owl	15	7	5	7
scaup sp.	1573	3	1569	15	Short-eared Owl	7	7	5	7
Surf Scoter	3	3	1	53	Northern Saw-whet Owl	21	10	10	21
White-winged Scoter	23	2	22	4	Rufous Hummingbird	4	3	2	2
Black Scoter	19	2	13	1	Allen's Hummingbird	1	1	1	1
Long-tailed Duck	5	3	3	786	Belted Kingfisher	786	67	50	67
Bufflehead	1085	43	170	51	Red-headed Woodpecker	12	17	17	12
Common Goldeneye	255	20	90	4472	Red-bellied Woodpecker	74	238	238	74
Hooded Merganser	2117	47	588	298	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	46	24	24	46
Common Merganser	3993	52	446	5641	Downy Woodpecker	74	207	207	74
Red-breasted Merganser	25131	11	24973	1376	Hairy Woodpecker	1376	72	69	72
Ruddy Duck	2276	33	495	1598	Yellow-shafted Flicker	64	172	172	64
Ring-necked Pheasant	152	46	17	771	Pileated Woodpecker	74	37	37	74
Ruffed Grouse	80	25	27	868	American Kestrel	66	67	67	66
Wild Turkey	2996	64	165	38	Merlin	22	5	5	38
Red-throated Loon	4	4	1	25	Peregrine Falcon	19	3	3	19
Common Loon	48	16	7	1	Prairie Falcon	1	1	1	1
Pied-billed Grebe	266	32	52	25	Eastern Phoebe	20	2	2	25
Horned Grebe	36	12	10	1	Blue-headed Vireo	8	8	1	1
Eared Grebe	3	2	2	8	Northern Shrike	8	8	1	8
Double-cr. Cormorant	168	12	72	11177	Blue Jay	74	417	417	74
Great Cormorant	47	3	24	96514	American Crow	74	24400	24400	74
Great Blue Heron	1027	62	89	2482	Fish Crow	24	1830	1830	24
Great Egret	3	3	1	427	Common Raven	54	68	68	54
Black Vulture	2264	35	431	9579	Horned Lark	42	850	850	42
Turkey Vulture	4070	36	587	152	N. Rough-winged Swallow	3	150	150	3
Osprey	2	2	1	5623	Carolina Chickadee	30	498	498	30
Bald Eagle	443	59	50	10386	Black-capped Chickadee	69	566	566	69
Northern Harrier	158	43	20	3488	chickadee sp.	30	402	402	30
Northern Osprey	261	62	13	10515	Tufted Titmouse	74	465	465	74
Sharp-shinned Hawk	463	70	26	1197	Red-breasted Nuthatch	71	96	96	71
Cooper's Hawk	7	6	2	6918	White-breasted Nuthatch	74	236	236	74
Northern Goshawk	139	40	10	840	Brown Creeper	67	74	74	67
Red-shouldered Hawk	3630	74	134	3	House Wren	2	2	2	3
Red-tailed Hawk	22	15	6	516	Winter Wren	54	68	68	54
Rough-legged Hawk	9	5	3	5531	Carolina Wren	71	400	400	71
Golden Eagle	6068	27	3365	2	Marsh Wren	2	2	2	2
American Coot	73	2	47	2498	Golden-crowned Kinglet	70	185	185	70
Sandhill Crane	73	2	47	2498	Golden-crowned Kinglet	70	185	185	70

High Count notations: \*\*1) BEDF,BUTL,LINE \*\*2) BUTLER,INDI,READ \*\*3) DELA,ERIE,HARR \*\*4) DELA,GETT,LINE \*\*5) CHAM,HAMB,SLAN,UBCK,WYNC \*\*6) BALD,DING,DUBO,ELVE,ERIE,SLAN,TAMA,WHIT \*\*7) HARR,NEWV,SLAN,WCHE

# The year at the lake

Mike Lanzone

I started off the year with a New Year's resolution. Not the typical one most people set for themselves, but for me I guess it was normal. I wanted to get more serious about setting up a local birding patch and visiting it as much as I could. My goal was quite simple: designate a local patch and set up a route through it that I could bird each morning before work. And so it started... a simple goal that turned into an obsession; a whirlwind that ranks as one of the best years of birding I have ever had.

I hadn't lived in Somerset County long. For the previous seven years I was one county to the west, and my travels into Somerset County had been limited to some breeding bird atlas work. We moved to Somerset a few years ago to a spot not too far from Somerset Lake, which allowed me to bird it frequently. The lake is located just to the northeast of the Borough of Somerset. It's 250 acres and has been designated an Important Bird Area (IBA). There are some fairly diverse habitats around

*A Birding Patch? If you are new to the term "patch", it is a small designated area, like a local park, trail, or other area that you can bird regularly. In eBird you can designate a "patch" to keep track of your records at that location. If you have trouble keeping records, this gives motivation to enter all your checklists on eBird!*

*Key ingredients for a birding patch:*

- *Keep it local*
- *Keep it manageable—up to 5 miles if driving or 4-5 square miles if on foot.*
- *Plan the route through your patch to include a diversity of habitats*
- *Bird it consistently and enter your data into eBird*

whenever I could at other times. The close proximity to work and my home allowed me to make it to work on time after birding for at least an hour, which was perfect!

As one might expect, the year started slowly. Somerset County—the highest elevation county in Pennsylvania—usually stays fairly cold until mid-spring. The list I compiled on my route through the month of February had just the typical winter birds of Pennsylvania. Things didn't get exciting until March when small patches of open water started to appear in the lake ice. For a small lake, I had been blown away by the extent of the water bird fallouts I had seen there the year before, and was excited to see what would show up when the ice melted. I didn't have to wait long for my first good bird, a Lesser Black-backed Gull, and in the week after that, one of the largest fallouts I had seen on the lake occurred: at least 12,000 waterfowl and an American White Pelican! Another huge fallout occurred at the end of the month, with approximately 8000 waterfowl on the lake!

As April rolled in, the state began to lower the lake level because of a leak found in the dam. I was a bit angry to hear this, but this twist of fate would end up allowing me add many

birds to my list that are infrequent or rare in the county. Mudflats were soon exposed around the lake mostly on the north end, which brought a good mix of shorebirds. The biggest surprise came on April 16. It was a slow day with a bright blue sky. I almost skipped my last stop on the route, but I forged ahead only to find a Ruff!

That day was pivotal. Jeff Payne, who showed up to try to help relocate the Ruff, asked me how many county birds I had so far. I had to stop to think for a minute. "Well, I guess over 140 now." (In fact the Ruff actually made county bird 144 at that point.) Jeff's response was quick: "Wow... you have a good shot of breaking the county record. It's 222." Until that moment I hadn't thought of attempting a big year in the county, but at that instant something switched in my head, and I suddenly became driven to find every last bird in the county.

This was a different kind of thinking for me. I am not really a hard core lister or chaser. In the past a lot of my birding closely followed my research. As a biologist I place a high value on collecting data for scientific purposes, and I did a lot of birding in conjunction with my research. I would also much rather spend the limited free time I have birding instead of driving. I would much rather find something great at a local spot than run around the state. This aversion to driving is probably also partially due to the fact that I had done so much traveling across the country when I was younger. However, for the first time, doing a big year was desirable to me, because both of my philosophical reasons against big years were accounted for. My route would be contributing to scientific knowledge by my repeating the same route over and over, and I would not have to drive all over the place to do it! My Somerset Lake route had top priority over going elsewhere. This might have seemed like a bad strategy to many, but in hindsight this turned out to be the key to my successful big year.

I would regularly do my full route in the morning. Being close to work, I was sometimes able to run over to the lake during lunch or other breaks, which I tried to do when the weather was right. In the end this strategy came through big time. I turned down many opportunities to go elsewhere to bird and stayed in my county, often finding great birds that I would not have seen if I had been away. Great birds abounded throughout my big year, including many first county records, state rarities, and days of plain old great birding. Yes indeed, *great* birding in an inland county—11 species of gulls and terns, 35 species of waterfowl, 27 species of shorebirds, and 33 species of warblers. Of course I enjoyed all the birds I saw, but a few of my favorites included Golden Eagle, Ruff, Little Gull, Whimbrel, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow Rail, American Avocet, Ross's Goose, Rufous Hummingbird, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaeger, and Brant. In the end, I broke my personal record, not just once, but three times! The last new bird I added to my list came on December 28 while running my normal route at Somerset Lake: a Glaucous Gull, a first county record and number 264 for the year. The lake route certainly did not disappoint.

So why did this strategy pay off? For starters Somerset Lake is a great birding location. It sits at high elevation and is naturally a great stopover site for many waterbirds. The lake also sits in a bowl of sorts and is surrounded by higher elevation on all sides, with the highest barriers on the east and west at the Allegheny Front and Laurel Mountain. Bad weather often traps birds in the county with fog and cloudbanks in all directions, and many of these birds eventually end up at the lake. It also could have just been an exceptional year.

Somerset County was for the first time ever neck-and-neck with the "birdiest" counties in the state. Both those reasons likely played a part, but overall I think the key to the strategy was consistency—birding the same route day after day. I setup

the route with some key considerations, and I stuck to it. To some it may seem boring to bird the same route every day, but it was anything but boring. I found it very exciting, wondering what great bird I would see next. In addition, because I got to know where to expect almost every bird on my route, when something different showed up, it was quite easy to spot. In fact of my 264 species I saw for the year, I found 241 in the patch at the Somerset Lake IBA!

So if you are looking for a change of pace, try setting up a local patch and birding it as often as possible. Not only will you save a ton of money on gas, you will be surprised at what you find. I must warn you though, it is addicting!

*Somerset, PA  
mlanzone@gmail.com*



Little Gull  
15 November 2012



Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
5 September 2012



Parasitic Jaeger  
16 December 2012



Forster's Tern, Black-bellied Plovers, and Lesser Yellowlegs  
28 September 2012



Glaucous Gull – 264th species for 2012  
28 December 2012

*(All photos at Somerset Lake by Mike Lanzone)*

# The 2013 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania

Greg Grove

The 13th Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) was conducted from 10 January through 18 February 2013 with at least one route in each of the state's 67 counties. WRS is a roadside survey with simple but specific guidelines. All raptors and vultures are recorded and data are also collected on sex/age/color form. Cumulative results were summarized previously (Grove 2010, Grove and Bolgiano 2012).

## Effort and Weather

A total of 203 routes were run, comprising 738 hours and 11,312 miles of observation, the second highest level of effort ever, following the record 753 hours last year. Observers in *Centre* led the way, logging 31 hours, with *Chester* and *Lancaster* at 26 each (Table 2). A state map showing details of most routes is on the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology website (PSO website).

After a year essentially without winter in 2012, this past winter was closer to normal though still lacking significant snow. December and early January were much warmer than normal. In mid-January, as WRS was starting, cold weather arrived and stayed through the remainder of the winter, but still there were no great storms. At State College, January temperatures averaged 4°F above normal and February was 2°F below. Counters were hampered somewhat, as what little snow occurred came mostly on weekends. On the first weekend, much of the state experienced dense fog on both days, causing some routes to be postponed. Nevertheless, nearly all established routes were run.

## 2013 Results

Record high counts were set for five raptors and for Black Vulture (Table 1). These were primarily the result of increasing hours of observation, but some

species also had modest increases in hourly detection rates. Results for individual counties are in the Appendix.

**Red-tailed Hawk.** The count of 3366 Red-tails was the highest ever (Table 1). The hourly rate was 4.56, up slightly over recent years (Fig 1). As usual, many pairs of Red-tails were seen, wintering on their nesting territory. Of 2469 Red-tails aged, 229 (9%) were immature, within the annual range of 9-16%.

As usual, Red-tails were found in good number throughout the state except in the heavily forested cluster of *Forest, Elk, Cameron, Clearfield,* and *Cambria* counties. Highest densities were in the southeast, especially in the Susquehanna River valley, and the far west—areas with plentiful open land interspersed with woodlots of small to medium size (Fig 2). *Chester* led with a count of 159, followed closely by *Cumberland* and *Adams* (Table 2). Among counties with at least 8 hours of coverage, *Adams* had 10 Red-tails per hour and *Juniata* and *Snyder* averaged over eight per hour.

**American Kestrel.** The total of 698 American Kestrels surpassed last year's record high of 682. The hourly rate was 0.95, slightly higher than last year and the best since 2008, but generally consistent with the rate since 2005 (Fig 1). Of 585 Kestrels sexed, 365 (62%) were males, consistent with previous results (range: 59-66%).

As usual, most Kestrels were in the central and lower Susquehanna and Juniata River valleys (Fig 2). *Adams* led with 43, followed by *Juniata* with 38 and *Lancaster* with 34 (Table 2). In counties with at least seven hours of effort, *Juniata* had over four per hour; *Adams, Montour,* and *Union* also averaged at least two Kestrels per hour.

I have been tracking separately the declining numbers of kestrels in six southeastern counties (*Bucks, Chester,*

*Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery,* and *Northampton*). The results this year were encouraging. The combined total for the six counties was 35, which ties the previous high in 2003 (Table 3). The hourly rate (0.39) was the best since 2005, although still far below that of the early years of WRS. (The 35 kestrels counted in 2003 were found with less than half as many hours of effort as the same number this year.)

**Table 1. Pennsylvania WRS Species Counts for 2011 and High Counts from 2001-2011.**

Species	2013	High Count
Bald Eagle	206	206 (2013)
Northern Harrier	127	133 (2008)
Sh.-shinned Hawk	54	55 (2009)
Cooper's Hawk	110	115 (2012)
N. Goshawk	2	5 (2004)
Red-sh. Hawk	73	73 (2013)
Red-tailed Hawk	3366	3366 (2013)
Rough-leg. Hawk	79	341 (2004)
Golden Eagle	7	7 (2013)
American Kestrel	698	689 (2013)
Merlin	9	9 ('12, '13)
Peregrine Falcon	11	11 ('11, '13)
Black Vulture	1245	1245 (2013)
Turkey Vulture	2239	2804 (2012)
Northern Shrike	4	10 (2012)
Hours	738	753 (2012)
Miles	11312	11754 (2012)

**Rough-legged Hawk.** For the second consecutive year, Rough-legged Hawks were not easy to find. The 2013 total of 79 matched exactly the count from 2012. The statewide rate was 0.11 per hour, similar to 2010 and 2012, but less than one-third the rate of 0.34 per hour in 2011 (Fig 1). The Rough-leg count on Pennsylvania CBCs this winter was also very low (Bolgiano 2013). Of all of Pennsylvania's wintering raptors, Rough-legs are most variable in number.

The usual pattern of Rough-leg distribution was evident; most were in northern tier counties and in the central Susquehanna Valley (Fig 2). *Centre* led the way again with 13 Rough-legs, attributable both to good habitat and plenty of coverage. Eight of the 13 *Centre* Rough-legs were tallied on the Penns Valley route in eastern *Centre*, the usual hotspot. *Lycoming* and *Tioga* both recorded eight Rough-legs, six were in *Warren*, and five each were in *Clarion, Crawford, Erie,* and *Potter* (Table 2, Appendix).

Of the 78 Rough-legs identified by color morph, 49 (63%) were light (2001-12 range = 60-78%).

**Northern Harrier.** The Northern Harrier count of 127 was the second highest ever, six less than the 133 in 2008. The hourly rate of 0.17 was the

**Table 2. Top three counties for effort and selected species.**

Rank	1	2	3
Hours	Centre (31)	Chester (26)	Lancaster (26)
Bald Eagle	Lancaster (47)	Pike (19)	Bucks (17)
N. Harrier	Montour (16)	Northumberland (15)	Snyder (10)
Sharp-sh. Hawk	Franklin (6)	Northampton (6)	-
Cooper's Hawk	Lancaster (9)	Juniata (6)	-
Northern Goshawk	Centre (1)	Wyoming (1)	-
Red-sh. Hawk	Crawford (8)	York (8)	Huntingdon (7)
Red-tailed Hawk	Chester (159)	Cumberland (148)	Adams (147)
Rough-lg. Hawk	Centre (13)	Lycoming (8)	Tioga (8)
Golden Eagle	Pike (3)	Huntingdon (2)	-
Am. Kestrel	Adams (43)	Juniata (38)	Lancaster (34)
Merlin	Chester (2)	Lancaster (2)	-
Peregrine Falcon	Lackawanna (2)	Lancaster (2)	Northampton (2)
Turkey Vulture	Chester (471)	Lancaster (411)	Adams (196)
Black Vulture	Lancaster (241)	Chester (234)	Perry (136)



best since 2009 (Fig 1). From the high in 2008, harriers declined for three consecutive years, dipping to less than half the 2008 peak by 2011; possibly that decline was related to three years of relatively harsh winters. Last year the downward trend stopped, perhaps because of the mild winter; the increase this year was again perhaps due to lack of substantial snow cover despite colder temperatures. Harrier numbers are also positively related to CREP acreage – fields left un-mowed to improve habitat for grassland species (Wilson et al 2010).

*Montour* and *Northumberland* led the harrier count with 16 and 15, respectively, and in general harriers were most numerous in the middle Susquehanna valley where a cluster of five counties (*Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union*) accounted for 54 harriers, 43% of the total (Fig 2).

**Vultures.** For the second year in a row, Black Vultures reached a record high, totaling 1245 (Table 1); the hourly rate was also the highest ever at 1.69 (Fig 1). The hourly rate of Turkey Vultures fell back to average following the record 2012 (Fig 1). The total of 2239 was the second highest ever. Turkey Vultures were recorded in 31 counties. Black Vultures were in 25 counties, a new high; nevertheless they remain essentially confined to southern and eastern counties—the most notable exception being two in *Wayne* (Fig 2). As usual, *Chester* and *Lancaster* led the vulture counts for both species (Table 2).

**Table 3. American Kestrel counts and hourly rates in southeastern Pennsylvania (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton).**

Year	Hrs.	Kestrels	Kestrels/hr.
2001	23	28	1.24
2002	23	30	1.33
2003	44	35	0.80
2004	49	11	0.23
2005	45	18	0.40
2006	63	18	0.29
2007	63	18	0.29
2008	77	22	0.29
2009	74	25	0.34
2010	63	16	0.25
2011	64	12	0.19
2012	88	19	0.22
2013	89	35	0.39

**Other raptors.** Totals for other raptors are shown in Table 1. Notable again was Bald Eagle, which last year more than doubled the previous record; this year it surpassed even that mark. *Lancaster* easily led the count again, with 47, followed by *Pike* with 19 (Table 2). The 7 Golden Eagles was also a new high.

Red-shouldered Hawks passed their previous high with 73 recorded, led by *Adams* and *Crawford*, with eight each. The only two Northern Goshawks were in *Centre* and *Wyoming* (Table 2). Sharp-shinned and Cooper’s Hawks were both close to previous high counts. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon both tied previous records highs.

**Acknowledgements**

I thank Nick Bolgiano for creation of Fig 1 and 2, and Frank Haas for

generating the map showing WRS routes in each county (PSO website). And of course thanks go to the well over 100 birders and companions who gathered the data across the state.

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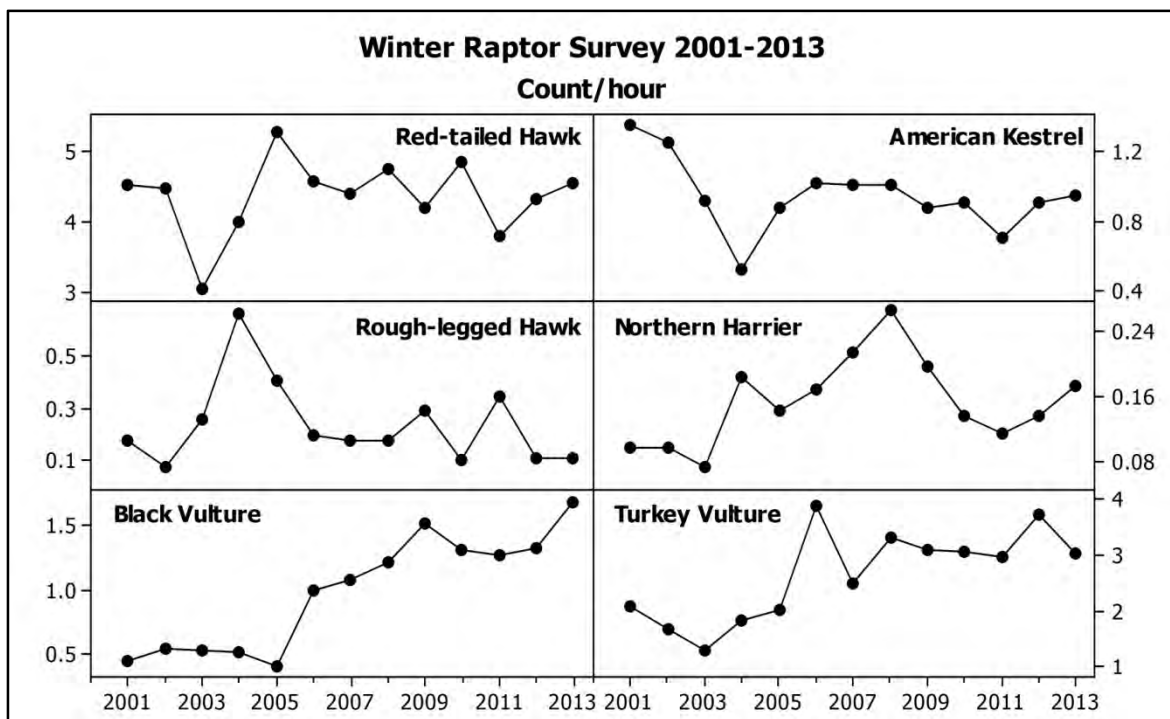
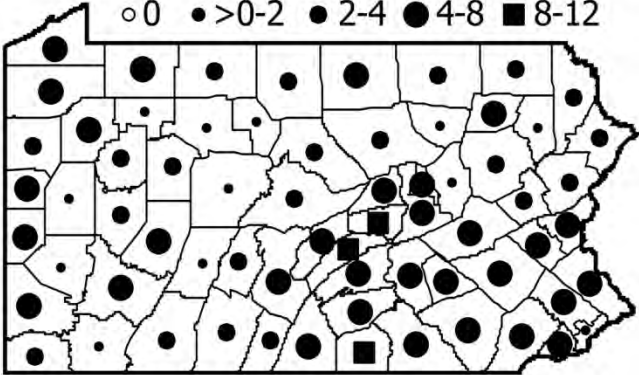


Figure 1. Pennsylvania WRS trends, 2001–2013. Results are expressed in birds/hour.

## Winter Raptor Survey 2013

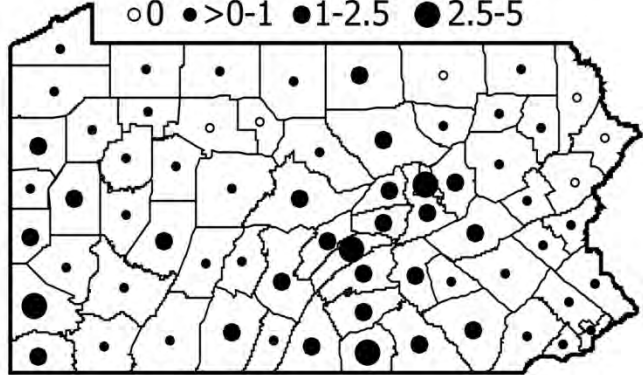
### Red-tailed Hawks/hr

○ 0 ● >0-2 ● 2-4 ● 4-8 ■ 8-12



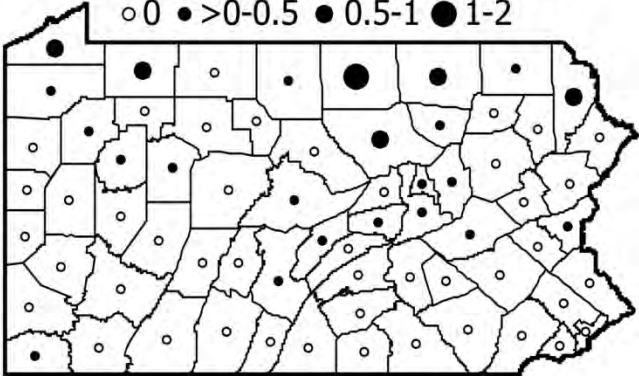
### American Kestrels/hr

○ 0 ● >0-1 ● 1-2.5 ● 2.5-5



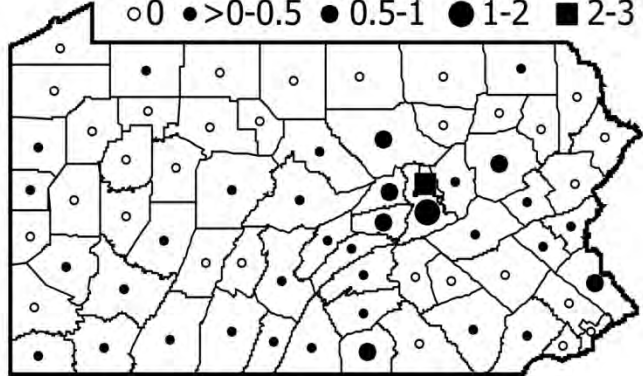
### Rough-legged Hawks/hr

○ 0 ● >0-0.5 ● 0.5-1 ● 1-2



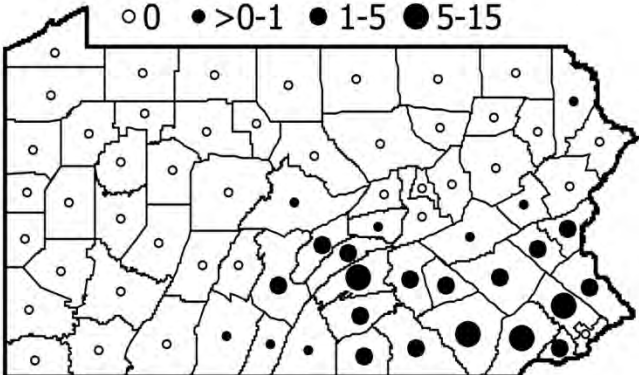
### Northern Harriers/hr

○ 0 ● >0-0.5 ● 0.5-1 ● 1-2 ■ 2-3



### Black Vultures/hr

○ 0 ● >0-1 ● 1-5 ● 5-15



### Turkey Vultures/hr

○ 0 ● >0-1 ● 1-5 ● 5-15 ■ 15-30

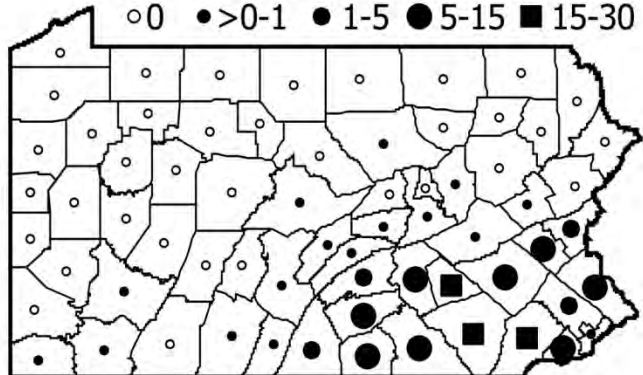


Figure 2. Pennsylvania 2013 WRS results by county. Count and effort data from all routes in a given county were combined and results expressed as birds/hour.

**Appendix: 2013 Winter Raptor Survey Results**

County	Hours	Miles	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	TV	BV	NShr
Adams	14.75	216	3	8	1	3	-	2	147	-	-	43	-	1	196	27	-
Allegheny	2.75	56	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Armstrong	10.75	181	-	-	-	2	-	-	36	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Beaver	2.5	24	6	-	-	1	-	-	12	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Bedford	10	264	2	1	-	1	-	-	36	-	-	10	-	-	8	7	-
Berks	22.75	370	3	-	2	2	-	1	95	-	-	16	-	1	171	54	-
Blair	6.25	103	2	-	1	2	-	-	22	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Bradford	3.75	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bucks	10	104	17	7	2	1	-	2	63	-	-	1	-	-	52	15	-
Butler	2.75	46	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Cambria	7.75	129	-	-	1	2	-	-	11	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Cameron	1.75	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carbon	12	223	-	1	1	2	-	-	27	-	-	2	-	-	4	1	-
Centre	30.75	383	3	4	2	3	1	2	108	13	1	31	-	-	2	2	1
Chester	25.75	449	8	4	2	5	-	3	159	-	-	14	2	-	471	234	-
Clarion	20.25	300	1	-	-	1	-	1	54	5	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Clearfield	9.5	204	-	1	1	-	-	-	12	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Clinton	7	122	1	1	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Columbia	9.75	122	1	4	1	1	-	-	19	2	-	15	-	-	1	-	-
Crawford	19.5	273	10	-	3	1	-	8	94	5	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Cumberland	22	315	2	2	3	3	-	3	148	-	-	23	1	-	152	95	-
Dauphin	12.5	221	3	-	-	4	-	5	73	-	-	22	-	-	69	42	-
Delaware	10	160	1	-	1	3	-	1	41	-	-	1	-	-	64	23	-
Elk	1.75	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erie	10	127	5	-	-	1	-	6	47	5	-	4	-	-	-	-	1
Fayette	13	199	-	1	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	3	-	-	3	-	-
Forest	3.25	68	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Franklin	14.75	291	1	2	6	5	-	-	83	-	-	22	-	-	25	12	-
Fulton	12	85	2	1	-	1	-	6	47	-	-	9	-	-	2	9	-
Greene	13.5	232	-	2	-	2	-	-	48	1	-	25	-	-	1	-	-
Huntingdon	21.75	330	4	1	-	4	-	7	102	2	2	33	-	-	3	48	-
Indiana	21.5	312	2	2	1	4	-	1	115	-	-	27	1	-	-	-	-
Jefferson	10.5	159	1	-	-	-	-	-	22	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Juniata	9.25	150	5	2	-	6	-	1	81	-	-	38	-	-	8	15	-
Lackawana	5	104	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
Lancaster	25.75	360	47	1	1	9	-	1	154	-	-	34	2	2	411	241	-
Lawrence	14	168	4	6	2	5	-	1	67	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	8.25	153	7	-	-	3	-	-	61	-	-	7	-	-	124	21	-
Lehigh	9.75	144	1	1	3	1	-	-	72	-	-	3	-	-	135	32	-
Luzerne	1.5	34	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lycoming	12.25	218	-	7	-	2	-	-	44	8	-	16	-	-	2	-	-
McKean	5.5	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Mercer	9.5	120	5	2	-	1	-	-	34	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
Mifflin	17.5	216	3	4	2	1	-	-	104	1	-	30	-	-	5	18	-
Monroe	7.75	128	-	-	1	2	-	-	23	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Montgomery	10.75	125	-	-	-	2	-	1	51	-	-	4	-	1	33	113	-
Montour	7.25	132	-	16	-	1	-	-	39	1	-	21	-	-	-	-	-
Northampton	22.5	311	4	1	6	2	-	-	119	1	-	12	-	2	103	56	1
Northumberland	11.5	146	3	15	2	2	-	-	70	3	-	20	-	-	2	-	-
Perry	24.5	297	1	4	1	2	-	5	141	-	-	25	1	-	66	136	-
Philadelphia	5.25	63	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-
Pike	6.5	23	19	-	1	1	-	-	17	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
Potter	13.5	237	1	-	1	-	-	1	37	5	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
Schuylkill	11.5	215	5	2	-	2	-	1	51	1	-	20	-	-	2	2	-
Snyder	13	184	1	10	1	4	-	-	112	1	-	18	-	-	2	2	-
Somerset	5	83	-	1	1	1	-	-	10	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sullivan	3	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Susquehanna	13.25	114	2	2	-	-	-	-	32	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Tioga	5.25	120	2	-	-	-	-	-	32	8	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Union	9.25	152	2	6	-	-	-	-	37	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-
Venango	7.75	143	2	-	-	-	-	3	32	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Warren	6.25	126	2	1	1	2	-	2	39	6	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Washington	4.75	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
Wayne	7.5	75	2	-	-	1	-	-	19	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Westmoreland	11.5	203	1	2	1	3	-	-	58	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-
Wyoming	4.5	98	-	-	1	-	1	-	31	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
York	11.25	229	5	-	1	3	-	8	70	-	-	12	-	-	120	38	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>738.25</b>	<b>11312</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>3366</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2239</b>	<b>1245</b>	<b>4</b>

**TWENTIETH REPORT**  
of the  
**PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE**  
April 2013  
Nick Pulcinella for the Committee

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The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter "PORC" or "the committee") evaluates and archives documentation it receives of any species or recognizable form that is on the Review List for Pennsylvania. In addition it reviews documentation for new species or new subspecies for the state. This report covers 81 records of 40 species. The 72 records accepted represent an acceptance rate of 89%. Reports were received from 22 counties. Top reporting counties were Bucks (13), Erie (12), Berks (8) and Lancaster (5).

Highlights in this report include the first record for Sandwich Tern, fourth records for Mew Gull, Northern Wheatear and Green-tailed Towhee, fifth records for Brown Pelican and Pink-footed Goose, and fifth through ninth records for Royal Tern. The passage of Hurricane Irene was directly responsible for the records of Sandwich and Royal Tern. The Sandwich Tern will be placed on the Provisional List since it was accepted with written documentation only. The Official State List now contains 427 species, 418 in the Class I category and 9 on the Provisional List.

PORC encourages observers to document their sightings with photographs, videos or sound recordings when possible, but the committee also urges observers to submit accompanying written documentation. Supporting written documentation may add details such as missing field marks or behavior notes that are not captured in some photos. The Committee continues to emphasize that the primary point of any documentation of a rare bird should be a detailed written description. There are several well written articles on documenting rare birds and observers are encouraged to consult the Committee's web pages at <[www.pabirds.org/records](http://www.pabirds.org/records)>, Dittman and Lasley 1992, and PORC 2000.

The Committee would like to emphasize the importance of submitting documentation directly to PORC. The posting of reports including written details and photographs on listservs or social media sites may not safely be assumed to have been discovered by PORC nor be assumed to be understood as documentation of a rarity.

Documentation can be submitted to **Jan Getgood, PORC Secretary, 24 Meadowood Drive, Hummelstown, PA 17036, [jangetgood@gmail.com](mailto:jangetgood@gmail.com)**.

#### Committee News

The Committee membership and year of term expiration during this report period consisted of Ben Coulter (2013), Al Guarente (2012) (chair), Tom Johnson (2012), Geoff Malosh (2012), Cameron Rutt (2014), Dave DeReamus (2013) and Drew Weber (2014). Ramsay Koury served as an alternate member. Nick Pulcinella (2012) was the non-voting secretary. Al Guarente, Tom Johnson and Geoff Malosh rotated off the committee after serving two terms and were replaced by Devich Farbotnik (2015), Mike Fialkovich (2015) and Mike Lanzone (2015).

Drew Weber was elected chairman and Janet Getgood joins the committee as non-voting Secretary.

The Committee's web page <[www.pabirds.org/records](http://www.pabirds.org/records)> has been updated. The site includes the Official State List, the Review List of species requiring documentation, tips for improving documentation of rarities, a form that can be used to submit reports to the committee directly online, a photo archive, and a searchable database. The site also contains information regarding the functions of the Committee.

#### Classification of Records

*Class I:* An accepted record based on an existing identifiable specimen, a diagnostic photograph or a diagnostic recording. Abbreviations are (p) photograph, (r) sound recording, (a) audiotape, (v) video, (s) specimen.

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

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

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

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

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

*Class V:* The identification is correct, but the bird represents or may represent an escape or an introduced bird not yet established in Pennsylvania.

#### Format of this Report

The taxonomic treatment and species sequence follows the 7th edition of the AOU checklist published in 1998 and subsequent supplements. The number in parentheses after the species name represents the number of accepted records, including those in this report, since the establishment of PORC in 1989. A plus sign (+) after the number signifies that there are accepted records prior to the formation of PORC. Each accepted record includes the locality, county, and date(s) when known. County names are italicized. In many cases, dates are taken from the seasonal reports published in *Pennsylvania Birds*. Enclosed in parentheses following the date are the name(s) of the observer(s) responsible for finding and/or identifying the bird, if known, followed by a semicolon, then the names of those who submitted documentation (in alphabetical order). Following the list of observers is the record's classification and the PORC record number. This is followed by the Committee's vote tally for each record. All photographs, video and sound recordings are currently being held with the Secretary.

**Abbreviations:** Academy of Natural Sciences Philadelphia (ANSP), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), *North American Birds* (NAB), National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), *Pennsylvania Birds* (PB); Reservoir (Res.), State Game Lands (SGL), State Park (S.P.), Township (Twp.), Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

#### Accepted Records

**Pink-footed Goose** (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (5)

One at Peace Valley Park/Pine Run Dam, *Bucks* 28 November to 1 December 2011. (August Mirabella (p); 108-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (4) inside back cover. This bird was first discovered at Peace Valley Park and later relocated at Pine Run Dam, providing the second accepted record for *Bucks*.

**Barnacle Goose** (*Branta leucopsis*) (10)

One feeding with Canada Geese and a Greater White-fronted Goose at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery* 24-27 February 2011. (Martin Dellwo (p), Anita Guris; Nick Pulcinella, m.ob; 115-01-

2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:36 and NAB V65:270. This species has become nearly annual in southeastern Pennsylvania, and almost always found in flocks of Canada Geese. See Malosh and Pulcinella (2008) to review acceptance criteria established by PORC for this species.

**Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (21+)**

An immature male was Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 4 November 2011. (Jerry McWilliams, Richard Nugent, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton; 149-01-2011; Class III). 7/0. One was present on the Susquehanna River at Williamsport, *Lycoming* 20 December 2011. (Nate Fronk (p); 149-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0.

**Frigatebird species (*Fregata sp.*)**

One in flight over Plymouth Meeting, *Montgomery* 28 August 2011 following the passage of Hurricane Irene. (Chris Dooley (p); 075-01-2011; Class III). This report was originally submitted as a Magnificent Frigatebird. That identification was not accepted 1/6 but accepted as Frigatebird species 7/0. The bird was photographed by the stunned observer using a phone camera as he was walking across a shopping center parking lot. The photo shows an obvious soaring frigatebird but is too distant to show enough detail to eliminate other frigatebird species that have occurred in North America.

**Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) (5)**

One at Boone Res., *Washington*, 13-14 April 2011. (Kate Rodgers; Geoff Malosh (p), m.ob.; 067-01-2011; Class I-P). 6/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (2) front cover and NAB V65:433. Unquestionably one of 2011's major birding highlights for western Pennsylvania was the chance discovery by Rodgers of this bird as she drove past this small municipal reservoir in the late afternoon. Fortunately, the bird remained overnight and was seen and photographed by scores of local birders. There are four previous Pennsylvania records: one at Erie Bay, *Erie* 13 July 1992, one on Lake Carey, *Wyoming* 25 September 2003 following the passage of Hurricane Isabel, one found dead 5 November 2008 at Raystown Lake, *Huntingdon*, and one at Peach Bottom, *Lancaster* 3 August 2009.

**White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) (24+)**

One at John Heinz NWR at Tinicum, *Philadelphia* 14-18 July 2011. (Frank Windfelder; Al Guarente (p), Andrew Pesthy (p), m.ob.; 093-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:162. One at Green Pond, *Northampton* 24-25 July 2011. (Jeff Greco; Joe Greco (p), Dustin Welch (p), m.ob.; 093-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:163 and PB V25(3) inside back cover. One at Core Creek Park, *Bucks* 3 August 2011. (William Keim (p), m.ob.; 093-03-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Three at the Highspire Boat Club, *Dauphin* 26-27 July 2011. (Mark Shartle (p); m.ob.; 093-04-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. One along the Susquehanna River at West Fairview, *Cumberland/Dauphin* 11-28 August 2011. (Richard Williams (p), Patricia Williams; Larry Usselman (p), m.ob.; 093-05-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. One at Kaercher Creek Park, *Berks* 11 November 2011 to 14 March 2012. (Ken Haas; Katrina Knight (p), Nick Pulcinella (p), Jeff Wahl (p), m.ob.; 093-06-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:218 and PB V25 (1) inside back cover. All birds were immatures. It was a banner year for this species with a record number of reports. Interestingly, the Green Pond bird was photographed next to an out-of-range Sandhill Crane. The bird at Kaercher Creek Park took advantage of mostly mild temperatures and was the first White Ibis to successfully overwinter in the state and the first to be recorded on a Pennsylvania CBC (Hamburg 12/30/2011).

**Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) (15+)**

One photographed over Newburg, *Cumberland* 30 April 2011. (Andy Markel (p); 168-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. One observed in flight in Lancaster, *Lancaster* 28 May 2011. (Tom Garner; 168-

02-2011; Class III). 7/0. With the exception of 2010, this species has been recorded annually.

**Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (25+)**

One probable adult was observed passing Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, *Berks* 29 April 2011. (Bidur Khadka, Camille Concepcion; 171-01-2011; Class II). 6/1. One was photographed as it flew over the Harmony Hill Nature Area, East Bradford Twp., *Chester* 26 April 2011. (Holly Merker (p); 171-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:92. One was well described in Tinicum Twp., *Bucks* 24 May 2011. (Paul Cooper; 171-03-2011; Class III). 7/0. This species is now recorded annually with at least 3-4 reports submitted, though about 6-8 birds are reported yearly, mainly in spring.

**Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (6+)**

One probable dark-morph was described at Hawk Mountain, *Berks* 16 September 2010. (David Barber, Rudy Keller, Joe Jehl; 186-02-2010; Class II). 6/1.

**Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) (5+)**

One seen briefly but well described at SGL 169, *Cumberland* 16 October 2011. (Vernon Gauthier; 232-01-2011; Class III). 7/0. This represented a first county record.

**Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) (4+)**

One found dead on a road in Upper Gwynedd Twp., *Montgomery* 27 September 1976. (August Mirabella (p); 234-01-1976; Class I-P/S.). 7/0. Mirabella submitted the specimen to the ANSP (specimen #175380) and kindly submitted to the committee photographs taken by ANSP ornithologist Nate Rice showing side-by-side comparison with local Clapper and King Rail specimens taken at the same time of year.



Image 1. Clapper Rail (center) collected at Upper Gwynedd Twp., *Montgomery* 27 September 1976. Specimen photographed at ANSP together with known specimens of King Rail (bottom) and Clapper Rail (top) for comparison. (Photo courtesy Nate Rice/ANSP)

**King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) (6+)**

One especially cooperative bird spent six days on the wooded edge of a flooded field in Haafsville, *Lehigh* 26 April to 1 May 2011. (Dave Niemeyer; Matt Sabatine (p), Dustin Welch (p), m.ob.; 235-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (2) inside back cover. This was a second county record and the first in 57 years. A very vocal individual was at Embreeville Marsh, *Chester* 23-27 May 2011. (Chuck Chalfant; m.ob.; 235-02-2011. Class III). 7/0.

**Purple Gallinule (*Porphyula martinica*) (8+)**

An adult was at Presque Isle S. P., *Erie* 30 April to 18 May 2011. (Brian Berchtold (p); m.ob.; 242-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (2) inside back cover and NAB V65:434. An immature was photographed as it climbed around a buttonbush at Presque Isle S. P., *Erie* 9 October 2011. (Brian

Morse (p), Brooke Genter; 242-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:218. These sightings were the second and third *Erie* records.

**Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) (16+)**

A banded individual was found and photographed at Presque Isle S. P., *Erie* 13-14 August 2011. (Brian Berchtold; Jerry McWilliams (p), m.ob.; 261-01-2011). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (4) inside back cover and NAB V66:77. It was originally banded at Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan.

**Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) (13+)**

One on the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, *Lancaster* 7 September 2011. (Timothy Becker; 268-01-2011; Class III). 7/0. This is one of the few reports outside of the spring season.

**Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) (4+)**

A female was discovered at Haafsville, *Lehigh* 20 May 2011. (Billy Weber, Dustin Welch (p), m.ob.; 321-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:93. This is the first report of Ruff in eight years and the second county record. Regrettably, it remained for only a day.

**Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) (22+)**

A dazzling breeding plumaged female delighted many during its brief stay at a sewage lagoon at Longwood Gardens, *Chester* 18-19 May 2011. (Larry Lewis; Jeffrey Davis (p), John MacNamara (p), m.ob.; 331-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:93. A female was at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 18 May 2011. (August Mirabella; Devich Farbotnik (v); 331-02-2011; Class I-R). 7/0. One female was in Tidioute, *Warren* 22 September 2011. (Kenneth Nicholson (p); 331-03-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. One was at Nockamixon S.P., *Bucks* 16-17 November 2011. (August Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik (p). Class I-P). 7/0. One landed near Sunset Point during a waterbird count at Presque Isle S.P.; *Erie* 28 November 2011. (Jerry McWilliams (p), Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton; 331-05-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in NAB V66:77. One injured bird was found in a cow pasture near Salona, *Clinton* 9 October 2011. (Wayne Laubscher (p), 331-06-2011; Class I-P) 6/0. Photograph published in PB V25:220. This last bird was cared for at both the Centre Wildlife Care in *Centre* and Tri-State Bird Rescue in Newark, Delaware. It was determined that the bird could not be released and it was given a permanent home in the shorebird exhibit at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, California. This was a first *Clinton* record. This was a remarkable year for this species with six documented records.



Image 2. Red Phalarope at Tidioute, *Warren* 22 September 2011. (Photo by Jeremy Nicholson)

**Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) (27+)**

One at the Marysville Boat Launch, *Dauphin* 22 March-5 April 2011. (Ramsay Koury, Andy Markel, Matt Sabatine; Lou Carpenter (p), m.ob.; 340-01-2011; Class I-P). 6/1. One was discovered associating with Ring-billed, Herring and Bonaparte's Gulls at Moraine S.P., *Butler* 10-31 December 2011.

(Shannon Thompson (v), Dave Wilton; Shawn Collins (p), Ben Coulter (p), m.ob.; 340-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. This species has been annual since 2005.

**Mew/Common Gull (*Larus canus*) (4)**

One seen with Ring-billed Gulls on the Ohio River in Monaca, *Beaver* 13 March 2011. (Mark Vass; Geoff Malosh (p); 344-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (2) inside back cover and NAB V65:435. This report was originally submitted as Mew "Common" Gull (*Larus canus canus*) but the subspecific identification could not be determined by the majority of the Committee. The report was accepted as a Mew/Common Gull, which is a major find in its own right. There have been three previous accepted records of Mew Gull, all thought to be Common Gulls, a rare but regular vagrant to eastern North America.

**Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) (25+)**

A first-cycle bird was well documented at Pleasant Hill Park on the Delaware River in Philadelphia, *Philadelphia* 28 November 2011. (Frank Windfelder (p); 348-01-2011; Class I-P). 6/1. Photograph published in PB V25:221.

**Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) (13+)**

Two adults in flight at Nockamixon S.P., *Bucks* 28 August 2011. (Beth Ciuzio, Don Freiday (p), Roger Horn, Kathy Hornover; 375-01-2011; Class I-P). 6/1. Photograph published in PB V25:221. Two adults in flight at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 28 August 2011. (Ken Reiker; 375-03-2011; Class III). 6/1. One juvenile in flight at Lake Ontelaunee, *Berks* 28 August 2011. (Katrina Knight (p), Ken Lebo, Matt Wlasnewski; 375-04-2011; Class II). 7/0. These birds were all driven into Pennsylvania by Hurricane Irene, which passed just offshore New Jersey during the overnight and early morning hours of 28 August 2011. Despite Pennsylvania not being located in the usual productive northeast quadrant of a tropical storm, the state did benefit from its close proximity (Malosh 2011).

**Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) (1)**

One adult in basic plumage feeding with Common and Forster's Terns independently seen by two observers who were watching for birds deposited by Hurricane Irene along the Delaware River waterfront in Philadelphia, *Philadelphia* 28 August 2011. (George Armistead, Matt Sharp; 366-01-2011; Class II). 7/0. This is an overdue storm-related species and a first state record. Since the report lacks documentation by specimen, photograph or recording, Sandwich Tern is placed on the Provisional List.

**Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) (9)**

One observed in flight at Nockamixon S.P., *Bucks* 28 August 2011. (Geoff Malosh; 364-01-2011; Class III). 7/0. One basic plumaged adult seen feeding in direct comparison with two Caspian Terns at Core Creek Park, *Bucks* 28 August 2011. (William Keim; Devich Farbotnik (p); 364-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. One immature seen and photographed in flight over the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, *Lancaster* 28 August 2011. (Eric Witmer (p), Jerry Book; 364-04-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Three were photographed on the water at Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks* August 28, 2011. (Devich Farbotnik (p); 364-05-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:221. One adult in basic plumage photographed in flight over the Delaware River at Bristol, *Bucks* 28 August 2011. (Gerard Dewaghe (p); 364-06-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (4) inside back cover. The fallout of Royal Terns from Hurricane Irene was astounding and the full extent will never be known (Malosh 2011). Prior to these reports, there were only four records for Pennsylvania since 1955. Undocumented but credible sightings during Irene, some of multiple birds, were reported from Lake Ontelaunee, *Berks*, Struble Lake, *Chester*, and along the Delaware River in *Delaware*.

**Pomarine Jaeger** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) (12+)

One observed pursuing a Ring-billed Gull at Presque Isle S.P.; *Erie* 6 November 2011. (Jerry McWilliams; 332-01-2011; Class III). 7/0. One dark morph observed in flight and on the water at Presque Isle S.P.; *Erie* 7 November 2011. (Jerry McWilliams; Ben Coulter, Cory DeStein; 332-02-2011; Class III). 7/0.

**Parasitic Jaeger** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) (16+)

One seen in flight at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 10 November 2011. (Jerry McWilliams; 333-01-2011; Class III). 7/0. One seen in flight at Presque Isle S.P.; *Erie* 18 November 2011. (Jerry McWilliams; 333-02-2011; Class III). 7/0. Both birds were observed by McWilliams while he was conducting a waterbird count at Sunset Point.

**White-winged Dove** (*Zenaida asiatica*) (10)

One was digiscoped as it perched at Gull Point, Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 16 October 2011. (Shannon Thompson (p), Dave Wilton; Ben Coulter; 413-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (4) inside back cover and NAB V66:78. This is a species that may show up anywhere. The ten accepted records are from eight counties sprinkled across the state.

**Chuck-will's-widow** (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) (7+)

One very vocal and probably returning individual was once again at Fort Indiantown Gap, *Lebanon* 1 May to 16 July 2011. (Timothy Becker (a); Gary Kinkley (a); 463-01-2011; Class I-R). 7/0. One was recorded in Pike Twp., *Berks* 15 May 2011. (Jeff Zehr (a); 463-02-2011; Class I-R). 7/0.

**Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*) (5+)

One long-staying and cooperative bird was at Maple Knoll Farm, *Bucks* 13 December 2011 to 28 February 2012. (Richard Smith (p), Vicky Smith; Devich Farbotnik (p), August Mirabella (p), Ed Norman (p); 542-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB:V26 (1) inside back cover. This first for *Bucks* could dependably be found feeding around a large, steaming mulch pile that supplied the bird with food.



Image 3. Say's Phoebe at Maple Knoll Farms, *Bucks* 14 December 2011. (Photo by Devich Farbotnik)

**Western Kingbird** (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (21+)

One was photographed in Wellsboro, *Tioga* 5 June 2011. (Benjamin Israel (p); 557-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. One was photographed at Church Farm Lake, *Chester* 26 October 2011. (Jeff Loomis (p); 557-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. The *Tioga* bird is the first June occurrence, and the *Chester* bird fits nicely into the fall occurrence pattern.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (8+)

One was nicely photographed sitting on a fence at Hawk Valley

Farm, *Berks* 20 May 2011. (Jim Brett (p); 561-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0.

**Northern Wheatear** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) (4)

One in Lickdale, *Lebanon* 7-10 October 2011. (Steve Patterson; Alex Lamoreaux (p), Richard Williams (p), m.ob.; 646-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25 (4) cover and NAB V66:78. This obliging bird spent most of its time, to the enjoyment of many, foraging for insects in the parking lot of the Days Inn where it was discovered by visiting birder Patterson.

**Mountain Bluebird** (*Sialia currucoides*) (4+)

One male at Middle Creek WMA, *Lancaster*, 30 March to 15 April 2011. (Sid Hostter, Evelyn Koppel; Jeffrey Davis (p), Devich Farbotnik (p), Mike Fialkovich, Al Guarente (p), Geoff Malosh (p), Randy Miller (p), m.ob.; 649-01-2010; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:94 and NAB V65:436. This bird was loyal to an area near tour stop #3 where it could be observed feeding with Eastern Bluebirds, though at times it would disappear for hours.

**Bicknell's Thrush** (*Catharus bicknelli*) (3+)

One calling overhead at night over Elkins Park, *Montgomery* 3 October 2010. (Paul Driver (a); 654a-01-2010; Class I-R). 5/2, 7/0. The submitted documentation consisted of audio files and sonograms. During first-round voting some committee members did not feel confident interpreting the sonograms and requested the report be reviewed during the committee's annual meeting. During that meeting, members Johnson, Lanzone, and Weber discussed and interpreted the sonograms and there was unanimous acceptance of the report.

**Varied Thrush** (*Ixoreus naevius*) (24+)

Liberty Twp., *Mercer* 10-21 December 2011. (Linda Lenz (p), Henry Lenz, Suzanne Butcher; 666-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0.

**Green-tailed Towhee** (*Pipilo chlorurus*) (4)

One at Blue Marsh S.P., *Berks* 20 November 2011 to 31 March 2012. (Jody Hey; Howard Eskin (p), Holly Merker (p), m.ob.; 799-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:223 and PB V26:39. This bird faithfully attended a small area beneath a red cedar that was replenished daily with bird seed by many satisfied observers. It was also recorded on the Bernville CBC.

**Harris's Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*) (14+)

One was seen in the company of White-throated Sparrows in Newville, *Cumberland* 24 November 2011. (Vern Gauthier; 839-01-2011; Class III). 6/0. This was a first for *Cumberland*. One in first-winter plumage was at Kempton, *Berks* 26 November 2011 to 28 March 2012. (Peter Schoenberger, Susan Rogers; Nick Pulcinella (p), Dustin Welch (p), m.ob.; 839-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V26 (1) inside back cover. Initially, sightings of this bird were sporadic but became more regular once bird seed was scattered in the area. This bird was recorded on the Hamburg CBC.

**Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco** (*Junco hyemalis*) (9+)

One male visited a feeder at Shuey Pond, Fort Indiantown Gap, *Lebanon* 11 January to 1 February 2011. (David McNaughton (p); Jason Derr (p), m.ob.; 840a-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0.

**Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*) (23+)

One male was in Levittown, *Bucks* 14-15 May 2011. (Doug Filler; Devich Farbotnik (p); 780-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. A male was photographed at Frick Park, *Allegheny* 9 May 2011. (Michael David (p); 780-02-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. One female was well described in East Fairmount Park, *Philadelphia* 27 October 2011. (Matthius Feuersenger; 780-03-2011; Class III). 6/1.

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) (18+)

A male visited a feeder in Milroy, *Mifflin* 6-7 March 2011 providing a first county record. (Dwayne Shirk, Fran Shirk (p); 794-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. A well-described male visited a feeder in Pittsburgh, *Allegheny* 27 April 2011. (Chris McNamara; 794-02-2011; Class III). 7/0. A probable juvenile male, in Washington Boro, *Lancaster* 31 December 2011 to 16 January 2012. (Justin Bosler (p); Tom Amico (p), Nick Pulcinella (p), m.ob.; 794-03-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V26 (1) inside back cover. This bird was discovered during the Lancaster CBC and remained in the area for many to see.

**Hoary Redpoll** (*Carduelis hornemanni*) (11+)

One was found with Common Redpolls at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 17-31 January 2011. (Jason Berry (p); Jerry McWilliams (p), Mike Weible; 887-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Another was also with Common Redpolls at Presque Isle S.P., *Erie* 23-25 January 2011. (Jerry McWilliams (p); 887-01-2011; Class I-P). 7/0. Photograph published in PB V25:41

**RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established.** (Votes are listed as for/against. A vote of 6/1 or 7/0 is required for acceptance). A number of factors contribute to a report being denied acceptance. It is very rare for a report to not be accepted because the bird was obviously misidentified. More commonly, a report is not accepted because the documentation submitted was incomplete, insufficient, or too vague to properly identify the reported occurrence while eliminating all other similar species. The Committee again stresses the importance of taking field notes either while the bird is under study or immediately afterwards. It is worth noting that written reports prepared entirely from memory weeks, months, or years after the sighting are rarely voted on favorably. The non-acceptance of any report reflects the opinion of the committee that the documentation, as submitted, did not meet the meticulous standards needed for adding the report to the official historical record. If the committee is unsure of a specific report, it prefers to err on the conservative side and not accept a good record rather than endorse a bad one. *It is important to note that non-acceptance by no means indicates that PORC or any of its members feel the record did not occur as reported.* All records whether accepted or not remain on file and can be re-submitted for review if additional material is presented.

**Western Grebe** (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

One at Lake Ontelaunee, *Berks* 13 April 2011. Class IV-B; 010-01-2011. 0/7. The description was suggestive of this species but there was insufficient detail to rule out either cormorant species or Red-necked Grebe.

**Anhinga** (*Anhinga anhinga*)

One soaring over Lansdale, *Montgomery* 20 May 2011. Class IV-A; 074-01-2011. 0/7. The description was too brief to safely rule out a cormorant. One in flight over Bucktoe Preserve, *Chester* 24 October 2011. Class IV-C; 074-02-2011. 2/5. The photos submitted appear to be of a Double-crested Cormorant. One described as a female observed over Stone Mountain Hawkwatch, *Huntingdon* 25 October 2011. 074-03-2011. 3/4. This report may well be correct but the description lacked a few details to safely rule out a cormorant.

**Zone-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo albonotatus*)

One in flight over Walnutport, *Lehigh* 16 May 2011. Class IV-B; 188-01-2011. 0/7. The description submitted was too brief and the observer based most of the identification on flight style, which is not diagnostic for this species. For such a rarity to be accepted, a detailed description, sketch or photo is imperative.

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

One first-cycle bird at Muddy Run Boat Launch, *Lancaster/York* 18 December 2011. Class IV-B; 348-02-2011. 0/7. The committee did not feel the description ruled out first cycle Iceland Gull.

**Gyr Falcon** (*Falco rusticolis*)

One seen in flight while the observer, without optics, was stopped at a traffic light in Springfield, *Delaware* 18 November 2011. Class IV-A; 200-01-2011. 3/4. Though the description was compelling, some committee members felt that the circumstances surrounding the sighting (especially that no optics were used) did not allow the observer to sufficiently rule out a hybrid or escaped falconer's bird. One seen sitting on a hay bale and in flight in Klinesville, *Berks* 30 December 2011. Class IV-A; 200-02-2011. 3/4. This record was supported by another compelling description and sketch. Once again, several committee members did not feel the documentation ruled out a hybrid or escaped falconer's bird. This bird was unsuccessfully searched for by multiple birders for several days after word of the sighting reached the birding community.

**Bicknell's Thrush** (*Catharus bicknelli*)

One recorded in flight at night over Elkins Park, *Montgomery* 3 October 2011. Class IV-A; 654a-01-2011. 0/7. The documentation consisted of an audio file and sonogram. The report was discussed in depth at the committee's annual meeting in 2012 and most members felt both the audio and sonogram were not completely definitive for this species.

**Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*)

One in Landisburg, *Perry* 24-25 November 2010. Class IV-A; 780-02-2010. 5/2, 5/1, 0/7. This was a difficult report. Photos submitted were not conclusive for Summer Tanager and in some respects, but not conclusively, resembled a Western Tanager. The report was discussed in depth at the 2012 annual meeting and it was agreed that the bird could not be positively identified from the photos submitted.

**Acknowledgements**

I thank Drew Weber for reviewing an earlier draft of this report.

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Following last year's extremely mild season, winter weather returned this year to some degree, but it was by no means a tough season. The average temperatures at Philadelphia, Harrisburg, State College, and Pittsburgh were 2-3°F above average; at Bradford the deviation was a whopping 6°F above the average. The warmest weather occurred during December and the first half of January, but February was a bit below normal. It seemed like a snowy winter because of frequent minor snowfalls, especially in the latter part of the season (and extending through March); however, there were no large, widespread storms and at State College, only one storm (12/26) exceeded six inches accumulation. Deep and persistent snow cover was not the case in most of the state.

Summaries were received from 46 counties, down from 53 each of the last two years. County summaries are produced by dedicated compliers who deserve the thanks of the Pennsylvania birding community; their reports provide the great majority of the information included in this summary. Some additional information comes from the PABIRDS email list, eBird, and Christmas Bird Count (CBC) results, the latter summarized elsewhere in this issue.

The outstanding feature of the winter of 2012-13 was the irruption of northern finches. In terms of numbers, the scale was not tremendous, but the variety was excellent. Redpolls were numerous, including a number of apparent Hoary Redpolls that were documented by photograph. Competing for headlines with finches from the north were hummingbirds from the west—not only many Rufous Hummingbirds, but also Calliope and Allen's Hummingbirds. Other outstanding rarities included Pink-footed and Barnacle Goose, Dovekie, Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers, Black-headed Gull, Say's Phoebe, Harris's and LeConte's Sparrow, and Bullock's Oriole.

There were no less than two and perhaps as many as 4 different **Pink-footed Geese** in Pennsylvania this winter. Based on appearance and timing of sightings, it was determined that there were two different birds in *Bucks* and the same was true in *Lehigh*. One goose in *Bucks* had been seen in November and then re-appeared in mid-December; the second *Bucks* goose and both *Lehigh* birds were seen 12/1-20, so it seems possible that there were more than two individuals. **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported from nine counties, about average; most were in the southeast but a flock of 5 was in

*Westmoreland* and singles were found in *Tioga* and *Clarion*, the latter possibly a first for the county. A relatively large flock stayed in *Lancaster* 1/23-2/10, reaching a maximum of 16 birds. These geese tend to linger; several reports were of birds that stayed for weeks or even months. **Ross's Geese** were found in five southeastern counties, mostly in Feb. The high **Snow Goose** count, 55,000 at Middle Creek in *Lebanon/Lancaster*, was on the last day of the period, 2/28. A huge movement of Snow Geese took place over *Montgomery* 12/26, when 16,000 were tallied. Reports of **Brant** came from *Bucks* and *Northampton*, not unusual, but less expected was one in *Tioga*. A **Barnacle Goose** in *Bucks* 1/10-14 was photographed. **Cackling Geese** were reported from 13 counties, all in the southeast except reports from *Allegheny* and *Wyoming*. A striking **Snow x Canada Goose** hybrid was in *Lehigh*.

A total of 10 **Trumpeter Swans** were found in six counties, probably the highest winter season total yet. As befits this western species, three of the counties were westerly, in *Crawford*, *Erie*, and *Mercer*, and the others were in *Chester*, *Huntingdon*, and *Montgomery*. Only one (*Mercer*) was tagged; all others were not tagged with the exception of the *Crawford* birds whose status was not mentioned. There was no pattern to the dates; in fact, the birds in *Erie*, *Huntingdon*, and *Montgomery* were all present for at least a month. At the Penn-Warner Tract in *Bucks*, 31 **Mute Swans** were counted 12/9.

Colder weather this year meant some frozen water, but it was not extremely cold and there were plenty of ducks around. Not surprisingly, most reports were from the mild southeast, the southern Susquehanna River basin and the Allegheny River in the west, places where open water is most abundant (aside from Lake Erie), but also where birders, and therefore bird reports, are most numerous.

The total of four **Eurasian Wigeons** was more than the usual one or two. Three were in the southeast and one in *Indiana*. **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** were found in *Bucks* in December and *Chester* in February, a typical winter count of this nearly annual visitor to the southeast. The rarest of the regularly occurring dabbling ducks in winter is the **Blue-winged Teal**. A total of 10 were found in five counties—mostly fall-season birds lingering only until mid-December, but one was apparently northbound in *Chester* 2/28. Winter **Wood Ducks** are relatively scarce, and while that was true again, they appear to exhibit a gradually

increasing winter presence, reported this year from at least ten counties, including January reports from five counties. It is hard to say whether the increase in winter is real or an artifact of increased birding effort.

There were few reports of large congregations of ducks. Unusual in *Erie*, 200 **Gadwalls** wintered at Presque Isle SP. At Lake Ontelaunee in *Berks*, there were 1200 **American Black Ducks** and 2300 **Mallards** 1/29 and an impressive 280 **Northern Pintails** 2/12. In *Philadelphia*, counts in excess of 250 for **American Black Duck**, **Northern Shoveler**, and **Ruddy Duck** were made.

In *Erie*, a count of 100 **Long-tailed Ducks** in Edinboro 12/12 was good for a location away from Lake Erie. One or two **Harlequin Ducks** are found annually—the only one this year appeared in *Armstrong* on the Allegheny River 2/10, staying through the end of the period and occasionally going into *Westmoreland* waters. **Surf Scoters** reports were found in nine counties scattered throughout the state, about double the norm. Several records in December fit the pattern of lingering birds, but in five counties, Surf Scoters were recorded in January, far more unusual. None were reported for February. Reports of **White-winged Scoter** were about average, from seven counties, but temporally different than Surf Scoter, with records only from January and February. **Black Scoters** were sighted briefly in mid-December in *Butler* and *Susquehanna*, and were present all season in *Erie*, the only county to host all three scoter species.

The highest count of **Hooded Mergansers** was 1500 in *Crawford* 12/2. At Blue Marsh Lake in *Berks*, 2500 **Common Mergansers** quickly moved in soon after the ice thawed 2/17. **Red-breasted Mergansers** gathered in impressive numbers at Presque Isle SP in December, with counts peaking at about 20,000 in mid-month.

Five **Red-throated Loons** were reported in widely scattered locations: 3 were found from 12/15-16, and the other two were within the following two weeks. As described in the *Lehigh* report, from 2/5-8, at least 6 were found grounded after a storm. A total of 4 **Red-necked Grebes** was about average. These birds tend to be seen early or late in the winter season, but this year there were January birds in *Lancaster* and *York*. Far less common in winter are **Eared Grebes**, but this year there were 4, with 2 in *Northampton*, a first county record, and one each in *Erie* and *Lebanon*.

The number of **Great Egrets** was

higher than usual, found in seven counties. Most remarkable was the one found in cold mid-state *Clinton*, originally noted 1/12 and seen as late as 2/2. Single birds in *Bucks*, *Erie*, and *Mercer* were not seen after mid-December, but in *Bucks* a group of 3 was at Peace Valley Park the first three days of the New Year. December birds in *Philadelphia* and *Montgomery* stayed until mid-January, a winter season first for *Montgomery*. A New Years Day bird provided only the second January record for *Dauphin*. A tough **Green Heron** hung on to at least 1/24 in *Philadelphia*. Five **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were found; most notable were a February bird in *Franklin* and a December bird in *Westmoreland*, far from the southeast. **Great Cormorants** were on the Delaware River as usual, seen in *Bucks*, *Philadelphia*, and *Delaware*, with a high count of 25 on New Year's Day at Bristol in *Bucks*.

A summary of Winter Raptor Surveys is elsewhere in this issue. Record high counts were set for several species, including **Black Vultures**. Though Black Vultures remain predominantly a southeastern bird, they are nevertheless slowly breaking out of that region. Three were found in *Bradford* during the CBC 12/30 and two were in *Wayne* 1/26. One in *Lycoming* 2/23 may have wintered or could have been an early migrant; regardless, *Lycoming* is decidedly north of the established range in the state. And while Black Vultures have been seen in small numbers in *Centre* for a few years, they came in numbers on 2/16 when a flock of 30 were observed. Black Vultures in *Centre* have expanded from a long-established population in *Huntingdon* to the south. For a long time the *Huntingdon* population was confined mostly to the area around the town *Huntingdon*, but now they are regularly sighted in the northern part of the county and have hopped over Tussey Mt. and the county line into *Centre*. Lastly with regard to vultures, a curious observation was made in *Bucks* by Mirabella, who counted vultures at a roost near Peace Valley Park 12/20, finding 83 Black Vultures primarily in deciduous trees and 117 **Turkey Vultures** using conifers.

A few **Ospreys** are usually reported during the winter. This year there were more than usual, a total of 5. Three in early December were presumably late southbound birds. Occasionally one is seen in early January, and that was the case this year with a bird in *Westmoreland*. Most unusual, however, was a bird on a nesting platform in *Mercer* 2/18. It was good to receive many reports of **Northern Goshawks**. Away from hawk watches, there were at least 18 individuals recorded fairly evenly

across the state and through the season. Of note were three reports from heavily populated *Delaware*. As documented by the CBC results and the WRS, it was a low year for **Rough-legged Hawks**. Most were in the north as usual, but some made it to the southern tier, with reports from *Bucks*, *Montgomery*, *Lancaster*, *Adams*, and *Greene*.

Last year, **Sandhill Cranes** responded to the mild winter by showing up in 11 counties, about double the average. This year, they were back down to average, found in six counties, mostly in the west, but also in *Chester* and *Bradford*. The high count for the season was 47 in *Crawford* during the Linesville CBC. Also in *Crawford*, **American Coots** gathered through December until they numbered 3000 on 1/5. Virginia Rails are sometimes reported in winter, particularly in *Bucks*, but there were none this year.

There were few unusual shorebirds. A **Greater Yellowlegs** provided *Erie* with its first December record. A **Least Sandpiper** lingered in *Chester* 12/30. One at a different location in *Chester* 2/28 either wintered or came north extremely early. Considering recent records of Least Sandpipers apparently wintering successfully (for example, six years in a row in *Cumberland*) over-wintering seems more likely. *Erie* had its usual December **Purple Sandpipers** but one in February was a first for that month. Single **Dunlins** were in *Erie* and *Centre*, both 12/8.

Last year, **American Woodcocks** were noted in 24 county summaries, but this year, perhaps a reflection of colder weather, they were mentioned in only 12 reports. As usual, a few stayed until CBC season. Woodcocks began returning in mid-February, mostly in the southeast of course, but were reported 2/16 in *Clinton* and *Venango* as well. A woodcock in *Huntingdon* 1/12 was probably still lingering from fall, as winter had not yet then turned cold. It is hard to say whether one in *Montgomery* 2/3 was either two weeks ahead of any other returnees, or toughed it out that far through the winter.

Twelve species of gulls were reported. The most unusual was the **Mew Gull** reported in *Lancaster* 12/11, the first winter report since 2006-07. **Black-headed Gulls** are less than annual in winter; this year, one was at Moraine SP in *Butler* in early December and one was on the Susquehanna River in *Dauphin* 2/23. Three **Little Gulls** were in *Erie* 12/16-1/1, more than usual one or two. **Laughing Gulls** were in *Bucks* and *Philadelphia*. Four **Thayer's Gulls** were noted, 3 in *Erie* and one in *Northampton*. **Glaucous** and **Iceland Gulls** were found in six and nine counties, respectively, about normal. The

approximate minimum numbers of individuals statewide, assuming not much duplication between counties, were about 16 Glaucous and 48 Iceland.

Jaegers are very unusual in the state at anytime, including winter, thus the astonishment during Hurricane Sandy when more were seen in a few days than the sum total reported in all of ornithological history in the state (Malosh 2013). Not surprisingly, *Erie* claims the biggest pre-Sandy share of jaeger records. The very few winter records have all been in December, a pattern shared by this winter's reports. A **Pomarine Jaeger** was at Presque Isle SP in *Erie* 12/9. There were 5 **Parasitic Jaegers**, of which 4 were at Presque Isle, one on 12/1 and 3 on 12/5. Most surprising, however, was one at Somerset Lake in *Somerset* 12/16.

Following storms that brought **Dovekies** into the Delaware Bay, one with a broken leg was found in *Bucks* 12/21; unfortunately it died in rehab. Another was found the next day stranded on a driveway in *Danielsville*, *Northampton*. That bird also did not survive. With one exception, all previous Pennsylvania records (less than about a dozen) have been from late October through mid-December, in several cases following coastal storms. In November 1932, many Dovekies were stranded around Philadelphia, and as far inland as Berks County. The most recent records were single birds at two locations in *Berks* 10/30-31/1973. They have been found as far north as *Monroe* (1950) and *Pike* (1970). The one record outside of the fall season was of a bird in the Lehigh River at Allentown in February 1924 (McWilliams and Brauning 2000).

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** still seem to be doing no significant expansion of their range in Pennsylvania. The only reports were of 4 during the Bernville CBC in *Berks* 1/5 and 2 at a *Lebanon* location on two separate occasions, over a month apart. There were no reports, positive or negative, from the established *Franklin* location for this winter.

**Barn Owls** were found in eight counties, better than usual for recent years. Most reports were from the southeast and central counties as usual. After the good count of ten last year, only 2 **Snowy Owls** were spotted this year, more in line with the number found most winters. Unfortunately, neither owl this year was seen by many birders, with a February bird in *Pike* present only one day and the other reported for a few days in early January in *Dauphin*.

It was a relatively good winter for finding **Short-eared Owls**, with reports from at least 28 counties, although there were no large gatherings. **Long-eared Owls** were in 12 counties, about average. This species is one that draws the

attention of birders—sometimes too much as described by Mirabella in the *Bucks* account: “...the feeding frenzy of as many as 50-100 birders and photographers at Peace Valley Park in a single day, with the resultant disturbance to the birds, was disheartening to witness. Even with good behavior, the sheer numbers of dozens of people a day could not be in the best interests of the owls. Not surprisingly, visibility decreased many weeks earlier than historical records indicate, hopefully due to dispersal and nothing worse. The area is now posted as a restricted area after the site was evaluated and recommendations made by the Game Commission.” This is one species that birders should leave alone. When found, their roost sites should be kept secret except for notification to the Game Commission. There were many **Northern Saw-whet Owls** this winter, reported from at least 17 counties, and a new statewide CBC count was made. Unfortunately, these birds seem prone to colliding with vehicles. At least 10 such hits were tallied in *Bucks*, of which 6 died, 2 recovered in rehab to be released, and 2 were still in rehab at the end of the season.

At least 90 “western” hummingbirds were reported in the state during the fall season, of which 44 were definitely identified as **Rufous Hummingbirds**. Also among the fall hummers were the state’s third and fourth **Allen’s Hummingbirds**, second and third **Calliope Hummingbirds**, and the first ever **Black-chinned Hummingbird** (Weidensaul 2013). The hummingbird extravaganza continued into the winter. At least 26 Rufous Hummingbirds were reported during the winter. Fourteen of these stayed into January; of those, one in *Montgomery* remained until at least 2/15 and one in *Chester* stayed into March. Several departed during the period 1/9-24, when the winter finally turned seasonably cold; indeed two in *Allegheny* were both last seen 1/24 as a cold front moved in. Of the 26 Rufous Hummingbirds, 18 were in southeastern counties, warm and heavily birded, and populated by many people who put out hummingbird feeders. But a few were in colder places, including *Clarion*, *Crawford*, and *Somerset*. The **Allen’s Hummingbirds** from the fall in *Montgomery* and *Bucks* stayed into the winter period, with the *Bucks* bird persisting until 1/8. The **Lancaster Calliope Hummingbird** stayed until 12/12. Although some Ruby-throated Hummingbirds stayed into November, none were reported on or after 12/1.

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported from 10 counties, down from 14 last year; all were in the southern half of the state. The most northerly was a bird

in *Crawford* 2/11.

Winter numbers of **American Kestrels** again showed a modest hint of improvement. A record count was made statewide for the WRS, in part due to increased hours of coverage, but the number per hour, a better indicator, was the best since 2008. The most severe declines have been in the southeast, so cautiously positive comments from *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Delaware*, and *Montgomery* were welcome. Nevertheless, the little falcons are still a long way down from where they used to be as explained by Eberly in *Delaware*: “The count of 4 American Kestrels on CBC 12/15... was actually the highest tally since 5 were counted in 2006. The last time more than 10 were counted was 14 in 2001. The CBC average tally of this species on the CBC in the 1970s was around 45.” One bird banded this summer in Bedminster Twp., *Bucks* was found killed by a car near Tallahassee, Florida 9/3.

*Cumberland’s* famous **Prairie Falcon** came back for the seventh year. In *Lebanon*, a **Gyr Falcon** was seen at the Second Mt. hawk watch 12/11, the fifth in their history. **Merlins** and **Peregrine Falcons** were mentioned in 18 and 15 county reports, respectively, a bit down from last year.

A **Say’s Phoebe** in *Adams* was seen only on 12/13, the same date that the *Bucks* bird appeared in 2011, but that bird stayed all winter. At least 8 **Eastern Phoebes** were found after the CBC period, which ends 1/5. Not surprisingly, several were in the southeast including 3 in *Chester* and one each in *Montgomery* and *Philadelphia*. Further west, 2 were in *Allegheny*, one from December last seen 1/20, but the other on 2/10 could possibly have been an early returnee, as may have been the case with one in *Huntingdon* 2/14.

The total count of **Northern Shrikes** was 31, close to the average of 38 since the 2006-07 season, with annual totals ranging from 20 to 80. Shrike sightings were spread fairly uniformly around the state including several in the southeast, where shrikes are not usually easy to find. There were two **Blue-headed Vireos**, the first winter reports since 2009-10. One was in *Lycoming* 12/19 and one in *Dauphin* 1/21.

Once again **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** wintered at the Northeast Wastewater Treatment Plant in *Philadelphia*, with a peak count of 150, but the flock dwindled gradually after Jan as colder weather set in. Up to 4 **Cave Swallows** were there until at least 2/2. A lingering Rough-wing was in *Lehigh* until 12/15. As often happens, a few **Tree Swallows** pushed north in February, seen in *Centre*, *Lancaster*, and *Philadelphia*.

In contrast to last year, this was a

big year for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, with their invasion into non-breeding range in the southeast having already been noted in August (Malosh 2013). The statewide CBC tally was very high and compilers from a dozen counties around the state commented on the high numbers. **Winter Wrens** hit a CBC record high, with 516 counted. **Carolina Wrens** were in good number for the CBCs. Perhaps their population expanded with last year’s mild winter presumably allowing a good survival rate for a species susceptible to hard winters. Four **House Wrens** provided the highest total since 2006-07. Three were found in December, but one was in *Chester* 2/22. **Marsh Wrens** were at Tinicum in *Philadelphia* 12/15 and 1/21. There were no reports of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers

A **Varied Thrush** was in *Belleville*, *Mifflin* 11/12-4/13; however, news of this bird was not made public by the host until after it departed. Half-hardy **Gray Catbirds** and **Brown Thrashers** continue to extend their stays, or their survivorship, into mid-winter, serving perhaps as indicators of climate change. At least 9 catbirds were observed after 1/5, all in the southeast except two February birds in *Allegheny*. There were at least 19 thrashers reported, of which 11 were post-CBC, again mostly in the southeast, but there were 2 in *Centre* 2/3, the second year in a row for a mid-winter *Centre* thrasher. Several compilers noted the low numbers or the absence of **Cedar Waxwings**. One of the few good totals was a flock of 125 in *Adams* 12/22.

It was an unremarkable year for birds of open fields, as again this year there was limited snow cover to aid the search, or to push birds to the road edges. **American Pipits** were widely reported. A flock of 154 was at Maple Knoll Farms in *Bucks* 12/3, *Philadelphia* hosted 94 on 1/12, and *Lebanon* had 70 on 12/29. Eighteen counties reported **Lapland Longspur** compared to 13 last year. Most counts were of one or few but a nice flock of 30 was found New Year’s Day in *Crawford*. **Snow Buntings** were seen in at least 25 counties but the only triple digit counts were in *Northampton*, with a high of 200 on 2/3.

Despite the colder weather compared to last year, it was another banner winter for warbler diversity, with the 15 species this season topping last year’s above average total of 14. In my seven years of compiling the winter season, 22 species of warbler have been recorded. Six of those have shown up every year, and nine in only one year. Of the 15 species this year, only eight were on last year’s roster, and four were new since 2006-07. Most records this year, especially of those species not regular in winter, were from December and early January, reflecting survival of lingerers through the milder

early part of the season.

No warbler this year could match the rarity of last year's Townsend's Warbler in *Cumberland*. The best this year was probably the **Tennessee Warbler** that stayed in *Dauphin* from the fall until at least 1/1 and was probably the first ever recorded for the winter season in the state. Another possible winter first was the **Magnolia Warbler** in *Philadelphia* 12/8. Almost as rare in winter was the **Black-throated Green Warbler** in *Philadelphia* in December, possibly only the second winter record, and two **Black-and-white Warblers**, including a December bird in *Philadelphia* and a late January bird in *Lehigh*, the third and fourth winter records for the state. A December **Northern Parula** in *Chester* represented at least the fourth winter record, including one last year. A final rarity was the Audubon's subspecies of **Yellow-rumped Warbler** in *Bucks*. Not quite as rare was a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** in *Cumberland*; there are at least seven previous winter reports including two in the last six years. Two **Wilson's Warblers** were found on the Southern Lancaster CBC, adding to at least a dozen previous winter records. Three **Ovenbirds**, three **Nashville Warblers**, and two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found. One or two of each of those show up most winters, although Ovenbirds and Nashvilles do not have the long winter history that chats do.

The remaining five species, **Yellow-rumped**, **Pine**, **Palm**, and **Orange-crowned Warblers** and **Common Yellowthroat**, are all annual for the most part. The total of fourteen **Palm Warblers** was well above average, boosted by a count of 8 at the water treatment plant in *Philadelphia* 12/27.

The top sparrow rarity was the **LeConte's Sparrow** in *Chester*; first seen 11/21, it stayed all season. The last LeConte's was also in *Chester*, during the winter of 2009-10. Other rare sparrows included one **Clay-colored Sparrow**, 3 **Lincoln's Sparrows**, and one **Harris's Sparrow** (in *Carbon*).

Unusual reports of **Eastern Towhee** included a good count of 4 on the Pittsburgh CBC and a wintering bird in *Venango*. Outside of the southeast, **Chipping Sparrows** were reported in *Allegheny*, *Clinton*, *Monroe*, and *Wyoming*. **Vesper Sparrows** were found in six southeastern counties, and in *Centre* and *Washington*. **Savannah Sparrows** were mentioned in many reports. The three *Bucks* CBCs (which include areas outside the county) tallied a combined 58, double the average. Some credit for that is due to a snowfall that pushed birds to road edges where they are more easily detected. A good count of 38 Savannah Sparrows was made in

*Montgomery* 1/29. In much colder *Erie*, single Savannahs were recorded 1/5 and 2/9, the latter a first record for the month. Reports of **Oregon Junco** were made in *Allegheny* and *Centre*.

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen in *Lehigh* 12/13 and one was in *Lancaster* 1/13-15. There are about ten winter previous records; curiously most have occurred in January and February, rather than in December as might be expected of lingering migrants.

**Eastern Meadowlarks** were found in 16 counties, mostly in the south, both east and west. Most northerly were singles in *Centre*, *Indiana*, and *Mercer*. The highest single count reported was 13 in *Montgomery*. The only **Dickcissel** was in *Lancaster* 12/29. An "absurdly late" **Bobolink** stayed in *Montgomery* until 12/2, presumably the same one reported as late as 11/13 during the fall.

It was a good year for **Yellow-headed Blackbirds**, found as usual in *Chester* and *Lancaster*. It is difficult to say how many individuals were present as some presumably moved around, to be were reported on different days by different observers. Depending on duplication, the count of different individuals was probably 10-15, compared to less than half a dozen most years. The only **Brewer's Blackbird** was in *Chester* 2/16; last years only Brewer's was in the same county just five days earlier on the calendar. **Rusty Blackbirds** are species of note because of their big population losses. They were reported in 18 summaries this year, down one from last year. As usual, there was a discernible pattern to the timing of winter reports. Small numbers are usually reported in December and through the CBC period. Reports in January are very few, but they begin to move north early, as demonstrated again this year, with reports starting in early February. Most sightings involved small numbers – relatively high counts include 33 in *Lebanon* 2/5 and 20 in *Berks* 2/10. The exception to the modest numbers was at the Big Spring in *Cumberland*, where a nice flock apparently wintered, or left briefly in January and returned late in that month. The following counts were reported in the *Cumberland* summary: 40 on 12/29, 130 on 1/28, 90 on 2/2, and 47 on 2/17.

A **Bullock's Oriole** returned to the same *Montgomery* yard for the third consecutive year. The count of seven **Baltimore Orioles** in five counties was about average for recent years. Three of the 5 were away from the mild southeast, in *Allegheny*, *Juniata*, and *Indiana*—all of those three were seen only in December. *Bucks* had 3 Baltimore Orioles, 2 of which stayed through the end of the season.

Although not as extensive as a few

previous invasions, this year could quite correctly be called a big year for northern finches. However, for several species, the term "fall finches" might have been more appropriate because the invasion began way back in the fall season and reports had already declined somewhat by December; nevertheless, there were still excellent numbers of most finch species compared to most years (with the exception of Pine Grosbeak, not reported anywhere in the state except for one report in *Clinton* during the fall season). Information cited below from the fall season is from Geoff Malosh's seasonal summary (Malosh 2013). There was no part of the state particularly favored—winter finches were likely to be seen just about anywhere. The numbers of counties reporting a given species were compiled from the summaries in these pages as well as eBird and the PABIRDS listserv.

Although irruption years are irregular, the two crossbill species nevertheless exhibit a certain pattern to their presence in the state. **Red Crossbills** are the more regular species, reported just about every winter (and occasionally in summer as well), but seldom in large numbers. **White-winged Crossbills** come south less often, and it is not unusual for them to go unreported some years. But when they do come, it is in larger numbers than Red Crossbills. That pattern was evident again this year. Both crossbill species started south in earnest in early November, although a few had been evident for earlier. White-wings, coming in significantly larger number, were seen in at least 43 counties in the fall. For the winter, I found reports for only 35 counties, as some birds had apparently moved on. The highest single numbers included 75 in *Crawford*, 70 in *Dauphin*, and 60 in *Indiana*. Thirty counties reported Red Crossbills in the fall, and like the White-wings, that number dropped for the winter season, to only 20. Most Red Crossbill reports were of very small numbers – the largest was a mixed crossbill flock, found during the Lake Raystown CBC in *Huntingdon* that contained 45 Red Crossbills. Crossbills could often be found by scanning the tops of conifers with good cone crops, such as Norway spruce and eastern hemlock.

**Common Redpolls** exhibited a pattern opposite that of crossbills. There was a significant incursion in November, but the frequency of reports and the numbers of birds was highest in January and February. This was reflected by the fact that redpolls were reported in 28 counties in the fall but 48 for the winter season (although redpolls surely visited every county). Though not commonly encountered by the hundreds, there were some impressive counts, including 600 in *Erie*, 300 in *Lycoming*, 200-plus in

Bradford, and 100-plus in *Forest, Indiana, Monroe, and Susquehanna*—all in the north. With all those redpolls, it was certain that some **Hoary Redpolls** would be found, and indeed there were reports from at least six counties. Several Hoary-candidates were photographed and submitted to the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee. **Pine Siskins**, like crossbills, were widespread but dropped off as winter arrived.

**Evening Grosbeaks** made their best showing in Pennsylvania in well over a decade. Still fairly common during the 1980s and into the 1990s, they all but disappeared from the winter landscape in the state as their population in eastern North America declined with the end of the massive spruce budworm outbreak in Canada during the 1970s (Bolgiano 2004). They may now be making a bit of a comeback. They began appearing in the state in late October and were eventually tallied in 33 counties for the fall season.

However, even more than the crossbills and siskins, grosbeaks had largely disappeared by December, with reports for the winter from only 12 counties, and mostly in tiny numbers. There were a few exceptions. In *Forest*, they were present throughout the season, especially at feeders in Tionesta and Marienville, where a count of 100 was made 1/26. In nearby *Venango*, 50 were counted 12/30. Other reports, however, were all of single-digit flocks or of just individual birds.

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## BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

**SPARROW** by Kim Todd, 105 figures, timeline, references, select bibliography, associations and websites, acknowledgements, index, 5 1/2 x 7 1/2 in., 192 pp., published by Reaktion Press (from their Animal Series), and distributed by the University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL, 2012, paper, \$19.95.

This handsome book is a splendid ornithological history and ecology primarily of the House or English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and, to a lesser degree, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) and their kin in the Old and New Worlds. The author, Kim Todd, is Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College.

DNA evidence indicates that a “sparrow” ancestor radiated outward from the African tropics about one million years ago, and a species recognizable as *Passer domesticus* lived in proximity to humans in the Middle East at least 400,000 years ago. The Hebrew word that translated to the English “sparrow” means “bird” in general, a twittering one in particular. In fact, the root of the Old English *spearwa* means “flutterer”, while its Latin name, *passer*, was adopted as the root of “passerine” (p.7). The author proves her point that the sparrow and human were and are biologically, theologically, and even artistically inseparable, for better or worse. For example, by 1000 BCE, the House Sparrow fluttered around cooking

pots in what is now Sweden; in 64 BCE Catullus mourns his lover’s “Sparrow”; in 1525-1526 the first Bible in English states that two sparrows were sold for a farthing; in 1602 Hamlet finds “special providence in the fall of a sparrow”; from 1650-1700 settlers in the New World dub all unfamiliar small brown birds “sparrows”; in the early 19th century Sparrow Clubs in the U.K. pay bounties on sparrows; in 1853 the first successful release of House Sparrows occurs in the United States; in 1898 Hermon Carey Bumpus uses sparrows to study natural selection; in 1900 the Lacey Act bans importation of House Sparrows to the U.S.; in 1958 Chairman Mao Zedong orders Chinese to exterminate sparrows; in the 1970s House Sparrow numbers decline in Europe; in 1973 the Endangered Species Act passed in the U.S.; in 1987 the Dusky Seaside Sparrow goes extinct; in 2000 the paper *Independent* offers a 5000 pound reward for an answer to the mystery of why House Sparrows are disappearing; and in 2002 the House Sparrow joins the list of U.K.’s Birds of Conservation Concern. *Sparrow* follows these and other events in detail.

Ornithologists split sparrows into two families: the Passeridae or Old World sparrows and the Emberizidae or New World sparrows. Currently, argument continues between ornithologists on either side of the Atlantic as to which avian group are the true sparrows. Regardless of the outcome, DNA indicates that the two families are only

distantly related: the Old World sparrows are tied to weavers (mostly in Africa) and the New World sparrows are related to buntings.

The House (English) Sparrow was first introduced into North America in 1850 by Nicholas Pike, Director of the Brooklyn Institute. He brought eight pairs from England and released them in Brooklyn in the spring of 1851, but the birds did not survive. Pike returned to England in 1852 and shipped a large number of sparrows which were released in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, in spring 1853. This time the birds bred and multiplied. During the following twenty years, the House Sparrow also was introduced throughout much of New England, parts of Canada, the Midwest, Texas, Utah, and California. By 1940 the sparrow’s range covered the entire continental United States and far north into Canada. In fact, its occupation of North America was even faster than that of the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). They completed their domination of the continent in less than forty years. By contrast, 60 starlings were later imported and released in 1890, and another 40 in 1891, that started to breed at once under eaves of the American Museum of Natural History (how ironic!) next to Central Park, New York City, where they were originally released.

The tenacity of the House Sparrow is clearly illustrated by the two *passer* species in the United States. Twelve Eurasian Tree Sparrows were introduced

at Lafayette Park, in South St. Louis, Missouri, on 25 April 1870 and quickly became established in several neighborhoods. Just five years later, their stronger and much more aggressive cousin, the House Sparrow, was likewise introduced into St. Louis, and within ten years they forced nearly all of their cousins to retreat to surrounding suburbs and rural areas. Today at least 98% of the Eurasian Tree Sparrow population lives within an eighty-five mile radius of St. Louis, mostly in rural northeastern Missouri and west central Illinois, and they rarely interact with House Sparrows in the city proper.

Currently, the House Sparrow exists everywhere in the world, except Antarctica and the summits of high mountain chains, and has conquered every natural habitat from the bitter cold Arctic, to the steamy rainforest of Brazil, to the scorching desert of Death Valley, California. Truly, this sparrow is the most widespread wild bird species in the world, and where absent, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow takes its place, such as in the floating villages of Cambodia, up to 13,000 feet in the Himalaya Mountains, and Japan.

"They are alternately loathed vermin and objects of delight," commented W.E.C. Todd. "The collective noun used to describe them is 'host', as in angels or an army" (p. 9). The dichotomy between good and bad sparrows led to the so-called "Sparrow War" of the 20th century in the United States and elsewhere. In 1950s China, Chairman Mao Zedong declared sparrows one of four pests that must be annihilated (flies, mosquitoes, and rats were the others). He eventually relented, took the sparrow off the list, and substituted the bedbug for the bird. But the Chinese learned a valuable lesson in killing millions of sparrows. In the wake of the campaign, insect populations, especially locusts and mosquitoes, swelled. The people interpreted the infestations as a result of the sparrow campaign upsetting the balance of nature. Thus the fate of humans and the little brown birds appeared to them to be linked, rather than in opposition. Fifty years later, Chinese voters chose the scrappy sparrow for their national bird.

The House Sparrow is primed to adapt, even to the extreme. This is perhaps no better illustrated than by two males and a female living 640 meters (2100 feet) below the earth's surface in a Yorkshire, U.K., coal mine. The miners fed them and they stayed near electric lights for warmth, even built a nest and hatched three young on a roof support. Human buildings of all sizes, shapes, and colors are not the only structures that the birds will adopt. They will also use the nests of Osprey, Red-tailed-Hawk, and

other raptors. Their messy nests do not follow building codes; they simply enjoy each other's company building nests close together and forming a colonial complex. With such intimacy, vicious fights are common, which have been variously attributed to jealousy, competition, irritability, and pugnacity by human observers. Further, the sparrow has been seen as so lusty that for centuries human males suffering from impotence were advised to eat their brains, rumps, and the whole roasted bird as aphrodisiacs. In the 1980s, DNA testing proved that the sparrow could be monogamous, a bigamist, and even incestuous. Such behavior can lead to infanticide with both sexes sharing guilt. The sparrow is a well-known thief, taking flies from spider webs and worms from robins. Unfortunately, the sparrow is also a major predator and ranks number one enemy of the native Eastern Bluebird. The sparrow will drive bluebirds from their nests or surprise the parents in the nest, peck their heads to death, and decapitate the young, then carry the remains as food for their own young.

Because they were widespread, abundant, and close to humans, the notoriety of the sparrow is found through the ages in the arts, sciences, and culture of humans. The sparrow appears in Old Testament Psalm 84 associated with human structures, but even more familiar is the literary sparrow in the Gospels of Matthew (10:29-31) and Luke (12:6-7) in the New Testament of the Bible. One of the few European paintings featuring a sparrow, Madonna del Passero by the Italian artist Guercino (a. 1615), depicts Mary holding the naked Jesus on her lap and a sparrow on a string on her finger (p. 47). It may seem strange to us today, but the sparrow was a food for ages, proven by a tenth-century cookbook from Baghdad listing a recipe for a sparrow omelet (p. 46-48). In fact, sparrow pies of many species were offered in English and American cookbooks in the 18th and 19th centuries. Many poems, prose, even theatrical plays incorporated the sparrow (pp. 68-89) on both sides of the Atlantic.

Finally, the sparrow became the plentiful, cheap, ideal avian species for rigorous scientific investigations in the laboratory and field, for example, Hermon Carey Bumpus' research on natural selection in Providence, Rhode Island (1898), followed soon after by Joseph Grinnell's experiment in Death Valley, California (1917) of how long it took for a subspecies to develop. (Decades, not millennia, as it turned out.)

Luis Baptista used the species to investigate a different kind of evolution—the cultural evolution of changes in song. Results: birds have dialects, and peers, rather than parents, seem to dictate the

dialect to the next generation. Further, bird songs shed light on elements of human speech. In fact, human words and some bird songs are constructed the same way, linking sounds with individual meanings, concluding that bird songs are ideal models in studying the evolution of human language.

The author uses the final chapter of the book, Inheriting the Earth, to deal with avian extinction and stresses the case of the Dusky Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus nigrescens*). They lived in the salt marshes on Merritt Island in South Florida, nesting in salt grass and sand grass, and were quickly driven to extinction by rapid destruction of their required habitat. In the 1960s, NASA built the Kennedy Space Center on Merritt Island, the core of the bird's habitat. DDT was used to control mosquitoes but it also weakened the shells of the sparrow's eggs. Later, intentional flooding was used to remove breeding mosquitoes, but it also drowned sparrow nests. A new paved highway and repeated firing of the land by ranchers for improved cattle grazing further decreased sparrow numbers. Although placed on the Endangered Species Act of 1973, it was a case of too little, too late.

Other New World sparrows are facing a similar scenario. So what about the House Sparrow? What makes such an invasive species such a good invader? True, the sparrow has flexibility in behavior and willingness to settle in a new place, along with outright toughness and aggressiveness. It's a hardy survivor because of its adaptation to the developments of human civilization. But what is going on now with the sharp decline of the passer genus and perhaps other sparrows as well throughout the world? Many suggestions are given and perhaps all of them are valid but there is still no single answer.

In conclusion, Kim Todd deserves much credit for choosing the sparrow as her subject. The book should be read by all people interested in these avian companions of ours, as the author raises such meaningful questions as: "What do we make of almost nothing? How do we treat the insignificant, the overlooked outside our windows, and within ourselves?"

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## Birds of Note – December 2012 through February 2013

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Pink-footed Goose\**** – *Bucks*: 2 different individuals included one from fall that returned to Peace Valley Park 12/20-23 (ph. August Mirabella, ph. Tom Johnson, et al., *doc submitted*), one in Upper Makefield Twp. 1/1 (ph. Judy Hayman, Phillip Stollsteimer, Barbara Stollsteimer), and one at Lower Makefield Twp. 1/2-20 (David Russell, Jill Russell, Bill Holmes, ph. Steve Kolbe, Rebecca Palmer, et al., *doc submitted*); *Lehigh*: 2 different individuals present 1/5-14 at Fogelsville Quarry, Lake Muhlenberg, and Dorney Pond (Scott Burnet, Matt Loyko, *doc submitted*).

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Clarion*, *Lancaster*, *Lehigh*, *Montgomery*, *Northampton*, *Tioga*, *Westmoreland*.

**Ross's Goose** – *Berks*: 2 in Longswamp Twp. 12/15-19 (Peter Saenger), and one at Lake Ontelaunee 2/23 (Rudy Keller); *Chester*: one at Exton Park 2/28 (George Tallman, Kelly Nunn); *Lebanon*: 2 at Middle Creek WMA 2/7 (Randy Miller); *Lehigh*: multiple reports from Fogelsville Quarry and Copley Quarry (Frank Dickman, Bill Etter, m.ob.); *Northampton*: one on the Bethlehem/Easton CBC 12/29 (Dave DeReamus, Jason Horn, Andy Cuttic, Stephen Kloiber).

**Brant** – *Bucks*: one at Forrest Grove 12/5 (August Mirabella), and one at Peace Valley Park 1/14-16 (Mike Homel, et al.); *Northampton*: one at Glase Rd. pond 12/22 (Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell Schall); *Tioga*: one at Hills Creek SP 12/19 (Gary Tyson, eBird).

***Barnacle Goose\**** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 1/9-14 (Ian Baldock *fide* Devich Farbotnik, ph. Tom Johnson, *doc submitted*).

***Trumpeter Swan*** – *Chester/Montgomery*: 2 from fall through 1/27 on the Schuylkill R. in East Coventry Twp./Pottstown (Rob Blye); *Crawford*: 3 at the Pymatuning fish hatchery 12/16 (Shawn Collins, Rob Hodgson, Andy Markel, eBird); *Erie*: one all season at Presque Isle S.P. (Jerry McWilliams, m.ob.); *Huntingdon*: one in Smithfield Twp. 1/29-2/24 (David Kyler, Greg Grove, Jim Dunn); *Mercer*: 2 (one with neck collar) at Shenango River Res. 1/1 (Neil Troyer).

***Eurasian Wigeon*** – *Bucks*: one at Bristol 1/1-5 and 2/3 (ph. Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek S.P. 2/28 (Holly Merker); *Cumberland*: one at Boiling Springs 1/15-18 (Tom Johnson, Vern Gauthier, Andrew Markel); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek S.P. 12/3-9 (Lee Carnahan).

**Blue-winged Teal** – *Centre*: 2 at State College 12/4-13 (Joe Verica, Alex Lamoreaux, Josh Lefever); *Chester*: One at Marsh Creek S.P. 2/28 (Holly Merker); *Crawford*: 5 at Linesville 12/16; *Dauphin*: one during the Harrisburg CBC 12/15; *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 12/15 (Don Snyder); *York*: a female at Lewisberry 12/15 (Ed Bernot).

**Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal** – *Bucks*: one at Hidden L., Newtown 12/19 (Henry D'Alessandro), and another,

perhaps the same, at Core Creek Park 1/5 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: a drake at Upper Uwchlan Water Treatment Plant 2/10 (Holly Merker).

***Harlequin Duck\**** – *Armstrong*: one first year male at Freeport 2/10 through the end of period, first county record (Dan Yagusic, *no doc*).

**Surf Scoter** – *Beaver*, *Bucks*, *Centre*, *Clearfield*, *Crawford*, *Dauphin*, *Erie*, *Indiana*, *Philadelphia*.

**White-winged Scoter** – *Berks*, *Butler*, *Carbon*, *Dauphin*, *Erie*, *Indiana*, *Lebanon*, *Venango*.

**Black Scoter** – *Butler*: 13 on the Butler CBC 12/15; *Erie*: one 1/21 through the season at Presque Isle S.P. (Jerry McWilliams); *Susquehanna*: one at Quaker Lake 12/10 (Evan Mann).

**Red-throated Loon** – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 12/16 (Matt Spence); *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 1/5 (Devich Farbotnik); *Butler*: one on the Butler CBC 12/15; *Carbon*: one at Beltzville S.P. 12/10-21 (Rob Bergstresser, Rich Rehrig); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 12/15; *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek S.P. 12/27-28 (Lee Carnahan, et al.); *Lehigh*: 6 grounded away from water by an early Feb storm (4 in *Lehigh*) found from 2/5-8, all birds were successfully released on lakes and rivers (*fide* Scott Burnet); *Philadelphia*: 2 at Glen Foerd Mansion 2/24 (Mary Dellwo).

**Red-necked Grebe** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 12/16-22 (Ken Rieker, August Mirabella, Christopher Mortensen), one at Core Creek Park 12/19 (Mike Homel, Mike Line), and one at the Penn-Warner Tract 1/1 (Mark Gallagher); *Butler*: one at Moraine SP 12/8-9 (Mark Vass, Shannon Thompson, Jeff McDonald); *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna R. at Wrightsville 1/6 (Gordon Dimmig); *York*: one at Lake Marbury 1/29 (Dick Cleary).

***Eared Grebe\**** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 12/31-1/1 (Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton, Geoff Malosh, *no doc*); *Lebanon*: one from Oct through 12/24 at Memorial lake S.P. (Randy Miller, et al., *doc submitted*); *Northampton*: 2 at Nazareth Quarry 12/13-1/7, first county record (Billy Weber, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

**Great Cormorant** – *Bucks*: present all season with a high count of 25 at Bristol 1/1 (Devich Farbotnik, m.ob.); *Delaware*: 4 at Marcus Hook 12/15 (Nick Pulcinella); *Philadelphia*: present all season with a high count of 11 on 12/15 (m.ob.).

**Green Heron** – *Philadelphia*: one at Manayunk Canal 12/3-1/24 (Ken Januski).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** – *Bucks*: one at Silver Lake Park 1/19 (Devich Farbotnik); *Franklin*: one at Falling Stream Branch for about a week mid-Feb through at least 2/27 (Carl Garner); *Lancaster*: one at Wood's Edge Pond 12/3 (Meredith Lombard); *Westmoreland*: one at Mt. Pleasant 12/10 (Tim Anderson).

**Osprey** – *Bucks*: one at Bradford Dam 12/2 (Gail Johnson); *Butler*: one on the Butler CBC 12/15; *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek S.P. through 12/14 (Denise Hardtmann, Brian Raich, Holly Merker); *Mercer*: one at a nest platform at Shenango River Res. 2/18 (Marty McKay); *Westmoreland*: one during the Bushy Run CBC 1/5 (Shannon Courage, Dale Maluza).

**Sandhill Crane** – *Bradford, Butler, Chester, Crawford, Lawrence, Mercer*.

**Greater Yellowlegs** – *Erie*: one at Seigel Marsh 12/18 (Mike Weible).

**Least Sandpiper** – *Chester*: one at Upper Oxford 12/30 for a few days (Patrick Millar), and one at Marsh Creek S.P. 2/28 (Holly Merker); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning fish hatchery 1/1 through end of period (Mark Vass, Isaac Field, Ron Leberman, Bonnie Gander, Janice Grindle).

**Purple Sandpiper** – *Erie*: 2 at Presque Isle S.P. 12/14-24 (Shawn Collins, Adam Erb, Jerry McWilliams), and one at Presque Isle S.P. 2/9-10, first February record (Drew Mortensen, ph. Geoff Malosh).

**Dunlin** – *Centre*: one apparently injured bird at Bald Eagle S.P. 12/8 (Joe Verica); *Erie*: one during the Erie CBC 12/15.

**Black-headed Gull\*** – *Butler*: one at L. Arthur 12/2-3 (Mark Vass, ph. Geoff Malosh, *doc submitted*); *Cumberland*: one at East Pennsboro 2/23 (Andy Markel, *no doc*).

**Little Gull** – *Erie*: 3 reports of adult birds 12/16-1/1 (Jerry McWilliams, et al.).

**Laughing Gull** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 12/15 (Rick Mellon, et al.); *Lancaster*: one at Peach Bottom 1/1 (Bob Schutsky).

**Mew Gull\*** – *Lancaster*: one at Kirkwood 12/11 (Chuck Chalfant, *doc submitted*).

**Herring (Vega) Gull** – one well-described and well-photographed adult was at the Penn-Warner Tract 12/15 during the Southern Bucks CBC (ph. Tom Johnson, et al.).

**Thayer's Gull\*** – *Erie*: up to three at Presque Isle SP 12/22-1/18 (ph. Geoff Malosh, ph. Alex Lamoreaux, Dave Wilton, Shannon Thompson, Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*); *Northampton*: one at Grand Central Landfill, Pen Argyl 2/14 (Billy Weber, *no doc*).

**Glaucous Gull** – *Berks, Bucks, Erie, Lancaster, Lebanon, Somerset*.

**Pomarine Jaeger\*** – *Erie*: one immature at Sunset Point, Presque Isle S.P. 12/9 (Jerry McWilliams, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton, *no doc*).

**Parasitic Jaeger\*** – *Erie*: one immature at Sunset Point, Presque Isle SP 12/1 (Jerry McWilliams, Jeff McDonald, Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton, *no doc*), and 3 passed the mouth of Walnut Creek 12/5 (Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*); *Somerset*: adult at Lake Somerset 12/16 (ph. Mike Lanzone, *no doc*).

**Dovekie\*** – *Bucks*: one found injured at New Hope 12/21 (Stephanie Ponist, *doc submitted*) succumbed a few days later in rehab and the specimen is now with the Academy of Natural Sciences; *Northampton*: one found injured in a driveway in Danielsville 12/22 later succumbed and will be mounted at the Jacobsburg State Park Nature Center (*vide* Rick Wiltraut, *no doc*).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** – *Berks*: 4 in Shartlesville during the Bernville CBC 1/5; *Lebanon*: 2 at Fontana 12/8 (Tim Becker) and 1/29 (Randy Miller).

**Barn Owl** – *Bucks, Berks, Clearfield, Dauphin* (Curtin CBC), *Juniata, Lancaster, Mercer, Union* (Lewisburg CBC).

**Snowy Owl** – *Dauphin*: one during first week of January in Powell's Valley (*vide* Stan Miller, Scott Bills); *Pike*: one at Promised Land S.P. 2/2 (Carissa Longo).

**Allen's Hummingbird\*** – *Bucks*: one from fall continued through 1/8 in Plumstead Twp. (Anna Webster, *doc submitted*); *Montgomery*: one continued in Lansdale through 12/3 (Cathy Lavoie, Alvin Lavoie, *doc submitted*).

**Calliope Hummingbird\*** – *Lancaster*: one in Centerville 12/1-12 (Bob Weiss, Sandy Lockerman, *doc submitted*).

**Prairie Falcon\*** – *Cumberland*: present all season at the Mud Level Rd. area for the seventh consecutive winter (m.ob., *previously documented*).

**Gyr Falcon\*** – *Lebanon*: one at Second Mtn. Hawk Watch 12/11 (Dave Schwenk, *no doc*).

**Say's Phoebe\*** – *Adams*: one at Pumping Station Rd. 12/13 (Michael O'Brien, *no doc*).

**Blue-headed Vireo** – *Dauphin*: one at Fort Hunter 1/21 (Chuck Berthoud); *Lycoming*: one at Jersey Shore 12/29 (Carol and Charles Hildebrand).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** – *Lehigh*: one at Trexler Nature Preserve 12/8-15 (Chris Hugosson); *Philadelphia*: flock wintered again at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant with high count of 150 (m.ob.).

**Tree Swallow** – *Lancaster*: 4 at Lake Clarke, Susquehanna R. 2/16 (Mike Epler); *Philadelphia*: 8 at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant 2/18 (Chuck Berthoud, David McNaughton).

**Cave Swallow\*** – *Philadelphia*: 4 at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant through 2/2 (ph. George Armistead, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

**House Wren** – *Chester*: one in Avondale 2/22 (W. Brian Henderson); *Crawford*: one during the Linesville CBC 12/16; *Lancaster*: 2 during the Southern Lancaster CBC 12/16.

**Marsh Wren** – *Philadelphia*: 2 at Tinicum 12/15 (Doris McGovern, Noel Kelley) and again 1/21 (Alan Kneidel).

**Brown Thrasher** – *Centre, Chester, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, Lehigh, York*.

**Ovenbird** – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon S.P. 12/16 (Arlene Koch); *Philadelphia*: one during the Pennypack CBC 12/15, and one at West Mt. Airy 12/29 (Stephen Johnson).

**Black-and-white Warbler** – *Lehigh*: one at Whitehall Parkway 1/27 (Liz and Ed Vermillion); *Philadelphia*: one at Tinicum 12/3 (ph. Theresa Heinsler) and 12/16 (Steve Dupont).

**Tennessee Warbler** – *Dauphin*: one at Highspire Reservoir from fall through 1/1 (Sue Hannon, Renee Larry).

**Orange-crowned Warbler** – *Lancaster*: one from fall through 1/12 at Wood's Edge Pond (Meredith Lombard); *Montgomery*: one at North Wales 1/28 through the end of the period (Kirk Moulton); *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 1/12 (Frank Windfelder, Todd Fellenbaum), and 2 at Naval Business Center 1/12 (George Armistead).

**Nashville Warbler** – *Bucks*: one in Doylestown Twp. 12/12 (Mary Jo Buckwalter); *Chester*: one found "distressed" in Downingtown 1/25 died a few days later in rehab (Briana Brigham *vide* Doris McGovern); *Philadelphia*: one at Manayunk 2/23 (Ken Januski, Jerene Schroeder).

**Common Yellowthroat** – *Chester, Cumberland, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Somerset, York*.

**Northern Parula** – *Chester*: one at Paoli 12/28 (Mike Coulter).

**Magnolia Warbler** – *Philadelphia*: one at Andorra Natural Area 12/8 (Ken Januski, Jerene Schroeder).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** – *Cumberland*: female in Upper Allen Twp. 1/1-3 (Janet Bragh).

**Palm Warbler** – *Chester*: one of "yellow" race at Avondale 12/14 (W. Brian Henderson); *Lancaster*: one during the Southern Lancaster CBC 12/16 (Barry Blust); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 1/3 (Kevin Crilley); *Philadelphia*: present through at least 1/26 at Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant, high of 8 on 12/27 (Tim Schreckengost, Mary Dellwo), one at Bartram's Garden 1/14 (Alexander Zorach), and one at Tinicum 1/21 (Alan Kneidel); *York*: one at Sunnyside Rd. 12/15 and 1/20 (Randy Phillips).

**Pine Warbler** – *Allegheny*: one at Hartwood Acres 1/24-27 (Paul Brown, Kate St. John); *Bucks*: one at Levittown 1/21



## Photographic Highlights

(Linda Rowan); *Lancaster*: one at Denver 12/2 (Loretta Gehman); *Montgomery*: one near Green Lane Park 12/29 (Paul Guris), and one at Lorimer Park 2/18-20 (Jennifer Sherwood).

**Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 1/1-3 (Ian Baldock, ph. Devich Farbotnik, August Mirabella).

**Black-throated Green Warbler** – *Philadelphia*: one at Tincum 12/11-15 (Jim McConnell, Doris McGovern, Noel Kelley).

**Wilson's Warbler** – *Lancaster/York*: one in each county during the Southern Lancaster CBC 12/16 (Bob Schutsky, Randy Phillips, Steve Wildasin, Richard Clark, et al.).

**Yellow-breasted Chat** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 12/23 (Jessica Huff); *Lancaster*: one at Silver Mine Park 12/1-2 (Andrew Weitzel, Justin Bosler); *Northampton*: one in Lower Nazareth Twp. 12/12-1/8 (Timothy Kita).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** – *Berks*: one at Fleetwood 12/16 (Matt Wlasniewski).

**Le Conte's Sparrow\*** – *Chester*: one present from 11/21 through the winter season at Waterloo Mills Preserve (Kevin Fyrberger, *doc submitted*).

**Lincoln's Sparrow** – *Chester*: one at Doe Run 12/29 (W. Brian Henderson, Joe Sebastiani); *Lehigh*: one at Whitehall 12/15 (Stephen Kloiber); *Montgomery*: one at Norristown Farm Park 12/6 (Ken Rieker).

**Harris's Sparrow\*** – *Carbon*: one on Whitey B Dr. near Beltzville S.P. 1/1 through the season (Rich and Barbara Rehrig, *doc submitted*) was seen by hundreds of birders.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – *Lancaster*: one at Manheim 1/13-15 (Bruce Carl); *Lehigh*: one at Slatington 12/13 (ph. Bill Etter).

**Dickcissel** – *Lancaster*: one at Gap during the Western Chester CBC 12/29 (Pamela Fisher).

**Bobolink** – *Montgomery*: one at the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust remained to 12/2 (Paul Driver).

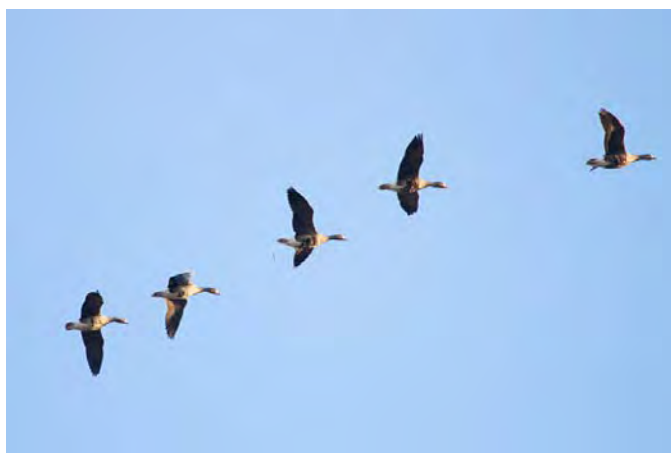
**Yellow-headed Blackbird** – *Chester*: one at Parkesburg 12/14 (Chuck Chalfant), one during Western Chester CBC 12/29 (Patrick Millar), one or 2 at Honeybrook 2/13-14 (Holly Merker, Al Guarente), and one at Bucktoe Preserve 2/24 (Kelly Nunn, Hank Davis); *Lancaster*: up to 5 at Christiana 12/14-16 (Shannon Thompson, Dave Wilton, Mike Epler, ph. Geoff Malosh), 3 at Fairmont Rd. 12/26 (Ian Gardner, Alex Lamoreaux, Josh Lefever), 2 at Ferncrest Rd. 12/28 (Gordon Dimmig), one at Black Bear 2/7 (Carlton Groff).

**Brewer's Blackbird** – *Chester*: one at Honey Brook 2/16 (Nick Pulcinella).

**Bullock's Oriole\*** – *Montgomery*: returned to Gilbertsville 12/6 for third winter (Mary Ache, et al., *doc submitted*).

**Baltimore Oriole** – *Allegheny*: male at Aspinwall 12/29 (Steve Thomas, Sue Thomas); *Bucks*: first-year male in Warwick Twp. through 12/21 (ph. Harris Brown), a female in Middletown Twp. 12/11 through end of period (ph. David Pentland), and a female wintered in Bedminster Twp. (Linda Weber, ph. August Mirabella); *Cumberland*: one in Huntsdale for a few days in late Dec (Alexander Green); *Indiana*: female in Indiana 11/29-12/16 (Dory Jacobs); *Juniata*: one at Oakland Mills in Dec (Henry Petersheim).

**Hoary Redpoll\*** – *Centre*: 2 near Port Matilda 1/15-26 (Ron Rovasek, ph. Alex Lamoreaux, *doc submitted*), and one at Snow Shoe 1/27 (ph. Alex Lamoreaux, Josh Lefever, *doc submitted*); *Crawford*: one at Rundletown 1/20 (Adam Troyer, *no doc*); *Erie*: one near Beach 11 at Presque Isle 1/30 (Jerry McWilliams, *no doc*) and 2/10 (Mike Weible, *no doc*); *Huntingdon*: 2 at the Lake Raystown Field Station 2/27 (Chuck Yohn, Alex Lamoreaux, Ian Gardner, *no doc*); *Lehigh*: one south of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center 1/9 (Bill Etter, *doc submitted*); *Susquehanna*: one in Rush Twp. 1/26 (Amy Davis, Jeff Davis, *doc submitted*).



**Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)**. A flock of 13 Greater White-fronted Geese at Masonic Village, *Lancaster* was a terrific total for Pennsylvania. Five of the birds are shown here 23 January 2013. (Gordon Dimmig, *gwd-photography.com*)



**Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)**. A species nearing annual status in Pennsylvania, this Barnacle Goose (center right) was at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 9 to 14 January 2013, photographed here 10 January. (Tom Johnson)



**Green-winged (Common) Teal (*Anas crecca*)**. This drake of the Eurasian variety was present at Uwchlan Water Treatment Plant, *Chester* from 10 February 2013 (here 24 February) to the end of the period. (Jeff Davis)



**Redhead (*Aythya americana*).** It was an abnormally good season for Redhead in southwestern Pennsylvania, with many reports across several counties. This bird at Wingfield Pines, *Allegheny* 27 January 2013 was one of several there for a few weeks mid-winter, one of five locations where they were found in *Allegheny* alone. (Geoff Malosh)



**Great Egret (*Ardea alba*).** This Great Egret at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin* 1-3 January 2013 (here 2 January) provided just the second January record of the species for *Dauphin*. (Ed Chubb)



**Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*).** This first winter male on the *Allegheny* River below Lock and Dam #5, *Armstrong* 10 February 2013 through the end of the period (here 13 February) was a first for *Armstrong*. The bird was very close to *Westmoreland* border and was reported in that county on one occasion as well. (Jeff McDonald)



**Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*).** This fine portrait of a displaying male was made on the Conodoguinet Creek at Mechanicsburg, *Cumberland* 2 January 2013. (Steven Kersting)



**Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).** This dramatic portrait of courting Bald Eagles was captured above Shenango River Reservoir, *Mercer* 16 February 2013. (Steve Gosser)



**Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*).** This light-morph Rough-legged Hawk, photographed 30 December 2012, delighted birders at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*. Winter raptor surveys reported a slight decline in this species from last year. (*Bill Keim*)



**Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*).** This unique image of three snowbound shorebirds was made during the Curtin, *Dauphin* CBC 27 December 2012. (*Ed Chubb*)



**Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).** A deer carcass attracted this Golden Eagle to a study site in *Cameron* 16 February 2013, where researchers from the Powdermill Avian Research Center and the National Aviary radio-tagged the species last year. (*Randy Flemant*)



**Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*).** This visitor from Europe provided *Butler* with its fourth record 2 (here) to 3 December 2012. Interestingly, all four records have been of adults in basic plumage on the same lawn at the South Shore Day Use Area in Moraine State Park; previous records were in 1998, 2008, and 2011. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Calliope Hummingbird (*Selasphorus calliope*).** Representing Pennsylvania's third Calliope, this bird at Lancaster, *Lancaster* 1 to 12 December 2012 (here 2 December) followed the state's second (at Devon, *Chester*) by just a few weeks. (*Meredith Lombard*)



**Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*).** Eastern Screech-Owl is rare on Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*, but this bird took to roosting in a cottonwood right next to the park road for duration of the winter of 2012-13, where it delighted hundreds of visitors, birders and non-birders alike. Shown here 10 February 2013. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*).** Pennsylvania's third Allen's Hummingbird, pictured here 2 December 2012, attended a feeder in Pipersville, *Bucks* from mid-November to 7 January 2013. (*Jeff Davis*)



**Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*).** This dramatic image of a Northern Shrike taking a House Finch was made at a feeder at Chicora, *Butler* 16 February 2013. (*Kimberly Berry*)



**Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*).** No fewer than 48 vagrant hummingbirds were banded in Pennsylvania this fall and winter. This adult female Rufous Hummingbird was banded 28 October 2012 in Leetsdale, *Allegheny* and continued there through 24 January 2013, shown here 6 January. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*).** Below normal snowfall in many areas of the state made for a difficult winter to observe field birds, but this Lapland Longspur was nicely photographed anyway at New Wilmington, *Lawrence* 13 January 2013. (*Dave Inman*)



**Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).** This nice image of 10 Snow Buntings in flight was made at Pymatuning State Park, Crawford 5 January 2013. (Dave Inman)



**Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*).** This rare winter visitor frequented at feeder in Lower Nazareth Twp., Northampton 12 December 2012 to 8 January 2013, and was beautifully photographed 24 December. (Dustin Welch)



**Orange-crowned Warbler (*Oreothlypis celata*).** Shown here 4 December 2012, this Orange-crowned Warbler was at Wood's Edge Park, Lancaster this year from 2 December 2012 to 14 February 2013, where the species was reported for the second consecutive winter. (Hank Davis)



**Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*).** Continuing from the fall season, this confident little sparrow remained reliable at Waterloo Mills Preserve, Chester throughout the winter, shown here 13 January 2013. (Alex Lamoreaux)



**Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*).** Discovered at Highspire Reservoir, Dauphin in early November, this Tennessee Warbler persisted until 1 January 2013 (here), providing Pennsylvania with its first winter record for the species. (Renee Larry)



**Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco (*Junco hyemalis*).** This female Oregon-type junco at State College, Centre 31 December 2012 caused much discussion as to subspecies, and documentation was forwarded to PORC. (Nick Bolgiano)



**Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*).** This wonderfully detailed portrait of a wintering Red-winged Blackbird was made at Exton Park, Chester 24 February 2013. (Kelly Colgan Azar)



**White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*).** Though not on the scale of the massive invasion staged in 2008-09, White-winged Crossbills were again present in good numbers in many areas of Pennsylvania this year. This female was photographed at Hartwood Acres, Allegheny 30 January 2013. (Jeff McDonald)



**Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*).** This now famous male Bullock's Oriole returned for the third consecutive winter to a yard in Gilbertsville, Montgomery this year from 6 December 2012 through the period, shown here 20 February 2013. (Howard Eskin)



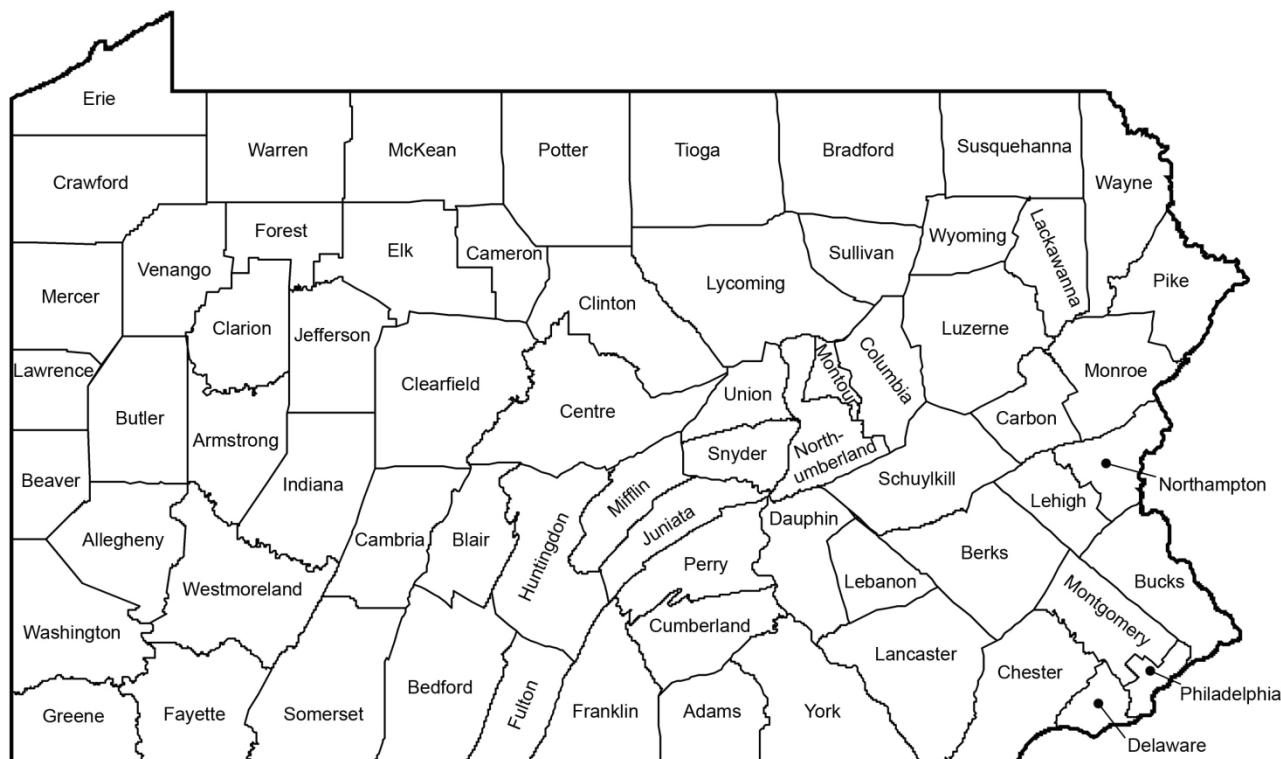
**White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*).** This male White-winged Crossbill was documented feeding on sweet gum at Haverford College, Delaware 20 February 2013. (Adrian Binns)



**Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*).** Yet another redpoll winter allowed birders across the state the chance at some close encounters with this irruptive northern finch. This bird was photographed at Saltsburg, Indiana 20 January 2013. (Steve Gosser)



**Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*).** Evening Grosbeaks made their best showing in Pennsylvania in at least a decade this winter. This beautiful male was photographed at Tiona, Warren 26 January 2013. (Steve Dowlan)



**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	WRS	Winter Raptor Survey

**eBird Usage:** Data for these reports and throughout this journal include observations collected from the eBird database <<http://www.ebird.org>>. Citation: eBird. 2012. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: 31 March 2013)

**Adams County**

Locations: East Berlin (EB), Freedom Township (FREE), Gettysburg Christmas Bird Count (GCBC), Gettysburg (GBG), Gettysburg College (GC), Gettysburg College Quarry (GCQ), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Meade (LM), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Mountain Rd. (MTN), Possum Hollow Rd. (POSS), Soldier's National Cemetery (SNC), State Game Lands #249 (SGL), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS), York Springs Christmas Bird Count (YSCBC).

Extended views of a cooperative subject by an experienced birder (MOB) produced Adams' first **Say's Phoebe** since the winter of 2003-04. Found 12/13 along Pumping Station Rd, it was a great GCBC count week bird and was the highlight of the period. The weather this period was a bit of a mixed bag. There was never an extended period of frigid temperatures, but it was cold enough to produce iced over ponds and reservoirs for periods of time. Snowfall was limited and never resulted in extended snow cover for the majority of the county. These conditions produced a total

species count of 100 for the season including 18 waterfowl species and 11 raptor species. The GCBC led by MOB 12/15 found 71 species, and the 12/27 inaugural tri-county YSCBC (*Adams, Cumberland, York*) developed and led by VG had a solid first year recording 88 species, with 68 of those found the *Adams*.

Germany Rd. farm fields held 160 **Snow Geese** 2/16 (SS) and hosted the annual **Tundra Swan** from 1/18 into March, with a high count of 212 on 2/16 (PK). A **Cackling Goose** and 4 **Canvasbacks** were at GCQ 12/15-24 (AW, et al.). A pair of **Wood Ducks** was found on the GCBC. A pond along aptly named Pond Rd. held 5 **Redhead** 2/22 (BO).

A single **Ring-necked Pheasant** was found at LM 2/15 (BLM) and 9 **Wild Turkeys** were along Shippensburg Rd. 2/15 (MB). It was a good season for raptors, including good numbers on the four WRS routes. **Bald Eagles** were observed at eight locations and **Northern Harriers** were regularly reported throughout the period. Rare for the county, a **Northern Goshawk** was seen 1/3 along Coon Rd. (BO). The GCBC produced the sole report of **Rough-legged Hawk** 12/15.

**Killdeer** were at POSS 12/8-25 with a good winter count of 35 on

12/25 (PK). Also impressive were 10 **Wilson's Snipe** along an area of Muddy Run 12/17 (PM). The YSCBC produced 6 snipe as well. The YSCBC also produced 2 **Eastern Screech-Owls** and reports of both **Great Horned** and **Barred Owl** were up over prior winters. **Short-eared Owl** was first found at GNMP 12/30 and the high count of 6 on 2/16 (PM) was also the last report for the period. Overwintering **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were evident with 17 found on the GCBC. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** and **Hairy** and **Pileated Woodpeckers** continue to show well in winter. The county's increasing trend of **American Kestrel** sightings was evident; **Adams** led WRS statewide with 43 on the four routes. **Merlins** were at South Mt. 12/15 (BF) and FREE/GNMP 1/5 (DM, AS, PE). Finally, a **Peregrine Falcon** treated observers to an attack on a ball of **European Starlings** and a dive on a female kestrel along POSS 2/10 (RP, PK). Both attempts were unsuccessful and the bird was later found perched in an isolated tree within 10-15 feet of perched **Mourning Doves**.

Presumably an acceptable tradeoff for an unsuccessful search for a reported Loggerhead Shrike was getting great views of a **Say's Phoebe** at Pumping Station Rd. (MOB). The bird was well-described, but was not re-found during a number of later searches. This observation fits nicely with previous Pennsylvania sightings of Say's Phoebe in the Dec/Jan timeframe.

A single **Fish Crow** was at SNC 2/15 (AW). **Common Raven** continues to occur countywide. There were five locations reporting **Horned Lark** with a high count of 135 at POSS 12/29 (PK). Reports of **Black-capped Chickadee** were limited to five but spanned the period. The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** invasion was clearly evident and six reports of **Brown Creeper** and five reports of **Winter Wren** spanned the period as well. **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were limited to Dec. The only **Hermit Thrushes** were a single at South Mt 12/15 (BF) and 3 on the YSCBC. Dec showed promise for **American Pipit** but it turned out that 12/12-29 was the extent of the sightings for the season. Some of the better counts were 40 along Pumping Station Rd 12/12 (AM) and 34 on the YSCBC. Nice **Cedar Waxwing** counts of 125 came from Howe Ave 12/22 (JF) and 80 at GC 1/15 (AW). Three **Eastern Towhees** were found on the YSCBC. **American Tree Sparrows** were found throughout the period and 4 **Chipping Sparrows** were found on the YSCBC 12/27. A single **Savannah Sparrow** was found on the YSCBC, as was a **Fox Sparrow**. Reports of "foxies" also came from GNMP 12/15 (NLU) and a high count of 4 from Bingaman Rd 2/17 (BS). **Swamp Sparrows** were reported five times in Dec with a high of 4 at Pumping Station Rd 12/12 (AM). This winter saw regular reporting of **White-crowned Sparrow** throughout the period.

**Red-winged Blackbirds** lingered in the county into late Dec, mostly vacated the county in Jan and early Feb, and returned in numbers beginning mid-Feb. There was a similar pattern for **Common Grackle** but their Dec departure was closer to mid-month. Small numbers of **Eastern Meadowlarks** continue to overwinter, predominately in the GBG/GNMP area; the GCBC found ten. SGL produced a count of over 1200 **Brown-headed Cowbird** for the YSCBC.

Winter finches were better than normal for variety but reports suggested only a fortunate few backyard feeders were visited. There were five reports of **Purple Finch**: 5 on the GCBC, one on the YSCBC, a pair at Mummaburg Rd. 2/18 (MM), and near Clear View Rd 2/15-17 with a high count of 4 on 2/16 (KS). Reports of **White-winged Crossbill** were from SNC 12/13-15 with 35 the high count 12/13 (AW), 12 at Highland Ave 12/15 (NLU), and 12 at Waterworks Rd 1/5 (AS, DM). The only **Common Redpolls** were 2 birds at EB 1/5 (JV). **Pine Siskins** were at South Mt. 12/15 (BF), MTN 1/23 (RDS), SNC 12/15 (AW), and MTN again 2/15-18 with a high count of 6 on 2/17 (RDS).

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## Allegheny County

Location: Imperial (IMP).

The first winter storm hit 12/26 with freezing rain and snow. Four inches of snow fell during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/29, and the first arctic air came in mid-January, followed by a seasonal February. It was a season for northern finches with reports from numerous locations.

**Tundra Swans** were moving around in late Dec with several flocks

noted flying over. On 12/22, a flock of 60 were seen over Duck Hollow (JS, SS, MVV, FI), 4 were over East Liberty (DY), and 19 over the Penn Dot Wetlands in Upper St. Clair (ST). A few days later, birds were on the move again with 40 over Natrona Heights 12/27 (PH), 86 over North Park (BVN), 55 over Plum Borough (PM), 75 over Moon Twp. (GM), and an unknown number after dark over Ohara Twp. 12/28 (PB). Lastly, 15 were at Oakmont 12/29 (SSN). Uncommon here, a **Snow Goose** from late fall continued in Brackenridge and Natrona Heights until 12/4 (RP, GM). Two flew over Clariton 12/3 (TJ). Six **Cackling Geese** continued from last season in Findlay Twp. to 12/28 (m.ob.).

An **American Wigeon** was at Duck Hollow 12/18-2/16 (JS, SS, et al.), 2 were at Wingfield Pines 2/26 (ST), and five were at Oakmont 2/16 (AH, PM). Wigeons are uncommon here in winter. A nice tally of 17 **American Black Ducks** was made at the Moody Road Ponds in Findlay Twp. 12/24 (MV). Single **Green-winged Teal** were at Wingfield Pines 1/26 (PK), Brunots Island 2/23 (MV), and IMP 2/27-28 (GM). Reports of **Gadwall** included one 1/5 at Brunots Island (MV), two 1/23 at The Point in Pittsburgh (GM), and 2 at Wingfield Pines 1/26-27 (PK, GM). **Northern Pintails** are always a good find in the county. One was on a small pond at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. the first half of Dec (MV) and probably the same bird was at nearby Moody Road 2/1 (MV). Fifteen were seen flying at IMP 1/12, a great count (CD, GM), and one was at Neville Island 2/9 (ST). The flock at IMP was the second largest flock reported since I've been compiler; the largest flock was at the same location in 2009. **Northern Shovelers** includes one on the Monongahela River at Riverfront Park on the South Side of Pittsburgh 12/21 (FI, AB, MVV, JS) and one at Brunots Island on the Ohio River 2/23 (MV).

Four **Canvasbacks** were at the Moody Road Ponds in Findlay Twp. 12/27-28 (GM, et al.), two were on the Allegheny R. at Oakmont 12/29 (DYe), and one was in Hamar Twp. 2/3 (AH, PM). **Redhead** numbers were exceptional this season. Three were at Wingfield Pines 1/26 (PK) and that number swelled to 7 by 2/6 (JM) with one remaining 2/27 (DF). One was at the Point in Pittsburgh 2/3 (MF, GM, ST, DW) and 6 were in Hamar Twp. that day (AH, PM). Two were at Brunots Island 2/17 (GM), 9 were in Findlay Twp. 2/25 (GM), and 15 were there 2/28 (GM). Two **Greater Scaup** were at IMP 12/27 (MV). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were on the Allegheny R. in Blawnox 2/16 (AH, PM). Two **Ruddy Ducks** were at The Point in Pittsburgh 1/5 (DW, ST) and one was in Ohara Twp. 2/16 (PB). Up to 4 were at Brunots Island 2/3-23 (GM, ST, PK, MV).

A **Common Loon** was on the Allegheny River in Aspinwall 12/28 (DY). A few **Pied-billed Grebes** were in various locations all season and single **Horned Grebes** were reported from five locations in Jan and Feb. A large flock of 74 **Wild Turkeys** were in a yard in Pine Twp. 1/9 (PL, SL).

Rather unusual for the county in winter, two **Turkey Vultures** were seen at IMP 1/12 (CD, GM). **Bald Eagles** were reported along all the area rivers during the season. Interesting was a bird that flew over the vicinity of the Peregrine Falcon nest in Oakland resulting in one of the falcons mobbing the eagle (TBI). Two were flying over Ross Twp. 1/21 (MKo, PKo), which is not a usual location. A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was at IMP 12/1 (MV). A **Merlin** frequented Duck Hollow during the season (m.ob.). One was in Ross Twp. in early Dec (BM), one was in Homewood Cemetery 12/24 (MD), one in Shaler Twp. 12/25 and 12/29 (JH), one was in Schenley Park 1/6 (MF), and two were at IMP 2/3 (RT, AP). One of the county's pairs of **Peregrine Falcons** that do not get a lot of attention from the birding public was reported 2/25 at the Westinghouse Bridge in East Pittsburgh (TJ). One was observed perched on a telephone pole in Findlay Twp. 1/1 (JM). Most reports are from the known nesting sites, so I like to include sightings from elsewhere.

A **Barred Owl** was at North Park 12/29 (BVN) and one was in Fox Chapel that day (BSh). The bird wintering in Schenley Park continued through the season (JK). A **Short-eared Owl** was found during the Pittsburgh CBC in Oakmont (SSN, DYe, ph.). The location was unusual; it was in a new housing development along the Allegheny River in an open area where homes have yet to be constructed. Subsequent searches there were unsuccessful. Up to five were at IMP through the season (m.ob.).

A few interesting gulls appeared this winter at the Point in Pittsburgh where gulls gather to roost. A first winter **Iceland Gull** was there 1/26-27 (GM) and another 2/6 (GM). A **Lesser-black Backed Gull** was there 12/22-29 (DW, ST, et al.) and a first winter **Great Black-backed Gull** was found 12/8 (MV). **Bonaparte's Gulls** are uncommon in winter so a few sightings at the Point were noteworthy. A flock of 29 were there 12/11 (GM) and two were there 1/2 (GM) and 1/18 (ST). Elsewhere a single bird was at Duck Hollow 1/1 (MVV) and 22 were at the Highland Park Bridge 1/4 (DY). A few **Killdeer** were reported during throughout the season.

The two **Rufous Hummingbirds** continued from Nov in Leetsdale and Mount Washington to 1/24 (BS, KM). The last date for both was identical following the passage of a strong cold front. An unidentified hummingbird was seen briefly in Elizabeth Twp. 12/2 (JE). Unfortunately it remained



unidentified and was not seen again. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited a yard in Cheswick 11/18 (CY).

Unusual was an **Eastern Phoebe** at Beechwood Farms 12/22-1/20 (BSh, STh). One photographed at IMP 2/10 (TM, NM) is hard to assess as wintering or an early arrival. A **Northern Shrike** continued from the fall at IMP through the season (m.ob.). **Common Ravens** continue to breed in the county. A pair was observed building a nest in Aspinwall 2/7 (DY). The nest was under construction on the same railroad bridge a pair built on a few years ago. Another pair was noted building a nest on a highway bridge in the IMP area 2/15 (GM). After several years of regular reports at IMP, we finally have confirmed breeding. There are three known nesting sites in the county. Reports of **Fish Crow** have dropped off in recent years, but a few are still hanging on. One was in Squirrel Hill 12/13 (TM, NM) and one was in Shadyside 2/26 (AP). It was a good winter for **Red-breasted Nuthatch** with reports from twelve locations. The Pittsburgh CBC tallied 28 birds (BSh). Single **Winter Wrens** were at North Park 12/5 (PB), Fox Chapel 12/29 (BSh), Schenley Park 12/29 (MF), and Beechwood Farms 1/6 (BC).

Unusual was a **Gray Catbird** at Neville Island 2/9 (ST) and amazingly another was seen many miles away at Duck Hollow 2/10 (BB, eBird). A late **Brown Thrasher** was at Beechwood Farms 12/29 (BSh). Numbers of **Eastern Bluebirds** were higher than normal with up to 10 at IMP during the season and 23 at North Park 12/29 (BVN, et al.). **American Pipits** are now reported annually through the winter. Most are found in the IMP area, however this year one was at Homewood Cemetery next to Frick Park 1/3 (MVV), two were at Duck Hollow 1/5 (MF), and two were at Wingfield Pines 2/27 (ST). A great number of 6 **Lapland Longspurs** were in Findlay Twp. 12/31 (MV) at a location that has been reliable in the past. A flock of up to 40 **Snow Buntings** were discovered at IMP in early Jan and remained through the season (m.ob.). Another unusual winter record was a **Pine Warbler** at Hartwood Acres 1/24 (PB) that was relocated 1/27 (KSJ).

Rare in winter, four **Eastern Towhees** were found during the Pittsburgh CBC 12/29 (*vide* BSh). Up to five were in Findlay Twp. in Jan and Feb (KD, SM, DW, ST, MV). One visited a feeding station at North Park in mid-Jan (MSc) and one was at Frick Park 1/26 (BMA). **Chipping Sparrow** is unusual after Oct. Three were at Frick Park 12/10 (JS, SS) and one 12/29 (MVV). One was in Cheswick 2/2 (DYe). **Field Sparrows** are uncommon in winter. One was at Frick Park 12/10 (JS, SS) and two were there 12/29 (MVV). One was at Verona 12/29 (MS, EH) and one was at Duck Hollow 1/1 (TJ). Another uncommon species after the fall migration is **Fox Sparrow**. Two were found during the CBC 12/29—one at North Park (BVN) and one at Frick Park (MVV). **White-crowned Sparrows** were once again at the traditional wintering site in Findlay Twp. (m.ob.). One was found during the Pittsburgh CBC in Oakmont 12/29 (DYe) and 7 were at Boyce-Mayview Park 2/27 (ST). There were two reports of **Oregon Juncos**. The first was found in Findlay Twp. 12/30 (RT, JHa) and the other visited a feeder at Beechwood Farms 2/19 (BMu).

**Rusty Blackbird** reports were unusual for this season. One visited a feeder at North Park the week of 1/9 (MSc) and one was photographed at feeder in Verona 1/1-13 (RD, eBird). Six **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at IMP 2/3 (BB, eBird). At least 8 birds were present in Nov, so they must have wintered in the area. Unusual here in winter, a **Common Grackle** visited the feeders at Beechwood Farms 1/15 (BSh). Also unusual, single **Red-winged Blackbirds** visited feeders in Plum Borough 1/2 (PM) and Pine Twp. 2/8 (PL, SL). A flock of 50 in Pleasant Hills 2/9 (SSn) were probably the first migrants of the spring. A male **Baltimore Oriole** was a surprise guest at a bird feeder in Aspinwall 12/29 (Sth, SuT). It was reported during the Pittsburgh CBC, confirmed, and photographed.

It was a northern finch year, something always hoped for with great anticipation. Surprisingly we had great numbers of **White-winged Crossbills** just a few years after the last invasion. **Red Crossbills** were scarce. **Evening Grosbeaks** continue to be missed by most observers. **Purple Finch** reports include one during the Pittsburgh CBC in Penn Hills (MS, EH) and three in Kilbuck Twp. (PT) 12/29. One was in Russellton 1/13 (DYe). A flock of Red Crossbills at Beechwood Farms 12/9 (AP) provided the only report. White-winged Crossbills were widespread in the county with numerous reports the entire season (m.ob.). The largest flock of 50+ was at Lakewood Memorial Gardens in Indiana Twp. Small numbers of **Common Redpolls** were reported at various locations during the entire season. The largest numbers were at a feeder in Pine Twp. where up to 59 birds gathered (PL, SL). **Pine Siskins** were the least reported of the northern finches. Small numbers were reported in seven locations. A few **Evening Grosbeaks** visited a feeder in Jefferson Hills in early Dec. (GB).

EXOTICS: A **Black Swan** appeared on the Ohio R. at McKees Rocks 1/12 (JM). The bird was captured by local police (prompted by reports of kids throwing rocks at it) and taken in by the Pittsburgh Zoo.

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### Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Rosston (RT).

Three **Snow Geese** were noted near Brady's Bend 2/18 (DM). A **Mute Swan** appeared on Redbank Creek 12/9 (JK). Southbound **Tundra Swans** continued to move through the county with a high of 190 on 12/28 at CC (TR); last were 4 at CC 1/15 (TR). KR remained partially open 12/31 and harbored 23 **Gadwalls** in the shallow water where Cowanshannock Creek enters (MH, RH); the first two returning Gadwalls appeared at Parks Industrial Park on Rt. 66 on 2/13 (MVT). First returning **American Wigeons** included 3 at Manorville 2/15 (MH, RH) and 2 at RT 2/23 (SG). One **American Black Duck** and 8 **Mallards** were also at KR 12/31 (MH, RH). The WRS 2/2 (MH, RH, DL) yielded 40 Black Ducks at RT and by 2/15 (MH, RH), 47 Mallards had congregated there.

The season's first 2 **Redheads** arrived at Parks Industrial Park 2/13 (MVT). RT yielded 3 **Ring-necked Ducks** and a single **Lesser Scaup** 2/15 (MH, RH), the same day a single Lesser Scaup was also noted at CC (LV). A first winter drake **Harlequin Duck** at Freeport 2/10 (DY) was the first *Armstrong* record; this bird remained through the end of the period (m.ob.). On 2/18 a **Long-tailed Duck** joined the Harlequin at the Freeport location and also stayed into March (KP). The Allegheny R. hosted 3 **Buffleheads** at Kittanning and 5 at RT 1/23 (MH, RH). Two **Common Goldeneyes** visited KR 12/9 (LC), and one appeared at RT 2/15 (MH, RH); these amazingly comprised the only reports for this species that usually winters on the Allegheny. On 12/9, KR also yielded a high tally of 76 **Hooded Mergansers** (LC); first 2 returnees appeared at RT 2/15 (MH, RH). KR harbored 14 **Common Mergansers** 12/9 (LC) and the high of 140 was at CC 1/19 (TR). KR hosted the only **Ruddy Ducks**, 5 on 12/9 (LC) and 14 on 12/23 (LC).

Top count of **Common Loon** was 13 at KR 12/9 (LC). A **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared at RT 2/3 (TR) and remained through 2/15 (MH, RH). **Bald Eagles** included 2 at KR 1/10 (ED) and 2 at CC on several dates (m.ob.). The first **American Coot** was spotted 2/10 (TR) at RT. A single **Ring-billed Gull** stopped at CC 1/19 (TR). Four **Herring Gulls** were listed at Kittanning 1/23 (MH, RH); on 2/15, 2 were at Kittanning and 2 at RT (MH, RH).

An immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** that arrived at Ford Cliff last Oct remained through the end of the season (JR, LR); the bird's head progressively gained more red as time passed. A **Merlin** was photographed at Worthington 2/9 (MVT); another was spotted at Ford Cliff 2/15 (MH, RH).

At least 78 **Cedar Waxwings** were perched in trees along Dutch Run 2/2 (MH, RH, DL). Single **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found at CC 12/8 (TR) and at SGL 247 on 12/23 (TR). A wintering **Eastern Towhee** was found at CC 1/12 (SG). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was noted at CC 2/15 (LV). Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were sighted in a marshy area along Mac Road during an *Armstrong* WRS 2/2 (MH, RH, DL).

The first 3 **White-winged Crossbills** were reported at SGL 247 on 12/23 (TR); 20 were observed at CC 12/28 (TR), and CC also yielded 3 on 1/12 (SG) and 4 on 2/9 (TR). Thirty-eight **Common Redpolls** were found along Crooked Creek Road near South Bend 2/15 (MH, RH); on the same day 2 were noted in Brady's Bend Twp., where one remained through 2/19 (DM).

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## Beaver County

Locations: Economy Borough (ECON), Independence Marsh (IND), New Brighton (NB), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH).

Cold weather in January and early February froze all water in the county other than the rivers, and as a result waterfowl concentrated on the Beaver R. and on the Ohio at the Beaver R. mouth at RCH. Top count of **Canada Goose** at RCH was 90 on 1/11 (MV). A **Mute Swan** was located on the Beaver CBC 12/15 (*fide* RM). Up to 4 **Gadwall** wintered at RCH beginning 12/30 (MV), with the peak of 4 on 2/9 (GM). Last were 2 there 2/24 (GM). An **American Wigeon** made a rare mid-winter appearance at RCH 1/11 (MV) and was also the only wigeon for the season. The unpredictable **American Black Duck** had a good season at RCH and NB, with a peak of 11 at RCH 1/11 (MV). Best count of **Mallard** in the county this season was 130 at RCH 12/30 (MV). An outstanding late fall (early winter) count of 9 **Northern Shovelers** was made at RCH 12/27 (MV); the first of the spring appeared at IND 2/21 (TJ) and remained in to early Mar. The only **Green-winged Teal** reported this season was one at RCH 2/2 (MV).

A male **Canvasback** appeared at RCH 1/5 (TJ, KG), and was probably the same as a bird that remained there from 1/11-2/24 (m.ob.). It was an excellent season for **Redhead** in Beaver and other sw. Pennsylvania counties. Double-digit daily totals were frequent at RCH in Feb, topped by 43 on 2/21 (TJ). The last big day for them was 2/24 when 21 were present (GM), but smaller numbers remained into Mar. A flock of up to 17 were also at IND 2/21-27 (TJ, GM, et al.) as the ice was just beginning to break. Following a single at RCH 2/4 (MV), **Ring-necked Ducks** arrived in force there 2/19 with up to 22 at the river mouth through the end of Feb (m.ob.). A good count of 11 was at IND 2/27 (GM); all of these birds were males. Three **Greater Scaup** were at RCH 1/5 (MV) and 2 were there to 2/9 (MV, et al.); between these dates a single was periodically seen. A good season for **Lesser Scaup** at RCH was led by 40 on 2/22 (TJ), with double-digits remaining to the end of Feb. A **Surf Scoter** was at NB at the odd date of 1/3 (ph. MZ), and one was at RCH 1/26 (MV). These were the only reports of scoters. Three reports of **Long-tailed Duck**, however, made for a good showing: one each on 1/5 (TJ, KG), 1/28 (BS), and 1/31 (MV), all at RCH. Small numbers of **Bufflehead** and **Common Goldeneye** were at RCH 2/4-24 and 1/25-2/21, respectively (m.ob.). A nice count of 11 **Hooded Mergansers** appeared 2/19 with the other late-Feb waterfowl at RCH (KG) following smaller numbers that had been present there beginning 1/25. Three late-fall Hooded Mergansers were at NB 12/28 (MV). A group of 8 **Common Mergansers** were at RCH 1/26-27 (MV), and a single was present there for much of Feb (m.ob.). The only report of **Ruddy Duck** before the end of Feb was one at RCH 2/2 (MV).

Small numbers of **Pied-billed Grebe** wintered on the rivers at NB and RCH (MV, KG). Two **Horned Grebes** appeared at 2/8 (MV), and these or others were seen there through at least 2/24 (m.ob.). The first **Turkey Vultures** were 4 at Ambridge 2/12 (BS). Now annual, one or 2 **Bald Eagles** wintered on the rivers in Beaver, with at least 7 sightings 12/15-2/9, mainly on the Beaver R. (MV, TJ, KG, SG, GM). A **Northern Harrier**, rare in Beaver as a wintering species, was at Independence Twp. 1/5 (ST). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was recorded on the Beaver CBC 12/15 (*fide* RM). A **Rough-legged Hawk**, also an unusual wintering species in Beaver, was found near Fombell 12/30 (TJ, KG), an especially good find especially this year, which was not particularly good for Rough-legs statewide.

One or two **American Coots** wintered on the Beaver R. (MV), with sighting dates ranging from 12/28-2/8. First **Killdeer** was at Independence Twp. 2/15 (MV) and the first **Wilson's Snipe** appeared at a seep on Cork-Bocktown Road in Independence Twp. 2/8 (MV). **Bonaparte's Gulls** were found at RCH on the unusual dates of 12/29 (2 birds) and 1/27 (TJ, KG). Counts of 300-325 **Ring-billed Gulls** were made at RCH 12/29-1/27 (MV, TJ, KG). Eleven **Herring Gulls** were at RCH 1/26 (MV).

A nice total of 9 **American Kestrels** was made for the Beaver CBC 12/15 (*fide* RM). They were also noted at Fombell 12/30 (TJ, KG), Independence Twp. 1/5 (ST), and RCH 2/9 (TJ). For the fourth winter in a row, **Merlin** returned to RCH and was first seen 12/1 atop the Grace Lutheran Church it has frequented in the past (MV). Other reports were one in Beaver Falls 12/5-9 and 1/27 (TJ, KG), and one at NB 1/5 (TJ, KG). All of these reports could have been of the same bird. One or 2 **Peregrine Falcons** were present all winter at Monaca near their established nest site.

As usual in the winter season, passerines were not well reported, but notable among them were winter finches and **Red-breasted Nuthatches**. Most unusual of all, however, was a **Fish Crow** at Sahli Nature Park in Chippewa Twp. 1/12 (TJ), just the second record for Beaver, but perhaps more are to come for this expanding species. As mentioned **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were widespread, as evidenced by an outstanding total of 44 on the Beaver CBC 12/15 (*fide* RM). They were also recorded at Beaver Falls (SB), Sahli Nature Park (TJ, SG), and RCSP (ST). A **Brown Creeper**

attended a backyard in ECON 1/15-2/22 (KD). The only **Winter Wren** was one at RCSP 1/5 (DY). Wintering **American Pipits** were at New Brighton (2) 12/29 (MV) and at the seep on Cork-Bocktown Road in Independence Twp. (3) 1/27-2/8 (MV). Six **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were tallied on the Beaver CBC 12/15. Lingered **Field Sparrows** were found on the CBC 12/15 (4 birds) and one was at IND 12/19 (MV). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** were a nice addition to the CBC 12/15 as well (*fide* RM).

Five **Purple Finches** were tallied on the CBC 12/15 and one was at RCSP 1/5 (ST). Several birds were reported to eBird around the county during snowfall 2/15-17 (m.ob.). A nice count of 28 **White-winged Crossbills** was made for the CBC 12/15 (*fide* RM), which included 6 at Big Beaver Community Park and 8 at Sahli Nature Park (TJ, SG). Other reports were one at RCSP 1/5 (ST) and 14 at Sahli Nature Park 1/12 (TJ). Also found on the CBC 12/15 was an exceptional total of 75 **Common Redpolls** at Montgomery Lock and Dam (MV). These represented the first record of Common Redpoll for the Beaver CBC. A flock of 8 redpolls frequented a feeder in ECON 1/11-13 (KD) and a flock of 19 were at a different ECON feeder 2/24 (SM). **Pine Siskins** were also present at ECON 1/11-2/19, with a peak of 20 on 1/22 (KD).

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## Bedford County

No report.

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## Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), Breneman's Quarry, Spring Twp. (BQ), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), Christmas Bird Counts: Reading 12/16 (RCBC), Hamburg 12/30 (HCBC), Bernville 1/5 (BCBC).

Precipitation during the period was close to the long-term average, but very little fell in the form of snow and the ground was seldom more than superficially frozen. BML and LO were extensively frozen for only a few weeks in January and February.

The weather enabled overwintering of many waterfowl, with five species of geese, two swans, and 21 ducks reported. A trend toward later fall and earlier spring migrations bookending a truncated winter has become more apparent in this hardy group. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** first reported 11/22 with **Canada Geese** at Christman L. near Virginville stayed until at least 1/21 (RK). A Greater White-fronted Goose was at LO 2/24 (MS). A possible hybrid of this species and **Canada Goose** was at BQ 12/12 (MS). The peak of fall **Snow Goose** migration came in Dec, when birders witnessed the "goose smoke" effect as wavering skeins of hundreds or thousands of these birds passed overhead (4000 over BML 12/27 – RK). Foraging flocks from the large population wintering in the Lehigh Valley east of Berks were seen so regularly that it was difficult to determine when northbound migration began, but there appeared to be an uptick in numbers in mid-Feb, such as 8000 (including 15 blue geese) at LO 2/12 (RK). Two white **Ross's Geese** were seen among Canada Geese in Longswamp Twp. 12/15-19 (PS), the same birds reported on the Lehigh Valley CBC. Another white Ross's Goose was with Snow Geese at LO 2/23 (RK). One to three **Cackling Geese** were scoped out of various flocks of Canada Geese through the period (m.ob.). The winter high count of Canada Geese at LO was 11,000 on 1/26 (RK), a fraction of the total number in the county. Some of LO's large resident population of **Mute Swans** (28 on the RCBC) briefly vacated when most of the lake froze in Feb. **Tundra Swans** were more commonly seen than they usually are in winter, with high counts of 36 at LO 1/5 (MSI) and 53 at BML 2/16 (JB).

Seasonal high counts of our two most abundant wintering ducks were made at LO, where 1200 **American Black Ducks** and 2300 **Mallards** were seen 1/29 (RK). These and other ducks tend to concentrate here when ponds and smaller wetlands freeze. There were seven **American Black Duck x Mallard** hybrids at LO 1/12 (RK); only the most obvious drakes were identified. The beginning of spring waterfowl migration was signaled by mid- to late Feb increases in numbers of other wintering ducks, such as 220 **American Wigeons** at LO 2/19 (RK), 280 **Northern Pintails** at LO 2/12 (RK), 20 **Greater Scaup** at LO 2/25 (DR), 40 **Lesser Scaup** at LO 2/26 (RR), and 2500 **Common Mergansers** at BML 2/17 (JS), the latter

appearing in a raft almost as soon as the ice melted. **Northern Shovelers** again wintered at BQ, with a high count of 14 there 1/1 (PM) and up to 7 during the rest of the period. Three **Green-winged Teal** wintered in a spring seep near Virginville (RK). **Canvasbacks** were again uncommon, with one or two seen at BQ and LO 1/21 and 1/23 (KL, PM). **Redheads** wintered, the high count of 9 made at LO 2/22 (RK). Flocks of as many as 60 **Ring-necked Ducks** could be found in spring fed ponds and flooded quarries all winter as usual (m.ob.). A **White-winged Scoter** at LO 12/23 (MS) and a **Long-tailed Duck** at LO 2/12 (PW) were the sole reported representatives of their species. Up to 7 **Buffleheads** and 7 **Common Goldeneyes** could be found at LO in Jan and Feb (m.ob.). Single **Red-breasted Mergansers** were occasionally scoped out of flocks at LO 1/22-2/24 (m.ob.). The wintering flock of **Ruddy Ducks** at BQ numbered 70-75 birds at peak in Jan (RF, KL).

A **Red-throated Loon** at LO 12/16 (MS) was a rare species for the RCBC. The latest reported **Common Loon** was at LO 12/12-19 (RK). One to 3 **Pied-billed Grebes** were at BQ all winter and similar numbers were at LO well into Jan (RK). The only **Horned Grebe** was at LO 1/1 (RK).

**Black Vultures** and **Turkey Vultures** were common most of the winter, with a few roosts of about 100 birds each. Watchers at HMS counted 15 southbound Bald Eagles 12/19 and six more 12/30 (LG). A **Golden Eagle** passing North Lookout, HMS 12/30 was counted on the HCBC. After a small flurry on the later CBCs (6 on the HCBC, 7 on the BCBC), **Northern Harriers** were scarce the rest of the winter. An adult **Northern Goshawk** was at LO 12/26 (RK). Four **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported, 2 on the HCBC, one near Kutztown 12/19 (DA) and one near Hamburg 2/8 (KB), all light morph birds. A female and two male **Merlins** were regularly seen at Dry Brooks Day Use Area, BML all winter (JS). **Merlins** are expected winter residents at BML. Reading's **Peregrine Falcon** pair remained in residence and one of them may have been seen a few times in the Oley Valley and at BML during the period.

The wintering **American Coot** flock at BQ usually numbered about 20 birds, but reached a high of 60 on 1/7 (RF). The flocks of 29 **Killdeer** at Gotwals pond, Oley 12/5 and of 49 there 12/27 (RK) were vacating the county. **Killdeer** and **Wilson's Snipe** were typically hard to find in Jan and Feb. Fourteen **Bonaparte's Gulls** at LO 1/22 (KL) made a good mid-winter count. The annual white wave of thousands of **Ring-billed Gulls** and hundreds of **Herring Gulls** came in Dec, along with the Snow Geese. BML was as usual their main staging and roosting area for the rest of the season. One to 6 **Iceland Gulls** were seen there on various days 12/27-1/21, mostly first winter birds, but at least one adult and one second winter bird were seen 1/17 and 1/19 (JB, RK, PM, JS). Up to 6 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, fairly typical numbers for winter, were seen during the same period (m.ob.). A first winter and occasionally a second winter **Glaucous Gull** were seen at BML on several days 12/25-1/21 (m.ob.). The counts of 17 **Great Black-backed Gulls** at BML 12/27 (RK) and of 28 there 1/19 (RK) were higher than normal.

Four **Eurasian Collared-Doves** seen at the recently discovered colony in Shartlesville were new to the BCBC. Two **Barn Owls** were counted on the HCBC at a long established location. Two **Long-eared Owls** heard and seen in the Oley Valley were the first in many years on the RCBC. A **Short-eared Owl** was seen in grassland near Lenhartsville 1/26 (MR) and 2/13 and 2/19 (KL, MW). Another was in grass fields surrounded by forest near Hopewell Village in French Creek State Park 12/23 (SW). A third was at Pheasant Valley Farm near Robesonia 2/17 (PM). As was expected after last fall's mega-flight, single **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were found on the RCBC and BCBC. Three were heard on an owling foray at SGL 110, Northkill Gap 1/8 (KL, MS). A banded **Rufous Hummingbird** last seen at a feeder near Fleetwood 12/3 (*vide* SW) closed the season on western hummers.

An **Eastern Phoebe** was seen at Gring's Mill 12/1 (PW), one was found on the RCBC, and two were found on the HCBC, but none later than Dec. A **Northern Shrike** near BML 12/4 (JS) didn't linger. A few hundred returning **Fish Crows** were already at BML by late Feb (JS). For the first time, all three **Berks** CBCs tallied **Common Raven**. Two were seen at the Conestoga landfill near Morgantown 2/3 (FH), yet another new location for this expanding species. Without manure-covered snow, **Horned Larks** are hard to find and only a few hundred were reported here and there.

A few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found on each CBC and some settled in for the winter at feeders or in Norway spruce plantations, like the 5 at LO 1/2 (RF). Because fall and winter were mild to moderate, **Winter Wren**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Hermit Thrush** and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were fairly well represented on the CBC's and could be found at a few places in low single digit numbers for much of the winter. **Eastern Bluebirds** were again easy to find this season, but **American Robins** were reliably found only in the fruitful thickets at BML. It is rare to see a **Gray Catbird** survive into Feb, as one seen near Plowville 2/16 (HL) obviously did.

The 46 **American Pipits** on the HCBC and the 30 on the BCBC were found because light snow cover had driven them to forage on the roadsides. A **Lapland Longspur** was seen near Fleetwood 12/31 (MS). The largest reported flock of **Snow Buntings** was of 60 birds on the BCBC. The only other reports were of singles in Richmond Twp. 1/4 (RF) and near Fleetwood 2/10 (KL). **Eastern Towhees** were found on all three CBCs, three were at feeders in Feb (PB, PW), and two were at Green Hills Preserve 2/17 (MSI). The only reported **Chipping Sparrows** included one on the RCBC and one in the Oley Valley 2/17 (PF). An adult **Clay-colored Sparrow** seen near Fleetwood 12/16 (MW) was the most rare bird on the RCBC. Two **Vesper Sparrows** on the HCBC (DH) were the first on that count in many years. **Fox Sparrows** are becoming more regular in early winter. Three were counted on the HCBC and four others were seen at scattered locations (PM, JS, PW), the latest at Virginville 1/9 (RF). There were no reports of Eastern Meadowlark. A flock of 20 **Rusty Blackbirds** was at Peters Creek 2/10 (PM).

A few **Purple Finches** were found on the CBC's and up to 5 were intermittently reported at a few feeders through the period. The **Red Crossbill** flight started and mostly ended fairly early last fall. The only birds reported this period were 8 briefly seen and heard in Norway spruces near Mohnton 12/15 (MSI). **White-winged Crossbills** were more common. The RCBC tallied 17, which included 4 visiting a birdbath in Reading (MS). Flocks numbering up to 15 birds were seen at several places, entirely by chance, 1/6-2/10 (m.ob.). As during the much larger 2008-09 irruption, eastern hemlock and Norway spruce were the favored food plants, and most crossbill reports came from the large Norway spruce plantations around LO. **Common Redpolls** arrived on the scene late last fall and few of them wandered south of the Kittatinny Ridge during winter. The best place to see them was at the HMS visitor center feeders, which regularly attracted flocks of as many as 35 through Feb (LG). A short way down the mountain, 17 visited a feeder above Eckville 1/2 (SW). South of there, up to 5 birds occasionally appeared at widely scattered feeders through the period (m.ob.). **Pine Siskins**, locally common in late fall and early winter, had tapered off to mostly single digit numbers at various feeders in Feb (m.ob.).

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### **Blair County**

Locations: Canoe Creek State Park (CCSP), IBA #32-Brush Mtn. near Tyrone (IBA32), Lake Raystown CBC Area 1 (AREA1).

Two CBCs covered parts of *Blair*. The Culp CBC is centered on the village of Culp and was held 12/15; part of the count area is in *Huntingdon*. But only a small sliver of the Lake Raystown CBC is in *Blair* (AREA1). It was held 12/30, and AREA1 yielded 33 species, including 3 owl species, with the effort hindered by drifting snow. Area 1 covers a narrow arc from the *Huntingdon/Blair* line northeast of Williamsburg through Larke, to a point on the *Huntingdon/Blair* line southeast of Beavertown. It then follows the county line northeast along the crest of Tussey Mtn. back to the starting point. Observations were obtained primarily through eBird. Background and status information were obtained from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010).

Several unusual or rare waterfowl species were observed including 32 **Tundra Swans** spotted New Year's Day near Altoona (SK). Two adult female **American Wigeon** were noted 12/15 at a retention pond near Augusta Dr. (CE). Two **American Black Ducks** were located in Clover Cr., part of AREA1 on 12/30 (NB, SB, DB), and another was identified 1/1 at CCSP (MD). This species is uncommon in winter. CCSP was also where a rare winter adult female **Green-winged Teal** was spotted 12/15 (CE). A single **Ring-necked Duck** was spotted 1/14 at the Plain Nine Reservoir (MD), and an adult male **Lesser Scaup** was ph. 12/15 at a farm pond at the intersection of William Penn Hwy. and Rte. 2015 (CE). Both of these species are rarely found in winter. Seven **Buffleheads** were spotted 12/15 at CCSP (CE), and 6 more were seen 2/17 in Bald Eagle Twp. during the Great American Backyard Bird Count (IR). A few **Hooded Mergansers** are usually present during the winter (B&G, 2010), and this year was no exception. A large flock of 50 was seen 12/15 at CCSP (CE), and 2 were

spotted at the same location New Year's Day (MD). Both **Ruddy Duck** sightings were made at the same location, with 6 reported 12/15 (CE) and one 1/1 (MD).

An adult male **Ring-necked Pheasant** in AREA1 surprised CBC birders 12/30 (SB, DB, NB). Reports of **Ruffed Grouse** were scattered, with one observed 12/8 in Elberta (SK). Single birds were seen intermittently near Altoona 1/5-2/8 (SK). One was also noted 2/17 at Plummers Hollow (MB). The only **Common Loons** were 3 in Bald Eagle Twp. 2/17 (IR). Six **Pied-billed Grebes** and 4 **Horned Grebes** were seen at the same location on the same date (both IR). There was also a report of a **Great Blue Heron** 12/15 at CCSP (CE).

Two **Turkey Vultures** were reported in Williamsburg (RR) and 2 more in Martinsburg (TR), both 2/16. Single **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were spotted 2/16 in Williamsburg (RR), 2/17 in Plummers Hollow (MB), and 2/24 near Altoona (SK). **Cooper's Hawks** were also noted. One was seen 1/9 near Altoona and again on 2/24 (both SK), and another was observed 2/2 on Cross Valley Rd. (DeG, GG). Both of these Accipiters are uncommon. A **Bald Eagle** was spotted 1/15 between Tyrone and Belleville during the Culp CBC (DG, BG). Another was seen 1/13 near Altoona (SK). Two WRS also reported single birds, including one on Fairview Rd. 2/2 (GG, DeG), and a second year bird in Sinking Valley 2/7 (MB). Another was seen 2/17 in Bald Eagle Twp. (IR). A "beautiful" leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was admired 2/14 in IBA32 (MB), and an uncommon **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen 12/17 off I-99 near Tyrone (MS, MM).

The only shorebird species reported was **Killdeer**, which are uncommon in winter. Two were noted 12/15 at CCSP (CE), and one was observed 2/2 on Poverty Hollow Rd. (GG, DeG). Five were seen in Bald Eagle Twp. 2/17 (IR), and one was spotted 2/18 at CCSP (SM). A **Barred Owl** was heard in a grove of spruce trees in IBA32 on 1/7 (MB). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard tooting in AREA1 on 12/30 (NB, DB). This was the first report of this species for that CBC. A few uncommon **Belted Kingfishers** were reported, with the first coming 12/15 between Tyrone and Belleville (DG, BG). Another was spotted the same day in Plummers Hollow (CE). Two were observed 12/15 at CCSP (CE); another report from CCSP on 1/1 indicated one was present (MD). An uncommon winter **Northern Flicker** was seen 12/15 between Tyrone and Belleville during the Culp CBC (DG, BG), and 2 were noted 2/18 in south Altoona (LC).

A rare winter **Northern Shrike** was observed 12/6 off Rte. 36 west of Altoona (MD). **Common Ravens** are uncommon; however, they were reported in at least nine locations, with nearly all observations being of single birds. The 12/30 Lake Raystown CBC had a record high number of **Horned Larks** reported, due in large part to the approx. 320 spotted in AREA1 (SB, NB, DB). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** is an uncommon irruptive winter species. This year they were reported throughout the winter from seven locations, with most observations of single birds. Only 2 **Brown Creepers** were reported, one 12/15 in Plummers Hollow (CE), and another 2/17 in Hollidaysburg (CH). A single **Snow Bunting** amid approx. 300 Horned Larks was hunkered down in the blowing snow under a sprig of dried weeds 12/30 near Williamsburg (SB, NB, DB).

A **Field Sparrow** was identified 2/16 in Williamsburg (RR). Although an uncommon winter species, **Song Sparrows** were widely reported, with most birders observing three or fewer individuals. A high of 12 was noted 12/30 in AREA1 (SB, DB, NB). Eleven **White-crowned Sparrows** were seen 12/30 during the Lake Raystown CBC; most were juv. (NB, SB, DB). Four were spotted in the Williamsburg area 2/2 (DeG, GG). Four were also noted 2/15 off Kettle Rd. (DS), and one 2/16 in Martinsburg (DR). Three were observed 2/17 off Frankstown Rd. (LR). A male and a female **Red-winged Blackbird** were counted in AREA1 on 12/30 (DB, NB, SB). Six were seen 2/16 in Williamsburg (RR). Two **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were reported this winter, both 2/16. One was in Williamsburg (RR) and the other in Roaring Springs (MW).

One uncommon and three casual irruptive winter finches were reported. **Purple Finch** are uncommon; 2 were noted 2/15 in Irish Flats (DaS), and one was seen the same day on Kettle Rd. (DS). Another was reported 2/17 in Newry (BS). A **Red Crossbill** was observed 12/15 in IBA32 (MB). Eight male and 5 female **White-winged Crossbills** were feeding in the blue spruces in a residential neighborhood in Elberta (SK). Another flock was spotted 1/6 in a spruce grove at IBA32 (MB). The first **Common Redpolls** were 3 off Rte. 36 west of Altoona 12/14 (MD). A few occasionally visited feeder stations in IBA32 throughout the winter (MB). Up to 26 were observed at a location near Altoona 1/25 (SK), where smaller numbers were occasionally present throughout Feb (SK).

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## Bradford County

Locations: Southeast Bradford CBC centered on Wyalusing (CBC), Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), Mt. Pisgah State Park (MPSP), Peck Hill (PEH), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Woods Rd. (WRD).

Winter was considerably colder and snowier than last year, and more like a normal winter. There was not a large number of species observed, but there was a large influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Common Redpolls, yet a surprising lack of Pine Siskins.

There were few waterfowl. Fifty-two **Snow Geese** were observed 12/30 in Terry Twp. during the CBC (DG, RM). An amazing number of large flocks of **Canada Geese** were flying south 12/27; at least 25 flocks were noted 16:00-17:30, the largest around 500 or more, near New Era and Hollenback (NB, TG); other observers said this had been going on through the afternoon. A smaller number of flocks continued south 12/28. During the CBC 12/30, 3 **American Black Ducks** were in Tuscarora Twp. (JD, MC). Ten **Hooded Mergansers** were present at MPSP 12/2 (LH) and 10 were at Stephen Foster Lake 12/28 (RY). Large numbers of **Common Mergansers** were seen at MPSP including 60 on 12/2 (LH). A total of 132 were at Stephen Foster Lake 2/6 and 120 (mostly female) were there 12/8 (RY).

There were a nice number of birds of prey this winter. Three **Black Vultures** (a species whose range seems to moving north) were seen during the CBC 12/30 on Woods Rd. near Gooseneck Rd. (DG, RM). An **Osprey** was at Parker's Pond 12/5, a location where one was seen during the fall and early winter (CP). There were a large number of sightings of **Bald Eagle**: 2 on 12/20 at MPSP (RY), 2 on 12/12 at the Wyalusing Rocks (CM), 2 on 12/20 at MPSP (LH), a total of 10 (6 adults, 4 immatures) on the CBC throughout the county (DG, RM, RY, LH, DB, MB, FH, DN, KN); a record-breaking 24 (11 adults, 11 immature and 2 sub-adults) on the Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey 1/12 (TL); and 2 on 2/18 at Sheshequin (NA). Single **Northern Harriers** were in Terry Twp. 12/30 during the CBC (DG, RM), at PEH 1/8 (AV, GV), and a female was hunting in the vicinity of the Tioga St. bridge over the Chemung River in Athens Twp 2/6-7 (IW). Infrequently seen during the winter, a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was present 12/3 at WRD (CM). It was pleasing to see a good number of **Rough-legged Hawks** in the county, including 2 in Tuscarora Twp. during the CBC 12/30 (JD, MC); one in the Troy area 1/2 (RY), one at Jennings Rd. about 2 miles from Rt.414 from 1/2-4, a light phase on Jennings Rd. near East Canton 1/10 (LF), one light and one dark morph 2/5 on the northeast Bradford WRS, one light morph 2/6 (BL), and one at MPSP 2/16 (ER). **American Kestrels** were very much in evidence: one 12/2 and 12/5 at WRD (CM), 3 during the CBC 12/30 (DG, RM, RY, LH), one along Rt. 414 in east Canton 1/1 (LF), and one on Laurel Hill Rd, west of Towanda 2/14 (MD). Excellent were two sightings of **Peregrine Falcon**: during the CBC 12/30 near Wilmot CBC (DG, RM), and at Sheshequin during the eagle survey 1/12 (TL).

A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** in Overton 12/18 had not yet migrated (SW). Rarely seen, a **Northern Shrike** was at PEH 1/22 (AV, GV). There were a number of sightings of **Horned Larks** headed up by 50 on 12/30 in Tuscarora Twp. during the CBC (JD, MC). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported frequently this winter with sightings of one or two from several locations 12/30-2/18 (m.ob.). A **Hermit Thrush** was in Terry Twp. during the CBC 12/30 (DG, RM). Unusual was a **Northern Mockingbird** at a feeder at Sugar Run on and after 1/4 (DB, MB). Slightly unusual at this date, a **Field Sparrow** was at Sheshequin 2/15 (NA). Fifty **Snow Buntings** were seen 12/30 in Tuscarora Twp. during the CBC (JD, MC), as was a female **Brown-headed Cowbird** in the Wilmot area (DG, RM).

Two male **Purple Finches** were at PEH 12/4 (AV, GV), one was in in Terry Twp. during the CBC 12/30 (DG, RM), one was counted during the GBBC at PEH 2/15 (AV, GV), 12 were in the Ulster area 2/16 (GA), and 8 were near Laddsbury 2/18 (BC). The county-wide influx of **Common Redpolls** was large, lengthy, and amazing, with sightings spanning the period (BB, LB, TG, DB, MB, FL, MZ, AV, GV, SR). Top counts included 50 at TNE 12/14 (TG), up to 70 at Graham Rd. 2/2 (LF), 200 at Windham Summit 12/19 (AV, GV), and 200 on Windfall Rd. 1/10 (LF). Consistently large numbers were at PEH all period, with a count of 200 on 1/16 (AV, GV). Comparatively there were few **Pine Siskins**. Sightings included 4 during the CBC 12/30—one at WRD (CM) and 3 at New Era (FS), and 2 near Laddsbury 2/18 (BC). A lone, but welcome, **Evening Grosbeak** was at WRD 12/10 (CM).

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## Bucks County

Locations: Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Central Bucks CBC (C-CBC), Southern Bucks CBC (S-CBC), Upper Bucks-Montgomery CBC (U-CBC), Core Creek Park (CCP), Falls Township Community Park (FTP), Maple Knoll Farms-Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Pine Run Dam (PRN).

It was another winter with above average temperatures. December was over 4°F above normal and January over 3°F above. February was a degree below normal. What snow we had was light and melted quickly and overall precipitation was slightly below average. The CBCs had open water and only the C-CBC was hampered by very strong winds and some snow cover. The 45th U-CBC 12/16 produced counts of 96 species and 25,623 individuals. The 47th C-CBC on 12/30 had 93 species and 30,148 individuals. The 66th S-CBC 12/15 had 98 species and 74,604 individuals. All three CBCs have part of their count circles outside of Bucks. The county tally of 142 species for the season was six more than last year's total. One Eurasian subspecies was also reported. Overall, almost all the northern irruptive fall species passed through the area before the season began, leaving only a few stragglers. In addition, most berry-dependent species were in short supply. Half-hardy species were nearly absent. Freezing conditions arrived by the third week of January, reducing waterfowl and gulls at area lakes. Birders were not in short supply as rarities brought a feeding frenzy to the area, but by mid-January things calmed down.

As usual, historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* (1998) by Ken Kitson and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. NOAA weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, New Jersey based on the three-decade climate normal data from 1981 to 2010. CBC data were supplied by Bob Mercer for the S-CBC, Diane Allison for the C-CBC, and Bill Etter for the U-CBC. A review of eBird entries contributed to this report.

The **Pink-footed Goose** seen at PVP 11/17-19 in the fall season returned for an encore 12/20 (ph. AM) and remained until at least 12/23 (ph. TJ). Another bird was reported 1/1 in Upper Makefield Twp. (ph. JHa, PS, BSt), followed by Lower Makefield reports on 1/2 (DR, JR, BHo, ph. SKo, RP), 1/4 (ph. Kkt), 1/17 (ph. BK), and 1/20 (DFa). Based on a compilation of photos showing bill pattern differences for the several birds reported in Pennsylvania and New Jersey this year (MEC) at <<http://goodbookoftheday.com/birding/PFGOs2.html#epsilon>>, the PVP/Pine Run bird from 2011 is likely the same bird seen at PVP this year both in Nov and Dec. However, there are clear differences in the bill of the bird seen in Jan at the other Bucks sites. So, two birds were present in Bucks. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Hidden Lake, Newtown 12/15 (MG), and possibly the same bird was in Lower Makefield Twp. at nearby Shady Brook Farm, Lower Makefield Twp. 1/4 (ph. Kkt). There were 2 together at PVP 1/6 (KI, VM), which continued to at least 1/14 (DFa, et al.). A third bird was first noted at PVP 1/12 (HD) and last reported 1/14 (DFa, et al.). The largest **Snow Goose** flyover flocks were in the range of 100 to 500 birds, reported mostly in Dec and Feb at nine sites on 16 dates (m.ob.). The injured bird at PVP extended its survival to two years and was seen flying poorly a short distance for the first time 2/25 when flushed by dogs (RS, AM). Although **Brant** is rare here in Jan, it is not unprecedented. One was at PVP 1/14 (MH, et al.) and last reported 1/16 (SB). One was at Forest Grove 12/5 (AM), a more expected date. A **Barnacle Goose** was reported 1/9 at PVP (IB, *vide* Dfa) and seen through 1/14 (ph. TJ, et al.). **Cackling Goose** was reported from multiple sites (m.ob.), with the high report of 10 at PVP 12/24-25 (JBo, Dfa). The high single site count for **Mute Swan** was 31 at Manor Lake at PWT 12/9 (MG). The S-CBC tallied 52 on 12/15. Thirteen **Tundra Swans** passed over Bradford Dam 12/2 (GJ). Their seventh appearance on the C-CBC was provided by 14 passing over Hilltown Twp. 12/30 (BE, BHi). One was at Uhlertown 2/28 (PC).

**Mallard** was specifically noted as being on a downward trend in recent years on the U-CBC (BE) and S-CBC (BM), and judging by the C-CBC data, the trend is true for that count as well. The total of 1249 was 52% of the long-term average. A flock of at least 22 **Northern Pintails** at PVP 1/14 (MH, Dfa, TJ, et al.) was reminiscent of days when early migrants in much larger numbers would move during Jan thaws. Of course it hadn't even frozen yet this year, so perhaps they were moving south ahead of the

approaching first freeze. Subsequent high counts were 28 at PVP 2/13 (KI, VM) and 18 at NSP 2/24 (PC). With the warmer winters, **Wood Duck** has become more regular and was present throughout the season. They were reported from at least 11 sites, mostly in low single digit numbers (m.ob.), with the exception of the high count of 18 at Upper Makefield Firehouse 12/14 (MG). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was found 1/1-5 and again 2/3 at Bristol (ph. Dfa) providing the seventh county report. A **Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)** was at Hidden Lake, Newtown 12/19 (HD), and possibly the same bird was at CCP 1/5 (DFa). This subspecies has been reported regularly from that area since 2008. Both **Canvasback** and **Redhead** are often tough to find here. A female **Canvasback** at PVP 1/3 (AM) was followed by a male there 1/13-21 (AMc, Dfa, TJ, KA). Two **Redheads** were at Bristol 1/1-2 (DFa), one was in Warminster Twp. 1/4 (AL, JL), and one was at Churchville Park 1/5 (SH).

An adult male **Surf Scoter** at NSP 1/15 was only our second known occurrence in Jan (DFa) and was followed by a female 1/17 at PVP (AM). After only one report in the fall season, 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** were at PVP 12/16 (KR) and 3 were there 12/30 (AM, EN) for only the fifth occurrence on the C-CBC. One was at FTP 2/7-10 (BC, MG ph.). The highest site reports were rather low for **Common Goldeneye**, with about 75 at Morrisville 1/27 (DFa) and 34 at Erwinna 2/4 (PC). **Common Merganser** numbers grew in early Jan at PVP to numbers hard to estimate. Certainly 2000 would be a good guess in mid-Jan (m.ob.). Numbers fluctuated lower thereafter as ice cover varied. The high at CCP was 1100 2/23 (BK). **Red-breasted Merganser** was at PVP starting 12/22 (CM) until 1/14 (TJ, GE), with the high report of 9 on 1/6 (VN). One there 12/30 was tallied for only the fourth time on the C-CBC (AM), all since 2006. One at PWT 12/15 contributed to the S-CBC (SKa). Possibly early migrants were 4 at FTP 2/24 (MG, BK) and 3 at PVP 2/27 (ZM). More winter reports probably indicate a change in winter status here due to less frequently frozen lakes.

**Wild Turkey** has been on a downward trend for several years on the CBCs, with only 26 recorded this year. By comparison, the historical high counts were 344 for the U-CBC in 2001, 187 for the C-CBC in 1995, and 28 for the S-CBC in 1999. Other reports this winter from about a dozen sites (m.ob.), including some good-sized flocks, suggest the CBCs do not tell the whole story. There were 24 near Tyler State Park 12/30 (ME), 48 on 2/2 at Bedminster Twp. (AM, JMi), 41 near New Hope 2/16 (MLC), and 93 at Tinticum Twp in mid-Feb (DL).

**Pied-billed Grebe** continued the good numbers reported during the fall, with 52 on the S-CBC second only to the 57 recorded in 1965. A **Horned Grebe** 1/20-23 at NSP (PT, Dfa) was unexpected in mid-winter away from the southern Delaware R. One was noted at PWT 2/10-16 (DFa) where more likely in winter, as was one at FTP in all three months (SKa, AL, JL, BC). One at CCP 2/6 (BK) was less likely as was one at PVP 2/24 (HD). The net result was more reports than normal for winter. The second **Red-necked Grebe** of the fall was at PVP starting 12/16 (KR) and was last reported 12/22 (AM, CM, et al.). Another was noted at CCP 12/19 (MH, ML) and one was at PWT 1/1 (MG). A **Red-throated Loon** at PWT 1/5 (DFa) was an unusual Jan find. **Common Loon** was present at PWT all season (m.ob.), with an unusually high count of 6 together 1/2 (DFa). **Double-crested Cormorant** sometimes is hard to find after Dec anywhere in the county although more likely in the lower Delaware R. area. The high report was 18 at PWT 1/3 (KG) where the species was reported all season this year. One was late at NSP 12/24 (PT). More surprising, and I believe unprecedented after Dec away from the lower Delaware R., were up to 5 at PVP 1/1-4 (LW, AL, JL, IG), with one lingering to 1/10 (TJ, AM). The only previous bird to remain past Dec at PVP was a bird missing a wing that lived until 2/16/2007. The high single site count for the expected **Great Cormorant** was 25 at the normal Bristol location 1/1 (DFa).

A **Great Egret** lingered at Silver Lake Park 12/9 (MG), with possibly the same bird at Bristol 12/12 (RM). A rare Jan report, 2 were at PWT 1/1 (DFa), with 3 there 1/3 (KG). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Silver Lake Park 1/19 (DFa) for the only report.

A large vulture roost has been in the PVP area for some years. This year it was in a residential area of New Britain Borough (LG, KI). A visit on 12/20 produced 83 **Black Vultures**, mostly in deciduous trees, and 117 **Turkey Vultures** mostly in tall evergreen trees (AM). Surprisingly, on a very cloudy and windy morning 12/22 at the early hour of about 7:30, all or nearly all of these birds were seen less than a mile from the roost drifting west in a continuous stream (AM). However, they apparently returned to the roost for several more weeks. There was another large roost reported near Lake Towhee Park, where 130 mostly **Turkey Vultures** were tallied 1/17 (PT).

The last fall **Osprey** was at Bradford Dam 12/2 (GJ). The Mid-Winter **Bald Eagle** Survey resulted in 3 at PVP 1/7 (AM), 2 between Riegelsville and Erwinna 1/4 (AR, BV), and 7 at the PWT 1/6 (AJ). The Bucks portion of the CBCs produced a total of 25, with 19 of those on the S-CBC. A CBC total of 6 **Northern Harriers** was well below average. After being missed for two years on the 39-mile WRS route south of NSP, 6 were tallied this year

2/2 (JMi, AM). This was above the 13-year average of 3.5. There were entries in eBird at only six other sites (m.ob.). **Red-shouldered Hawk** continues to be detected more in winter, with a total of 12 on the CBCs. Seven on the C-CBC 12/30 provided a new high count compared to a previous high of 4. There were many eBird entries, with NSP, PVP, Lake Towhee area, and Tinicum Twp. providing the most reliable spots to see them based on eBird entries (m.ob.). **Red-tailed Hawk** seemed to be in good numbers this winter with 48 on the WRS 2/2 being a new high count compared to the 13-year average of 32 (JMi, AM). Rare here in recent years, a **Rough-legged Hawk** found 12/29 at PVP (ph. KG, BD) was tallied for only the eighth time on the C-CBC 12/30 (JT, et al.) and was last reported 1/13 (ph. HE).

A count of 12 **American Kestrels** on the C-CBC was double the previous five-year average, providing hope that the recent nest box efforts may be paying off. One of this year's juveniles, banded in Bedminster Twp. in early summer (Band #1783-14375) traveled all the way to the Florida/Georgia border near Tallahassee only to be killed by a car 9/3 (DFa). **Merlin** was in short supply this winter. Although the total for the CBCs of only 2 (DFi, RS) was not abnormal, one at Buckingham Twp. 12/4 (BK) and one at Warminster Community Park 12/26 (GJ) were the only other reports.

The delayed freeze resulted in more reports of the winter shorebirds. The CBCs totaled 77 **Killdeer**, and a tally of 44 was unusual for mid-winter at three sites 1/20 (DFa). **Wilson's Snipe** totaled 9 on the CBCs, and some lingered through Dec at Bradford Dam, with the high count of 5 from 12/16-28. One was still there 1/1, with 2 there 2/10 (all GJ). One was also at MKF 12/16 (RS) and 6 on 1/20 (DFa). An **American Woodcock** was at MKF 12/5 (RS), and two were at Richlandtown 12/16 (DFa), the only ones to be tallied on a CBC this year. Probable migrant arrivals were at Doylestown Twp. 2/27 (MB) and Tinicum Twp. 2/28 (PC).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at PVP 12/9 (KR), 12/22 (KS), and 12/24 (DFa). Another was at NSP 12/23 (DFa). A cold front resulted in 16 at NSP and 22 at PVP 1/22 (DFa). A **Laughing Gull** at PWT 12/15 (RM, et al.) provided the twelfth occurrence for the S-CBC and last report for the year. A **Ring-billed Gull** at CCP 2/21 had an orange wing tag coded A864 (MDe). It had been banded 1/3/2013 in Millbury, Massachusetts. A bird believed to be a **Herring Gull (Vega)** was well described for what is known about this subspecies, and was well photographed at PWT 12/15 for the S-CBC (TJ, et al.). A probable **Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at PVP 12/23 (TJ, et al., ph.) and continued to be reported until 1/4 (AL, JL). Another was at PWT 1/4 (AL, JL), and one was at FTP 1/5 (ph. TJ, JG). Four **Herring x Glaucous Gulls (Nelson's Gull)** were reported on the S-CBC 12/15 (TJ, et al.) for the highest count here ever in memory. **Iceland Gull** was not reported away from the lower county in the numbers of last year. The most reports were from PVP throughout the period (m.ob.). A count of 265 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** 12/23 at PVP was the single site high count for the season (TJ).

#### CBC Gull Counts

Species	U-CBC	C-CBC	S-CBC	TOTAL
Ring-billed Gull	1217	490	12408	14115
Herring Gull	76	71	28713	28860
Iceland Gull	2	0	22	24
Ls. Bl.-backed Gull	130	11	154	295
Glaucous Gull	0	0	3	3
Gr. Bl.-backed Gull	4	9	4669	4682
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1429</b>	<b>581*</b>	<b>45969</b>	<b>47979</b>

\*C-CBC: No evening roost count this year, so numbers are low.

The county's third known **Dovekie** was found in New Hope with a broken leg 12/21 (SP) and died a few days later at the Aark (*fide* SP, MDa, ZB ph.). This coincided with a storm and winds that brought unusual numbers into Delaware Bay. The specimen is now at the Academy of Natural Sciences. **Barn Owl** wintered at two sites, including this past summer's breeding site, which was the first known successful nest in 10 years. These recent reports provide hope that a modest recovery may be beginning. The upper county is still the best area for **Barred Owl**, although recent reports in other areas may indicate improved numbers elsewhere. The total of 5 tied the previous high count on the U-CBC 12/16, but none were detected on the other CBCs. With **Long-eared Owl** now elevated to threatened status and protection of nest sites and winter roosts now being initiated by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), the feeding frenzy of as many as 50-100 birders and photographers at PVP in a single day, with the resultant disturbance to the birds was disheartening to witness. Even with good behavior, the sheer numbers of dozens of people a day could not be in the best interests of the owls. Not surprisingly, visibility decreased many weeks earlier than historical records indicate, hopefully due to dispersal and nothing worse. The area is now posted as a restricted area after the site was evaluated and recommendations made by the PGC.

A **Short-eared Owl** was seen in Tinicum Twp. 1/10 (KF), and another was at PWT 1/27 (DFa). Following the reported extraordinary fall migration of **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, they were reported from many sites, with multiple birds at some of those sites (m.ob.). Six hit by cars were taken to rehab at the Aark where 2 died on arrival, 2 were released, and as of the end of the period, 2 were still under care (JH). There were reports of at least 4 more killed by cars, and likely many more met the same fate. Seven were tallied for the U-CBC 12/16, although missed on the other two CBCs. High single site counts were 5 found at NSP 1/1 (DFa), and at least 6 at various sites at PVP (m.ob.).

An adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** that had been present in Nockamixon Twp. since sometime in Oct, but went unreported until it was banded 12/31, was last seen 1/10 (JMo, SL doc). The homeowner wanted no birders. This was our fourth reported western hummingbird of three species this fall/winter and at least the eleventh *Salasphorus* hummingbird for the county since the first in 1994. The immature male **Allen's Hummingbird** in Plumstead Twp. continued from the fall season until 1/8 (AW) when it was seen early in the morning only, usually an indication that it left in healthy condition.

A rare winter immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** was in Doylestown Twp. 12/16 at a suet feeder (LG). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was somewhat scarce this winter, with the CBC total of 19 about 60% of the recent 10-year average. With 2009 providing the first **Pileated Woodpecker** in the long history of the S-CBC, the number increased to 5 this year indicating the continued successful expansion south in the county. The 17 on the U-CBC matched the previous high set two years ago. Two **Eastern Phoebe**s were found on the U-CBC 12/16, and one was detected on the C-CBC 12/30. Coincidentally, they have been found 13 times on both counts and the S-CBC has recorded them 12 times. With the demise of dairy farms in the county, **Horned Lark** is less frequently reported. High counts were 160 from three sites on the C-CBC 12/30, about 150 at MKF 1/20, 100 at Rushland 1/27 (SC), and 60 at Nockamixon Twp. 2/3 (PC).

Many commented on the lack of **Blue Jays**, which was supported by the CBC total count of 442, less than half the long-term average. The **Common Raven** expansion resulted in 4 on the C-CBC 12/30, for only the third occurrence, all since 2006. There were other reports from about 10 sites (m.ob.). The fall irruption of **Black-capped Chickadee** resulted in reports in mostly low single digit counts throughout the period. However, the CBC total of 60 was surprisingly low, possibly indicating many passed through the area like most of the other irruptive species, or that it was only a modest irruption this year. As a comparison, the CBC totals were 1033 **Carolina Chickadees** and 221 chickadee sp. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** continued in the area after the fall irruption and based on eBird entries was widespread at feeders. The CBC total was 32, which is about equal to the long-term average. **Brown Creeper** was present in unusual numbers, with 29 compared to an average of 11 on the S-CBC. There were many eBird entries through the period. **Winter Wren** was also reported in abnormally high numbers. A record 24 were tallied on both the S-CBC 12/15 and the U-CBC 12/16. The strong winds for the C-CBC likely prevented detection, but 5 were still above average. **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was also above average with a total of 130 on the CBCs being about twice the long-term average. A CBC total of 20 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** was about equal to the short and long-term averages.

**Eastern Bluebird** provided a new record high 71 for the S-CBC, compared to a recent ten-year average of 33 and long-term average of 13. With a total of 367 on the other two counts also being well above average, this species was the exception to scarcity of frugivores, presumably indicating their ability to find invertebrates in a mild winter. On the other hand, there were a few **Hermit Thrush** entered in eBird and a combined total of only 8 total were found from the three CBCs, making it very scarce. One was eating suet at a feeder in Bedminster in mid-Feb (DM) as was another at Wycombe (AB). **American Robin** was scarce in most of the county, with a total CBC count of 874 being less than 15% of the recent 10-year average. Post CBCs, entries in eBird were mostly in the low single digits, with a few low double-digit counts mostly from the lower part of the county. **Gray Catbird** was among the near missing, with the only report being 5 on the S-CBC. Always scarce in winter but unusually so this year, **Brown Thrasher** was missed on the CBCs, and there were no other reports.

As usual, MKF provided the high report of 154 **American Pipits** 12/3 followed by the Jan high there of 53 on 1/12 (RS). Unusual for the sites and dates, about 15 were at PRN 2/3 (AR) and as many as 27 were at PVP 2/4-2/10 (AM, KW, JF). **Cedar Waxwing** basically abandoned the area, with a total of only 19 on the CBCs approaching zero percent of the long-term average. There were entries in eBird on only five dates, all with low single digit counts. A **Snow Bunting** flew over PVP 12/24 (JBo) and 1/14 (TJ, GE). One was at PRN 12/30 (CC, EC) and 4 were at Buckingham Twp. 12/30 (RS), providing the eleventh C-CBC occurrence. Two stopped at NSP 1/1 (DFa).

An **Ovenbird** was at NSP 12/16 (AK) for the U-CBC and provided the county's first ever Dec report. A **Nashville Warbler** stopped at a Doylestown Twp. azalea bush 12/12 (MB), for the fourth Dec-Jan record since Dec 2008. At least 3 of these have been associated with azalea bushes. A **Pine Warbler** was in Levittown 1/21 (LR). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)** was found at PVP 1/1 (IB *vide* DFa), and remained until at least 1/3 (ph. DFa, AM). County records are probably not complete for this subspecies, but there are at least two previous reports. Although the CBC total of 95 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was about 55% of the long-term average, they were near absent after mid-Dec, with only one or 2 birds reported at only a handful of sites. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen at PVP 12/23 (JHu), for a rare winter report.

**Eastern Towhee** joined the half-hardy species in low numbers. There were only 6 non-CBC sites entered in eBird (m.ob.). The total for the CBCs was 8, well below the long-term average, and all but one of these were on the S-CBC. **American Tree Sparrow** was in better numbers than seen in many years but still low compared to former numbers. The CBC total was 131 compared to the long-term average of 228. Although the number of **Chipping Sparrow** reports varies from year to year, they are almost not noteworthy anymore due to increasing reports. The high counts were 30 listed for the S-CBC 12/15, 10 at PVP 12/8 (SSo), and a surprising 16 at Bowman's Hill 2/9 (GJ, BK). There was also one to 3 at five other sites (BK, MG, SC, SH, BG) plus 3 on the C-CBC 12/30. A **Vesper Sparrow** at PVP 12/12 (AM) was a rare Dec find. **Savannah Sparrow** detection in winter is often dependent on snow driving them to the plowed road edges. The C-CBC benefited in that respect and contributed 27 to the total CBC count of 58, more than double the long-term average. The total CBC **Fox Sparrow** count was 21, which was slightly above the long-term average. As is often the case, the distribution favored the southern part of the county where 14 were found. A first year male **Baltimore Oriole** in Warwick Twp. was seen multiple times in Dec up to 12/21 (HB ph.). A female was first noted at feeders 12/11 in Middletown Twp. and remained through the season feasting on Smucker's strawberry jelly mixed with fruit pieces (ph. DP). A female also wintered in Bedminster Twp., also thriving on jam, orange slices, and mealworms (LW, ph. AM). **Eastern Meadowlark** was missed again on the CBCs. Possibly early migrants, 10 were at Tyler State Park 2/19 (BK) and provided our only report. Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Wrightstown Twp. 12/1 (BK), 16 were at PWT 12/15 (SKa), one was at Lake Towhee 12/25 (PT), and about 20 were at PWT 1/1 (DFa). The U-CBC 12/16 had a new high of 59 though some may have been outside of *Bucks*.

**Purple Finch** abandoned the area after the good fall irruption and was reported from only about eight sites in low single digit counts (m.ob.). All reports were in Dec except one in early Jan. The CBC total was 10, about 7% of the long-term average. Food sources must have been scarce for crossbills or at least where birders were looking. A **Red Crossbill** near Quakertown 12/16 (DFa) became the first ever on the U-CBC. One flew over PVP 12/26 (GS) and 1/2 (DB). About 10 **White-winged Crossbills** were at Doylestown Twp. 12/7 (BG), 2 were at Yardley 12/29 (MG), one was noted at Churchville Park 1/4 (NZ), and one was at NSP 1/27 (DFa). If reports are indicative, **Common Redpoll** made a relatively poor showing here. The high counts were a flyover flock believed to be this species of about 30 heard calling overhead at Bedminster Twp. 12/8 (ZM), and about 15 at PRN 1/21-25 (AR). There were only six other sites reported, with an average of only 2 birds per site (DA, DFa, BR, SM, PS). One at Tinicum Twp. 12/30 provided only the second occurrence for the C-CBC (DA). After the large irruption this fall of **Pine Siskin**, they vanished. There were only 8 total on the CBCs. There were only a handful of non-CBC reports, all low single digit counts. The exception was a report from Springfield Twp. indicating varying numbers through the period, with high counts of 36 on 12/17 and 20 on 12/20 (VD). Many noted low numbers of **American Goldfinches**. The CBC total of 356 was about 60% of the 10-year average.

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#### **Butler County**

An adult **Black-headed Gull** was found at Lake Arthur 12/2 (MV) at the South Shore Day Use Area at Moraine State Park. It was associated with a small flock of **Ring-billed Gulls** and at least 3 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, and was seen and photographed (GM) by a handful of birders that day and the next. It represented the fourth record for *Butler*, and notably all four birds have been found on the exact same lawn at the day use area. Previous records, all of adults in basic plumage, were 5 to 28 December 1998, 27 November to 10 December 2008, and 9 December 2011 to 1 January 2012. To these the fourth record is now added: 2 to 3 December 2012.

It is very likely that the records from 2008, 2011, and 2012 all refer to the same bird, and the intriguing possibility exists that 1998 record refers to the same bird as well. If that is the case, since it was an adult in 1998, it would be at least 15 years old today. The oldest documented age for Black-headed Gull is 32 years, so the possibility that all *Butler* records are of the same bird is quite plausible, if entirely improvable.

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#### **Cambria County**

Locations: Dunlo (DU), Patton (PA), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG).

Waterfowl at PG were in good numbers early and late in the period. Many large migrating flocks of **Tundra Swans** were seen. **Mallards** and **American Black Ducks** were seen in above average numbers. **Northern Pintails** continue to put up good numbers with up to 40 seen in late Feb (DG). **Canvasbacks** were seen along with up to 50 **Redheads** in late Feb (DG, JS). **Lesser Scaup** were seen from mid-Feb on (RB, DG, JS). **Common Goldeneyes** were recorded several days in Feb. **Hooded Common**, and **Red-breasted Mergansers** were seen late in the period. **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes** arrived in mid-Feb (DG).

**Northern Harriers** were seen at PA and PG in Dec and Feb (DG). The resident **Bald Eagle** pair at PG began nest repair in early Feb. An **Eastern Screech-Owl** took up residence in one of the boxes placed at PG. A lone **Short-eared Owl** at DU in Jan was the only report.

A **Northern Shrike** seen at PG in early Dec was the only sighting (JS). A single **Lapland Longspur** was seen at PA mixed in with flocks of **Horned Larks** and **Snow Buntings** (DG). **Common Redpolls** appeared in good numbers at several feeder locations. **Pine Siskins** were seen at PA for a few days in mid-Dec (DG).

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#### **Cambria County**

No compiler.

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#### **Carbon County**

No report.

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#### **Centre County**

Locations: Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Black Moshannon S.P. (BMSP), Colyer L. (COL), Jo Hayes Vista (JHV), PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220

west of Julian (JUL), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (MMNC), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), Tofrees pond and gamelands (TOF).

Two CBCs were run entirely or mostly in *Centre*: State College 12/16 and BESP 1/1; a small portion of the latter is in *Clinton*. State College noted 8,369 individuals representing 65 species, and the BESP count yielded 5,564 individuals of 70 species. An unofficial CBC centered near Millheim was held 12/20 and reported 861 individuals representing 48 species. The following species are uncommon in winter and were widely reported. They will not be discussed further in this report: **Great Blue Heron, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow**. Information for this report was obtained from the State College Bird Club listserv and eBird with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove (B&G, 2010).

Most waterfowl are uncommon to rare in the winter. A **Snow Goose** was reported by hunters 2/22 near the University Park Airport; it had been there for at least a week (DO). Up to 79 **Tundra Swans**, a rare winter migrant, were observed 12/31-1/1 at BESP (JC, CE, MD, SB). Three flocks were noted at SCO (MD) and about 100 birds flew over Patton Twp. (NIS). One or 2 were spotted 2/23-28 at BESP (JV, SB, CE). **Wood Ducks** were observed at six locations, with a high of four 12/16 on the State College CBC (NiB). All **Gadwall** reports came from two locations. Up to 6 were observed 12/1-9 at BESP (AL, et al.); 2 were reported there 1/10-12 (AL, AnF) and a few 2/16-23 (JV). Fourteen were observed 1/1 in the BESP CBC (NiB), and as many as 7 were noted at the Duck Pond 12/3-2/27 (AL, et al.). A female **American Wigeon** was noted 12/28-1/1 at the Duck Pond (NB, CE, BA), and 2 were spotted 1/10 BESP (AL, AnF). Ten were seen 2/28 at BESP (CE). An **American Black Duck** was observed 12/1 at BMSF (JoL, AL). They were also reported intermittently 12/1-2/28 at BESP, where 226 counted 12/1 (JoL, AL). Eight or 9 wintered at the Duck Pond, with a high of 24 present 1/15 (NF). Two rare **Blue-winged Teal** dallied 12/4-13 at the Duck Pond (JV, AL, JoL), as did up to 4 **Northern Shovelers** 12/3-13 (AL, JoL, JV). Two or 3 shovelers were also spotted 12/3-4 at the PSU Bathgate Retention Pond (AL, JoL, PSU Crow Roost Data), and one shoveler was reported 2/2 at the Duck Pond (BA). A few **Northern Pintails** were observed, with up to 8 noted 1/5-10 at BESP (JV, AL, AnF); 44 were there on 2/28 (CE). One or 2 were also reported 1/5-26 at the Duck Pond (MB, JV, CE, SB, JoL), where up to 4 were observed 2/10-22 (MB, et al.). Two were noted 1/10 on Linden Hall Rd. (AL, AnF), and a male and three females were spotted 2/3 in Sinking Creek (LR, MR). Most **Green-winged Teal** reported in Dec were probably late migrants; however, up to 15 were seen at BESP 2/17-28 (BA, CE).

One **Canvasback** was located 1/5-12 at BESP (JV, et al.). A few **Redheads** were present, including an adult male 1/10 at BESP (AL, AnF), and up to 13 were reported 1/30-2/28 at the Duck Pond (JV, et al.). As many as 3 females were spotted 2/10 and 2/22 at Talleyrand Park in Bellefonte, including one that was leucistic (AL). For the second time in 10 years, a male **Ring-necked Duck** has taken up residence at the Duck Pond; the current one has been admired for nearly two years (AL, et al.). Up to 8 that did not linger were observed 12/16-31 at BESP (JV, JD, JC). BESP also hosted up to 4 **Lesser Scaup** 12/1 (JC, AL, JoL) and up to 3 between 1/1-12 (JC, AL, AnF).

Two late migrating **Surf Scoters** were observed 12/8 at BESP (JV) and an immature male was photographed at Rock Hill Pond (AL, JoL, IG, AnF). *Centre's* first Jan reports of this casually occurring species were of single birds noted 1/6-12 at BESP (AL, JoL, JV, AL, AnF) and 1/19 at Talleyrand Park (MaR). A single adult male **Long-tailed Duck** was observed 1/12 at BESP (AL, AnF); a second was reported there 2/24 (SB). **Buffleheads** were intermittently observed 12/1-2/17 at BESP, where a high of 10 was recorded 12/17 (MSc). Two were also reported 12/11 in TOF (NK). A single **Common Goldeneye** was observed 12/9 at COL (JV), but most reports were from BESP with occasional sightings 12/17-2/28 (MSc, et al.). An adult male was observed 1/17-18 at the Duck Pond (MaR, et al.).

**Hooded Mergansers** were regularly reported at BESP 12/1-2/28; a high of 72 was noted 12/8 (JV). Three were also observed 12/9 at COL (JV), and a male was seen 2/22 at the Duck Pond (AL, JoL). All reports of single **Red-breasted Mergansers** came from BESP on 12/9 (NB), 1/13 (JV), and 2/16-28 (JV, CE, BA). Area birders admired a female **Ruddy Duck** 12/6-12 COL (JD, et al.). Other observations were from BESP and included 67 seen 12/17 (MSc), 2 on 1/13 (JD), and one 2/10 (AL, JoL).

**Ring-necked Pheasants** were reported at four locations, one of which was a release site. A few late-migrating **Common Loons** made rare Dec appearances, with up to 11 noted at BESP 12/1-17 (AL, JoL, MSc, Bald Eagle SP eTT Data, JV). A couple lingered there 1/5-13 (DiB, JD), and one was spotted 2/17 (BA). One was also observed migrating past JHV 12/5

(Chuck Widman, CG, SG, Rob Crandall), and a couple were seen 12/11 COL (JV, AL, JoL). One or 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** were occasionally seen 12/9-1/13 at BESP (JD, JV, SB, KE, CE). A single rare **Horned Grebe** was reported 12/25 at BESP (DR); two late winter birds were seen there 2/16-28 (JV, BA, CE), and up to 3 were noted 2/5-28 at the Duck Pond (JV, et al.). Up to 6 **Double-crested Cormorants** were present 12/1-14 at BESP (AL, JV, NB, JoL), and one was seen 12/9 COL (JV). The first ever Jan report of this species in *Centre* came 1/15 when an immature was photographed at the Duck Pond (JV, et al.).

**Black Vultures** were reported from at least eight locations; most included multiple birds. A high of 30 were reported near Bellefonte 2/16 (TW). **Turkey Vultures** were present in fewer numbers, with reports from at least eight locations. Most observations were of single birds, although a "small group" was spotted 2/17 off Filmore Rd. (JV). Two migrating **Golden Eagles** were spotted 12/5 at JHV (CW, CG, SG, RC), and another was seen soaring with Common Ravens 1/27 near Snow Shoe (AL, JoL). An immature Golden Eagle was seen taking a swipe at an immature Bald Eagle 2/17 off Filmore Rd. (JV). There were four reports of single **Northern Goshawks**, including an immature off I-99 near Shiloh Rd. 12/15 (SL, JD). Another was observed 1/5 at the intersection of Fox Hill Rd. and Bemel Rd. (DB). Observers near Pine Grove Mills found one 2/2 on Whitehall Rd. (DiB, JD, MH, NEK), and an immature bird was spotted dining on crow 2/7 on Bear Meadows Rd. (AL, JoL). **Bald Eagles** were reported regularly. The BESP pair was seen preparing a nest 1/10 (AL, AnF). They are believed to have laid their first egg 2/2, which is 8-10 days early (BZ *vide* BS). This pair first successfully nested in 2004. The previous year they had attempted to nest near Mount Eagle but that failed (BS). The Fisherman's Paradise pair was observed nest-building 1/27 (JM, CrM).

Up to 25 **American Coots** were reported 12/1-1/31 at BESP (AL, et al.), and up to 9 were present all winter at the Duck Pond (AL, et al.). **Killdeer** were occasionally reported throughout the winter, with reports becoming more frequent in late Feb. A single **Dunlin**, which appeared to have an injured leg, was spotted 12/8 at BESP (JV). This was *Centre's* first report of this species in Dec. **Wilson's Snipe** are regular but uncommon winter residents—there were sightings of up to 3 at Walnut Springs Park 12/8 (JD), and 1/18-2/21 (JV, et al.). One was seen 1/21 at MMNC, where up to 2 were observed 2/20-24 (AL, JoL). Two were also reported 2/17 at Thompson's Woods Preserve (AnF). Two **American Woodcocks** were heard "peenting" 2/28 at SCO (JV). A mixed flock of **Ring-billed Gulls** and **Bonaparte's Gulls** spotted 12/11 at COL included 9 of the latter (JV). Because Bonaparte's Gulls are rare in winter, a sighting of at least 150 at BESP 1/22 (MD) was particularly noteworthy. Another observer reported 21 there 1/22 (DaH). One or 2 **Herring Gulls** were identified at BESP 12/8-2/3 (JV, et al.).

Single **Barred Owls** were noted at five locations, and 2 were observed 1/8 near the University Park airport (JV). A rare **Short-eared Owl** was seen at the airport 1/12 (JV). There were five reports of **Northern Saw-whet Owls**. Two were heard at Bear Meadows and one on Bear Meadows Rd. 1/16 (AL, JoL). One was also heard at the latter location 2/16 (CE). Two were heard "tooting out the male advertising song like crazy" between Stormstown and Port Matilda (DB), and one was heard 1/5-14 at SCO (JD, JV). One was also noted 1/11 in Park Forest (MaK). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was photographed near BMSF 2/16 (NiB). Single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported from several locations, with most reports occurring in Dec. One was seen 1/15 at the intersection of Waddle Rd. and Alto Lane (BSc), and another was observed in State College 2/10 (CE).

Several single **Merlins** were noted, with the first 12/5 at State College (JV). One was spotted 12/31-1/4 on Nixon Rd. and Ernst Lane terrorizing a flock of Horned Larks (JM CrM, JV). Another was noted along the Mt. Nittany Expressway 1/1 (CE, BA). During the week of 1/1 another was observed in Shingletown (RyS). The last report was 2/24 from Woodward (JD). Area birders reported two rare **Eastern Phoebes**, one each at Musser Gap 12/2 (AL, JoL) and in the Millheim CBC circle 12/20 (CP, HB, LiW). Two **Northern Shrikes**, one adult and one first-year, were reported intermittently at BESP 12/9-31 (NB, et al.). An adult was photographed 1/26 at Rusnak Hill (AL, AnF). Although many **Fish Crow** observations were made around State College, only one report came from elsewhere – one bird 2/2 at BESP (BA). **Common Ravens** were widely noted, with a high of 9 observed 12/20 in the Millheim CBC circle (CP, HB, LiW).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglets** are rarely encountered in winter; there were three observations of single birds this year. These occurred 12/9 in Woodward Gap (JV), at BESP 1/1 (MD), and at the intersection of Waddle Rd. and Alto Ln. 1/15 (BSc). A late migrating **Swainson's Thrush** was heard singing and spotted in a lighted tree 12/4 on the PSU central campus (StW). **Hermit Thrush** is rare in winter. They were noted in eight locations, with most observations being of single birds, although 5 were reported 12/16 on the State College CBC (NiB). There were widespread reports of **American Robins**, mostly of single birds, although 12 were spotted 2/10 at



the Duck Pond (NB). A single rare winter **Gray Catbird** was observed 12/20 in the Millheim CBC circle (CP, HB, LiW). Two **Northern Mockingbirds**, which are uncommon on the Allegheny Plateau, were noted 1/1 on BESP CBC Route J, which climbs the Allegheny Front (NB, DiB). **Brown Thrashers** rarely winter here, but one was recorded 1/1 on the BESP CBC (NiB), and 2 were seen 2/3, one at the Duck Pond (AL, JoL) and one at MMNC (JV). The latter sighting was in about the same location as one reported last winter. **American Pipits** were spotted in five locations, with most reports coming from Nixon Rd. A high of 7 were noted 12/28 (CE).

Nixon Rd. was also the **Lapland Longspur** hotspot, with up to 2 observed in large flocks of Horned Larks 12/22-1/2 (JV, et al.). **Snow Buntings** are eagerly anticipated each winter. The first was a single 12/5 at BESP (MSc), followed by a report of 3 off I-99 near Port Matilda 12/26 (BA). Most reports came from roadsides and farm fields between State College and Pine Grove Mills, where small numbers were found in flocks of Horned Larks 12/26-2/4 (IG, et al.); a flock of about 25 was present there 1/2 (SF). A single bird was spotted 1/14 near Bellefonte (DO). A single lingering **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was counted 1/1 BESP CBC "Rt. F" (NiB).

An **Eastern Towhee** was at TOF 2/21 (AL, JoL). A single rare **Vesper Sparrow** was lurking in a flock of **American Tree Sparrows** at Yeager Hollow Pond 2/2 (AL, JoL, AnF), and a **Savannah Sparrow** was noted 12/31 on Wagner Rd. (JaM). **Fox Sparrows** were observed more often than usual, with single birds spotted 12/16 near the PSU Bathgate Retention Pond (NB) and in Walnut Springs Park (CE). Another bird was observed 12/20 at TOF (NK), and the last was seen 2/18 on Whitehall Rd. (JV). A hatch-year female **Oregon Junco** photographed 12/31 and again 1/26-28 in State College (NiB) excited much discussion of junco subspecies (doc submitted). Other possible "Oregon/Cassiar" Juncos were observed 1/1 on Williams Rd. (JV, SF) and as many as 3 were noted at a State College feeder 1/2 (JC). A very high count of 347 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were noted 1/1 on the BESP CBC "Rt. J" (NB, DiB). Heavy snow cover concentrated them at feeders and along roadsides where they were more easily seen.

Icterids are uncommon to rare in the winter; however, four species were noted. **Red-winged Blackbirds** were observed once in Dec when 13 were spotted 12/16 on the State College CBC (NiB). They were reported in five locations in Jan and were widespread in Feb. The high was of 320 individuals seen 1/17 at MMNC (JV). A single **Eastern Meadowlark** was seen 1/7 off I-99 near the Shiloh Rd. exit (JL). A **Rusty Blackbird** was spotted at MMNC 2/13 (JV). Most reports of **Common Grackles** were clustered around State College; however, 45 were identified on Linden Hall Rd. 12/16 (JD) and 4 were seen in the Millheim CBC circle 12/20 (CP, HB, LiW). Thirty were spotted at BESP 2/28 (CE). **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were noted at five locations in Jan-Feb.

Many unusual to rare finches made appearances. There were at least two reports of **Purple Finch** each month. Although **House Finch** are common, area birders observed yellow variants coming to feeders in Howard (BS, et al.), Gray's Woods (DK), Stormstown (RR, et al.), and State College (NEK). **Red-Crossbills**, a casually occurring irruptive, were noted, with 2 Type-3 females and 3 others seen or heard at BMSP 12/1-2 (AL, NiB, DO). Another was observed 12/12 COL (MD, NiS), and 3 were noted 12/14 in Unionville (DO). The last report was of 2 at the Tussey Mtn. Hawk Watch 1/14 (AnF). **White-winged Crossbills**, also casual rare irruptives, were encountered more frequently with a high of 29 observed 12/19 at the Tussey Mtn. Ski Resort (MD). Reports were from at least seven locations.

After a trio of sightings in Nov., **Common Redpolls** disappeared in Dec. but rang in the New Year with a widespread and determined assault on area bird feeders. It seems a shame not to itemize the reports of such an uncommon casual irruptive; however, they were spotted in over two dozen locations 1/1-2/26. The invasion started slowly, with one counted 1/1 BESP CBC Rte. F (NiB), and another at Ernest Lane (JV, SF). That quickly changed with many reports of double-digit numbers and a hungry horde of at least 160 at a Stormstown feeder station 1/15 (RR, AL, AnF, IG). By the end of Feb. reported numbers had dropped back into the single digits. **Pine Siskins** rounded out the winter finches, with birders noting them at seven locations 12/1-2/20. Most reports were of single birds, although a high of 7 were spotted off SR 3025 on 2/17 (MN). Patience paid off as area birders sifted through flocks of Common Redpolls and discovered 2 **Hoary Redpolls** 1/15-26 at a feeder station between Port Matilda and Stormstown, with the female being reported much more often than the male (RR, et al.). Another was ph. in a large flock of Common Redpolls 1/27 near Shoe Shoe (AL, JoL). Both observations have been reported to PORC.

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Jacob Cusatis (JCu), Alyssia Davidge (AID), Mike Dreibelbis, Jim Dunn, Darlene Emers, Carl Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom, Anna Fasoli (AnF), Steven Feldstein, Bob Fowles, Ingrid Fowles, David Facey, Nate Fronk, Alice Fuller, Ro Fuller, Ted Fuller, Jeff Gallo (JeG), Ian Gardner, Chet Gottfried, Sus Gottfried, Roby Graboski, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Molly Heath, Jason Hill, Daniel Hinnebusch (DaH), Rob Hosler, Thomas R. Huff (TRH), Tom Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Nick Kerlin, Don Kiel, Nancy Ellen Kiernan (NEK), Ramsay Koury, Terri Krabill, Mary Krupa (MaK), Jeffrey & Roberta Kurland (J&RK), Tom Lace, Patty Lambert, Alex Lamoreaux, Jen Lee, Josh Lefever (JoL), Scott Lewis, Alan MacEachren, John Mackin (JoM), Matt Marshall (MMA), Jack Martini (JaM), Sally McDermott, Craig Miller (CrM), Jean Miller, Mark Nale, Kelley Nunn, Meghan Oberkircher (MeO), Kathy Odnweller (KaO), Dan Ombalski, Cathy Pierce, Howard Pillot, Tom Pluto, PSU (UP) Ornithology Lab, PSU Crow Roost Data, Larry Ramsey, Mary Ramsey, Coleen Reese (CoR), Matt Rockmore (MaR), Ron Rovanseck, Dave Ryan, Matthew Sabatine (MSa), Ryan Scavo (RyS), Matt Schenck (MSc), Brian Schmoke (BSc), Tim Schreckengost, Nora Serotkin, Tom Shervinskis (TSh), Nicole Shimp (NiS), Dani Smith (DaS), Bob Snyder, Joe Verica, Susan Walker (SuW), Tim Weight, Doug Wentzel (DoW), Stephen Werner (StW), Chuck Widmann, Ann Wilken (AnW), Lisa Williams (LiW), Bob Zilensky.

### Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Coatesville Reservoir (CORES), Chambers Lake (CL), Exton Park (EP), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), South Eastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA), Upper Uwchlan Water Treatment Plant (UUWTP), Waterloo Mills Preserve (WMP), West Chester Christmas Bird Count (WC CBC), Western Chester County CBC (WCC CBC).

The winter season followed last year's trend of mild weather. With little snowfall and only one short spell of sub-freezing temperatures, the major water bodies remained open for much of the season. Some of the seasonal highlights included the continued reports of winter finches that rolled in with the tide of fall, and some unusual wintering species, including a few Rufous Hummingbirds and the Le Conte's Sparrow found in late November.

As with most winters, **Snow Geese** peaked in the latter half of Feb, especially 2/28 when 6400 were counted at EP (GDT, KN, et al.). Notable was a high count of 21 blue morph birds on the West Chester CBC 12/15, which more than tripled the previous high count of 6. During the big push of Snow Geese 2/28, a smaller goose, presumed to be a **Ross's Goose** was picked out of one of the continuous strings over EP (GDT, KN). **Richardson's Cackling Geese** were reported from scattered locations around the county, typically mixed in with large **Canada Goose** flocks (m.ob.). The **Trumpeter Swan** pair found in late fall along the Schuylkill R. in E.Coventry Twp. continued to be reliable at this location until 1/27 (RB).

A winter without frozen water is inviting to ducks taking a quick break in their seasonal passage, and this winter *Chester* waters hosted 20 species of duck, one subspecies, and a hybrid. The handsome **Gadwall** made appearances through winter, peaking at 45 on Wedgewood Pond 2/21 (HM). A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was a surprise visitor among **American Wigeons** at MCSP 2/28 (HM, m. ob.). American Wigeon peaked at CL 2/22 with a count of 50 (RR). CORES is always a good place to find **American Black Ducks** when the water is open, and the high count this winter was 65 tallied 12/29 during the WCC CBC (JB). An **American Black Duck x Mallard** hybrid was noticed at CORES 12/29 (JB) and 1/21 (AL). A drake **Blue-winged Teal** was another surprise guest at MCSP 2/28, as this species is usually expected later in the season (HM). **Northern Shovelers** stuck around for winter, and were found in high concentrations at the UUWTP, with 43 counted there 12/23 for the Elverson CBC (HM). **Northern Pintails** made a grand appearance 2/28 at MCSP when they peaked at 90 (BQ). **Green-winged Teal** continued in small numbers at UUWTP (m.ob.). Scanning clusters of the "American" Green-winged Teals for the **Common (Eurasian) Teal** paid off 2/10 when a drake was spotted among the group at UUWTP (HM). This distinctly different male was seen on several occasions throughout the reporting period "(HM, JD, MC.).

A single drake **Canvasback** was found at Somerset Lake 1/16 (KN) and continued there through 1/21 (m.ob.). **Redheads** made appearances at MCSP 1/23 when 7 were found (HM), and 6 lingered at Westtown Lake 2/10-28 (m.ob.). **Ring-necked Ducks**, reliable in winter when water is free from ice, were found in good numbers at UUWTP and Somerset Lake (m.ob.). An infrequent visitor, **Greater Scaup** was spotted in scattered locations around the county, typically after a storm (m.ob.). **Lesser Scaup** are more regular, and peaked at 92 at MCSP 2/28 (HM). It was a good winter for **Common Goldeneye** especially at MCSP, where one was found throughout Jan and Feb (m.ob.). A surprising high count of 7 was made

there 2/28 (HM). Other locations were: West Liberty Quarry 1/31 (BQ), Westtown Lake 2/19 (TS), 2 at Chambers Lake 2/28 (RR), and one at Locust Grove Rd pond 2/28 (KN).

**Wild Turkeys** are scarce in Chester, and this winter, were only reported sparingly and in small numbers or solos (m.ob.). A high count came from Crow's Nest Preserve where 12 were found 12/15 (SS, NF). **Common Loons** are not regular in winter, but a few were found. One was reported along the Schuylkill R. 1/11-13 (RK, NF, SS), and another was seen 1/19 at MCSP (HM, JC, BQ). A **Horned Grebe** on the lake at MCSP 2/3 was a nice find, the only report for winter (JF, BR, BQ).

An **Osprey** that lingered in late Nov continued at MCSP through 12/14 (DH, BR, HM). A new **Bald Eagle** nest was discovered in Guthriesville, where the pair took up residence next to a busy golf course and housing development. The long established Cochranville pair could be found on the nest again in mid-Feb (HM). A surprising sight was a **Sandhill Crane** taking off with Canada Geese at EP 12/1 (KCA). It was seen flying out of sight, and was not relocated.

The mild winter yielded 4 species of shorebirds. **Killdeer** persisted in many locations. MCSP held the highest count of this species, with ample shoreline along the lake providing good habitat. Up to 28 were reported there 12/29 (BR, BQ). A great "count week" bird for the WCC CBC was a **Least Sandpiper** discovered in the Upper Oxford area 12/30 (PM). This bird persisted for a few days thereafter (m.ob.). Another Least Sandpiper was a surprising find at the lakes edge at MCSP 2/28 (HM). The Upper Oxford wet area that held the Least Sandpiper also hosted 3 **Wilson's Snipe** 12/30 (PM, m.ob.). Others were found at Stroud Preserve 1/3 and 1/27 (RuR), and the Laurels Preserve 1/8 (KF). An **American Woodcock** was reported from the Cassatt Preserve 1/26 (KN, et al.) and another was described in courtship display 2/26 in West Chester (SM).

Typically not found here in winter, the appearance of a single **Bonaparte's Gull** was a nice surprise at MCSP 1/10 (DH). This individual lingered among **Ring-billed Gulls**, and was probably the same bird seen at the UUWTP 1/16 (HM). A regional flurry of Bonaparte's Gulls occurred on 1/22, when up to 10 were counted at MCSP (HM). One lingered on the lake through 1/25 (HM, KN, KF). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** can be found with regularity at SECCRA each winter, and this year was no exception. Three was the high count there 2/5 (KF). Other reports came from Struble Lake and the Honey Brook area (m.ob.). The **Great Black-backed Gull** was reported with more regularity this winter, and in multiple locations throughout the county (m.ob.). Up to 10 were noted at SECCRA 1/17 (KN).

**Long-eared Owls** were in low numbers again this winter, and reports came from just a few locations: near Octorara Res. 1/16 (AM), 2 in the northern half of the county 2/12 (KF), 2 at EP 2/21 (GDT, MC) and one near Elverson 2/24 (MC). There was one lone report of a **Short-eared Owl** seen in the Doe Run region 1/5 (AL). The strong fall flight of the **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was reflected in birds found this winter. Unfortunately, the only one found during the West Chester CBC was dead on a road in West Chester 12/15 (*fide* BB). Two individuals were detected at BCP during the Wilmington CBC 12/15 (JS, WBH, KN), one was heard at Cassatt Preserve 12/22 (BR, BQ, KN, MM), and 2 were in East Whiteland Twp. (m.ob.).

This marked the second year in a row with **Rufous Hummingbirds** wintering in Chester. The first report came from the Pottstown area 12/2 (JF). The banding process confirmed it to be a female Rufous (SL). A possible second hummingbird was reported at this same site a few weeks later (JF). The last report of a hummingbird at this location was 1/22. Another Rufous was banded by NP 1/2 in a yard in Chadds Ford, and confirmed a female. This hardy Rufous was faithful to that yard through the end of the reporting period (GB, m.ob.).

**American Kestrels** were found in better numbers than last winter, with reports coming from around the county (m.ob.). A good showing of **Merlins** seemed to stretch county wide, and raised the historical high count of this species on the West Chester CBC to 2 (*fide* BB). The WCC CBC also had good numbers of this falcon, with 5 counted (*fide* LL). There was a smattering of reports of **Peregrine Falcons**, including a bird that lingered at EP 1/17-20 and enjoyed by many (GDT, m.ob.).

The half-hardy **Eastern Phoebe** was detected in a few places, including a Cochranville backyard 12/31-2/17 (MG). Another was discovered lingering around Valley Forge Park within Chester boundaries 2/2 (KCA). An Eastern Phoebe was also reported during the Great Backyard Bird Count in the West Chester area, plucking insects from the siding of a home (AW). A **Northern Shrike** in the Warwick Furnace area was a very nice find 12/24 (BH) and was the only sighting of this species in winter.

A small-scale irruption of **Black-capped Chickadees** occurred in southeast Pennsylvania, and reports of small numbers were made around the county. Most sightings were from feeders (m.ob.). The wave of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** passing through the state in fall left behind some wintering individuals that remained faithful at feeders and stands of conifers. This species was widely reported throughout the winter (m.ob.). There were

an unusually high number of observations of **Winter Wrens**. During the West Chester CBC, a record number of 20 topped the old high of 13 (BB). That result mirrored the WCC CBC, which was also 20 (LL). Birders found this mouse-like wren widely throughout the region (m.ob.). A chattering **House Wren** was a fantastic find in Avondale 2/22, but was not relocated thereafter (WBH). A high count of 23 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** was made at Octorara Res. in Chester 12/16 (AM). Also noted in that report were 8 **Hermit Thrush** for a high count (AM). The milder winter seemed to assist a few lingering **Gray Catbirds**. Reports came from Cassatt Preserve 12/7, 12/22 (BR, BQ, et al.), Okehocking Preserve 1/9 (BR), WMP 1/2 and 1/11 (KF), and Unionville 2/15 (KN); however this species did not turn up on the CBCs. Reports of **Brown Thrasher** were slim. Three were found on the West Chester CBC (BB), one was in Honey Brook 1/1 (BB), one at Okehocking 1/9 (BR), and another was spotted in Highland Twp 2/16 (CC). **Cedar Waxwings** sightings were sparse, and numbers reported were never greater than 22 (m.ob.).

It was a good winter for finding field birds, despite the lack of snow. A **Lapland Longspur** was found in the Honey Brook Amish farmlands 12/21 (KF), and again there 12/29 (BR, BQ). Two were combed out of a sizeable group of **Horned Larks** 12/30 (AD, HM). A lone **Snow Bunting** was mixed in with a flock of American Pipits at the Laurels Preserve 12/4 (KF). An outstanding number of 30 Snow Buntings was reported from Honey Brook 2/18 (BQ).

It was unusual to have five warblers species reported here in winter. A distressed **Nashville Warbler** was found in a shopping center in Downingtown 1/25, and taken to Tri-State Bird Rehab where it died shortly thereafter (BB *fide* DM). **Common Yellowthroats** were reported from the Laurels Preserve 12/12 (BR, KN) and Cheslen Preserve 12/21 (JS). A jaw-dropping sight in a Paoli backyard was a **Northern Parula** 12/28. Unfortunately, this warbler made a teasingly quick visit, just long enough to be noticed by the observer (MC). An unexpected find 12/14 was a "Yellow" **Palm Warbler** in Avondale (WBH). A steadfast wintering species, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found in multiple locations and seen by many, with a high count of 6 at Sanatoga Preserve 1/30 (HM).

In trend with recent winters of the last decade, small numbers of **Chipping Sparrows** held on into Jan and Feb. The majority of sightings came from BCP (m.ob.), but other reports came from Chadds Ford (HD), Willisbrook Preserve 1/27 (AL), Black Rock Sanctuary 2/5 (RK), and 2 individuals seen at Stroud Preserve 2/14 and 2/20 (RuR), and Kennett Square 2/16 (KSa). A well-described **Vesper Sparrow**, rare in winter, was reported from EP 1/29 (MC). The **Le Conte's Sparrow** found in late Nov at WMP continued there throughout the period (KF, m.ob.). **Fox Sparrows** lingered through the season, with 5 the high count 1/1 at White Clay Creek Preserve (WBH). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was a great find CBC in the Doe Run region, and the first ever recorded on the WCC 12/29 (JS, WBH).

**Eastern Meadowlarks** typically are scarce in winter, and this year was no exception. The species was reported only twice: 5 at Doe Run 1/26 (BR, BQ) and 9 at Kirkwood Preserve 1/27 (BQ, KN). A higher than usual number of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** was reported this winter. One male was spotted among tens of thousands of blackbirds near Parkesburg 12/14 (CCh). One was reported for the WCC CBC 12/29 (PM). Another male was picked out of a large group of blackbirds in Honey Brook 2/13 (AG, HM, m.ob.). Presumably the same male was seen again 2/14 (KF). Another was combed out of a large group at BCP 2/24 (HD, KN), and 2 were reported from Honey Brook 2/24 (BR). It was good to have a nice number of the sharply declining **Rusty Blackbird** from multiple observers. Most reports were of singles, with 4 the high count at BCP 12/2 (KN, MG, et al). A likely **Brewer's Blackbird** offered fleeting glimpses in Honey Brook 2/16, but quickly disappeared into the thick mass of blackbirds feeding in a field (NP).

The widespread irruption of northern finches that swept the state left behind a few birds that took up winter residency. **Purple Finches** were reported only from feeders, and were found spottily around the county. Most reports were of single birds, or a pair. The high count came from Glenmoore where up to 6 were reported in mid-Feb (DH). **Red Crossbills** were reported from three locations: one group of 4 flyovers was in Downingtown 12/11 (KF), a flock of 5 at BCP 12/15 were counted for the Wilmington CBC (LL, KN), and 2 were found atop a spruce during the Elverson CBC in Chester Springs 12/23 (HM). No reports of this species came after the turn of the year. Reports of **White-winged Crossbill** were more frequent, and continued through the reporting period. Of the eleven reports, the high count was 17 at WMP 2/7 (KF). Due to their affinity for thistle feeders, a few **Common Redpolls** were dependable at certain feeding stations. Chadds Ford seemed to be the hotbed for sightings of this irregular winter visitor. The WCC CBC 12/29 yielded 2 reports, each coming from different sectors (JB, KF). A few lucky Chester birders got the privilege of hosting this boreal finch in their own back yards. All observations were of a single bird: Chadds Fords 1/1-2 (HD), 2/15 in Chadds Ford (DK), one near Wayne 2/15 (BE), and another in Chadds Ford again 2/24 through the end of the reporting

period (KS, m.ob.). The **Pine Siskins** came in force in fall, but reports thinned out Dec through mid-Jan, when they resurfaced once again, but only in a few locations. The numbers never mirrored the big irruption of 2009, but huge numbers were reported from a feeder in Chadds Ford, where up to 200 were estimated by multiple skilled observers (KS). Despite the smattering of reports of the Evening Grosbeak in late fall, this species was not located in the county or the region during the winter period.

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### Clarion County

Locations: Cherry Run/Rimersburg (CR), Curtlsville strips (CV), Foxburg islands (FB), Mount Airy (MA), Mount Zion (Piney Tract IBA/SGL 330) (MZ).

This season's top report among waterfowl was of a single **Greater White-fronted Goose** 2/9 at FB (MM). This bird was only seen in the morning on the Allegheny R. with a flock of **Canada Geese** and other assorted ducks. It was not seen later in the day, but photos were obtained for documentation and this bird almost certainly represents a first record for *Clarion*. In a change for the county, reports are increasingly being submitted for the Allegheny R. at FB and for scattered ponds that stay open through winter on reclaimed strip mine property at CR near Rimersburg. Many of these sightings represent some new records for *Clarion* for the winter season and so are worth noting. Hopefully with increasing data from these spots over a period of several years, a clearer picture of waterfowl migration in the county will be obtained. **Gadwalls** were seen in small numbers with a single bird present at FB 1/5 (KC) and a single bird also at CR 2/18-2/26 (MM). **American Wigeons** were noted only in late Feb with 2 birds at CR 2/26 and 12 present 2/28 (MM). Also noted on this date at CR were 4 **Northern Pintails**, providing another excellent record for the county (MM). **American Black Ducks** remained at CR throughout the winter season with numbers up to 12 birds (MM). A single male **Northern Shoveler** was seen at CR 1/17-1/18 (MM), and at the same site **Green-winged Teal** were present with up to 3 birds from 12/9-12/12 and then again one male bird 2/14 (MM). One last interesting species for the CR ponds was **Redhead**, with 5 on 2/6 and then 4 on 2/28 (MM). On the Allegheny R. at FB, Redheads were also seen from 2/9-18 with a high of 28 seen 2/10 (MM, RN, CW). Along with the flock of Redheads at FB, a single **Canvasback** was present 2/10 (CW) and 2-4 **Common Goldeneyes** 2/9-10 (MM, RN, CW). Other Feb sightings on the river at FB include up to 2 **Hooded Mergansers** 2/9-2/10 (MM), one **Pied-billed Grebe** 2/28 (MM), and up to 3 **Horned Grebes** 2/9-2/10 (RN, CW).

**Turkey Vultures** continue to show up earlier in the year, with 4 seen at Rimersburg 2/15 (MM). **Northern Harriers** are often less reported in winter, especially with years of heavier snow cover. This year several sightings were noted during the season, one near West Freedom 12/14 (CW) and 2 near MZ for the CBC 12/29. Single birds were also seen in two areas 2/14, one at CR (MM) and one at CV (DH). **Red-shouldered Hawks** are uncommon in the county in all seasons, and particularly in winter. For the season, 2 were seen near MZ 1/11 (GE, RM, JW) and one was reported near New Bethlehem 2/8 (RN, CW). **Rough-legged Hawk** numbers were down again from some years, however with extensive areas of good habitat in the county, at least some reports are expected yearly. In the northern part of *Clarion* in more agricultural areas, 2-4 birds were seen near the Stroboton/Lake Lucy area 1/3 and 1/26-27 (SG, F&JM, ST, CW). In the south, single birds were seen near Frogtown 1/20 and 2/7 (MM, RN, ST, CW), near Kahle Lake 1/3 (CW), at MA 1/3-1/6 (MM, CW) and at CV 2/9 (MM).

**Short-eared Owls** continue as regular winter residents on reclaimed strip mine fields. A single bird was reported from MZ 12/9 (RM, CW). On Rankin Rd. near CV, 2 birds were seen 12/22 and 2/15 (CW). On 12/14 a single owl was present at the CV area (MM) and 2 on Spring Rd. near West Freedom (CW). MA continues to be the most consistent site for these birds,

with up to 2 there from 12/14 through the end of the season (MM, CW). A total of 4 owls were reported from MA and CV for the CBC 12/29. **Northern Shrikes** are another winter resident (in varying numbers) in good habitat. This year only three locations were noted. A single bird was seen once near West Freedom 2/9 (CW), another single at MZ 1/26-1/27 (AP, ST) was likely the same individual first reported last fall, and an adult was at the CV strips 12/14 (MM, CW) and again 1/20, 1/26 and 2/12 (SG, DH, MM, ST).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** possibly set a new record for numbers this season on the strength of a remarkable invasion that began in the fall. Small numbers were reported from feeder areas in Rimersburg, Clarion, Limestone, Strattanville (JH, RM, MM, KR, JW) throughout the season, and at feeders near CV, up to 6 birds were present at once through the season, with numbers starting to taper down in Feb (CW). On Stockdill Rd at MZ, 10 were seen 1/10 (CW) and in another area of MZ 12/9, a remarkable total of 23 birds were seen in the red pine stands there over a several hour period of walking (RM).

Reports of winter field birds were also in short supply this year, with **Snow Buntings** only sighted twice. Three birds were seen with **Horned Larks** near Turnip Hole 1/3 (CW) and a flock of 25-30 Snow Buntings were reported in the western part of *Clarion* near Kahle Lake during a WRS route 2/9, along with 2 **Lapland Longspurs** (PC, ML). The only sparrow report of note was at Hill Rd. near CV: a **Swamp Sparrow** was found 1/15 in a marshy roadside cattail area that is a regular breeding area in summer (CW). These sparrows are not known to winter in the county normally, and this bird was not found again.

It was a banner invasion year for finches, continuing from the fall season. **White-winged Crossbills** were reported from a yard near CV, utilizing cones of both blue spruce and Norway spruce. Seven sightings were noted between 12/3-2/18, with up to 9 birds seen at a time, both male and female (CW). On Stockdill Rd. at MZ, 35 birds were seen 1/10 in several flocks feeding in Scots pine, with likely more birds present (CW). **Common Redpolls** also had a remarkable invasion year with many reports of large flocks at area feeders. Flocks varying from a few up to 30+ birds were reported from feeders in Clarion, Strattanville, East Brady and CV starting the first week of Jan and remaining through the season (JH, RM, CW, PW). The largest numbers were from feeders in Limestone where they were reported from the second week of Jan and remaining through the season with numbers building to more than 80 birds (F&JW). **Pine Siskins** were also noted for the season but in small numbers and not to the extent of other finches. They were reported from feeders in Clarion from late Dec through Jan (JH, KR) and also regularly from a feeder in Rimersburg, where they were present throughout Dec and Jan in numbers up to 8 birds (MM).

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### Clearfield County

Locations: Bimini Lake (BM), Curwensville Dam (CD), Dubois (DB), Luthersburg (LGB), Westover (WST).

**Tundra Swans** and **Surf Scoters** were at BM 1/1 (DR). Curwensville Dam had **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Lesser Scaup**, and **Hooded** and **Common Mergansers** 2/14 (CG). **Northern Harriers** were at (LGB) 2/2 (DR). A **Merlin** and a **Rough-legged Hawk** were at LB 1/3 (DR). A lone **Bonaparte's Gull** was at BM 1/1 (DR). The only report of **Short-eared Owl** was of a single at LBG 12/17 (DR). A small flock of **Horned Larks** was near WST 12/10 (DG). A flock of **Snow Buntings** was at LBG 12/26 (DR). **Common Redpolls** and **White-winged Crossbills** were reported at several locations. The only report of **Evening Grosbeaks** was made at Curwensville 1/2 (CG).

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### Clinton County

Locations: Mill Hall (MH), Ritchie Road near Hyner (RRHY), Rote (RT), Woolrich (WR).

A flock of **Tundra Swans** was reported in the RT area 12/29 (MRA). A **Northern Shoveler** was seen along Cedar Run near MH 2/2 (TS, WL). A

**Red-shouldered Hawk** was near RT 12/29 (MRA), and another was along RRHY 1/18 (WL). The first **Turkey Vulture** of the year was reported from the MH area 2/15 (SB). A **Black Vulture** was in the WR area 2/20 (CCH). A **Great Egret** was along Cedar Run near MH 1/12-2/2, extremely unusual for this time of year (TS, WL). An early **American Woodcock** was found near RT 2/16 (DS).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported across the county through the period (m.ob.). Flocks of **Snow Buntings** were reported from South Avis 12/29 and 1/1 (BZ, VS, CCH). A **Chipping Sparrow** was observed at a residence in WR 1/16 (CCH). *Clinton* witnessed the northern finch irruption this winter. The first report of **Common Redpolls** was from RRHY 12/15 (JD). From 1/2 through the period, small flocks were seen regularly at residential feeders in WR (CCH, SLF). **White-winged Crossbills** were reported at the RRHY location all through the period until last observed 2/26 (m.ob.). A single **Red Crossbill** was found feeding in conifers in Swisssdale 12/29 (SD).

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### **Columbia County**

No compiler.

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### **Crawford County**

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Linesville Christmas Count (LCC), McMichael Road (McM), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Sugar Lake (SL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

Two **Snow Geese** were at PGMA 12/1 (RFL) and one was recorded on the LCC 12/16 (m.ob.). A good total of 5 very late **Blue-winged Teal** were found on the LCC 12/16 (m.ob.); most Dec records are of single birds. A single **Surf Scoter** was spotted on the LCC 12/16 (m.ob.). Two were present at PA 12/2 (SC). There were 328 **Common Mergansers** at FH (RFL). A group of 1500 **Hooded Mergansers** was noted at PS and FI 12/2 (RFL, IF), a better total this year than last. The LCC 12/16 yielded 39 **Great Blue Heron**, 47 **Sandhill Cranes**, and 1504 **American Coots** (m.ob.). Coot numbers rose to 3000 by 1/5 (RFL). A fair total of 22 **Pied-billed Grebes** were found on the LCC 12/16 (m.ob.). Six **Common Loons** were noted 12/8 (RFL). Single **Red-throated Loons** were seen 12/2-15 at PC (RFL). At least 5059 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were located at PC 12/15 (RFL). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** were found on LCC 12/16 (m.ob.). Single **Ruffed Grouse** were seen at ENWR 1/19 (SC) and near SL 2/26 (RE). A **Northern Goshawk** was recorded west of WL 1/12 (RFL). A good total of 50 **Bald Eagles** was noted on the LCC 12/16 (m.ob.). A female **Peregrine Falcon** was watched on the ice-covered PC lake eating a bird of some sort 2/23 (RFL). A **Merlin** was found at Saegertown 1/12 (SC). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were seen at MCM 2/11 (SC). A **Least Sandpiper** wintered on a small water run at the FH for the second year, noted 1/1 to end of period (IF, MV, RFL, BG, JG). **Killdeer** were missed on the LCC 12/16 but 15 were found at WL 12/17 (IF). A likely overwintering **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found at MCM 2/11 (SC).

A **Northern Shrike** was at WL 12/14 (RFL) and one was at PGMA 12/23 (SC, JF). Six **Horned Larks** were noted along Porter Rd east of CL 1/19 and 2/24 (m.ob.). Two **Common Ravens** were seen west of Meadville 1/9 and one was near SL 1/3-5 and 2 near Geys Mills 2/20 (RE). Up to 30 **Snow Buntings** were noted at PL 1/6-23 (m.ob.). Thirty **Lapland Longspurs** were recorded at PGMA 1/1 (SC). An **Eastern Towhee** was unexpected west of Mercer Pike on Mt. Pleasant Rd 2/23 (RFL).

Six **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen near Rundletown 1/21 (AT) and 5 were there 2/16 (TCN). A lone grosbeak was noted west of Linesville 2/24 (RFL, IF). A pair of **Purple Finches** was seen near SL 1/2 (RE). Five **Red Crossbills** were found on Fires Rd south of PS 1/19 (SC) and one was at Roselawn Cemetery, Meadville 2/18 (SC). An amazing 75 **White-winged Crossbills** were found on the LCC 12/16 (m.ob.); other reports included 2 at SGL 69 near ENWR 1/12 (MW), 35 at Fires Road PA 1/19 (SC), and 2 at Roseland Cemetery 2/17-18 (DM, SC). Single **Hoary Redpolls** were seen at a Rundletown feeder 1/20 (AT) and at a Meadville feeder 2/14 (SC). There were at least 15 reports of **Common Redpolls** at feeders 1/7-2/24, ranging up to 40 birds (m.ob.).

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### **Cumberland County**

Locations: Boiling Springs Children's Pond (BSCP), Mud Level Road (MLR), Mountain Road Marsh (MRM), State Gamelands 169 (SGL 169).

Compared to the past few winters, this period was colder, although there was not much snow accumulation.

There were few unusual waterfowl this period. The one report of **Snow Goose** was of 17 on the Le Tort in Carlisle 12/25 (HW). Five **Tundra Swans** were reported at the MRM, SGL 169 on 1/2 (AM) and at BSCP 1/17 (RK). There were about 20 Tundra Swans present at the pond on Zion Road 1/20 through the end of the period (PB, VG). There was a probable **Eurasian Wigeon** at the BSCP 1/15-18 (TJ, VG, AM), listed as probable because although it appeared to be bird transitioning from sub-adult to adult plumage, it may also have been a hybrid.

Reports of unusual raptors were also few. One **Northern Goshawk** was reported at SGL 169 on 1/19 (AM), one light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was in Carlisle near the intersection of Alexander Springs and Shagbark Lane 1/20 (DG), and the **Prairie Falcon** was reported through the end of the period (m.ob.). One **Short-eared Owl** was in a field across from the MRM, SGL 169 on 1/1 (AM).

There were two reports of single **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, one at BSCP 1/20 (DM, AS) and the other on the shoreline at the West Fairview boat launch 1/27 (AM). There was a **Black-headed Gull** reported in East Pennsboro 2/23 (AM).

A female **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was reported coming to a feeder in Canterbury Estates of Upper Allen Township 1/1-3 (JB). There were two reports from the Huntsdale Hidden Pond of what was probably the same **Common Yellowthroat** 1/1 (RK) and 1/21 (VG). A **Baltimore Oriole** was present for a few days the last week of Dec on Pine Rd. in Huntsdale (AG). The only large flocks of **Rusty Blackbirds** reported during the period were on the Big Spring. There were 40 on 12/29 (VG), 130 on 1/28 (VG), 90 on 2/2 (VG, BF, LF, BP, PB), and 47 on 2/17 (VG). There were a few other reports of up to 3 Rusties at SGL 169 and Huntsdale Hidden Pond, and the Big Spring.

It was a decent period for winter finches. In early Dec, **Pine Siskins** were common and **Purple Finches** were fairly common. **Red Crossbills** and **White-winged Crossbills** were reported at Camp Michaux, SGL 169, and the playhouse at Boiling Springs. All these species decreased in number as the season progressed. There were two reports of flocks of **Common Redpolls** of about 50 birds each. The first was on High Mountain Road just south of Camp Michaux 1/1 (VG), and the second at SGL 169 on 1/26 (AM). There were 3 others reported at Camp Michaux 12/31 (DM). Lastly, there was only one report of **Evening Grosbeak** for the period—5 at a feeder in Morrisdale 1/14 (eBird report).

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### **Dauphin County**

Locations: Blue Mountain (BMT), East Hanover Twp. (EHT), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), west corridor, Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), - Hershey Important Bird Area #45 (HIBA), Highspire Reservoir (HR), Hummelstown (HUM), Milton S. Hershey School campus (MSH), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR at Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR from Harrisburg (SRHB), SR from Marysville (SRMV), SR from Royaltown (SRRT), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Wildwood Lake (WL), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS).

The first report of **Snow Geese** was of a flock of about 35, with a larger number of **Canada Geese**, in a field near the Crooked Hill Rd. Post Office, HBG 12/2 (LU). A flight of about 300 was observed over HUM 12/28 (PF), and a smaller flight of about 45 was noted in Susquehanna Twp. 12/30 (EB). The highest count of Snow Geese was on 1/25 when 3-4000 were observed in and above the MSH fields 1/25 (TB, P&RW); similar counts were noted through the first two weeks of Feb in HER (SH, AS, et al.). Three **Cackling**

**Geese** were observed 1/6 with a flock of **Canada Geese** near HUM (PF). About 30 **Tundra Swans** flew over the HR 1/1 (SH), and 27 were counted 1/2 at SRWF (DH). Tundra Swans were also observed in the HIBA 2/13 where about 25 were noted (P&RW). The two **Mute Swans** continued at the Middletown boat access park where the Swatara Creek empties into the SR (RK, P&RW).

With WL holding open water into the start of the New Year, a nice variety of waterfowl remained present into early Jan, including **Wood Duck**, **American Wigeon**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Northern Pintail**, **Gadwall**, **Northern Shoveler**, **American Black Duck**, and even **American Coot** (m.ob.). On the SR **Gadwall**, both **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Merganser**, and **Ruddy Duck** were present at the beginning of Jan (m. ob.). Most of these species remained through the season, except **Wood Duck** which returned to WL by 2/17 (AK).

This was a good winter for **Redhead** at SRWF. Numbers increased from 5 on 1/21 (CB, RK, AMk) to 40 by 2/2 (KH) to counts in the 60s by mid Feb (CK, DM, SDa, RK, P&RW). About 30 **Redheads** were also observed SRRT 2/15 (P&RW) and three were reported SRMV 2/19 (DM). On 12/31, three **Canvasbacks** were along the Wormleysburg waterfront (WC) and on 2/10-11 two **Canvasbacks** briefly joined the growing flock of **Redheads** (P&RW & RK). A lone **Canvasback** was reported at SRMV 2/13 (DM). Five **Long-tailed Ducks** and two **Surf Scoters** were observed at SRFH 12/5 (WC). A single **Long-tailed Duck** was first noted at SRMV 2/2 (NZ) and remained through 2/21 (m.ob.). Also present at this location was a **White-winged Scoter** first noted 2/13 (CK) that remained until 2/28 (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Merganser** did not return to the SR until 2/16 when three were observed SRHB (CB). The last week of Feb had two additional reports from Ft. Hunter/Marysville locations with 4 on 2/23 (AMk) and one 2/28 (MW). **Ruddy Duck** made only a few appearances at SRWF with three reported 12/31 (RK), one 1/21 (CT), and one 2/3 (DM).

The only report of **Common Loon** this season was of one at SRFH during the GBBC 2/16 (BS). A single **Horned Grebe** was reported 12/3 SRFH (EB), this species was not reported again until 2/7 when one was observed at SRMV (CT). **Horned Grebes** then continued through the rest of the period from SRWF to SRMV (m.ob.). The sighting of two **Double-crested Cormorants** 2/25 at SRMV matched the previous earliest date from 2008 for this species (DN).

Both male and female **Northern Harriers** were observed at the HIBA several times late Dec (S&SR). Along a 2.5-mile stretch of Rt. 443, in Fishing Creek Valley, five **Red-shouldered Hawks** were counted during a WRS 2/10 (DM, JD, BR, & AS). The first **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported 12/15 from HBG (CT), another was noted 1/2 at FIG (DM), and a light morph photographed along Camp Hebron Road near Halifax 1/6 (MM). A juvenile **Golden Eagle** was observed 2/19 FIG (DM, JD).

A **Great Egret** was present at WL 1/1-3 (MM, EC, DH, et al.). This was only the second Jan record for this species in *Dauphin*. Three **Wilson's Snipe** were found during the Curtin CBC 12/27 (EC), 8 were observed in the HIBA 12/28 (S&RZ), and one was observed at WL 1/2 (DH).

A single **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported 12/3 SRMV (EB). Nine were observed at SRWF (RK) 1/2, three weeks later 15 were noted at this location 1/21 (CB, RK, & AMk), and on 1/23 one was photographed there (P&RW). Lastly, one was at SRFH 2/1 (EB). Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were observed 1/27 from SRWF (AMk, VG) and a single **Lesser Black-backed** was noted there 2/3 (DM). Usually **Black-headed Gull** does not appear along the SR until mid-Mar; however, one was reported just south of the Rockville Bridge 2/23 mixed with hundreds of **Ring-billed Gulls** (AMk). The previous earliest date for **Black-headed Gull** was 3/14/2010.

A **Barn Owl** was photographed sitting in an evergreen tree along Beagle Rd. near the Swatara Beagle Club 2/24 (KK). A **Snowy Owl** was reported in Powell's Valley being chased by **American Crows** during the first week of Jan (SM, SB *fide*). A **Merlin** was observed at Italian Lake Park during the HBG CBC 12/15 (LU, BC, S&BB), and on the same day one was reported near the Manada Golf Club for the Lebanon CBC (S&SR). Another **Merlin** was just east of HER 2/3 (AM). There were numerous reports of one or 2 **Peregrine Falcons** in or near HBG throughout the quarter (m.ob.). Live video of the Rachel Carson Building nest site began 2/14 and the progress of the HBG pair can be followed at <[http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon/recent\\_news.html](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon/recent_news.html)>.

A surprising find was a **Blue-headed Vireo** at SRFH 1/21 (CB). This represented the first winter record for *Dauphin* and one of only a few for the entire state. A **Gray Catbird** was among the species found on both the HBG CBC 12/15 at WL (AMc) and the Curtin CBC 12/27 (PF). At least one stayed the winter at WL and was observed in the first week of Jan (RK, SD, MM, et al.), and was also reported in Feb and early Mar. A **Brown Thrasher** was found near the HER Corporate Center 12/15 during the Lebanon CBC (S&SR). Another was reported along Pine Rd. in EHT 1/17 (TB). Two **American Pipits** were observed at WL during the HBG CBC 12/15 and one was found SFH 1/12 (both AMc). One **Snow Bunting** was found at the

Dauphin Highlands Golf Club 12/15 (JB). A single **Lapland Longspur** was noted at MSH fields on 12/28 (NM) and again 1/6 (GD).

Certainly the most exciting species reported this winter was the **Tennessee Warbler** found at the HR. According to the observers it was present from early Nov, possibly related to Hurricane Sandy, through at least 1/1 when photographs were taken and positive ID was determined (SH, RL). This represented not only the first winter record for the county but is likely the first documented winter record for the state.

One or more **Eastern Towhees** were reported each month of the winter season near the Londonderry School off Elmerton Ave. in Susquehanna Twp. (BH). Both the HIBA and WL were good locations for **American Tree Sparrow** in Jan and Feb (m.ob.). Three **Chipping Sparrows** and 12 **Field Sparrows** were found at the Dauphin Highlands Golf Club 12/15 for the HBG CBC (JB). There were two reports of **Savannah Sparrow**: 4 were found in the fields along Fishburn Rd. south of HER 12/29, (AL) and 3 were in the HIBA 2/16 (P&RW). The high count for **Fox Sparrow** was 10 at Peter's Mt. Log Rd. 1/27 (AM).

Two **Eastern Meadowlark** were reported from MSH 12/28 (NM) and one was heard singing in the HIBA 2/13 (P&RW). **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at WL 1/1 (DH, MM) and one was reported at the HR 1/5 (TJ, et al.) and were found again at same location 1/6 (IG).

There were many reports of **Purple Finch** from Highspire to Halifax, especially during the GBBC 2/15-18 (m.ob.). A single **White-winged Crossbill** was found 12/15 near the Dauphin Highlands Golf Club in Swatara Twp. (JB) and more than 20 were counted for the Lebanon CBC along Sandbeach Rd. near the HER Corp. Center along with about 25 **Pine Siskins** (S&SR). On 12/20 about a dozen **White-winged Crossbills** were reported near the Hotel Hershey (TB, NM) and as many as 70 **White-winged Crossbills** were observed 1/12 at the Stony Mountain Fire Tower in SGL 211 (AMc). Reports continued from the HER area including multiple sightings in Jan and Feb from Zoo America (TB) and from near the HER Country Club where 13 were seen 2/3 (AM). **Common Redpoll** was first reported 1/3 when three came to feeders on BMT (M&RB). A single **Common Redpoll** was observed in SHT 1/9 (TJ). **Common Redpolls** returned to the BMT location 2/9 and 2/15-16 when 2-4 birds were noted (M&RB). About 25 **Pine Siskins** were counted during the Lebanon CBC 12/15 along Sandbeach Rd. near the Hotel Hershey grounds (S&SR); five days later about a dozen were observed near this location (TB, NM). There were two reports of **Pine Siskins** visiting feeders in the HER area: 12/26-28 (KA) and during the GBBC 2/16 (JM). In each case, two birds were observed.

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#### **Delaware County**

Locations: Brandywine Conservancy-Chadds Ford (BC), Brinton Lake (BL), Crum Reservoir (CR), Darby Creek (DC), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Delaware county Winter Raptor Survey 1/28, 2/4 (WRS), Earle's Lake (EL), Glenolden CBC 12/17 (CBC), 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), Rose Tree Park (RTP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Swarthmore College (SC), Tyler Arboretum (TY), Waterloo Mills (WM).

This winter was long, cold, gray, and windy, yet there were no significant extremes of prolonged cold or snow. It was merely long and often lacking in sunshine. The weather did cooperate for the CBC, which tallied 99 species with significant help from the Tinicum portion of *Philadelphia*. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and **Pine Siskins** were almost abundant. Disappointing was the lack of reports of Evening Grosbeak and only one report of **Common Redpoll**.

With a few exceptions, numbers and variety of waterfowl were consistent with the recent historical average. Of note was an above average 75 **Tundra Swans** on the DR during the CBC 12/15 (NP). Reports of ducks were generally average. A count of 9 **Greater Scaup** on SR 1/30 (AG)

represented a high count for this species, which is uncommonly found in small numbers in *Delaware*. Likewise, 6 **Lesser Scaup** on CR 2/12 (eBird) was an uncommon find.

Even single **Great Cormorants** are uncommon along the DR, so 4 individuals at Marcus Hook on the CBC 12/15 (NP) was noteworthy. The only other record in the past ten years of so many **Great Cormorants** was also 4 along the DR in Mar 2010 (AG). **Bald Eagles** were confirmed nesting again when 2 were spotted on nest at the SR site 1/31 (AG). This was a late start for the pair, and the sixth consecutive season of documented nesting at this site. Surprising was an immature **Golden Eagle** over RTP 12/5 (BK), spotted as the observer was scouting for the CBC. Increasingly rare any time of the year, there were three reports of **Northern Goshawk**. An unaged bird in Havertown on the CBC 12/15 (RH) and a first year bird on a back yard phone line in Springfield 1/22, the observer's birthday (SC) were both well described. A third **Northern Goshawk** was reported from Goshen 12/15 by an experienced observer but photos are not available and a description was not forwarded (*vide* WS).

The count of 4 **American Kestrels** on the CBC 12/15 (m.ob.) was the highest tally since 5 were counted in 2006. The last time more than 10 were counted was 14 in 2001. The CBC average of this species in the 1970s was around 45. Hard to find in winter, a **Merlin** was located on the CBC at DT 12/15 (JD). A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** is now resident at the private-access Eddystone power plant along the DR where they have nested for several years. They were specifically reported 12/14 and 12/18 (AM). A single **Peregrine Falcon** was seen on CBC day on the DR 12/15 (NP). Other reports of this species were in Havertown 12/14 (RH) and the Commodore Barry Bridge 2/12 (AG). The pair of **Peregrine Falcons** that hangs out at the CB Bridge is just a mile or so away from the Eddystone pair (AM).

The CBC species count was enhanced by a lingering **Eastern Phoebe** at the horse farm in Chichester 12/15 (BC). A **Common Raven** was seen in a quarry in Glen Mills 1/29 (AG) where—as a sneak preview to the spring report—they have subsequently been found to nest. **Black-capped Chickadees** missed this season's boreal irruption. There were only 2 singles reported on the CBC 12/15 (DE, WS) and 3 other reports of single individuals through the season on various dates (eBird). An irruptive that did not miss us was **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, which remained widespread through the season. Their season was best illustrated by the count of 96 on the CBC 12/15 (m.ob.), which was eclipsed only by an amazing 325 on the CBC in 1981. A high count on the CBC was obtained of a perennial winter favorite: 40 **Winter Wrens** 12/15 (m.ob.). An over-wintering **Brown Thrasher** at DT 1/17 (AG) was a first Jan find for the observer. Indeed there are only three Jan records in *Delaware* in the eBird database.

Reports were scarce but **White-winged Crossbills** wintered around conifer stands and were reliable at two locations, with 14 at TY 12/15 (TR) and 10 at HC 2/1 (AG). The only other report was 2 at EL 12/15 (KF). The only wintering **Common Redpoll** was a beautifully photographed bird at a feeder in Radnor 1/15 (MP). Flocks of **Pine Siskins** numbering in the teens to low 20s were reported throughout the season from multiple locations (m.ob.).

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#### **Elk County**

No compiler.

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#### **Erie County**

Locations: Presque Isle State Park (PISP), Waterbird Count (WC).

The winter began modestly with little snow until the first big storm hit along Lake Erie 1/21, when 20 inches of snow fell in 24 hours. Presque Isle Bay remained open until 1/2 when 20% of the bay froze. It never froze solid until the 1/21 storm and remained mostly frozen through the remainder of the period. Even though there was little open water around Presque Isle, much of the time through February at least 200 Tundra Swans and over 200 Gadwall remained through the period. Despite the lack of crossbills, Common Redpolls more than made up for them with maximum totals reaching 600 birds at the east end of Presque Isle. The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park (PISP) unless noted

otherwise.

The single white **Snow Goose** 12/28 at Horseshoe Pond was rather late (JM). Five **Cackling Geese** with several **Canada Geese** flew past Sunset Point during the WC 12/15 (JM, BC, et al.). The unmarked adult **Trumpeter Swan** that was reported last season remained through the period. The swan befriended a **Canada Goose** and was nearly always seen accompanying it (DS, et al.). The 200+ **Gadwall** that wintered on the park was an exceptionally high count for winter (JM). The 30+ **American Wigeon** in early Jan was also a very high count for this late in the season (JM). A **Blue-winged Teal** 12/15 was exceptionally late (DS). A total of 84 **Northern Pintails** passed Sunset Point on the WC 12/16, providing a high count this late in the season (JM, GM, RD). A total of five **Surf Scoters** were reported from 2/11-24 (JM), up to 6 **White-winged Scoters** through the period (MF, et al.), and a single female **Black Scoter** off Niagara boat launch from 1/21 through the period (JM). The 100 **Long-tailed Ducks** observed on Edinboro Lake 12/12 was a high count away from Lake Erie (SW).

A **Great Egret** 12/15 was late (AE). An **Eared Grebe** swam passed Sunset Point 12/28 (JM) and probably a different bird was off Vista 2 on 1/1 (DW). The **Greater Yellowlegs** found at Siegel Marsh 12/18 was a first for Dec (MW). A total of 2 **Purple Sandpipers** were along the rock jetties from 12/14-24 (SC, AE, JM). A very late Purple Sandpiper was at Gull Point 2/9-10 for a first Feb record and the first *Calidris* of any kind for Feb (DM, ph. GM).

At least 3 adult **Little Gulls** were recorded on the park from 12/16-1/1 (JM). A total of 3 first cycle **Thayer's Gulls** were identified 12/22-1/18 (AL, ST, GM, JM). **Iceland Gulls** were represented in good numbers this season with a total of 11 counted from early Dec through 2/9 from several sites on the park and near the Lake View Landfill (ST, DW, JM). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** continue to be regular in the county with at least 12 reported, mostly adults, from 12/23 through the period (ST, GM, JM). **Glaucous Gulls** were also found among the thousands of gulls on the park with a season total of 8 from 12/23 through the period (m.ob.). Two different apparent adult **Great Black-backed x Herring Gulls** were seen 12/15 and again 1/21 (BC, JM). Dark mantled **Herring Gulls** continue to be found on the park, which may be the subspecies *vegae*, with individuals seen 12/31, 1/1, and 2/9 (GM, JM). An immature **Pomarine Jaeger** flew past Sunset Point on the WC 12/9 (JM, DW, ST). An immature **Parasitic Jaeger** was spotted on the WC off Sunset Point 12/1 (JM, JMc, DW, ST) and three more were seen flying past the WC being conducted from the mouth of Walnut Creek in Fairview Twp. 12/5 (JM).

**Short-eared Owls** are rare in winter in *Erie*, so a bird seen flying near I-79 near Edinboro was a good find 1/9 (SC). One or 2 **Northern Shrikes** were at the Fairview Business Park through the period (m.ob.). A Northern Shrike has been wintering at this site for the past several years. There was also a Northern Shrike 12/15 at Siegel Marsh (SS) and yet another at Franklin Center 1/5 where one has also occurred for the past several years (JD).

The 140+ **Horned Larks** 1/26 along Fairplain Rd. in Fairview Twp. was a high count for winter (JM). **Lapland Longspurs** were occasionally found among small flocks of Horned Larks with a total of 8 seen 12/9-1/26 at Presque Isle, Erie, and Fairview (ST, MW). Very rare in winter was a **Savannah Sparrow** 1/5 in Corry and another in Fairview 2/9 for a first Feb record for *Erie* (MW). Despite all of the crossbills reported from other sites in the state they were difficult to find this season in *Erie*.

Only two male **White-winged Crossbills** were found in the county this season, along the west end of Dead Pond Trail 12/13 (JM, RD). Up to 600 **Common Redpolls** were present through the period mainly in the European White Birches at the east end of the park (JM, et al.). Several other flocks, often containing 100 or more birds, were reported from multiple sites throughout the county, especially at feeders (m.ob.). Among the **Common Redpoll** flocks at least 2 **Hoary Redpolls** were identified. One was near Beach 11 parking lot 1/30 (JM) and another was found in the same area 2/10 (MW).

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#### **Fayette County**

There were few notable reports this season. Reports of waterfowl were all from Greenlick Run Lake. Four **American Wigeons** were present 2/18 (MBM) and 2/22 (MF). A few **Green-winged Teal** were found 2/18 (MBM). A group of 30-40 **Redheads** were tallied 2/18; the flock grew to 90 birds

2/22 (MF). Three **Ring-necked Ducks** were there 2/22 (MF) and 19 **Ruddy Ducks** were present 2/18 (MBM). A **Horned Grebe** was at Greenlick Run Lake 2/22 (MF). A **Common Loon** was observed there 12/31 (MF) circling the lake about ten minutes before finally landing. Two WRS routes were conducted in Feb. Three **Turkey Vultures**, rare here in winter, were found on one survey 2/17 (MB) and a **Northern Harrier** was seen during the other 1/19 (MMC). Uncommon in winter, 22 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Greenlick Run Lake 12/11 (TA).

On 12/8, 5 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at Bear Run Nature Reserve, a **Brown Creeper** was at Ohio State Park, and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were at both locations (TK, JK). A small flock of blackbirds was at Greenlick Cemetery 12/31 (MF). Due to snow and viewing distance, identification was nearly impossible. At least one **Common Grackle** was identified and Red-winged Blackbirds may have been in the flock, but the birds were moving away through the trees. Four **Red Crossbills** were at Bear Run Nature Reserve 12/8 (TK, JK). Eight **White-winged Crossbills** were in Uniontown 12/25-26 (GI). A flock of 35 **Common Redpolls** were found during a WRS feeding on birches 2/17 (MB).

EXOTICS: A **Black Swan** was on the Youghiogheny River at Dawson 12/16 (JL). This may have been the bird that eventually appeared and was captured in Pittsburgh (see *Allegheny* report).

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### Forest County

Locations: Buzzard Swamp (BS), Cook Forest (CF), Marienville (MA), Tionesta (TI).

It was a banner winter for birding in *Forest* due to the irruption of northern species, particularly the boisterous and colorful **Evening Grosbeak**. **Common Redpolls** were also abundant, and there was one sighting of **White-winged Crossbill**.

Although Tionesta Lake was frozen for most of the winter, the Allegheny R. remained open. Waterfowl included 8 **Gadwall** 2/16 (KS), a high of 39 **American Black Ducks** 2/14, a single **Ruddy Duck** 2/7, 4 **Common Loons** 2/7 (FM, JM), and an **American Coot** 2/16 (KS), all on the Allegheny R. at TI.

The first **Turkey Vulture** was spotted 2/26 near Endeavor (CS). A **Cooper's Hawk** was noted 12/23 at CF, where it snatched a large bat out of the air under the Rt. 36 bridge on a sunny afternoon (DR). There were several reports of **Bald Eagle** throughout the period. A known Bald Eagle nest was destroyed by a lightning strike after the last breeding season, but already a new nest was being built in the same tree (DM). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk**, missed on the WRS, was at Red Brush 1/27 (FM, JM).

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** sitting on the bird feeder at a home near Endeavor was a nice surprise 2/17 (CS). A **Barred Owl** was spotted the afternoon of 12/21 near MA (IG, AL, JL). Thirteen **Common Ravens** were feeding on a dead deer along the road at Deadman Corners, near MA 12/21 (IG, AL, JL). The only report of **Horned Larks** occurred 2/7, when 6 were seen at Red Brush (FM, JM). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were much more common than in most years, with a high of 7 reported 12/9 at BS (CW). The only **Carolina Wren** was noted 2/15 near Endeavor (CS).

Reports of **Purple Finch** were slim; a single bird was seen on three occasions near TI (FM) and another 2/23 near Neilltown (WD). **White-winged Crossbills** were found 12/9 at BS, conservatively estimated at two birds, as they were not seen. The observer was able to record the sound and have it confirmed as white-winged (CW). **Common Redpolls** were plentiful from 1/5 through the end of the period. Most of the sightings were from busy feeding stations at one of two residences, one at MA and one near TI. The high count was an estimated 150 on 1/19 at MA (DYII), and the high count at TI was 60 on 1/21 (FM, JM).

**Evening Grosbeaks** descended on *Forest* in great numbers this winter. They were seen by many birders throughout the reporting period, primarily at feeding stations at MA and TI. They also visited feeders at Neilltown 12/31-2/23 (WD). Six were reported at Beaver Meadows 2/10 (CD, EK). In addition to devouring sunflower seed, they were seen at MA crushing maple buds in their large bills (ShT). The highest number reported at one time was an estimated 100 on 1/26 at MA (DYII). Historical records show that Dec 1975 was a good season for grosbeaks, as a flock of 100 Evening Grosbeaks was noted at BS (RN). There was an irruption in 1999-2000, when a high count of 70 was reported near TI. Another occurrence of

these birds came in 2001-02 near TI, with a high of 60 (FM), and there were a few sightings in 2007-08 as well, from both MA and TI.

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### Franklin County

No report.

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### Fulton County

No report.

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### Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Franklin Twp. (FT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Rogersville (RRVL), Sycamore (SY), Wrens Nest Farm (WNF).

This winter brought a few surprises to our area. **Wood Ducks** were spotted in the creek at EV 1/18 (MH). More than 60 **Mallards** were reported 1/1 at RRVL (WF). At Waynesburg Sportsman Club, one **Canvasback** and 7 **Redheads** were first found 2/12 and they remained through the end of Feb (JH).

**Ring-necked Pheasants** were seen near Jefferson 2/12 (RKB) and 2/15 at WNF (RD). **Wild Turkeys** were in good numbers at several locations during the period: first at LCR 25 were seen 1/2 in the yard waiting for corn that is thrown out daily (MLP). There were 42 reported during the GBBC 2/15 at WNF (RD), and at RBF, 22 were noted 2/26 (RKB). With open water available this season, **Great Blue Herons** were found, including one 1/1 at RRVL (WF) and one 2/23 at LCR (MLP).

**Turkey Vultures** were also seen throughout the period with singles at RRVL 1/1 (WF), 1/19 in Morgan Twp. (KK), and 1/26 at Dry Tavern (JW). A **Bald Eagle** was in Center Twp. 2/9 (TW). **Northern Harriers** were found in Cumberland Twp. 1/19 (KK) and again at SGL 223 on 2/9 (AC). At LCR, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** hunted regularly in the yard (MLP), and **Coopers Hawk** was noted at RBF 1/12 (RKB). A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was a rare find 1/12 in Wayne Twp. (MH, LA, AD). A **Golden Eagle** was seen 12/21 in Aleppo Twp. (RA, MH). On a WRS in northeastern *Greene* 1/19, 13 **American Kestrels** were found (KK).

Two **Killdeer** were found in Wayne Twp. 2/15 (GS). A lone **Ring-billed Gull** was flying around the parking lot at Wal-Mart in FT 1/2 (MH, JH). An apparently injured **Eastern Screech-Owl** was found in Richhill Twp. 12/15 but it seemed fine the next day and flew away (DC). A **Great-horned Owl** sitting in a tree just outside a home in FT caused a lot of excitement 1/21 (LS).

This year **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were only seen a few times, first at SY 2/1 (JC) and then 2/16 in FT (TD). At LCR 2/23, 6 **Downy Woodpeckers** were all lined up on a tree trunk, waiting for their turn at the suet feeder (MLP). At RBF 2/14, 4 **Northern Flickers** were noted in the yard (RKB). A **Pileated Woodpecker** was seen 1/1 at RRVL (WF).

**Common Ravens** were noted at SY 2/15 (JC) and 4 were seen in FT 2/18 (JLN). At LCR 2/23, **Carolina Chickadees** and **Tufted Titmice** were singing, giving the feeling that spring was on the way (MLP). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported in several locations. Two were seen at the suet feeder at RBF 12/28, 8 were reported 2/15 at WNF (RD), and at both RRVL (MG) and EV (MH) they were seen all during the reporting period. A **Brown Creeper** visited the yard in EV 1/9 (MH) and was seen in FT 2/18 (JLN). From WNF came the only sighting of a **Winter Wren** 2/15 (RD). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was found at LCR 12/12 (MLP). Eight **Eastern Bluebirds** and 2 **Northern Mockingbirds** were found in Wayne Twp. 2/15 (GS). Over 70 **Cedar Waxwings** were in FT 12/8 (TD). At RBF, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were often heard chipping in the evenings as they came to roost in the holly trees, including 5 counted 2/23 (RKB).

At WNF, 8 **Eastern Towhees** were reported 2/15 (RD). In Richhill Twp. 2 **American Tree Sparrows** were found 2/16 (DC). **Fox and White-crowned Sparrows** visited a feeder in FT 2/9 (FS). **White-throated Sparrows** made a brief appearance at LCR 12/31 and were not seen there again, but at most locations they were seen daily with a count of 5 at RBF 1/25 (RKB). On 2/1, when there was plenty of snow on the ground, over 50 **Northern Cardinals** were sitting in the trees along the fencerow at SY, making a beautiful picture (JC). **Red-winged Blackbirds** were seen 12/28 at SY (JC) and 3 were seen at LCR 1/2, but they were not reported again until 2/16 when 11 were in Richhill Twp. (JuC). **Eastern Meadowlarks** apparently remained in the area all winter, with 3 seen 12/16 and 1/11 at RBF (RKB, CDB) and one in Wayne Twp. 2/18 (GS). At EV 12/30, a **Common Grackle** visited the feeder (MH) and 5 were found 2/17 on Race St. in Waynesburg (JK). The last date **Brown-headed Cowbird** was noted was 12/11 at EV (MH) and then was not reported again until 2/16 when 13 were found at a feeder on Poland Run Road in Richhill Twp. (JuC).

**Purple Finches** were only reported only once, in FT 2/15 (LN), and on the same date 20 **House Finches** were at WNF (RD). A lone **White-winged Crossbill** made a brief appearance at SY 2/19 (JC). In Clarksville, 2 **Common Redpolls** were found 2/16 (JP). Three **Pine Siskins** made a quick visit to the feeders at LCR 12/15 (MLP). An unusually high count of 120 **American Goldfinches** was made at WNF 2/15 (RD).

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### Huntingdon County

Locations: Aitch Access (AA), Brumbaugh's Access at L. Raystown (BA), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Ennisville (ENN), Entriken Overlook at Lake Raystown (ENT), Huntingdon (HU), Juniata River (JR), Lake Raystown (LR), Marklesburg waterfowl area (MAR), Masseyburg (MAS), McAlevys Fort (McF), Old Crow wetland (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd (PF), Smithfield (SF), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Stone Valley (SV), Summit Schoolhouse Road (SSR), Trough Creek Valley (TCV).

The Huntingdon CBC was held 12/16, with an excellent total of 71 species, two short of last year's record high 73, and 14 of which topped or tied their previous high. On the Lake Raystown CBC 12/30, 66 species were recorded on a cold and windy day, matching the count average. New for the count were **Northern Saw-whet Owl, American Pipit** and **Red Crossbill**. Record high counts included 42 **Tundra Swans**, 99 **Hooded Mergansers**, 425 **Horned Larks** (all in the *Blair* section), and 42 **White-winged Crossbills**.

A **Snow Goose** at LR 2/15 was unusual for the mid-winter date (MA). Also unusual in mid-winter are **Tundra Swans**. In addition to those on the Lake Raystown CBC, 5 were noted at the LR dam 1/25 (CM) and 7 at the Seven Points Marina on the lake 1/27 (DP), perhaps the same group. A **Trumpeter Swan** was in SF 1/29 (DK) and was located again 3 times 2/10-24 (JD, GG).

Duck reports were fairly routine. Several **Gadwalls** apparently wintered on LR at AA (m.ob.). Five **Long-tailed Ducks** at LR in two different locations on LR 1/22 were unusual for mid-winter (CY). Less surprising there in winter was a **Green-winged Teal** 2/15 (MI). A lone **Ruddy Duck** was at AA 1/6 (DK, TK). Possible early migrants included an **American Wigeon** at AA 2/21 and 6 **Redheads** at ENT 2/21 (CY). Some **Buffleheads** always winter at LR—the high count was 15 at AA 1/22 (CY). In recent years, **Hooded Mergansers** have become regular on the JR in winter, but the high count this year came from Aughwick Creek near Shirleysburg where a group of 12 males and females was noted 2/9 (GG, DG). **Common Merganser** is the most abundant wintering duck at LR; 215 were counted at ENT 2/5 (TK, DK). With them was one **Red-breasted Merganser**, unusual in mid-winter.

A few **Pied-billed Grebes** were present on LR, as usual, during the season. More notable was a **Horned Grebe** at AA 2/21, perhaps another early migrant (CY). A few **Great Blue Herons** patrolled the JR below the LR dam, where the relatively warm water from the lake keeps the river below the dam from freezing for several miles. A record-high 12 were found for the Huntingdon CBC 12/16.

WRS routes in *Huntingdon* resulted in 22 hours of observation. Numbers of individual species were slightly lower than last year. **Red-tailed**

**Hawks** and **American Kestrels** led the counts with 102 and 33, respectively (GG, DG, DK, TK, RF, PF, RoF, RC, DB, NK, K&KE). **Northern Harriers** were found at PF 12/29 (JK), at ENN 1/5 and LP 1/8 (DW), at AA 1/22 (CY), and at Mooresville 2/24 (GG). The best harrier location was at the un-mowed fields on Claar Rd near Mooresville, where there was a roost with as many 4 through the season (GG, JK, TK, DK). **Bald Eagles** display an increasing presence throughout the county, even away from established nest sites at LR. A half-day of winter birding here without a Bald Eagle is almost the exception now. **Red-shouldered Hawks** continue in good numbers, especially in their primary stronghold in SV and also in TCV (m.ob.). There were few **Rough-legged Hawks**; two dark morph birds were at SSR 1/26 (GG, DG, RoF, RC) and a light morph was there 2/9 (AL, AF). One was found during the LR CBC 12/30 in TCV (GG) and one was at ENT 2/21 (CY). Two **Golden Eagles**, one adult and one immature, were found on a WRS route 1/26.

Two **American Woodcocks** found during the Huntingdon CBC 12/16 were somewhat late, but one in SF 1/12 was well past then usual date for lingering birds (DK, TK). The only **Wilson's Snipe** was in SF 1/29 (DK).

A total of 4 **Long-eared Owls** at two private locations were found on the Huntingdon CBC 12/16 (DW, JC). At least 2 **Short-eared Owls** were present from mid-Dec to at least mid-Jan in the grass fields on Claar Rd (GG, JK). The 25 **Eastern Screech-Owls** on the Huntingdon CBC 12/16 represented a new high count. Another record high count was that of **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, with 62.

An **Eastern Phoebe** near Ardenheim 2/14 seems more likely to have been a very early migrant than an over-wintering bird (CY), but on that date it could have been either. There were at least a half dozen reports of **Winter Wren**, more than usual, though it is likely that some (perhaps many) winter along the JR and other large streams. There were record high counts of both **Carolina Wren** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** on the Huntingdon CBC, with 68 and 146, respectively. A few **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** probably winter annually here, but are seldom reported after the CBC season. One this year was noted on the Alexandria Pike 1/8 (DK).

**Hermit Thrush** seemed scarce, with the only report 12/16 from the Alan Seeger NA (AL, JL). **Cedar Waxwings** were also unusually hard to find, perhaps because of a poor berry supply. The only **Snow Bunting** was at PF 12/29 (JK). Rare anytime in winter, an **Eastern Towhee** was in Enn from 1/1 through Feb (DW).

*Huntingdon* shared in the winter finch invasion although reports were few. On 12/4, 18 **White-winged** and 45 **Red Crossbills** were at AA (DK). A total of 23 White-wings was found at 3 different locations during the Huntingdon CBC 12/16 (IG, DW); they were also found at two locations during the LR CBC 12/30, including a high count of 40 at MAR (IG, NB). There were 10 at Mothersbaugh Swamp 2/8 (JK) and 6 at MAS 2/23 (GG). Red Crossbills were also found on the LR CBC 12/30 with 15 at MAR (IG). Two were at TM 1/14 (AF) and one briefly visited the feeders at SCEC 2/1 (DW). The largest **Common Redpoll** flock numbered only 5, at the LR Field Station 1/28 (CY). Otherwise, there were only a few scattered reports, each involving only 1-2 birds, at MF 12/31 and 1/5, ENN 1/12, and SCEC 2/1 (GG, DG, DW). Two redpolls that looked like good candidates for **Hoary Redpoll** were photographed at the LR Field Station 2/27 (CY, AL, IG, JF).

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### Indiana County

Locations: Conemaugh Dam (CD), Lewisville (LV), Indiana (IN), Shelocata (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TL), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

**Tundra Swans** continued to move through the county with the CBC 12/28 (m.ob.), producing the high count of 533 individuals. Last southward bound swans were 2 at YC 1/15 (LC, TG, RH, KT); 83 on 2/5 (TG) were probably heading north. YC Lake was mostly frozen for the CBC 12/28. By 1/8 there was no open water, and it remained frozen through the end of the period. TL, however, is deeper and remained somewhat open through 1/17. A late **Wood Duck** lingered at TL 12/20 (LC), only the sixth Dec record, and a drake found on McKee Run 1/26 (MH, RH, DL) provided only the second Jan sighting on record; the first spring returnee appeared on a pond near SH 2/28 (ED). Last **Gadwalls** remained at YC 12/30 (LC). A **Eurasian Wigeon**, the fourth for *Indiana*, appeared at YC 12/3 (LC) where it lingered through 12/9 (LC). Two **American Wigeons** were last noted at TL 12/28



(LC, RC) and one was found at YC the same day (GL, GS). Last **American Black Ducks** sighted were 24 at TL 1/9 (LC) and 10 at CD 1/10 (MC); by 2/25 (JS), 5 had returned to YC. The maximum **Mallard** tally was 251 at YC 12/23 (LC), an unusually high count late in the season. Five **Northern Shovelers** at YC 12/27 (LC) provided the latest date on record for this species. Four **Northern Pintails** appeared at YC 12/16 (LC), the lone report. The last **Green-winged Teal** included one at YC and 14 at TL 12/27 (LC). Nine **Canvasbacks** lingered at YC 1/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH). Four **Redheads** arrived at YC 12/28 (GL, GS) and 3 remained through 1/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH), the same day the last 9 **Ring-necked Ducks** were sighted. One to 4 **Greater Scaup** were noted at YC on three dates between 12/3-9 (LC). Eleven **Lesser Scaup** 1/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH) at YC were last. TL harbored 3 **Surf Scoters** 12/27 (LC). **White-winged Scoters** continued at YC with reports of 1-5 individuals on 15 dates through 1/1 (m.ob.). **Long-tailed Duck** reports at YC included 5 on 12/9 (LC) and 4 on 12/22 (LC). Five **Buffleheads** and 5 **Common Goldeneyes** remained at YC through 1/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH). Thirty-nine was the high **Hooded Merganser** tally at YC 12/3 (LC); TL yielded the season's last 3 on 1/12 (LC), and the first spring returnee appeared on a Lower Two Lick Drive pond 2/28 (GF). Best counts of **Common Merganser** were 47 at TL 1/13 (LC) and 40 at CD 2/17 (TL); last singleton stayed at TL through 1/17 (LC). Four **Red-breasted Mergansers** were listed at YC 12/11 and 1/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH). **Ruddy Ducks** continued in triple digits, with the high count 12/8 (IG, AL, JL) of 375, through 1/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH) at YC when the last 136 were recorded.

A **Red-throated Loon** found 12/27 (LC) remained at YC for the CBC the following day (ED, GL, GS, JT). Christmas Day yielded a nice present of 45 **Common Loons** at YC (LC). The previous day at YC, **Pied-billed Grebes** had peaked at 62 (LC); last 3 were spotted at TL 1/17 (LC), just before freeze-up. TL still harbored 3 **Horned Grebes** 1/1 (MH, RH). Two **Double-crested Cormorants** at YC 12/3 (LC)-4 (LC, TG, MH, RH) were the only ones noted this season.

An early **Turkey Vulture** was noted 2/13 near LV (MC). Four **Bald Eagles** were reported at CD 2/17 (TL). *Indiana's* first Bald Eagle nest was found this year (NK) at an undisclosed location, as these eagles are very sensitive to disturbance. Four **Northern Harriers** were counted on the 12/28 CBC and another was spotted near LV 1/6 (m.ob.); single harriers were spotted on two of the county's three WRS routes (MH, RH, DL). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at ten locations this quarter (m.ob.) and **Cooper's Hawks** at 15 (m.ob.). Four reports mentioned **Red-shouldered Hawks** this season. A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** on Lower Two Lick 12/28 (KB, GF, JK) was the only one reported.

**American Coots** remained in triple digits at YC through 1/1 (LC, TG, MH, RH) when 389 were tallied. Last **Killdeer** was found near CD 12/30 (MC). Three **Wilson's Snipe** found on Neal Road 12/28 (KB, JK) were the only ones noted. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were observed on only twice, one 12/9 (LC) and 8 on 12/11 (LC, TG, MH, RH). **Ring-billed Gulls** were in very low numbers at YC with the maximum count of 44 on 12/11 (LC, TG, MH, RH); all other reports were of single digits.

An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** near SH on a WRS 1/11 (MH, RH, DL) was a nice surprise. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** sightings included 2 on the CBC 12/28 (m.ob.) and a visitor to suet at Nolo 1/22-26 (CL, GL). A **Merlin** was a good find on a WRS 1/19 (LC, CG, RH, DL). A **Fish Crow** was heard on Reservoir Hill 1/3 (PJ).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were widespread with numerous reports from almost all observers this season (m.ob.). Single **Winter Wrens** were sighted 12/28, both at Forest Manor (SD) and near Homer City (SP). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was reported near Jacksonville 2/18 (BY).

A **Hermit Thrush** appeared at YC 1/8 (LC, MH, RH, RN, KT); another was found at the Waterworks Conservation Area 2/18 (SD). **American Robins** were in amazingly short supply and this species was a "missed bird" on the IN CBC. A late **Brown Thrasher** was found near Homer City 12/28 (LC, RC); this was only the second Dec sighting on record. **Cedar Waxwings** did not linger in large numbers this winter; the only sightings included a singleton 12/28 (SD) near Chestnut Ridge, 12 on WRS #3 on 1/11 (MH, RH, DL), and 11 at IUP 2/17 (JT). LV yielded a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 1/6 (SG), and 2 singletons were found 1/11, one near SH (MH, DL) and another on the WRS (MH, RH, DL).

The CBC 12/28 yielded 2 **Eastern Towhees**, one visiting feeders near Penn Run (IT) and the other near Gaibleton (TG). A **Fox Sparrow** was noted near Homer City 12/28 (GM) and another arrived near SH 12/31 (MH, RH), where it remained through 2/26, visiting the area under the bird feeders almost daily. **Swamp Sparrows**, which sometimes winter, could not be found at YC after 1/1 (MH, RH). A flock of 30 **White-crowned Sparrows** was sighted southwest of IN 12/28 (KB, JK).

A late **Eastern Meadowlark** was noted in Center Twp. 12/28 (BM, KM, CW, PW). A single **Rusty Blackbird** visited YC 12/11 (LC, TG, MH, RH); at least 18 Rusties had returned to the marshy area along Fry Cemetery Road by 2/7 (MH, RH), but this was probably an underestimate

as most of the rusty calls were coming from the vegetation; the observers counted only the birds visible in the trees. The female **Baltimore Oriole** that appeared at a feeder near IN 11/29 (DJ) was last observed 12/16 (DJ).

A **Red Crossbill** was found in IN 12/6 (MC); one visited a feeder on East Pike where it was photographed 1/28 (CR); another flew over a yard near SH calling 2/16 (MH, RH). Top **White-winged Crossbill** tally was 60 in IN 12/28 (SG); these birds were feeding on hemlock cones; a singleton was photographed at a feeder on East Pike 2/5 (CR). **Common Redpolls** were widespread with top counts of 37 near IN 1/29 (DJ), 48 near LV 2/13 (MC), 46 north of IN 2/16 (SB), and 96 near LV 2/17 (MC). **Pine Siskins**, on the other hand, were hard to come by with the only reports of one near LV 12/15 (MC), 4 on the CBC 12/28 (m.ob.), and 2 near Brush Valley 1/2 (PA).

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### Jefferson County

Locations: Camp Road (CR), Coyote Drive (CD), Kyle Lake (KL), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Moore Bridge Rd (MB), Punxsutawney (PX), Richardsville Road (RV), Ringgold (RG), Rock Dump Rd, (RD), Sandy Ridge Rd (SR), Sigal (SG), Summerville (SM).

The highest count of **Canada Geese** for the period was 12 on the MS 1/12 (TG). A flock of an estimated 80 **Tundra Swans** was observed over PX 12/30 (KD). The largest count of **Common Mergansers** was 8 on the MS 1/8 (KD). The only **Ruddy Ducks** reported were 3 at KL 5/12 (CW). The only **Ruffed Grouse** were 3 on the MS 1/12 (TG). A high of 15 **Wild Turkeys**, 4 males and 11 females, were found on CR 2/15 (JM). A **Great Blue Heron** was seen on the MS 1/8 (KD). The resident female **Bald Eagle** was observed six times on the MS over the winter, and first observed on the nest 2/24 (TG). A **Northern Harrier** was noted on the MS 2/16 (TG). A total of 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were seen and heard on the MS 1/27 (TG). A nice **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen over the reclaimed strip mines on SR 2/9 (MH). **Ring-billed Gulls** were found at two different locations on the same day—2 at SG and one at RV 2/15 (VM). An **American Kestrel** was found on CD 2/15 (DG) and another **American Kestrel** was on RD 2/16 (TS). The highest count of **American Crows** was 51 at RV 2/15 (VG). **Common Ravens** were observed twice, one on the MS 1/27 (TG) and 2 on CD 2/15 (DG).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were abundant over the period, observed 23 times at nine locations with the highest count of 4 in SM 2/16 (TF). **Brown Creepers** were found only three times on the MS, one 1/19 (TG), one 2/7 (TG), and 2 on 2/16 (KD, TG). **Carolina Wrens** were found 12 times at four locations. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were also noted 12 times at four locations, and **Eastern Bluebirds** were noted five times at two locations. Two **Hermit Thrushes** wintered on the MS from Nov were last seen on the MS 1/27 (TG). **American Robins** were noted only two times for the period: 2 on the MS 1/12 (TG) and 5 on the MS 2/11 (KD). Two **Northern Mockingbirds** were noted on the MS 1/8 (KD). A lone **Cedar Waxwing** was found on a feeder in RG 1/26 (JK). **Red-winged Blackbirds** were observed at two locations - one on MB 2/18 (VM), and at RG three different times in Feb (JK). The only **Common Grackle** was one on MB 2/18 (VM). **Purple Finches** were found seven times at two locations. **Common Redpolls** were observed 15 times at four locations, with a single high count of 50 at a feeder in RG 1/26 (JK). A total of 6 **Pine Siskins** were on CR 2/15 (JM).

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### Juniata County

No report.

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## Lackawanna County

No report.

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## Lancaster County

Locations: Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Long Level (SRL), Susquehanna River Peach Bottom, (SRPB), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS), Wood's Edge Pond (WE).

This season was exciting. There were several western hummingbirds, a Golden Eagle, a single report of a Dickcissel, snowbirds, and winter finches. There was only one report from the Christmas Bird Count, so that information is incomplete.

Several **Cackling Geese** were recorded on the SOLANCO CBC 12/16 (BS). Six were seen at Grubb Lake 1/27, and one continued there until 2/14 (ML). At Beechdale Pond, 14 were seen 2/14 (JBo) and one was reported at MCWMA 2/18 (RM). A rare observation of 13 **Greater White-fronted Geese** was reported at Masonic Village 1/23 (GD). This flock was present until 2/10, with the highest number topping out at 16 (m.ob.). A **Mute Swan** was at MCWMA 12/5 (BH, Wed Bird Grp). A single **Redhead** was seen at SRCF (ME). Seven were seen at SRPB, along with 22 **Greater Scaup** (BS). A female **Long-tailed Duck** was discovered at a retention pond in Landisville 1/5 (BH) and last seen 1/22 (SS). A **Red-necked Grebe** was reported on the SR 1/6 (GD).

Although seeing a **Ring-necked Pheasant** in Lancaster is not exactly noteworthy, one was reported at MCWMA 12/5 (BH, Wed. Bird Grp.), a rare Dec sighting. A late **Black-crowned Night-heron** was observed at WE 12/3 (ML).

An unusual **Golden Eagle** was at MCWMA 12/11 (DM, TB). This bird continued well into the season, giving many the opportunities to see and compare it with the resident **Bald Eagles**. The last sighting reported was 2/28 (BH). A new Bald Eagle nest was being built in Lancaster (BH, RS, Wed Bird Grp). A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen on Vogansville Road (JBo), the only sighting of the season.

Several **American Woodcocks** were seen displaying during the SOLANCO CBC (BS, fide JBo). On 2/6, at least 30 were seen in a stream in rural Lancaster between routes 340 and 23 (BH, Wed Bird Grp). A **Ring-billed Gull** with orange wing tags was seen 12/10 along route 999 (CC). The number on the tag was 696. This bird was an adult male captured in Worcester, Massachusetts 11/9. A **Mew Gull** was seen in Kirkwood 12/11 (CC). A **Laughing Gull** was reported at the SRPB 1/1 (BS). A first winter **Glaucous Gull** was observed at SRL (EW).

As usual, there were several reports of owls this season. The only report of **Barn Owl** was 12/1, a single seen on the SOLANCO CBC (BS). They also had four **Long-eared Owls** and multiple **Northern Saw-whet Owls** (BS). The first report of **Short-eared Owl** was on 2/10, at MCWMA. At least two were seen 2/13 (RM, DB, SM). Lancaster was host to a male **Peregrine Falcon** that took up residence in Lancaster (city). It was seen at the Griest Building 12/31 (SG). Two were at the Marriott Hotel 1/12 (ML). There were also two reports of both **Peregrine Falcons** and **Merlin** on the WRS. The first was on the Strasburg WRS 1/12 (TR), the second on the SE Lancaster WRS 1/29 (BS, LE). At least two **Merlins** were observed during the SOLANCO CBC (BS).

It was an exciting season for hummingbirds, as Lancaster was blessed with multiple western hummingbirds. A **Calliope Hummingbird** provided us with a third record for Pennsylvania. It was present 12/1-12 at a home near Centerville (SL, m.ob.). The homeowner, Bob Weiss and his family, graciously allowed visitors, and many were afforded the opportunity to see this rare visitor. The **Rufous Hummingbird** at a home in Ephrata continued until 1/2 (EW). An adult female was seen and banded at 827 State Street in Lancaster 12/8 (GH). An immature female was banded at an undisclosed location (SL). On 12/4, yet another was seen at 668 Broad Street in Lancaster (JBo), and a fifth was seen 12/16 at 230 Mason Drive (AK).

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at MCWMA 12/5 (BH, Wed Bird Grp). A **Northern Shrike** was found on the SOLANCO CBC 12/16 (BS). Several **Common Ravens**, a species expanding in Lancaster, were also recorded on this count (BS). On 2/16, one was seen in Peach Bottom (BS). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued, with one seen on 2/2 at a home in Denver (LG). A wintering **Gray Catbird** was seen along the Enola Low Grade Line 1/9 (BH, et al.). **American Pipits** were seen 12/31 at Forrey Road (ME).

A **Pine Warbler** was seen at a home in Denver 12/2 (LG). The **Orange-crowned Warbler** at WE continued to at least 1/12 (ML). An

amazing report was received of two **Wilson's Warblers** on the SOLANCO CBC 12/16 (BS). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen at Silver Mine Park on 12/1 (AW). It was seen the next day (JBo).

Three **American Tree Sparrows** were seen 12/5 at MCWMA (BH, Wed Bird Grp). **Lapland Longspurs** put in an appearance beginning 12/25, when some were seen on Forrey Road (SS). Approximately 10 were seen in the New Holland area 2/15 (JBo). **Snow Buntings** were well recorded this season, starting with 2 on 12/16 during the SOLANCO CBC (BS). A high count of 50 was seen in the New Holland area 2/15 (JBo). A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen 1/13-15 at a home in Manheim (BC).

A male **Dickcissel** fed in a yard in Gap (PF) and counted for the Western Chester County CBC, but unfortunately, it was a one-day wonder. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were very frequent this year, recorded 12/14-29 (m.ob.). The high count was 5 in Lancaster 12/14 (ST, DW). Lancaster was fortunate to have several reports of **Rusty Blackbirds** this season. On 2/13, five were seen at MCWMA (RM, DB, SM). An unknown number were seen 2/18-20 in Lancaster (SB, MG).

It had only been a few years since the last finch invasion, so area birders were truly happy to have another so soon. Eleven **White-winged Crossbills** were seen 12/16 during the SOLANCO CBC (BS). On 12/28, 14 were seen in Regent's Park (JBo). The high count of 20-30 occurred 1/11 at Conestoga Pines Park (RS). These birds were present up to 2/28, when 6 were seen at the F&M campus (SS). There was only one report of **Red Crossbills** seen and heard near a home in the Centerville area 12/4 (DBe). There were even two reports of **Common Redpolls** for Lancaster. Two were seen on the SOLANCO CBC 12/16 (BS). A single was at a home near Mount Joy 1/21 (JH). **Purple Finches** were seen at a home in Denver along with **Pine Siskins** 2/2 (LG).

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## Lawrence County

No compiler.

## Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Lebanon Valley Rail Trail (LVRT), Lion's Lake (LL), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Mt Pleasant Rd (MPR), Mt Zion Road Area (MZR), North Cornwall Township (NCT), Reistville and Prescott Road Ponds (RPP), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), SGL 145, Swatara State Park (SSP)

The Lebanon CBC, the 33rd for the Quittapahilla Audubon Society, recorded 83 species 12/15. This tied the previous record set in 2007. New high counts were set for 12 species. Of these, new overall county highs were established for four species, including 19 **Great Horned Owls**, 15 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 18 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, and 90 **White-breasted Nuthatches**.

The **Snow Goose** count at MC reached a peak of 55,000+ on 2/28 according to Middle Creek staff. A large flock of approximately 5000 **Snow Geese** contained two **Ross's Geese** MC 2/7 (RCM). A single Ross's Goose was found at MC 2/21 (TB). **Cackling Geese** were found in multiple locations, including MC 12/11 (TB), at MLSP 12/30-1/2 (DM, RCM), at LL 1/5 (DHo), 1/20 (DG, GG), 2/9 (DM, D&PW), and 2/18 (MN), and at Stover's Dam 1/6 (DM, TB). Four **Cackling Geese** were seen at MLSP 1/15 (RCM). A first fall **Mute Swan** persisted at LL 12/1-1/10 (TB, DM, CB, m.ob.). One was observed there again 2/15 (DM). A Mute Swan was found at nearby W. Kercher Ave, in a field opposite a pond with a permanent domestic Mute Swan 1/14 (TB, CB).

**Gadwalls** were found at MLSP throughout the period, with 32 found 12/11 (DH). Thirty-six Gadwalls were tallied 12/15 during the Lebanon CBC at combined locations. A **Northern Shoveler** was at Farmer Drive near MZR 1/26-27 (KB, TB, CB, AS). Four **Northern Pintails** established a new early date at Farmer Drive, MZR 1/4 (CB). Seven were there 1/31 (RCM). Nine **Canvasbacks** were a great find at MLSP, providing a first Jan record 1/14 (JD, DM, CB, TB). One remained 1/15 (JR). A male **Redhead** stayed at MLSP 12/1-1/7 (RK, JD, m.ob.). A male Redhead was also seen at Stover's Dam 12/12-14 (RW). Ten Redheads were found at LL 2/14 (CBo) and remained through the period (m.ob.). At least two **Greater Scaup** were

in a mixed Scaup flock MLSP 2/15 (RCM, DM, TB). **Lesser Scaup** are rare in Jan, but three were at MLSP, providing a new early date 1/14 (JD, DM, CB, TB), with one remaining 1/15 (RCM, CB, JR). Six **Lesser Scaup** were at RPP 1/17 (RCM). A female **White-winged Scoter** provided a first Feb record MLSP 2/24-25 (TB, JD, DM, CBo). A **Common Goldeneye** was a nice find at MLSP 12/31 (CB). A **Hooded Merganser**, considered accidental in Jan, was at MLSP 1/14-15 (JD, DM, CB, TB, RCM). Two Hooded Mergansers were at the Millardsville Quarry on the good date of 2/4 (TB). Twenty-one **Ruddy Ducks** were found at MLSP 12/12 (WC), and 15 were there on the new late date of 12/31 (CB). Although considered accidental in Jan, Ruddy Ducks were found through much of the month at both MLSP and LL. Ruddy Ducks continued at MLSP 1/1-15 (m.ob.), with 5 observed 1/15 (RCM).

A **Common Loon** was found at MLSP 12/10 (JD, DM) and 1/17 (BS). Seven **Common Loons** flew over Mt Gretna for a new early date 1/1 (SH). The long staying **Eared Grebe** first seen 10/28 (JD) remained at MLSP until 12/24 (RCM, m.ob.), establishing both a new late date and fifth county record. It also provided a new species for the *Lebanon* CBC 12/15 (RCM).

The Hawkwatch at 2Mtn concluded the year 12/31 with a record 15,407 raptors counted, eclipsing the record set during the previous year of 14,063 (DS). Eight **Bald Eagles** were counted there 12/19 (DS, et.al.). Bald Eagles have become fairly common in the county. The nesting pair in East Hanover Township was active throughout the winter, and was observed incubating as of 2/19 (TB). **Northern Harriers** were observed in multiple county locations. Middle Creek is the most reliable *Lebanon* location for harriers, with two found 12/11 and 4 on 1/24 (TB). Harrier sightings continued at MC through the quarter. Other areas with sporadic **Northern Harrier** sightings included MLSP, the training corridor of FIG, and NCT. An adult **Northern Goshawk** was a great find in Mt Gretna 1/30 (SH). An adult **Red-shouldered Hawk** put in appearances in the area of MLSP 12/30-1/17 (TB, JD, DM), and another was seen crossing Pine Rd 1/17 (TB). On a WRS route along Milbach Rd., 3 juvenile Bald Eagles and 17 **Red-tailed Hawks** were found in a field where dead chickens had been scattered 1/19 (GB, FH, RL, AS). Single **Rough-legged Hawks** were observed at 2Mtn 12/19 and 12/28 (DS). A white morph **Gyrfalcon** at 2Mtn 12/11 (DS) was a terrific find and a fifth for *Lebanon*. A **Golden Eagle** was seen in the *Lebanon* portion of MC 2/4 (RCM, TSm), and 2/18 (RCM, JH).

The **American Coot** flock at MLSP built to 176, a new county high, 12/5 (RCM, DB). Coots are reliable winter residents here as long as there is open water. **Killdeer** were found with some regularity at MZR, with 7 found 1/3 (WC). A **Killdeer** was also found at Marquette Lake 1/4 (CB), and at MPR 1/4 (RCM). A **Wilson's Snipe** was at a pond along Farmer Drive MZR 1/7 (TB). Three were there 1/26-27 (KB, TB, CB, AS). An **American Woodcock** was displaying on the evening of 12/11 at MLSP (RCM). Two woodcocks were displaying MLSP 2/16-27 (TM, DM, CBo).

Lion's Lake, with its proximity to the Lebanon Landfill, was very productive for gulls. In addition to hundreds of **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls**, at least 3 different sub adult **Iceland Gulls** were observed there. A light juvenile was seen 12/21 (TB), and again 1/7-23 (RK, TB, m.ob.). A possible second winter Iceland Gull put in an appearance at LL 1/9 (TB), and a juvenile was there 2/7-8 (TB, CBo). Two juvenile Iceland Gulls were at MLSP 12/1 (RK), and four were observed from 2Mtn 12/22 (DS). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported in small numbers at LL through most of the period, with a final observation of 3 on 2/25 (RCM). A new high count of 43 was made at LL 1/5 (RCM, JM). A very white first winter **Glaucous Gull**, representing the sixth county record, was discovered at LL 12/28 (RCM), and brought many birders to the lake through 1/5 (RCM, JM, m.ob.). Another first winter Glaucous Gull provided a seventh county record at LL 1/30 (TB) through the period. A possible **Herring x Glaucous Gull**, a.k.a. **Nelson's Gull**, was reported and photographed at LL 12/28-1/6 (AL, IG, JD, JL, m. ob.). **Great Black-backed Gulls** are common at LL, where there were 39 on 1/14 (DM).

Two **Eurasian Collared Doves** were seen in Fontana, near the area where a pair spent the summer, 12/8 (TB) and 1/29 (RCM). The *Lebanon* CBC 12/15 was productive for owls. Ten **Eastern Screech Owls** were found at FIG (JD, DM) and seven in the Quittipahilla Corridor (CB, TB, IF, PF); in addition, 10 **Great Horned Owls** were located at FIG (JD, DM) and 4 in the Quittipahilla Corridor (CB, TB, IF, PF), contributing to the new county high of nineteen tallied during the CBC. Also found on the *Lebanon* CBC were two **Barred Owls** at FIG (RCM). A **Barred Owl** was perched along Gravel Hill Rd, north of Palmyra 2/23 (TB). During the Liitz CBC five **Short-eared Owls** were active at dusk, on both the *Lebanon* and *Lancaster* sides of stop #3 at MC 12/30 (JF, BC, et al.). A single Short-eared Owl was observed in the same area 1/24 (TB). Short-eared Owls were active on both the *Lebanon* and *Lancaster* portions of MC along Hopeland Rd beginning 2/10 (SS), and continuing through the period (RCM, DBo, SM, m.ob.). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard during the *Lebanon* CBC at MLSP 12/15 (RCM), and during an owl survey at FIF 2/7 (JD, DM, CB, CBo). A

**Merlin** was found in the Bellgrove area during the *Lebanon* CBC 12/15 (RS, m.ob.). One was also photographed at a perch along Marquette Lake 1/20 (JD). **Merlins** were seen at MZR 12/27, on a new late date, and 1/6 (TB). The abundant **Horned Larks** at MZR also attracted a **Peregrine Falcon** on the new late date of 12/30 (JD, DM). **Peregrine Falcons** are accidental in Jan, but there were 3 records for the month, one MZR 1/1 (JH), one at RPP 1/7 (RK), and two at MPR, along with some 200 **Horned Larks** 1/14 (RCM).

An **Eastern Phoebe** was a nice winter find on a new early date MC 1/3 (RCM). The restricted training area at FIG provided **Northern Shrike** sightings 1/3 and 2/25 (JD, DM). Estimated counts of between 300 to 500 **Horned Larks** were made at MZR 12/27-1/27 (TB, CB, JH, RCM, AS). An estimated 200 **Horned Larks** were found at MPR 1/14 (RCM) and 100 at NCT 1/26 (TB). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found throughout the period in suitable habitat (m.ob.). A **Winter Wren** was seen at SSP 12/31 (TB), and two at FIG 1/7 (JD, DM). **Winter Wrens** were also found at the Quittapahilla Park 1/28 (TB), and SGL 145 on 2/21 (DM). Accidental in winter was a **Brown Thrasher**, continuing at SGL 145 from 11/23-12/14 (SH, RCM, TB). One was observed eating berries at the same general location 1/25 (SH, CB, RCM, et.al.).

**American Pipits** were found in good numbers at MZR, with 70 on 12/29 (CBo), 30 on a new late date 12/31 (DH), and 50 on 1/26 (KB, TB). Seven were seen at MZR 1/1 for a new early date (JH). Pipits were also observed from the LVRT, with 10 on 1/2 (JF) and 2 on 1/20 (JF). One or two **Lapland Longspurs** were found at MZR 12/27-1/4 (TB, CB, JD, DM, m.ob.) and one 2/20 (DM). A Lapland Longspur was on a manure spread at NCT 1/26 (TB). Two **Snow Buntings** were seen NCT 12/27 (MD). Snow Buntings were also found at MZR 12/30-1/27 (JD, DM, TB, CB, AS, m.ob.). Some notable counts at MZR were 89 on 1/4 (CB) and 94 on 1/5 (RCM). Eight **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen at MLSP 12/20 (CG), and one was also there 1/5 (ME).

**Eastern Towhees** are uncommon in winter, but were found at SGL 145 on three occasions, with one 12/11 (TB), two in the same location 1/14 (TB, CB), and one 1/25 (SH, CB, RCM, et.al.). An Eastern Towhee was also a good find for RS at Pine Rd 1/22. Some good sparrow counts were made at FIG during the *Lebanon* CBC. Eighty-two **American Tree Sparrows**, with 60 of those in a single flock, and 132 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were tallied at FIG 12/15 (JD, DM). An incredible new county high count of 255 **American Tree Sparrows**, along with a few **Field Sparrows**, was made at FIG 1/14 (JD, DM). A first Jan record for **Chipping Sparrow** was established at SGL 145 on 1/26 (JH). A **Savannah Sparrow** was a nice find at MZR 1/1 (DM, CK) and at MC 2/8 (TB). A **Fox Sparrow** was a good CBC find at FIG 12/15 (JD, DM). Accidental in Jan was a Fox Sparrow seen along the LVRT 1/24 (TB).

Thirty-three **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Pine Rd 2/5 (TB) and five at MC 2/13 (RCM, DBo). At Marquette Lake, 200 **Common Grackles** were an uncommon winter sight 1/20 (JD).

Most of the sought after irruptive finches were found in small numbers in select *Lebanon* locations. A **Purple Finch** visited a feeder in Lebanon through the quarter beginning 12/29 (DM), and also in Jonestown 2/16 (CBo). A **Red Crossbill** was seen at Mt Gretna 12/12 (TB) and at SGL 145 for a new early date 1/4 (SH, RCM, et.al.). A **White-winged Crossbill** was heard at 2Mtn 12/13 (TB), and 3 were found there 12/20 (RCM). Between 6 and 8 **White-winged Crossbills** were in the Norway Spruces at South Hills Park 1/12-2/8 (JH, TB, RP, CB, AS, DM). Five were found at MC 1/13 (RCM) and 3 were at SGL 145 on 2/2 (JH). Five **Common Redpolls** were found at SGL 145 on 1/4 (SH, RCM, et.al.). Redpolls visited feeders in four county locations. At Spring Hill Acres one was seen 12/23, and two 12/28 (JH). A feeder at the home of BW in Greenpoint hosted Common Redpolls, including three 1/10 (JD, TB). Three were at Grantville 1/15 (TB, DM) and one in Cornwall 1/22 (NP). **Pine Siskins** were thinly reported at feeders through the winter quarter, with 2 in Lebanon 12/29 (DM), 2 in Spring Hill Acres 1/26 (JH), and sporadic visits to the home of SH in Mt Gretna during the period. The only **Evening Grosbeak** of the quarter was at MLSP 12/8 (RCM).

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## Lehigh County

Winter was extremely mild for the second year in a row. December's mean temperature was 5.4° F above the 30-year norm, followed by January's +4.4° F mean temp. There were very few snow days, with just 15.5 inches across the season; maximum snowfall occurred in February, with a total of 7.4 inches. The Lehigh River remained largely ice-free and flowing, as did most creeks. Small lakes and farm ponds froze briefly in mid-winter, but thawed quickly by the end of the period. Quarries and larger creek-fed lakes and ponds remained almost completely ice-free. Leaser Lake in Lynn Twp continued to fill slowly following completion of reconstruction of the dam in fall 2012, but generated no significant reports. Hopes are high for this location in spring 2013 as the county's most prominent non-riparian body of water returns to its "normal" state. See <<http://www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=phi>> for weather data for the Allentown area.

A total of 115 species was reported in *Lehigh* this season. Events referred to in this report include the Lehigh Valley Christmas Bird Count (LVCBC) 12/15 (MB, compiler), the Upper Bucks Christmas Bird Count (UBCBC) 12/16 (BE, compiler), two WRS routes 1/22 and 2/3 (BH, EV compilers), and Lehigh Gap Nature Center's Winter Bird Survey (WBS) 1/15 (m.ob.). Stats from both CBCs refer to *Lehigh* totals only, excluding observations from other counties within the respective circles. Various data were also gleaned from eBird reports. For the 2012 calendar year, 215 species were reported to eBird within *Lehigh*, with the top county eBird list consisting of 198 species (FD).

*Lehigh* attracted a lot of attention from wild goose chasers this period, with two different **Pink-footed Geese** the main attraction. The fun began the morning of 1/5 when a Pink-footed Goose was found at Fogelsville Quarry (FD), where it was seen by many for three days. On 1/7, another was found at Lake Muhlenberg (SB), about seven miles to the east of Fogelsville. The original presumption that this was the same bird was proven incorrect that afternoon when *both* geese were seen simultaneously at the two different locations (SB, ML, m.ob.). The second bird remained at Lake Muhlenberg for six days, where it was seen and photographed by many observers; this small lake on a greenway through west Allentown has no obstructions around it and is easily viewed from the roadside. The final location where the species was observed was Dorney Pond 1/12-14. These all represent the second and third confirmed county records. There were at least 74 reports to eBird of these two geese 1/5-14.

At this same general time and area, the continuing **Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported almost daily from either Dorney Pond or Trexler Park until 2/10. Scattered reports from Fogelsville Quarry may have been the same bird, but may also have *not* been the same bird at all; in either case, there were no reports of multiple birds from any location. **Snow Goose** totals from *Lehigh* and surrounding areas were huge again this winter. An early season high count (2292) occurred on the LVCBC 12/15 (MB). By the second week of Jan, conservative counts of flocks in excess of 20000 were commonly reported from all around the county, most notably from Trexlerstown, Coplay, and New Tripoli. An observer who visited three quarries the morning of 2/2 reported nearly 30000 Snow Geese in total (FD). There is no shortage of quarry pits in the area, and these locations continue to provide shelter to the ever-increasing numbers of this species that winter here. There were a surprising 7 reports of **Ross's Goose** 1/2-2/9. Most came from Fogelsville Quarry 1/4-9 with photos (FD). The max count of two was at Coplay Quarry 2/9 (BE). A striking **Snow x Canada Goose** hybrid was present at Dorney Pond 1/8 (BE) to 1/14 (m.ob.). Rounding out this lengthy goose narrative, there were many **Cackling Goose** reports 1/1-2/23. Most reports came from the time the Pink-footed Goose was being pursued, often from visiting birders. Some reports seem more credible than others, with several backed by decent photos. This species is certainly present among the large flocks of wintering Canada Geese here each year, but is likely over-reported by birders due to the various poorly understood identification complications that occur within the Canada/Cackling goose cline.

Some non-geese waterfowl among 18 species included the following. **Gadwalls** arrived 1/19, with max counts (6) from Fogelsville Quarry and Dorney Pond 2/10. **American Wigeons** wintered at Dorney Pond again. A pair was usually present, but three were there 1/4-8. The pair was last seen 2/14. Another winter repeat, at least three **American Black Duck x Mallard** hybrids were present at Dorney Pond again this winter. There were five reports of **Northern Shoveler**, an unusual duck for *Lehigh*. Present 12/15-1/26, the max count (2) was at Fogelsville Quarry 12/23 (FD). **Northern Pintail** was found solely at Fogelsville Quarry, beginning 1/1 (max 17, 2/28, TG). **Green-winged Teal** arrived 12/5, with nearly all reports from Fogelsville Quarry. The max number of 24 was there 1/20 (TW). Three **Canvasback** put in a brief appearance at Coplay Quarry 1/28 (FD). **Redhead** is always nice to find, and was another bird only present at

Fogelsville Quarry, arriving 1/7 and last found 2/23, with 11 additional reports between. The max Redhead count (11) occurred 2/18 (SB). **Ring-necked Ducks** arrived 12/5, with the max of 126 present at Fogelsville Quarry 1/20 (TW). Both scaup species were here: a lone **Greater Scaup** was at Fogelsville Quarry 1/19 and 1/26 (FD, TW), but **Lesser Scaup** was much more widely reported, 12/7-2/23 with a max of 15 at Lynn Twp 12/7 (FD). The only **Long-tailed Duck** this season was a hen found on Fogelsville Quarry 1/20 (TW). Distant but conclusive video of the bird diving and at rest was obtained under challenging conditions by the finder. **Hooded Mergansers** were seen beginning 12/31. Lastly, a lone **Red-breasted Merganser** hen was seen and photographed by many observers at Lake Muhlenberg this winter. This notable little duck was present beginning 1/1 (ML), and stayed through at least 2/21. She was reported almost daily, and was easy to find the entire time the Pink-footed Geese were in the area, resulting in over 60 reports to eBird. This is a good find for *Lehigh*, and another example of a nice, cooperative bird on a small, easily accessible *Lehigh* lake. Blue-winged Teal and Common Goldeneye went unreported this period.

A storm in early Feb produced a strange occurrence. Beginning late 2/5, at least six different **Red-throated Loons** were found grounded in the region, four of which were in *Lehigh*. Just before midnight 2/5, the first bird was found in the middle of a Lower Macungie intersection; a few hours later, a second was found nearby. The following morning 2/7, another was recovered from a parking lot in downtown Allentown. Finally, in mid-afternoon 2/8, a fourth bird was found in West Catasauqua, presumably after having been grounded for over 60 hours. The good news was that all of the stranded loons discovered in the area were taken to local rehab facilities where they were examined and found to be in good health. All six birds were successfully released on local lakes and rivers. This entire event is remarkable as Red-throated Loons are not typically known to migrate across Pennsylvania at this time of year, and are considered rare anywhere in the state in winter. Special thanks to a few folks for this story: BM collected and transported these birds to rehabilitators, and SB gathered all the facts and reported this odd loon tale.

**Black Vultures** and **Turkey Vultures** remained in good numbers due to the mild winter. At the southern end of the county, 96 Turkey Vultures and 30 Black Vultures were tallied on a WRS 2/3; 50 **Red-tailed Hawks** were also tallied (EV). An earlier WRS in northern *Lehigh* 1/20 produced a striking leucistic Red-tailed Hawk that was photographed in Heidelberg Twp (BH, FD). A dark morph Red-tailed Hawk was another very interesting find this winter, this bird well observed and described in Whitehall Twp 1/1 (JH). There were ten reports of **Bald Eagle** this quarter. The only **Rough-legged Hawk** was a light morph at New Tripoli 2/10 (FD). Five reports of **Peregrine Falcon** came from Walking Purchase Park 12/3 and 1/6 (MB), Dorney Pond 12/4 (BE), North Whitehall 1/5, and Allentown 2/13 (FD).

**American Coots** were present at Dorney Pond 1/4-2/28 (max 3). **Killdeer** were found in low numbers here this winter; an absence 1/13-2/15 implies a brief mid-winter displacement from the county. The only **Wilson's Snipe** for the period was a pair at Leaser Lake 12/31 (FD). **American Woodcocks** arrived a bit early, 2/23, at New Tripoli (FD). Some max gull counts for the season: **Ring-billed Gull** (344) 1/1 at Walking Purchase Park (WPP) (ES), **Herring Gull** (22) 12/23 at WPP (ES), and **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (50) 1/6 at WPP (MB). Lesser Black-backed Gull was present in small numbers almost daily near Dorney Pond this winter, but all double-digit counts came from the river at WPP and Lehigh County Park. The only **Great Black-backed Gull** report was one bird photographed at Lake Muhlenberg 1/7 (KD); this species is fairly unusual for the county.

Dozens of **Eastern Screech-Owls** were found around Lower Milford Twp on the UBCBC 12/16 (KM, LM); an exact number wasn't determined as this particular CBC territory is in three counties. The only other notable owl report was a **Barred Owl** on the State Game Lands in Lynn Twp (SGL217), 12/27 and 1/3 (FD).

An **Eastern Phoebe** lingered to at least 12/2 at SGL205 (CHn). Notable **Horned Lark** flocks were present at various sites this winter: Smith Lane in Alburtis held ~500 on 12/26 (TW), and Cardinal Street in North Whitehall had a max count of 230 on 12/1 (BE). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was an excellent late fall find, present at Trexler Nature Preserve for over a week 12/8 to at least 12/15, when it was tallied for the LVCBC (CHn). A **Brown Thrasher** was also recorded on the LVCBC in Whitehall that day (SK). **Gray Catbird** remained to at least 12/15 at Walking Purchase Park (ES), where it was known to winter last season. Other reports came from Dorney Pond 12/15 (JG) and New Tripoli 1/12 (FD). The max count for **American Pipit** (45) was at North Whitehall 12/3 (FD). **Cedar Waxwings** were fairly hard to find this winter, with nearly all reports from the area around Trexler Park in South Whitehall; max count (38) was 2/7 (KD). **Lapland Longspur** was only found at the north end of the county (5 reports 12/26 to 1/6 - max 2) (m.ob.). **Snow Buntings** were present in small numbers throughout the season, as usual, but there was a very notable find

1/6 at Heidelberg Twp where a flock of at least 88 was found along Church Road (DA)!

**Eastern Towhees** were found in small numbers fairly regularly this winter, with several reports from Trexler Game Preserve. It was another poor season for **American Tree-Sparrow**; scattered reports were of few birds, with no reports in double digits. **Chipping Sparrow** was absent 12/9-1/26; the last and first reports were from Trexler Nature Preserve (CHN). The last **Savannah Sparrow** of 2012 was at Alburts 12/21 (DG); the first of 2013 was at New Tripoli 2/8 (FD). There were very few **Fox Sparrow** reports. A late **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found in Whitehall 12/15 on the LVCBC (SK). A few **Eastern Meadowlarks** stayed the winter with reports from Heidelberg Twp 1/14 (FD) and Leaser Lake 2/18 (SB).

Winter finches continued to be reported sporadically this season. **Purple Finches** had been fairly prevalent in fall, but went unreported throughout all of Dec. In Jan and Feb, there were a handful of reports, mostly of one or two birds. A lone **Red Crossbill** was found 12/15 in Whitehall on the LVCBC, just the second report in that count's 69 years (SK). **White-winged Crossbill** was another species that went unreported in Dec, but returned in Jan. A flock of 9 was found on Blue Mountain in Heidelberg Twp 1/12 (FD). The following day, many birders searching for the Pink-footed Goose in South Whitehall reported hearing small numbers of White-winged Crossbills flying over in the early morning fog at Dorney Pond and Trexler Park—there were no fewer than 11 eBird reports of the species from the area that day. After about a five-year absence from *Lehigh* (or at least from this quarterly report for the county), **Common Redpolls** made a welcomed return this winter. The first report occurred 12/28 at New Tripoli (FD), and the last was 2/3 at Macungie (JL). Most reports were of a half dozen or fewer birds, but the max count at New Tripoli 1/25 was 10, and the max at Trexler Park 1/14-16) was 20 (SK). The top count for the county of 141 was just made south of Lehigh Gap Nature Center 1/9. This large redpoll flock held at least one **Hoary Redpoll**, a probable first county record (BE). Photos and a description have been submitted to PORC for review. Finally, despite widespread reports in October and early November, **Pine Siskin** was only reported from Fountain Hill 12/27 (one - ES) and New Tripoli 1/3 (3 - FD).

Observers: **Bill Etter, 407 S. Cigar Rd, Northampton, PA 19067, billetter01@gmail.com**, Dan Altif, Mark Boyd, Scott Burnet, Frank Dickman, Kevin Dougherty, Denis Glew, Todd Gilbert, John Good, Bob Hoopes, Jeff Hopkins, Chris Hugosson (CHN), Corey Husic, Stephen Kloiber, Matt Loyko, Barbara Malt (BCM), Barb Miller, Bernie and Pauline Morris, Kirk and Lois Moulton, Ed Sinkler, Ed Vermillion, Todd Watkins.

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#### **Luzerne County**

No report.

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#### **Lycoming County**

Locations: Gravel quarry ponds in Montoursville (Quarry Ponds), Old Lycoming Township (OLT), Indian Park (IP), Picture Rocks (PR), Susquehanna River (SR); Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Williamsport Water Company (WWC).

A flock of 150 **Snow Geese** were flying over Williamsport on the unusual date of 1/1 (NF). **Canada Geese** remain resident through the winter. The Williamsport CBC (W-CBC) 12/15 tallied 780 Canada Geese, although counts in Jan and Feb rarely exceeded 20 birds. Northbound migrants were observed by the thousands 2/25 in PR (WE).

Though just a single **Wood Duck** was found during the W-CBC, a pair remained through the season at IP (AS, DaB, m.ob.). A pair of **American Wigeons** was found 2/17 at IP (DaB) and again 2/4 (NF). **Mallards** remain common through the season, with over 100 counted regularly at IP (m.ob.). A single **Canvasback** was observed in the SR at the Williamsport Dam 12/22 (NF). A **Ring-necked Duck** was reported at the quarry ponds along the SR 12/15 and an adult was spotted on the SR at the Williamsport Dam 2/16 (ML). A single **Greater Scaup** was found on the SR on several instances in Jan and Feb and 8 **Lesser Scaup** were found there by NF on 12/22 (NF). Four **Common Goldeneyes** were found on the SR in Williamsport 1/26-27 (NF) and again 2/16 (ML).

Only a single **Ruffed Grouse** was found 12/15 on the W-CBC, but 84 **Wild Turkey** were found in the circle that day. A **Black Vulture** appears to have wintered. It was reported near RVL 2/23 (RB). An early **Turkey Vulture** was observed 2/9 in Williamsport (NF). A **Golden Eagle** was

described well during a "raptor helicopter survey" 2/14 (MD), and otherwise was reported with a trail camera near Huntersville. **Bald Eagles** were seen throughout the season as single birds, including Waterville 1/2 (JH) and PR 2/16 (WE). A remarkable yard bird in OLT, an immature **Northern Goshawk** was lured to a deer carcass and captured by a trail camera 2/27 and several days following (DF). **Rough-legged Hawks** were infrequently reported through the season including many Winter Raptor Counts, but a count of 5 at Mill Hill Rd in Jackson Twp. 2/2 was notable (DF) and one was found there 2/15 (MB).

**Ring-billed Gulls** were present in some numbers through the season: at the Lycoming Landfill near Allenwood, in the hundreds on the W-CBC 12/15, and in smaller numbers along the SR the rest of the season (NF, ML). A **Killdeer** in Loyalsock Twp on the W-CBC 12/15 was late (DBr) but one was again seen in Muncy 2/23 (WE).

The W-CBC produced 15 **Eastern Screech-Owls**, 6 **Great Horned Owls**, and 2 **Barred Owls** 12/15. **Short-eared Owl** was a good find at Mill Hill Rd 12/16 (DF, NF) and again 1/2 (DF). **American Kestrels** were found throughout the period at various locations. Several reports of **Peregrine Falcon** along the SR 12/28 and 1/19 suggest an overwintering individual (NF, JD). *Lycoming* contributed to the exceptional counts of western hummingbirds across the state in the fall and continuing into the winter. An adult female **Rufous Hummingbird** was found in Cogan Station in the fall and remained until at least 12/27 (WL) and another, the third **Rufous Hummingbird** for the county this fall and present since 9/15 in Penndale, was identified 12/29 and remained until at least 1/19 (WL).

A **Fish Crow** 1/1 proved they overwinter (NF). An over wintering **Winter Wren** was found on SGL 126 on 2/8 (NF) and the WWA 2/16 (SM). A highlight of the W-CBC was a **Gray Catbird** seen and photographed 12/15 along the SR (WL). Increasing slowly in this area, **Northern Mockingbirds** 2/16 in Montgomery (BZ) and 12/15 in SGL 252 (NF) nearly bracket the season. Nice counts of **American Tree Sparrow** were found, including 65 in SGL 252 on 12/15 (NF) and again 60 on SGL 114 on 1/3 (NF). The only report of **Swamp Sparrow** was of 2 on 1/5 in SGL 114 (NF). A harbinger of spring was found in Warrensville 2/27, where a single **Red-winged Blackbird** (RL) seemed inclined to accept the unsubstantiated predictions of Punxsutawney Phil.

Despite an invasion year underway, just a few reports of **White-winged Crossbill** reached *Lycoming*: A single bird was found on Sylvan Dell Rd 12/14 (JD) and a small flock was found on the WWC property 12/18 (DF). This was one of the most notable winters for **Common Redpoll** with reports from many locations across the county. They were found through most of the winter season, generally at feeders, and usually in flocks numbering a few to dozens. Apparently hundreds of **Common Redpolls** were found on Laurel Hill Rd, Jackson Twp. by homeowners J&BB, including an estimate 1/13 of about 300 (AS, WL), and hundreds remained there 2/2 (DF, LF). They appeared at many feeders, throughout the winter at some but sporadically at others, throughout the area in Jan and Feb. **Pine Siskins** were generally scarce this winter, with a few reports including one on the CBC 12/15 (NF) and 8 on 1/19 at feeders (DF).

Observers: **Dan Brauning (DBr), 1920 Inverness Rd, Montoursville, PA 17754, (570) 433-0309, dan@thebraunings.com**, Ron Beach, David Brown (DaB), John and Beverly Brucklacher, James Dunn, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, Liam Ferry, Nate Fronk, Deuane Hoffman, Rosemary Lutz, Wayne Laubscher, Scott Matthews, Alex Savakinas, Art Schiavo Larry Waltz, Ben Zook.

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#### **McKean County**

No compiler.

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#### **Mercer County**

Locations: Airport Rd. (AR), E. Zahnizer RD (EZR), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Sandy Lake (SL), Shenango R. Res (SRR), Williamson Rd (WR).

All sightings in this report were by the compiler unless noted otherwise.

The **Cackling Goose** population must be on the rise as this species was more common during fall migration and 5 were found at SRR 1/1. Unexpected were 2 **Trumpeter Swans** at SRR 1/1, with one wearing a yellow neckband #R-48. The last southward movement of **Tundra Swans** was noted 12/28-1/3 and no northbound birds had been reported by the end of the period. Ducks were well represented with the following species of note: 5 **Northern Pintails** and 10 **Common Goldeneyes** at SRR 1/1 and a female **Long-tailed Duck** at SL 12/10-19. All three **Merganser** species were found, with 150+ **Hooded** at LW 12/4, 200+ **Common** at SRR 1/12 (SS), and a single **Red-breasted** there 12/10.

A **Common Loon** was found on SL 12/13 and a **Pied-billed Grebe** remained there until 1/1. **Double-crested Cormorant** remained at LW until 12/4 and **Great Blue Herons** were found at the Shenango Wildlife Area until mid-Jan. A late **Great Egret** was found at a pond along Skunk Run Rd. 12/1 (MT) and relocated later in the day at another pond along Forrester Rd. (HT). The first northbound **Turkey Vulture** was seen soaring over WR 2/11 and an early **Osprey** was found at the nest platform along Route 18 at SRR 2/18 (MM). Up to 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** were present at White Chapel Rd. until 2/7 (m.ob.). Four **Sandhill Cranes** were found along AR 1/1 but could not be relocated the next day (JT). **Killdeer** were first heard at WR 2/26 (ST) and a **Wilson's Snipe** was flushed from a small wetland along EZR 12/16 (ST). **Bonaparte's Gulls** remained at SRR until at least 1/1 and 1000+ **Ring-billed Gull** were there 1/12 (SS). Single **Merlins** were found at WR 12/23 and at SRR 1/12 (SS).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found at Mahoney Recreation Area through Feb and single **American Robins** were found at various locations in Jan but remained scarce through the end of the period. A flock of 20 **American Pipits** was found along WR 12/1 with the last one seen there 12/3. Two **Lapland Longspurs** were found at Holmes Rd. 12/13 (SS, NT) and up to 30 were present through Jan in the Amish area along Anderson Rd. in freshly manured fields. They were also found at EZR in late Feb and the numbers had increased in early Mar. They are expected almost every spring at this location. **Snow Buntings** were well reported with 10 seen along Skunk Run Rd. 1/3 (HT), up to 50 present along Anderson Rd. through Jan (m.ob.), and on 75+ found at EZR 2/11, remaining there until 2/24. **White-throated Sparrows** were found at AR 1/1 (JT) and **White-crowned Sparrows** remained at Skunk Run Rd. through the end of Feb. An **Eastern Meadowlark** was flushed along AR 1/5 (NT). JT found 4 **Rusty Blackbirds** at a wetlands near E. Cornell Rd. 1/1 and **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Common Grackles**, and **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were found in small numbers at various locations in the county, mostly with flocks of **European Starlings**. Four **White-winged Crossbills** were seen and heard in flight over Forrester Rd. 1/13 and **Common Redpolls** were present at a feeder along WR beginning 1/4 and remaining into Mar, with a high of 12 on 2/28.

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137**, Joseph Hochsletler, Marty McKay, Steve Sanford, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Melvin Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Mark Vass.

### Mifflin County

Locations: Belleville (BE), Big Valley (BV), Bunker Hill Pond in Big Valley (BHP), Coffee Run Rd in Big Valley (CR), Ferguson Valley (FV), Kishacaquillas Creek in Big Valley (KC), Lewistown (LE), Stone Mt. Hawk Watch (SM).

Unusual in winter, a **Wood Duck** was near BE 1/20 along with a **Green-winged Teal** (JZ); two **Green-winged Teal** were also at BHP 1/1 (GG) and another at CR 1/25-26 (RH). Five **Ring-necked Ducks** at BHP 2/15 may have been early migrants (GG). WRS routes were quite productive, with an excellent total of 104 **Red-tailed Hawks** in 17.5 hrs of observation. Also tallied were 4 **Northern Harriers**, one **Rough-legged Hawk**, and 30 **American Kestrels** (BF, LP, SS, AS, RH). Two **Bald Eagles**, one adult and one immature, wintered near a chicken farm at Allensville (m.ob.). A dark morph **Rough-leg** was near BE 2/15 (GG). Encouraging numbers of kestrels were reported in BV during the Huntingdon CBC when 8 were tallied (GG), and in FV with 12 on 12/28 (JD). A **Merlin** was seen near LE 1/5 (RH).

Small numbers of **Killdeer** were found at various locations in BV throughout the season as is normal (m.ob.). **Wilson's Snipe** were at several locations in BV; as usual the most reliable was KC where it crosses Waynesburg Rd., with as many as 7 there 2/15 (GG). The only **Belted Kingfisher** was seen at LE 1/13 (RH).

Eight **American Pipits** were on KC 1/1 (GG). The only **Snow Bunting** was a single in FV 12/28 (JD). Two **Lapland Longspurs** were found in BV 12/16 for the Mifflin portion of the Huntingdon CBC (GG).

A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at CR 1/25 as were 8 **White-crowned Sparrows** (RH). An early **Eastern Towhee** was at LE 2/20 (RH). One **Eastern Meadowlark**, rare in winter, was near BE 1/26 (RH). Eight **White-winged Crossbills** flew past SM 12/1, the only report of either crossbill (JK). The only **Common Redpoll** report was of a single at the Swarey home 1/8 (JZ).

Observers: **Greg Grove, 4343 McAlevys Fort Road, Petersburg Pa. 16669, gwg2@psu.edu**. Jim Dunn, Bob Fowles, Robert Hosler, Jon Kauffman, Louie Peight, Stephan Swarey, Amos Swarey, Jay Zook.

### Monroe County

The winter season was best described as average with the coldest temperatures and greatest snowfall in February. The 33rd Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count (PMCBC) was held 12/16 and tallied a record 71 species. The previous high was 66 species in 1984, and the last time the 60 species mark was reached was in 1990. Factors contributing to this record count included increased coverage and an amazing 14 species of waterfowl, as lakes and ponds were completely ice free.

Four waterfowl species on the PMCBC represented count firsts: **Snow Goose**, **Cackling Goose**, **Lesser Scaup**, and **Long-tailed Duck** (BH, SK, RW). A single **Tundra Swan**, uncommon in the county, was reported from Cherry Valley 1/2 (RW). The **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, and **Ruddy Duck** on the PMCBC each represented only the second count record for these species (PF, BH, SK, RW). A **Northern Goshawk** was seen on the PMCBC for the first time since 1997 (BC, NC, EC, RC).

The **Selasphorus hummingbird** that was first seen visiting a Henryville feeder in late Oct stayed until 12/21 (DR, JR). Tough to find in winter, an **American Pipit** was seen along the Delaware River near Shawnee 12/22 (AF, PF, BH, RW). **American Tree Sparrow** numbers were up with 73 counted on the PMCBC—this is the highest count for this species since 1998. **Chipping Sparrow**, uncommon in winter, was recorded on the PMCBC (PF).

A single **Common Redpoll** was at the MCEEC feeders 12/1 (SK) with as many as 5 there 12/31 (BH). These numbers paled in comparison to the **Common Redpoll** flocks swarming feeders in Pocono Pines (PB) and Long Pond (AP) late in the period—both locations had flocks numbering 50 to 100 or more. **Pine Siskin** was a notable miss on the PMCBC after a huge autumn movement. However, they re-appeared at the MCEEC feeders in late Dec, where they remained through the end of the period (BH).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Chris Benzinger, John Benzinger, Peggy Bostwick, Bill Clark, Elizabeth Cortright, Ron Cortright, Bernie Devine, Candy Devine, Bob Duryea, Dan Duryea, Andy Fedor, Pat Fellion, Barry Foulk, Donna Foulk, Tim Grover, Matt Jardel, Pat Jones, Steve Kloiber, Mary Anne Moore, Debbie Prince, Anita Procci, Jenifer Rituper, Jan Robbins, Darryl Speicher, Rick Wiltraut, Dan Zmoda.

### Montgomery County

Locations: Evansburg State Park (ESP), Fort Washington State Park (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve (GWP), John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove (MG), Norristown Dam (ND), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

The first half of the winter of 2012-2013 was unseasonably mild, but the second half was more typical in terms of temperature. Both halves saw below average snowfall.

Waterfowl numbers were low overall, due in part to the warm temperature and the lacking concentrating effects of ice. Twenty-three species were noted. Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were discovered at GLP 1/3 (LH) and persisted for two days (GF, KC). An immense movement of **Snow Goose** was observed from GLP 12/26, with an estimated 16,000 birds flying over, headed north/northeast (KC). Other high counts for the species included 1500 on 2/10 (GF) and 1200 on 2/12 (KC), both at GLP. **Cackling Geese** were reported in ones and twos at GLP from 12/3-20 (KC, CH, JK), with two more spotted 2/18 (KR). GLP's **Canada Goose** flock peaked at 12,000 birds 2/10 (GF). The **Trumpeter Swan** pair found on the Schuylkill R. at Pottstown 11/26, the first ever on record for *Montgomery*, continued at that location until at least 1/27 (RB, et al.). **Tundra Swans** were scarce, with just two reports, both from GLP: 12 on 1/20 (WBH, SK) and 8 on 2/2 (GF). Owing to the mild winter, **Wood Ducks** were observed at GLP until at least 1/20 (WBH, KR). Two **Wood Ducks** were also present on the Schuylkill at VFNHP 1/27-30 (SWi). **Gadwall** was found in modest numbers at GLP for the entire season, with high counts of 29 on both 12/26 (KC) and 1/20 (WBH, SK). **American Wigeon** numbers were meager. A high count of 8 at GLP 2/23-24 (KC, KR) was well below previous years' highs. **American Black Ducks**, by contrast, were seen in good numbers, primarily at GLP, where counts of 107 on 1/20 (BH, SK) and 160 on 2/9 (KC) were recorded. **Mallard** numbers were similar, peaking at 187 at GLP 1/6 (GF). **Northern Shovelers** were noted in decent quantities at GLP in the first half of the winter, including 25 on 12/17 (KC) and 18 on 1/6 (GF). A nice high count of 77 **Northern Pintails** was tallied at GLP 2/16 (GF). Diving ducks were

generally few in *Montgomery* this winter. **Ring-necked Duck** numbers were low, maxing out at just 31 birds at GLP 2/22 (GF). **Lesser Scaup** numbers were even lower. A drake **Long-tailed Duck** at GLP 12/12 was an unusual find (MS, RW *vide* KC). Forty-four **Buffleheads** were recorded at VFNHP 2/15 (MR), the only count that broke 20. Upstream a few miles, as many as 10 **Common Goldeneyes** were noted on the Schuylkill R. at Oaks 1/5 (SG). **Hooded Mergansers** were present through the winter at multiple locations, with a high count of 24 at WWP 1/15 (JSt). **Common Mergansers** were more common, although never in exceptionally large groups, as the season's high count of 90 at GLP, 2/28, illustrates (GF). **Ruddy Ducks** were extremely scarce, reported just four times in eBird, with none after 1/12 (JT).

Thirty-two **Wild Turkeys** were observed at ESP 2/13 (BH). Seventeen on 12/12 was the highest count tallied at PERT (BK), the usual hotbed of turkey activity in *Montgomery*. Unusual in winter, **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen at various locations on the Schuylkill through Dec, with a final report of 2 immature birds 1/1 (SWi). Twelve Cormorants were tallied by one group on the Audubon CBC 12/22 (LT). One of the more remarkable finds of the season was a **Great Egret** at WWP, first noted 12/20 (JSt). It continued through at least 1/16 (WBH), representing *Montgomery's* first winter record.

**Northern Harriers** were noted at least 19 times during the season, with pairs observed at GLP 1/3 (GF), Congo 1/15 (BD) and PERT 2/14 (BH). A **Northern Goshawk** was sighted in Norristown 12/24 (SK), two days too late for the Audubon CBC, but still a great count-week species. **Bald Eagles** were widely seen through the county, with more than thirty reported sightings. In keeping with the "comeback" theme of this species, a new nesting site was discovered at an undisclosed location in the Fort Washington area (JSt). **Red-shouldered Hawk** report volume was above average, with single hawks reported from at least 11 sites, including several found on WRS routes (AM, BH). A WRS route 1/27 through the northwestern part of the county was the source of the high count of 41 **Red-tailed Hawks** (AM). Initially reported to eBird as a Snowy Owl, a beautiful, nearly pure white, leucistic Red-tail was discovered at Hatfield 1/26 (KB, AM). There was just one mention of a **Rough-legged Hawk**, a light morph individual in the Congo area 1/3 (JeG).

**Killdeer** overwintered in small numbers (m.ob.). Single **Wilson's Snipe** were seen on two occasions during the early weeks of the season: GLP 12/1 (GF) and the Meadowbrook golf course 12/15 (JS). An early **American Woodcock** was observed in flight at GWP 2/3 (JM *vide* AM). The next woodcock was not seen until 2/25, at GLP (KC).

**Ring-billed Gulls** can be found in large numbers at GLP during the winter, and estimates of 3500 on 1/17 and 3000 on 1/12 (both GF) were proof of that. A first-winter **Iceland Gull** was found at GLP 1/15 (BD). It continued at that location until 1/21 or later (m.ob.), seeming to prefer its own company to that of the Ring-bills. A pair of **Great Black-backed Gulls** was seen at ND 1/21 (WBH). A new county record was set for **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** with a count of 74 at GLP 1/12 (GF). Away from GLP, single Lesser Black-backs were seen at a few other locations, including PERT 12/12 (BK), ND 12/22 (WBH, JSe), Willow Grove Mall 2/15 (JS) and WWP, where a persistent gull could be found through much of the winter (JSt, WBH).

Single **Long-eared Owls** were reported at PERT 1/23 (BK) and GLP 1/1 (JG). Three Long-ears were seen at GLP 1/3 (JeG). **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was noted at PERT 12/25, when two birds were heard, and 2/27 (both PD). There were no reports of Barred or Short-eared Owl.

It was a record-setting season for hummingbirds, with four **Rufous Hummingbirds** overwintering in the county. The adult female at Meadowbrook, present since mid-Oct, remained (BF, et al.), as did the long staying immature male at Elkins Park (PD). The immature male at Pottstown was seen through at least 2/15 (AMa, DM). More surprisingly, a *new* Rufous, an adult female, was announced. Although this bird was not banded until 3/1, it was said to be visiting a feeder in Harleysville since late Oct (SW). *Montgomery's* first recorded **Allen's Hummingbird** took one last drink from its feeder in Lansdale 12/3 before rocketing off to an unknown destination (SW, CL, AL).

An immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** was discovered at NFP 12/1 (SK). The last report of this bird was 12/25 (AnM), after which it either moved on or become lunch for one of the local accipiters. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were widely reported through the season, with a high count of 4 at Ashbourne country club 1/1 (PD). **American Kestrels** and **Merlins** were both noted rather widely, with as many as 10 of the latter potentially reported, and 18 of the former. A **Peregrine Falcon** was observed frequently in the area around ND during Dec and early Jan (WBH, BH, et al.), and more sporadically after that, through Feb (BH, TC). A Peregrine Falcon, potentially the same bird, was seen a bit further afield, at the King of Prussia Mall 2/7 (JC), Flat Rock Park 2/10 (SS) and MG 2/16 (VS). A Peregrine was also observed at GLP 1/6 (GF).

A late **Eastern Phoebe** was a surprise find at FWSP 1/12 (AF), evidence of the mild temperatures in the first half of the season. The seasonal high count for **American Crow** was 132, tallied from a backyard near GLP (TM). The **Fish Crow** high count of 40 came from nearby, at GLP proper (KC). Up to 2 **Common Ravens** were sighted at least four times at their Montgomeryville quarry haunt (m.ob.). Ravens were seen at a few other locations in the county as well, including one at GLP 1/20 (KR), a pair at NFP 1/25 (WBH) and another pair, potentially the same individuals, flying over the King of Prussia Giant supermarket 2/22 (MR).

Reports of **Horned Lark** were light, most likely due to a lack of observers scouring the fields at the north end of the county. Sixteen were reported east of Barto 1/7 (BD). An unspecified number was seen in the same area 1/1 (JG). **Black-capped Chickadees** were noted at many feeders throughout the county. A high count of 3 was reported from MG 2/16 (RE). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were widely reported. They were seen primarily in ones and twos at feeders, but some larger groups were noted. Six at GLP 1/12 was the high count (GF).

Many of *Montgomery's* more typical winter birds had good seasons, in terms of both the quantity of reported sightings, and the quantity of birds from some of those reports. Season high counts include 5 **Brown Creepers** at ESP 1/29 (WBH), 7 **Winter Wrens** at PERT 12/15 (PD) and 10 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at GLP 12/16 (GF). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was less widespread. Several birds did overwinter, including one at Briar Bush Nature Center (JS, et al.). At least 11 reports of **Hermit Thrush** were made. Two were seen at GLP 1/12 (GF). Curiously, given the overall mild winter, there were no catbird or thrasher sightings. **American Pipit** was recorded at only two locations, all in Dec, with high counts of 18 at NFP 12/2 (WBH) and 6 at PERT 12/30 (PD). Just four sightings of **Cedar Waxwings** were reported, all in Feb, for a grand total of twelve birds (m.ob.). A **Lapland Longspur** was observed on a farm field in the Congo area 12/31 (SG). At the same location, the following day, 2 **Snow Buntings** were sighted (JG).

It was a five-warbler winter in *Montgomery*. One of the better feeder birds was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** that spent the latter portion of the season visiting a block of suet in North Wales (KM). It was first sighted 1/28 and continued through the end of the count period. A female **Common Yellowthroat** was discovered near Oaks on the Schuylkill River Trail 1/5 (SG). A **Palm Warbler** was spotted at GLP 1/13 (KC). A **Pine Warbler** visited a suet-feeder near GLP 12/29 (PG). There were two reports of another at Lorimer Park, 2/18 and 2/20 (JS). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were seen in decent numbers, including 8 on the Schuylkill River Trail at Oaks 1/8 (WBH).

Several overwintering **Eastern Towhees** were observed, with at least 15 reports of single birds (m.ob.). **American Tree Sparrows** were abundant at some locations. PERT, in particular, hosted big numbers of this winter sparrow, with abnormally high counts of 120 on 1/26, 80 on 2/16 and 45 on 12/30 (all PD). **Chipping Sparrows** were also unusually common at PERT, though more common in the first half of the season than the second. A high count of 32 was tallied 12/15, with 30 on 12/30 (both PD). Some did linger: 10 were noted 1/6 and 12 on 2/16 (both PD). A high count of 25 **Field Sparrows** was reported at PERT 12/30 (PD). A late **Vesper Sparrow** was found at NFP 12/2 (WBH). It remained until at least 12/6 (MR). PERT hosted 38 **Savannah Sparrows** 1/29 (PD). Eighteen Savannah Sparrows were seen at NFP 12/22 (SK).

**Fox Sparrows** were located in small numbers at ten locations, including 4 at NFP 12/2 (WBH). More unusual, 3 were dinner-guests at a feeding station in Wyndmoor throughout the winter (SP). A late **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported at NFP 12/6 (KR). **Swamp Sparrows** had a better-than-usual season, with a 4-way tie for the high count of 6 birds: 12/2 at NFP (WBH), 12/15 at PERT (PD), 1/29 at PERT (PD) and 2/3 at GLP (GF). **White-crowned Sparrows** were noted at seven locations, with a high count of 7 recorded in farm country near Palm 12/19 (GF).

The absurdly late **Bobolink** at PERT lingered to 12/2 (PD). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were spotted at only a handful of locations, with 13 in the vicinity of Palm 1/5 (KR); 4 at VFNHP 1/6 (MR); and single birds at GWP 12/15 (AF), PERT 12/30 (PD) and PERT 1/29 (PD). The Gwynedd bird was the first Meadowlark seen on the Wyncote CBC since 1984. Seven **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen at SGL 234 2/10 (KR), the only report of the troubled species. One of *Montgomery's* more famous western winter visitors, a male **Bullock's Oriole**, returned to Gilbertsville 12/6, where it remained through the end of the period (MA, et al.). This was the oriole's third winter at this location.

After a dramatic autumn season, the winter-finch invasion continued through the reporting period. For some species, like **Purple Finch**, numbers were much lower than those observed during the initial push. A high count of 8 was reported from Souderton 1/5 (ZM). The species was noted at six other locations. There were three sightings of **Red Crossbills**: 2 at GLP 12/4 (GF), 5 at Gilbertsville 12/10 (MA) and 6 at Trappe 1/12 (RE). **White-winged Crossbills** were more abundant, with high counts of 10 or more at

6 locations: 12 from the *Montgomery* side of Morris Arboretum 12/15 (DF, et al.), 20 at Whitemarsh 12/24 (AF), 24 at the Ashbourne country club 12/31 (PD), 20 at Haverford College 1/1 (SJ), 30 at Elkins Park 1/15 (PD) and 20 at Fox Chase Farm 2/13 (KW). There were twelve other reports of 7 or fewer birds, including a deceased female-type found at ESP 2/13 (BH). **Common Redpolls** were seen in ones and twos at ten locations throughout the county (m.ob.). There were roughly twenty reports of relatively small numbers of **Pine Siskins**, including 12 at Wyndmoor 12/29, several of which remained through the season (SP). No other count of siskins broke ten.

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### **Montour County**

No compiler.

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### **Northampton County**

Locations: Bethlehem Easton Hellertown CBC (BEH CBC), Dutch Springs Quarry (DSQ), Jacobsburg State Park (JSP), Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP), Martins Creek Quarry (MCQ), Nazareth Quarry (NQ), Northampton Quarry (NORQ).

Winter felt like winter this year. There were no major snowstorms but snow did fall and it was cold enough to freeze ML. The unusually warm weather that was frequent last year did not occur this season. Highlights were many, including two **Eared Grebes**, **Dovekie**, a probable **Thayer's Gull**, **Northern Shrike**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, and winter finches.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at MCEP 1/3 and at DSQ 1/10 (BW). **Snow Geese** take advantage of the many quarries in the area and reports of 10,000 to 30,000 are regular. NQ can be so thick with geese that it looks like snow covering the water. During the BEH CBC 12/29, there were 2 **Ross's Geese**, 2 **Cackling Geese**, and 30,000 **Snow Geese** at NQ (DD, JH, AC, SK). **Ross's Goose** was also reported from JSP 2/26 (RW), at MCEP 12/31 (MS, CCS), and at NQ 1/1 and 2/14 (BW). **Cackling Goose** was reported regularly at NQ and MCQ but a high of 6 were behind the Wawa on Schoenersville Rd 12/29 (DW). A lone **Brant** was at the Glase Rd pond 12/22 (MS, CCS). Two **Tundra Swans** flew south over the Little Gap Hawk Watch 12/11 (MS). During the Merrill Creek CBC, a single **Tundra Swan** flew by the MCEP (MS, CCS, ML, and BH).

**Canvasback** was reported from MCEP 1/14-15 (BW, ML) and 7 were at NORQ 1/14 (MS). Three **Redheads** were at MCEP 12/31 and 2/25-27 (BW, MS, CCS). There was a **Long-tailed Duck** at MCQ 1/17 and at DSQ 2/3 (BW). Other waterfowl seen in the county were **Gadwall**, **American Black Duck**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Bufflehead**, **Ruddy Duck** and all three **Merganser** species.

Hunting season for turkeys was closed last year so the 96 **Wild Turkeys** near the Woodstone Golf Course could have been an indication of an improving population (MS, CCS). Albert Rd pond held a **Common Loon** 12/17 (KS). On the evening of 12/13, 2 **Eared Grebes** (first county record) were located at NQ (BW). Many birders were able to see this rare species up to the last known report of one bird 1/17 (SS). **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes** were also seen at NQ.

Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were at MCEP 1/5 (JM). Another **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen along Miller Rd., which is near MCEP on 1/17 (BW). A **Golden Eagle** was seen on Township Line Rd in L Nazareth Twp 2/4. A WRS in the northeast section of the county 2/10 produced 46 **Red-tailed Hawks**, one **Rough-legged Hawk**, 3 **American Kestrels**, one **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, one **Bald Eagle**, and one **Peregrine Falcon** (DZ, SK).

**Wilson's Snipe** used the wet grassy area at Gracedale this winter, with a high of 8 counted 12/31 (MS, CCS). Gulls at Grand Central Landfill in Pen Argyl are best seen with a scope from Evergreen Cemetery. As many as 4

different **Iceland Gulls** were there in Feb (BW). Other gulls include **Ring-billed**, **Herring**, and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**. On 2/14 a likely second cycle **Thayer's Gull** was studied carefully at the landfill (BW) in comparison to 2 nearby **Kumlien's Iceland Gulls**. At NQ, there was an Iceland Gull 12/13 (BW). At MCEP 12/30, there were 10 **Great Black-backed Gulls** (MS, CCS, ML, BH). This group of birders also found 1500 Ring-billed Gulls at MCQ 12/30.

The strangest report of the season was also of the rarest bird of the period. On 12/22, a **Dovekie** was found in a driveway in Danielsville, strangely not associated with a major weather event. Unfortunately the bird did not survive and will eventually be a mount at the new JSP nature center (reported by RW). The only previous record is from Bethlehem 11/12/1970.

Three **Long-eared Owls** used an old roost site at MCEP again this winter, an area off limits to the public. One **Short-eared Owl** was at MCEP 1/10 (BW) and another was at Hollo Rd pines 12/29 (DD, JH, AC, SK). Reports of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** were from Bath 2/22 (CCS), Walnutport 1/6 (BW), and MCEP 12/30 (MS, CCS). Many birders reported seeing the **Peregrine Falcons** at MCEP and surrounding area. A Peregrine was seen at NQ 12/29 (DD, JH, AC, SK). Other sightings were at the Sands Casino 2/20 and DSQ 12/7 (BW). Wintering **Merlins** were reported from several locations including Nazareth Boro Park (RW), W Grube Memorial Park (EV), and Bethlehem Municipal Golf Course (JeH).

A **Northern Shrike** was at the Koch farm in Williams Twp. 12/18 (AK) and another was near the Mennonite church in Plainfield Twp. 2/10 (DZ, SK). During the BEH CBC, there were 24,400 **American Crows** counted at the roost site at Sand Island (ES). Graver's Hill hosted an impressive 350 **Horned Larks** and 25 **Snow Buntings** 2/6 (MS, CCS), with numbers rising to 500 **Horned Larks** and 36 **Snow Buntings** 2/10 (CH). **Lapland Longspurs** were at Graver's Hill 1/17 (BW) and the Greggo farm in Pen Argyl 2/10 (DZ, SK), and several large flocks of **Snow Buntings** took advantage of the extensive farmland in L Mt Bethel Twp. with 100 on Miller Rd 12/29 (RW) and 200 on Uhler Rd near Tatamy 2/3 (MS, CCS).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were feeders and found on the local CBCs. Bear Swamp hosted 3 **Winter Wrens** 1/17 (BW). A few **American Pipits** were at Gracedale 12/28-1/3 (BW). At MCEP, a highlight for the Merrill Creek CBC was a **Common Yellowthroat** skulking in the low brush near the flyash pond (MS, CCS, ML, BH). Another rare winter warbler was a **Yellow-breasted Chat** visiting a feeder in L Nazareth Twp. 12/12-1/8 (TK).

Two **Eastern Towhees** were seen near JSP 2/17 (DY) and another was at Copella 1/15 (BW). The Koch farm had both **Chipping Sparrow** (1/19) and **Vesper Sparrow** (1/17). A **Fox Sparrow** was in the Copella area 1/2 (BW). Wintering **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at MCEP with a high count of 9 on 1/7 (BW).

**Common Redpolls** were seen at several locations in late Dec and early Jan but seemed to disappear after that. An exception was 6 at feeders in Pen Argyl 2/17 (DZ). A high count of 20 **Common Redpolls** was made along Delabole Rd, Plainfield Twp. 1/2 (SK). Ten **White-winged Crossbills** were seen on Illick's Mill Rd, Bethlehem 1/30 (DG) and 4 were at the cemetery in spruce trees on Delabole Rd 2/7 (BW). At the Little Gap Hawk Watch, 2 **Purple Finches** passed the lookout 12/11 (MS).

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### **Northumberland County**

No compiler.

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### **Perry County**

No report.

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### **Philadelphia County**

Locations: Art Museum (AM), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), Carpenter=s Woods (CW), Darby Creek (DC), Delaware River (DR), Delaware River Trail (DRT), East Park Reservoir (EPR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), Glen Foerd Mansion (GF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia portion (TI), Morris Arboretum (MA), Naval Business Center (aka Navy Yard) (NBC), Northeast



Water Treatment Plant (NEWTP), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Philadelphia Mid-Winter Census 1/12 (PMWC), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR).

A winter season with nine warbler species and overwintering **Cave Swallow** was a fitting conclusion to a fantastic birding year. Rarities, storm birds and these late records made 2012 the most exciting birding year in memory with over 250 species seen. The 27th annual Philadelphia Mid-winter Census 1/12 set a record high of 111 species. Of more than seventy CBCs held in Pennsylvania, only three had higher species counts than the PMWC (KR). The Glenolden, Pennypack and Wyncote CBCs (all 12/15) uncovered good species surveying only a portion of *Philadelphia*.

Photos of a runt **Canada Goose** thought by many to be a **Cackling Goose** remind us how careful identification of *hutchensii* must be. Descriptions such as, "...it was a Canada Goose, but the size of a mallard" lack the attention to the size and shape of the head and bill that are required to secure identification of Cackling Goose. Philly birders are now more aware of the concept of "runt" goose. At TI, a pair of **Tundra Swans** rested briefly 2/15-16 (AB, FW). Although not a single **Wood Duck** was at TI on the Glenolden CBC, others found them 1/1 (WS), along with two at PEC (BS), a few at MA 2/3 (MD, KJ), in addition to birds on the SR at the Waterworks (DA). Overwintering Wood Ducks are not exclusive to TI as had been the case for many years. Species of duck numbering over 250 birds at a single location were **American Black Duck**, **Mallard**, **Northern Shoveler** and **Ruddy Duck**. High counts of 65 **Gadwall** and 59 **Northern Pintail** 1/12, 64 **Ring-necked Duck** 2/16, 7 **Greater Scaup** and 45 **Lesser Scaup** 1/12 allowed birders to see 15 species of waterfowl at FDR, TI or the DR most any day of the winter. Twenty **American Wigeons** provided a record high for the PMWC. A female **Surf Scoter** at POD 1/24 was a great find (FW) and **Long-tailed Duck** was found there 1/6-16 (BK). Missed on the PMWC, 11 **Common Goldeneyes** were at POD 1/19 (GA).

**Wild Turkeys** continue to thrive at TI where 38 were seen in one group. Almost a mile away from the refuge, turkeys were seen walking city streets and neighboring backyards. Two **Red-throated Loons** were at GF 2/24 (MD). An amazing 19 **Pied-billed Grebes** were on the west basin of EPR during a private visit 12/19 (KR, FW, MD). A **Horned Grebe** was found on the DR 12/15 and at TI 1/20-21 (FW, AK). A **Great Egret** at TI was an unexpected find 12/15 (DM, NK) and probably the same bird was found at the Southwest Water Pollution Control Plant 1/12 (CW). A **Green Heron** roosting in the low vegetation along the Manayunk Canal 12/3 was seen until 1/24 (KJ). **Bald Eagle** nests were active with incubation started in early Feb. At MA, numerous sightings of Bald Eagle suggest a third nest is possible somewhere along the SR (KJ). Other than Northern Goshawk, which was missed again, wintering raptors were present in relatively small numbers: 2 **Northern Harriers**, 5 **Red-shouldered Hawks** along with 19 each of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Cooper's Hawks** 1/12, were unremarkable.

Eleven **Killdeer** provided the season high count at POD 12/30 (MD). A few **Wilson's Snipe** overwintered at TI (AB) and **American Woodcock** were at POD 2/16 (TC) where 5 were displaying 2/23 (MD). A hybrid **Ring-billed x Black-headed Gull** was found at DRT 1/12 (ph. GA) clearly showing traits of both species. An **Iceland Gull** was photographed at the NBC 2/7 (GA), and a first cycle Iceland Gull was at the Columbus Ave. trash to steam transfer plant 2/18 (FW). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at TI 1/6 (FW) and DRT 1/19 (GA) and at the NBC 2/7 (GA).

A thorough survey of WC turned up 21 **Eastern Screech-Owls** 1/12 (DBel) and 10 were found on the Pennypack CBC (BS). Numbers of **Great-horned Owl** continue to be low, presumably due to West Nile Virus, which plagues both owls and corvids. The **Barred Owl** of WC was seen again on Apalogen Rd. and at MA (BG). A **Short-eared Owl** was flushed at the NBC 1/14 (TF, FW). We expected a three-year hiatus after the 2010 **Northern Saw-whet Owl** irruption, but high fall owl banding reports showed otherwise. Two Northern Saw-whets were seen at PEC 12/15 (BS). A biologist at TI found 3 using infrared imaging during a white-tailed deer count. Two of these birds were located and remained at TI into Mar.

Birders despaired after a cat caught the only **Eastern Phoebe** known to be wintering at TI, but another phoebe survived feline predators from 1/3 (AB). The **Northern Shrike** had its last photo taken 1/26 and was seldom reported in Feb, though always in the same location along Darby Creek. **Horned Lark** could be found at POD 12/3 (FW) and at the Northeast Airport 2/13. The **Cave Swallow** found 10/29 persisted with only a two-week hiatus in reports until 2/2 with as many as 4 individuals seen and photographed by hordes of birders. The accompanying flock of 150 overwintering **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** dwindled gradually after Jan as the number of freezing nights accumulated. Seeing this swallow flock thrive winter after winter and realizing the amount of nourishment the birds derive from minuscule midges amazes even seasoned birders. **Marsh Wrens** were found at TI 12/15 (DM, NK) and again 1/21 (AK). More than 50 **Eastern**

**Bluebirds** were found at PEC and SCEE. A record setting 94 **American Pipits** were found on the PMWC. The Northeast Airport and POD were the places to find groups of 20-30 pipits.

**Ovenbirds** often persist into Jan in the tiny migrant traps in Center City and on urban campuses such as Temple University. This year an Ovenbird was found on the PEC CBC and in a West Mt. Airy yard 12/29 (SJ). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was at TI 12/3 (ph. TH) and again 12/16 (SD), but not on the Glenolden CBC. For the second winter in a row, 3 **Orange-crowned Warblers** were present, one 1/12 in the Pennypack area (FW, TF) and two at the NBC (GA). A **Nashville Warbler** was present and photographed in a Manayunk backyard 2/23 (JS, KJ) where it was last seen 3/16. Two **Common Yellowthroats** were seen on the PEC CBC and another was at TI 1/1 (FW) and on the PMWC. At the Andorra Natural Area, a **Magnolia Warbler** foraged undisturbed as JS and KJ watched 12/8. **Palm Warblers** over winter yearly in the NEWTP area, but rarely are 8 seen, as happened 12/27 (TS); 4 were still present 1/26 (MD). Single Palm Warblers were at Bartram's Garden 1/14 (AZ) and at TI 1/21 (AK). NEWTP hosted 12 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** 1/12 and 6 were found on the PEC CBC. A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was reported at TI 12/11 (JM) and found again 12/15 (NK, DM).

The unexpected sparrow of the season was a **Vesper Sparrow**, the first in many decades (KR), located at NBC 1/12 along with 12 **White-crowned Sparrows** (GA). It was not a big season for **American Tree Sparrows**, but several could be found wherever appropriate habitat occurs. Thirty **Chipping Sparrows** were at Houston Meadow 2/10, now a dependable winter location (DBel), along with 6 at POD (FW, TF). The very large flocks of **Rusty Blackbird** once wintering at FDR were not reported, but 26 Rusty Blackbirds was a high count at TI 1/12 (MD).

A larger number of northern irruptive species were recorded this year than during any previous census (KR). Reports of a **Purple Finch** or two were frequent, but the best was 13 found on PWMC. In the northeast, **White-winged Crossbill** reports were numerous with multiple sightings of up to 9 (FW), but they were also in Mt. Airy 12/20 (MS), Houston Meadow 1/19 (GA), and at Ft. Mifflin 1/12 (WS, RB). Twenty White-wing Crossbills foraged on the *Montgomery* border 12/15 (BS). Of 31 **Common Redpoll** on the PMWC, 19 favored a stand of birch trees at the NBC through 1/14 despite many disruptive construction projects decimating the habitat (GA, FW). A separate group of 15 Common Redpoll was a good find at Cobb's Creek 1/15 (AZ). **Pine Siskins** became scarce after the flurry of activity in the fall, with only two groups reported at a feeder and in Houston Meadow (DBel), but 33 siskins was a good total for 1/12. An **Evening Grosbeak** was seen and photographed at TI 12/2 (CH).

Observers: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484 mcgovern100@comcast.net**, David Allen, George Armistead, Kate Atkins, Debbie Beer, David Belford, Rob Bierregaard, Adrian Binns, Erica Brendel, Denis Brennan, Brian Byrnes, Tony Croasdale, Mary Dellwo, Steve Dupont, Todd Fellenbaum, Al Guarente, John Goschke, Bob Gutowski, Theresa Heinsler, Cliff Hence, Rich Horwitz, Ken Januski, Bill Keim, Noel Kelley, Tom Johnson, Stephen Johnson, Steve Kerr, Alan Kneidel, Alex Lamoreaux, Josh Lefever, Tom Magarian, Jim McConnell, Anna Mindel, Gin Ranly, Lynn Roman, Keith Russell, Tim Schrekengost, Jerene Schroeder, Brian Schultz, Win Shafer, Matt Sharp, Gary Stolz, Chris Walters, Donna Webster, Doug Wechsler, Linda Widdup, Frank Windfelder, Alex Zorach, Cory DeStein Ryan Ford, Matt Garvey, Mike Wilson.

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#### **Pike County**

No report.

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#### **Potter County**

No report.

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#### **Schuylkill County**

Locations: Landingville (LVD), Swatara State Park (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tamaqua CBC (TCBC), Western Schuylkill CBC (WSCBC).

The winter began warmer than normal this year, which kept the lakes and ponds open until mid- to late January. There was a low snowfall total for

the season with somewhat frequent but minor snowfall events. A good deal of data for this narrative was gleaned from the two CBCs that are conducted in the county and the three WRS routes. The WSCBC took place 12/15 and the TCBC 12/29. Thanks go to Dave Krueel and Jonathan DeBalko, respectively, for heading those efforts. Thanks also go to Mike Ward for conducting the WRSs in the county.

Waterfowl numbers are always low here, so any reports are notable. The number of waterfowl species found on the CBCs matched the number from last year. Eight species were reported on the TCBC including the first TCBC records for **Snow Goose**, **Greater Scaup** and **Bufflehead**. The number of **Canada Geese** on the TCBC was ten times greater than the last two counts. Also seen on the TCBC were **American Black Duck**, **Hooded Merganser**, and **Common Merganser**. With lakes not freezing until mid-winter, some additional species were encountered. A single **Green-winged Teal** was at SAL 1/12 (DR), an **American Wigeon** was at LVD 1/19 (SS) and a **Common Merganser** was at LVD 1/26 (BJ). A few **Hooded Mergansers** and a large raft of 70 Common Mergansers showed up at LVD 2/22 (BJ). American Black Ducks were found at both SSP 1/20 (BR) and LVD 2/23 (DK). A **Wood Duck** stayed at SSP for a few weeks 1/4-17 (BR) and a **Mute Swan** was seen on a small farm pond along Rte. 443 near Pine Grove 1/12 (DR). The only **Redhead** of the year was found at Lake Wynona 1/14 along with 8 **Ring-necked Ducks** and 4 **Buffleheads** (KL). A late-staying **Pied-billed Grebe** was while scouting for the WSCBC 12/6 (VG).

**Turkey** and **Black Vultures** usually leave the county for the Piedmont during the winter months. This year their absence was brief as they were seen up to 1/20 (m.ob.) and returned to the Forest Hill roost 2/13, about a week later than normal (MW). **Bald Eagles** were one of the stories of the year, seen in larger numbers than anyone can remember. Nineteen were recorded on the WSCBC and another seven on the TCBC. They also continued to move past the North Lookout at Hawk Mountain until 12/30. Individual birds were seen throughout the winter at SAL (DD), Tamaqua HS (FD), SSP (BR), South Manheim Township (DR), Lebanon Reservoir (VG) and LVD (BJ). **Golden Eagle** set a yearly record at Hawk Mountain as individuals were seen moving past the lookout until 12/30. **Northern Harriers** were absent from the WSCBC area this winter for the second year in a row but four were found on the TCBC. Two were seen on multiple occasions through the winter: one near Hidden Valley Golf Course (AL) and another at LVD (DH, BJ, SS). The nine **American Kestrels** recorded on the WRS were down from 18 last year (MW) but they were otherwise seen in good numbers on both CBCs. **American Woodcocks** were reported 2/13 (DK, NK) with subsequent reports 2/25 (SW) and 2/28 (SS). Five species of owls were reported on the TCBC including a **Short-eared Owl**, which was missed last year. Four species of owls were reported on the WSCBC, including a **Northern Saw-whet Owl**.

**Horned Larks** were more common this winter over last although still scarcer than normal. A total of 105 were reported on the WSCBC, which was half the number normally found. An additional 136 were found on the TCBC. A good size flock of 125 was seen 2/2 (MW) in central *Schuylkill*. **Snow Buntings** were reported as early as 11/4 at LVD (DR) and stayed in the area, seen on the TCBC, again 1/6 (BJ), and 1/21 (DK, NK). A few unusual sparrows included **Fox Sparrows** in Feb at feeders (SS, DK) and a **Savannah Sparrow** 12/6 while scouting the WSCBC (VG).

The other story of the winter was the northern finch invasion. By far the most common of the uncommon were the **Common Redpolls**, which were seen frequently throughout the county, particularly at feeders, with no less than 10 observers reporting. Less common were crossbills that migrated past the Northern Lookout at Hawk Mountain through the fall. The vast majority must have kept going because the only report was of a **Red Crossbill** during the WSCBC (JD, JoD). **Pine Siskins** were also around this season, seen on both CBCs and by a number of other individuals (BC, BR, DR, SS, TC).

Observers: **Dave Rieger**, 401 Stoney Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com, Barbara Adams, B. Cardamone, Tom Clauser, John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko (JD), Frank Dickman, Denise Donmoyer, Glennis Eifert, Vern Gauthier, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Dave Hughes, Barb Jucker, Dave Krueel, Nancy Krueel, Ken Lebo, Anne-Marie Liebner, Dave, McNaughton, Barb Ritzheimer, Sandy Schwartz, Mike Ward, Scott Weidensaul, Audrey Wells, Linda Widdop.

### Snyder County

Locations: Isle of Que (IQ), Weller Farm (WF), Faylor Lake (FL).

Fifteen **Tundra Swans** were found resting on the small lake between Rtes. 11 and 15 and IQ along with 16 **Redheads** 2/28 (JW). A female **Redhead** was on the pond in Middleburg on the same date (JW).

**Northern Harriers** were numerous in the county, with a male and female at SGL 212 on 1/1 (JW) Another female was found 1/19 at WF (JW), a male and 2 females were found on Breon Road 1/27 (JW), one was found in Middleburg 2/14 (BS), one at Tame Deer Road 2/18 (BG), and a female at Srey Hollow Road 2/28 (JW). A **Bald Eagle** was observed on the Susquehanna Trail 2/17 (AK) and another was observed at FL 2/28 (JW).

Two **American Coots** were observed at the small lake between Rtes. 11 and 15 and IQ 2/28 (JW). A **Wilson's Snipe** was found at WF 2/24 (JW). **Two Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at SGL 212 on 1/1 and 6 were observed at the same location 1/13 (JW). Another was seen at the Loop near Meiserville 1/2 (KC). A **Winter Wren** was found on Tame Deer Road 2/18 (BG). An **Eastern Towhee** visited a feeder near Selinsgrove 2/4 (JW).

A female **Purple Finch** was at SGL 212 on 1/1 (JW) and another was observed near Middleburg 2/14 (BS). Two **White-winged Crossbills** were found during a WRS 2/28 (CK, GG, RH, JW). A flock of 30 **Common Redpolls** was observed at WF 12/12 (JW).

Observers: **Jason Weller**, fishingdude20@hotmail.com, Kay Cramer, Greg Grove, Bob Gutheinz, Robert Hosler, Chad Kauffman, Andy Keister, Barbara Staschiak.

### Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Indian Lake (IL), Lanzone Property (LP), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Summit Mills (SM), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR)

Early winter was fairly warm with a late freeze-up, which allowed many waterfowl to linger into early January. The winter finch flight slowed somewhat by December, but several species were detected for the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society CBC (APAS CBC) and **Common Redpolls** remained through the season. The APAS CBC yielded 72 species count day and a record 87 for count week. It was a tie for bird of the season between two firsts for *Somerset*—**Parasitic Jaeger** and **Glaucous Gull**.

Waterfowl was plentiful up until the first few days of Jan, after which lakes were frozen through remainder of period. The APAS CBC recorded 20 species of waterfowl and 16 species were still present at Indian Lake 12/28. Twenty-one **Tundra Swans** were at QR 12/22 with 6 swans present 1/7 (AM). A possible problem with late season swans is that protected immature **Tundra Swans** may be mistaken for unprotected immature **Mute Swans**, which presently may be shot at will. With a few Trumpeter Swans also passing through the Commonwealth, perhaps this policy should be reevaluated.

Very few **Ring-necked Pheasants** are found in the wild pheasant reintroduction area. Former CRP grasslands are all converted to profitable cornfields, and there are as many released pen-raised birds are seen away from the reintroduction area as there are "wild" birds in the large no-hunting zone. Four **Pied-billed Grebes** were at QR 12/27 (AM) and also 4 were at IL 1/1 (JP, CL).

**Bald Eagles** were reported throughout the period, including at QR 1/23 (LG) and 2/27 (TF). A male **Northern Harrier** was in BA 2/3 (JP). Up to 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** were in BA from 1/2 to about 1/16 (JP). A good count of 2 **Merlins** were found on the APAS-CBC. Eighteen **American Coots** were present until 12/28 at IL (JP). The **Sandhill Crane** at BC persisted into Dec. A **Killdeer** was in SM 12/28 and 1/12, and then stayed from 1/30 on (EB).

Completely unexpected was an adult **Parasitic Jaeger** (ph. ML) which put in a very brief appearance at SL 12/16 to be counted for the CBC. Both the late date and lack of any strong weather to explain this late migrant demonstrate that perseverance and an open mind can result in some good birds. A **Bonaparte's Gull** was late at IL 12/28. More exciting was the first winter **Glaucous Gull** found sitting on the ice at SL 12/28 by ML (SB, JP, m.ob.). It persisted on and off until early morning 1/1 when it was last seen.

A cooperative **Eastern Screech-Owl** at LP used a kestrel box often after 1/1. Also cooperative was a **Short-eared Owl** sitting on a fence post in BA 1/1, about 20 feet from the road (JP, CL). Very surprising for *Somerset's* climate was a female **Rufous Hummingbird** banded 12/20 (RM) and present until at least 12/21 (ML, JP). The BA homeowner said it was present from mid-Oct and the site was a wooded lot with one feeder. A good count of 2 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was found on the APAS CBC 12/16 (ML, JK, TK, MW). A pair of **Pileated Woodpeckers** repeatedly visited a suet feeder through the period (JM, MM). The high count of **Horned Larks** was 169 near Jerome 12/16 (LG). A lonely **Carolina Wren** last appeared at a PP birdbath 1/1 before cold snowy weather set in. Populations of Carolina Wrens are very weather dependent in most of the county.

**Eastern Bluebirds**, which sporadically winter in the county, were at a

yard in Jan (JM, MM) and in boxes in another yard 2/12 (LG). **American Pipits** were fairly widespread in small numbers into Jan (ML, JP, MW). An excellent find for the APAS CBC 12/16 was a **Common Yellowthroat** near Jennerstown. Unconfirmed reports of a **Summer Tanager** visiting a feeder near Lambertsville in late Dec were intriguing. A few **Snow Buntings** were in the Somerset to Jennerstown area from 1/2-6 (ML, JP, MW). Two **Eastern Meadowlarks** were in Somerset Twp. 12/23 (AM) and one was in BA 1/4 (JP). **Red-winged Blackbirds** started trickling in about 2/13 at PP, trying to herald in spring.

A flock of **Red Crossbills** was found for the APAS CBC (ML). **Common Redpolls** were at PP all season with at least 60 present 1/17 (JP). Other reports of a few birds came from several other observers (ML, TF, MW, LG). **Pine Siskins** virtually disappeared by Jan after a large influx starting early Nov. Five cooperative **Evening Grosbeaks** were at feeders for the APAS CBC (TF).

As a note of recognition, ML did a big year in *Somerset* for 2012 and with incredible skill and perseverance found 265 species. This bested long-standing record of 222 (SB). Two other species were found for a superlative *Somerset* total of 267 for the year.

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Scott Bastion, Elmer J. Brennehan, Tim Fox, Linda Gribble, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Carolyn LaBute, Mike Lanzone, Anthony Marich, Jim Moses, Meg Moses, Robert Mulvihill, Chris Payne, Mike Wolfe.

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### Sullivan County

Locations: Dutch Mountain (DM), Hunter's Lake (HL), Kinsley's Corner (KC).

Two trips to *Sullivan* during the winter season each found the county under snow cover between two and six inches deep, and access was difficult (RM). All standing water was frozen. Two of the locations with the highest concentration of birds were feeder stations located in Mildred and Dushore. All sightings are by the compiler unless noted.

Several skeins of migrant **Canada Geese** numbering about 200 were seen flying high in late Dec. Two adult **Bald Eagles** were seen at HL 12/23 (WE). The lake still had open water at the time of the sightings. Other lakes in the county were iced over the following week.

Probably the most interesting find on the Dec trip was a group of 15 **Ring-necked Pheasant** in cornfields adjacent to Hunsinger Rd. in Cherry Twp. The rather high count seemed odd and the location is not particularly close to any SGL, and their origin remains unknown. A flock of passerines was also observed, mostly **Common Redpolls** with **American Tree Sparrows** and a single **Song Sparrow** still holding out in the early winter. Also in Dec, a **Great Horned Owl** was heard calling multiple times on DM. Corvids were well represented by over 50 **American Crows** as well as single digit numbers of **Blue Jays** and **Common Ravens**. The local feeders held many **Black-capped Chickadees** and **Common Redpolls** as well as **Tufted Titmice**, **Northern Cardinals**, and **American Goldfinches**. Single individuals of both **Field Sparrow** and **Red-winged Blackbird** were also still present.

The Martin Luther King Holiday weekend in late Jan brought warm and sunny days with lows dipping into the high teens and low twenties. A WRS was run through Colley and Cherry Twps. covering 30 miles and three hours. Highlights were 4 **Red-tailed Hawks**, an **American Kestrel**, and a light morph **Rough-legged Hawk**. Two of the red-tails and the Rough-legged Hawk were in the vicinity of KC in Cherry Twp. where there is a good-sized expanse of open grass fields. Also in Feb, single individuals of both **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpecker** were observed. Corvids were represented in the same way as in Dec, with a large number of **American Crows**, a few **Blue Jays** and a handful of **Common Ravens**. Local feeders still held good numbers of **Black-capped Chickadees**, **Dark-eyed Juncos**, and **Common Redpolls** as well as smaller numbers of **Tufted Titmice**, **White-breasted Nuthatches**, **Northern Cardinals**, and **American Goldfinches**. A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** frequented a feeding station on DM with a lone **Common Redpoll**.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@xo.com**, Wes Egli.

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### Susquehanna County

Location: Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Preserve (WFWP).

Raptors and redpolls were among the highlights of the season in *Susquehanna*. A mid-winter Bald Eagle survey turned up a total of 4 **Bald**

**Eagles**, 3 adults and one subadult along the Susquehanna R. 1/20 (DA, JSk). Two more adult **Bald Eagles** were tallied during a WRS conducted in northern *Susquehanna* 1/27 (AD, JD). The central *Susquehanna* WRS produced 2 **Northern Harriers** 1/26 (DA, JSk, LT), and the northern and central surveys each turned up a single **American Kestrel**. Although the species was not observed along survey routes, a **Rough-legged Hawk** appeared south of Montrose 1/1 (JSk).

*Susquehanna* birders noted a major irruption of **Common Redpolls**. The species became widespread in the county in Jan and Feb (m.ob.) and large flocks of 85 to over 100 were reported from WFWP 1/1 (KR), Rush Twp. 1/26 (AD, JD), and Franklin Twp. 2/24 (HF). A **Hoary Redpoll** in Rush Twp. 1/26 (AD, JD) would be *Susquehanna's* second, pending acceptance by PORC.

Observers: **Amy Davis, 129 W. Lancaster Ave. #2, Downingtown, PA 19335, (484) 753-5154, argdavis@gmail.com**, Dave Andre, Jeff Davis, Herb Flavell, Bonnie Jensen, Kevin Ripka, Jerry Skinner (JSk), Joyce Stone, Linda Tucker.

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### Tioga County

No report.

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### Union County

No compiler.

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### Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Kahle Lake (KL).

Rivers and lakes had open water through Dec and began to freeze up in Jan. After Dec, waterfowl observations were on the AR unless otherwise noted. There were three reports of **Tundra Swan**, the latest 12/21. Highest count of **American Black Duck** was 10 on 1/4. An early **Green-winged Teal** was found 2/19 (JS, KG). **Redhead**, a duck that can be hard to come by in *Venango*, reached a high of 32 on 2/13 and remained through the period (JW, GE). **Common Goldeneye** numbers were low for the period, with the highest count only 25 on 2/13 (GE, JW). A **White-winged Scoter** was found 2/13 and remained thru the end of the period (GE, JW). **Northern Harrier** was seen 12/21-22 (KL). All reports of **Rough-legged Hawk** were from KL area 1/25-29. An early **Killdeer** was noted 1/27 (NB). **American Woodcock** was first seen 2/16 at BHNS (JS, KG). Gulls were scarce, with only single **Ring-billed Gulls** reported on several occasions on the AR (RS). The only **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was one photographed by two non-birders near Pithole 12/30.

A **Northern Shrike** was observed near Diamond 12.30 (WDD). About 25 **Horned Larks** were seen 12/30 near Windy Hills, and about 50 were found at KL 2/4 (RS, GE) through the rest of the period. The only **Brown Creeper** was found 2/15 (RS). **American Robins** were present in low numbers all season. The only **Cedar Waxwing** was at KL 1/2 (GE). A **Northern Mockingbird** was in Pleasantville 12/30 (WDD). Good for *Venango* were 3 **Lapland Longspurs** at KL 2/4 and 2/9 (RS, GE, ML). Also on those days about 50 **Snow Buntings** were at KL (RS, GE, ML). An **Eastern Towhee** was reported to have wintered near the village of Sugar Creek on French Creek. The only **Fox Sparrow** for the season was reported 12/1-2 (NB). Hard to find in *Venango*, 8-10 **Rusty Blackbirds** were at KL 12/22 (GE). **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, not common at this season, were found around KL 12/15 (GE) and 12/30 (KG, JS). Winter finches were not terribly abundant. **Common Redpolls** were at several feeders during Jan and Feb. Up to 50 **Evening Grosbeaks** were observed in President 12/30 (JS, RS).

Observers: **Russ States, 111 East Fourth Street, Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pabirder@verizon.net**; **Gary Edwards, 224 Meadow Rd. #9, Seneca, PA, 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net**, Anna Applegate, Nancy Baker, W. Dwayne DeGrande, Gary Edwards, Kathie Goodblood, Jeff Hall, Mike Leahy, Meg Kolodick, Claire McKenzie, Randy Rhodes, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Jim Wilson.

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### Warren County

No compiler.

## Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Bentleyville (BENT), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Robinson Township (RBT), Timber Lake in Peters Township (TL), Washington Cemetery (WCEM).

Top counts of **Canada Goose** at AMD were 354 on 2/5 (ST) and 200 on 2/8 (MV). A nice collection of 157 were at TL 1/13 (MV). Rare mid-winter **Wood Ducks** were 2 at WCEM 1/13 (RT), one still there 2/17 (DG, GGr), and one at AMD 2/21 (PB). Ponds near BENT held 26 **Gadwall** 12/16 and 22 on 1/13 (AB). Ten were at CL 12/27 (ST), and one was at TL 2/15-3/5 (MV, et al.). An **American Wigeon** at AMD 2/18 (MV) was the only one reported. Two **American Black Ducks** were at BENT 1/13 (MV) and 2 were at Greencove Wetlands 2/17 (DG, GGr). Top count of **Mallard** at AMD was 120 on 2/8 (MV). Two late **Northern Shovelers** were at CL 12/27 (ST). Later, one appeared at AMD 1/2 and remained to at least 2/5 (MV, PK, et al.). Two **Green-winged Teal** (male and female) wintered at TL, present 1/2 to at least 3/17 (DW, GG, et al.). Two **Green-winged Teal** were also at AMD 1/2 (MV).

A good showing of **Redhead** at AMD began with 8 on 2/8 (ST) and reached a peak of 32 on 2/28 (ST). Up to 28 remained well into Mar. Four **Ring-necked Ducks** at CL 2/15 (MV) represented the only report. Single-digit counts of **Lesser Scaup** were made from four locations in Feb, let by 8 at Lake Joann 2/16 (DW) and 6 at AMD 2/22 (MV). **Bufflehead** were found only at BENT 12/16 and 1/13 (MV). First returning **Hooded Merganser** was at AMD 2/15 (MV), and the first (and only) **Ruddy Duck** of the season was at CL 2/15 (ST).

Two **Common Loons** were at BENT 12/16 (MV) for the only report. Up to 12 **Great Blue Herons** were at AMD in Feb (m.ob.), and 15 were back at the nesting colony in North Strabane Twp. by 2/28 (PB).

A rare mid-winter **Turkey Vulture** was seen on US-40 west of Washington 1/13 (ST). Also rare, these at any time in *Washington*, were two reports of **Bald Eagle**, one at AMD 2/8 (ST) and one at CL 2/23 (JBo). **Northern Harriers** were seen around BENT (MV, AB) and at a traditional location at RBT (JM) this winter. A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was present again this winter at Taylorstown, first seen 1/30 (RN). It has been reported around that area since at least 2008.

The **American Coot** which apparently resided permanently at AMD for several years was not in evidence for much of the winter, but 4birds appeared there 2/8 and remained throughout Feb and Mar (m.ob.). Last **Killdeer** was at BENT 12/16 (MV) and first returners were at Eighty Four 2/16 (AB). This species probably winters annually in *Washington* in all but the most exceptionally harsh winters, which this year's season was not. A **Wilson's Snipe** was back at CL 2/15 (MV). Nine **Ring-billed Gulls** at BENT 1/13 (MV) provided an unusual winter report. Also present that day were 7 **Herring Gulls** (MV).

A pair of **Great Horned Owls** returned to nest among the hordes of **Great Blue Herons** at the North Strabane Twp. colony again this year, and were seen there on nest 2/28 (PB). At least one **Short-eared Owl** wintered again at RBT (JM). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was sighted at Avella 12/28 (JB) and at WCEM 1/17 (PB). **American Kestrels** were well reported from at least five locations, including the National Cemetery 12/23 (GG) and near Taylorstown 1/30-2/17 (RN, et al.).

Two **Horned Larks** were seen just outside Cross Creek County Park 1/13-2/2 (ST). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were abundant at WCEM all season, with reports of 10 on 1/13 (RT) and 17 on 1/17 (PB) leading the way. One was also in East Findlay Twp. 2/11-25 (PH). A single **Hermit Thrush** at Washington Park 12/15 (PB, LC) was a good find. Single **American Pipits** were at Lake Joann 1/2 (JM) and at AMD 2/3 (MV). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at WCEM 12/15 (PB) was the only one reported.

An excellent February bird was a **Vesper Sparrow** at BENT 2/9 (AB). Small numbers of **Swamp Sparrows** wintered at Greencove Wetlands (JB, ST, RN). Greencove Wetlands is also a wintering location for **White-crowned Sparrow**, and 10 were there 2/17 (DG, GGr). One of each of these species was also found at Blaine Township Park 1/30 (RN). Another species which may winter in *Washington* from time to time is **Red-winged Blackbird**, but this year an examination of eBird records for this species revealed an abrupt departure by 12/6 and a just as abrupt return 2/15 (m.ob.). **Eastern Meadowlark** was also at Blaine Township Park 1/30 (RN) and 6 were at BENT 2/9 (AB) where they may be a regular wintering species. Reports of **Rusty Blackbirds** were one at CL 2/8-12 (ST) and 10 at Greencove Wetlands 2/17 (DG, GGr).

Variable numbers of **Purple Finches** were at Peters Twp. 12/29-1/10 (GG). **White-winged Crossbills** present at WCEM all winter, but in smaller and more unpredictable numbers than in the winter of 2008-09. Top count of 20 was made 1/26 (PK), but totals of less than 10 were more the norm. They were last reported there 2/17. A nice flock of 25 was at the Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Peters Twp. 12/15 (RT). A **Common Redpoll** visited a

feeder in Peters Twp. 12/29-1/11 (GG), and a flock of 27 were seen at a feeder in Bulger 2/15 (SS). Small numbers of **Pine Siskins** were at the same Peters Twp. feeder as the redpoll 12/29-1/10 (GG).

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## Wayne County

Two **Long-tailed Ducks** and 8 **Buffleheads** were observed on Cadjaw Pond 12/18-19 (BL). Highlights of a *Wayne* WRS 1/26 included 2 **Black Vultures**, 4 **Rough-legged Hawks** (including 3 light and one dark morph), one **Cooper's Hawk**, and 2 adult **Bald Eagles** (DA, SK). One **Northern Shrike** was observed in the field behind New Hope Church off Buckingham Rd. near Rt. 652 on 12/15 (CF). Approx. 35-40 **Snow Buntings** were observed feeding at the intersection of Rte. 6 and Rte. 507 in a parking lot 1/2 (BL). One male **Evening Grosbeak** visited a feeder near Honesdale 12/6 (SWP). **Common Redpolls** were widely reported throughout the county through the entire reporting period (m.ob.). One **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder on private property just north of Honesdale 1/7 (SWP). Reports of **American Goldfinch**, **House Finch**, and **Purple Finch** were below average.

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## Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Crabtree Farming Area (CFA), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Spring Lake, a.k.a. Derry Lake (ESL), Kuehl Property Area (KP), Latrobe Reservoir (LR), Loyalhanna Dam (LD), Spruce Flats Bog (SFB).

Though reports were not numerous, *Westmoreland* joined the rest of the Commonwealth with reports of a number of irruptive species. The best effort was made on the 12/15 Rector CBC (compiled by Amy Tegeler) with reports of **Evening Grosbeak**, **Red** and **White-winged Crossbills**, **Common Redpoll**, and **Pine Siskin**. On the Bushy Run CBC 1/5 (compiled by Dick Byers) **White-winged Crossbill** made the list for the first time in 39 years. The Bushy Run count also set a new all-time record of 81 species.

There were a number of significant waterfowl found. A first time record on e-Bird for this species, Steve Gosser observed Five **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at ESL 2/2 (SG), with one still present the next day (ST). A single **Snow Goose** was on the Allegheny River 2/2 and 2/4 (RP). The **Harlequin Duck** first found 2/10 on the Allegheny River below Lock and Dam #5 in *Armstrong* was seen on the *Westmoreland* side in the Kiskiminetas River 2/11 (BS *fide* DY). Expected waterfowl species were well represented on both CBCs. A most unusual sighting was several **Redheads** on the tiny pond at Townsend Community Park in Murrysville (PF, ph. DM).

Rare for *Westmoreland*, a **Black-Crowned Night-heron** was along Jacob's Creek in downtown Mt. Pleasant (TA). Once again **Turkey Vultures** over-wintered in the Ligonier Valley. Along with the 47 **Turkey Vultures** reported on the 12/15 Rector CBC were 5 **Black Vultures** near Stahlstown (ML). Among several reports of **Northern Harrier** was a single bird in the Crabtree area during the 1/5 Bushy Run CBC (MM) and one adult male and one juvenile together near Millwood during a WRS 1/19 (TK, JK). The 3 **Red-shouldered Hawks** in the Kuehl home territory for the Bushy Run CBC helped provide a new record high count of 4. The lone report of **Rough-legged Hawk** was in Delmont 2/6 (KB). There were numerous **Bald Eagle** reports during the season with a high count of 7 at LD 2/24 (TV). A single **Golden Eagle** was tallied on the Rector CBC 12/15. Another unusual sighting was the first **Osprey** for the Bushy Run CBC near Beaver Run Reservoir (SC, DM). One of the Tarentum Bridge **Peregrine Falcons** was perched on the *Westmoreland* side of the bridge 1/17 (RN).

Although only one each was reported on the two CBCs, **Killdeer** apparently over-wintered, as did **Wilson Snipe**; among the several reports of snipe was a remarkable high of 11 in a reliable seep near Crabtree 1/27 (KB). As last year, an early **American Woodcock** was reported at Pleasant Valley Park 2/25 (TD). Besides the usual reports of **Herring Gull** and **Ring-billed Gull**, there were 4 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at DL 12/9 (TA).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were tallied on both CBCs and a male was at the KP 12/15 (TK). In appropriate winter habitat, 133 **Horned Larks**, one **Lapland Longspur** and 2 **Snow Buntings** were observed in the CFA area 1/5 (MM). Possibly attributable to the irruption of boreal species were numerous **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, after no reports one year ago. As an example, the Kuehl's 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in appropriate evergreen habitat was their first ever observation of this species in their CBC Murrysville home-territory. One **Winter Wren** and one **Hermit Thrush** were at LR 12/15 (ML). The only **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** for the season was at the West Penn Trail 12/1 (TR). A high count of 25 **American Pipits** was made in the CFA 1/27 (KB). Three **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found in a new winter location in Mamont 1/5 (TK, JK). There were 15 **White-crowned Sparrows** in the CFA 1/10 (KB), a reliable location. The one **Fox Sparrow** of the Bushy Run CBC was a feeder-bird at the KP 1/5 (TK, JK). **Brown-headed Cowbirds** and several of the blackbird species apparently overwintered. There were 22 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 5 **Rusty Blackbirds** at LR 12/15 (ML), and one **Common Grackle** and 2 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were tallied in the Rector CBC Stahlstown West Sector 12/15 (ML). Six **Purple Finches** were counted in the same territory 12/15 (ML).

**Red Crossbill** reports included 12 Type-3 birds at LR and at least 16 at SFB 12/15 (ML). **White-winged Crossbills** included 11 at SFB 12/15 (ML) and 5 near LD 1/12 during a WRS (TK, JK). Six **Common Redpolls** were at SFB 12/15 (ML) and an amazing 45 visited feeders outside of Stahlstown 1/27 (LS); other feeder reports were of 2 at the KP in Murrysville 1/10 (JK), 3 in Stahlstown 1/10 (DB), 4 in Murrysville 1/16 (DM), and 2 in Bell Township 1/18 (KD). On the 12/15 Rector CBC, 36 **Pine Siskins** were tallied.

Lastly, in a follow up from past reports, readers will be pleased to know that, though not as consistent in their usage of our collection wicker pocket under the side porch as they were in frigid winter of 2011-2012, this writer was frequently provided with a dawn and/or dusk scoldings by the local population of **Carolina Wrens** this season.

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### Wyoming County

Locations: Lake Carey (LC), Scottsville Road (SR), Sordoni's Farm (SF), Vosburg Neck (VN).

It was a good but not a remarkable winter for birds in *Wyoming*. The Tunkhannock CBC 12/16 tallied 74 species, equaling the all-time record for the county (set in 2008), and the total number of individuals was among the highest ever at 8870. One species occurred for the first time, six made rare appearances, and nine species occurred in the highest numbers ever for the count. A number of factors likely contributed to these results, including favorable weather, warm temperatures, open water, more counters, and the improving skills of the counters.

Very rare for *Wyoming*, a **Cackling Goose** was observed among a group of **Canada Geese** at VN 2/18 (RL). A **Mute Swan** made a rare appearance on the CBC (DB, EH), as did **Tundra Swan** (BD) on a small pond in the northern part of the county. Counters tallied 12 **Gadwall**, the highest total ever for the count, one **Northern Shoveler** (RK, SGa) was a new species, and both **Hooded Merganser** and **Common Merganser** were observed in the highest numbers ever for the Tunkhannock CBC. High numbers of Common and Hooded Mergansers continued into the early spring.

Fourteen **Ring-necked Pheasants** were seen at a bird feeder 1/11 in VN (JD). They were probably recently stocked. A first year **Northern Goshawk** was found on SR during the CBC (JD). They are rarely reported here. Participants tallied 10 **Belted Kingfishers**, the highest number in the history of the CBC, probably a result of plentiful open water.

**Fish Crow** made a rare appearance during the CBC (BT, JH). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued to be present in small numbers throughout *Wyoming* through the winter season, appearing at bird feeders where rarely seen. **White-breasted Nuthatch** was observed in the highest CBC numbers ever. **Northern Mockingbirds**, an uncommon winter report, were observed several times during the period: in Beaumont 12/7 (SGo), during the CBC (BT, JH), and just north of Tunkhannock 2/10 along Rte. 29 (JB). The Tunkhannock CBC produced four unusual sparrows: one **Chipping**

**Sparrow** (DB, EH), 2 **Field Sparrows** (RK, SGa), one **Fox Sparrow** (BT, JH), and one **White-crowned Sparrow** (RK, SGa). The total of 156 **White-throated Sparrows** was a new high for the CBC.

**Pine Siskins** were present, though not close to the numbers of siskins in the irruption of 2008-09. **Common Redpolls** were observed throughout the period and continued into early spring. Fifteen were observed during the CBC 12/16 (BD), and small flocks up to 20-30 were seen at feeders throughout the county at various dates.

Observers: **Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468, jdemarco@epix.net**, Dave Birchler, Jim Borden, Sarah Carr, Mark Catalano, Bob Daniels, Chris DeMarco, Dave Fisher, Stan Galenty (SGa), Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Ellie Harding, James Hoyson, Rick Koval, Joe Lesko, Rebecca Lesko, Mary Robbins, Jeremiah Stone, Alan Thatcher, Jon Thomas, David Trently, Bruce Troy, Bob Wasilewski, Carol Williams.

### York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd (ALT), Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Lake Redman (LR), Southern Lancaster Christmas Bird Count (SLCBC), Spring Grove (SG), Sunnyside Rd (SUNN), York Christmas Bird Count (YCBC), York Springs Christmas Bird Count (YSCBC).

The county enjoyed coverage from three CBCs: York (12/15), Southern Lancaster County a.k.a. SoLanCo (12/16) with a small sliver in southeastern *York*, and the inaugural YSCBC (12/27) which included the northwestern corner of *York*. The YCBC (BF), SLCBC (RP), and YSCBC (VG) produced *York* counts of 84, 41, and 71 species, respectively.

Waterfowl had a strong showing with 29 species reported. CSP produced the bulk of the highlights—a **Cackling Goose** 12/29 (DC), 50 **Northern Pintails** 1/29 (DC), a **Greater Scaup** 2/15 (HM), one **Common Goldeneye** 2/28 (RK), a **Red-necked Grebe** 12/29 (DC), and 170 **American Coots** 2/18 (HM). Dec produced a single **Green-winged Teal** on the YCBC and three sightings of **Wood Duck**, with a high count of 5 on the YCBC. A female **Blue-winged Teal** was in the Lewisberry area 12/15 (EB). Three **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at CSP 2/28 (RK, DN).

Two **Ruffed Grouse** on the YSCBC were quite a surprise. There had been no reports in *York* for quite some time. **Ring-necked Pheasant** was reported seven times with five of these during Cornell's Great Backyard Bird Count period 2/14-17. **Wild Turkey** high count among eight reports was 40 at Morningstar Market 1/30 (RS). SG's **Great Blue Heron** colony showed signs of nest building 2/21 (PK). Raptors were strong among all the expected species. A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was at LR 2/1 (EE). CSP held a female **Merlin** 12/29 (DC).

**Killdeer** were sporadically found all winter and a single **Wilson's Snipe** was at ALT 1/9 (RP). LAR held 15 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 2/12 (DC) and **Great Black-backed Gulls** were found at four locations with a high count of 6 at Apollo County Park 2/5 (EW). **Short-eared Owls** continue to put in winter appearances at ALT with up to 3 found from 1/7 to the end of the period (DC, RK, RS). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found on the YSCBC. **Peregrine Falcon** were in the Hanover area and a pair made an industrial water tower their favored winter perch throughout the period (JS).

Who would have ever predicted that a compiler could get confused by how many **Rufous Hummingbirds** were in the county for a winter reporting period? It appears there were four this season. Two adult females in Springettsbury Twp. (DH, SL) with one staying until 12/16 and the other until 1/9, an immature female at Felton until 1/3 (SL), and one at Grandview Rd. 1/11 (DC). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** overwintered (JH, RK) at GPSP as in the past, and Young's Woods held 5 for the high count 12/4 (HM).

There were two reports of **Eastern Phoebe**s in Dec, one on the YCBC and the other a single along Ironstone Hill Rd 12/23 (EE). Reports of **Fish Crow** were of 2 on the YCBC and one at Long Level 1/30 (DC). **Common Raven** was reported three times. **Horned Lark** were found in three locations and surprisingly ALT was not one of them. High count was 203 on the YSCBC. **Black-capped Chickadees** and **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, were widespread and numerous along with **Brown Creepers**, **Carolina** and **Winter Wrens**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglets**. Five reports of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and seven reports of **Hermit Thrush** were above average as well. The 2/14-17 period produced three reports of **Brown Thrasher**: at SUNN 2/17 (RSw), CSP 2/14 (HM), and 2 along Hoff Rd 2/17 (DS). The YCBC had one. **American Pipit** showed well in Dec with the YCBC producing the high count of 93. One report fell outside of Dec: 40 birds along Franklin Church Rd 1/26 (DM, VG). Twelve **Snow Buntings** were noted on the YSCBC, a good find of an infrequently reported species.

Winter warblers are infrequent in *York*. Besides the expected **Yellow-**

**rumped Warbler**, there was a **Palm Warbler** at SUNN 12/15 and 1/20 (RP), a **Common Yellowthroat** at BI 1/1 (DC), and a **Wilson's Warbler** was found and well photographed on the SLCBC (RP, SW, MS, RC) near the Muddy Run boat launch. Remarkably, this was one of 2 Wilson's found on the SLCBC. This sighting also shatters the York late date for this species, which was 10/10.

**Eastern Towhees** overwintered, reflected by eight reports throughout the period. **American Tree, Field, and White-crowned Sparrows** were regularly reported, and **Chipping Sparrows** held on into Dec with one in the Lewisberry area 12/15 (EB) and 2 on the YSCBC. **Savannah Sparrows** were beginning 12/15 with a high count of 6 at ALT (DC). **Fox Sparrow** showed fairly well with five reports 12/27-2/15. **Swamp Sparrow** was sporadically found throughout the period with the YCBC producing the high count of 23. Of additional interest, one of 10 birds at SUNN 1/13 (RP) appeared to be leucistic and was photographed. The experienced observer noted a reddish shoulder patch and the facial pattern of a swamp sparrow, but the normal gray collar had been replaced by white.

**Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird** showed essentially the same timing: present in Dec, vacating in Jan/early Feb, and returning in mid-Feb. **Eastern Meadowlarks** overwintered at ALT with 6 the high count 1/12 (RK, DC). The YSCBC produced 9 **Rusty Blackbirds** and 2 were found in the Lewisberry area 12/15 (EB).

Although fairly widely reported, **Purple Finches** were usually seen only one or two at a time. Nine reports of **White-winged Crossbill** covered the period, with the high of 12 on Cornell Drive 2/17 (MZ). The count of **Common Redpolls** on the YSCBC was 33 and a single bird was reported at Goldsboro 2/2 (BS). **Pine Siskin**, although present at ten locations spanning the period, showed no evidence of a pronounced invasion; the high count was limited to 6 birds.

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**PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:** Materials to be included in the publication are needed by the due dates below.

Issue	Sightings due to Compilers by...	Articles due to Editor by...	Publication Date
Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)	31 March	1 May	July
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 June	1 August	October
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 August	1 October	December
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 December	1 February	April

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For articles, the Microsoft Office suite (any version) is preferred; however we will accept any popularly used format, or plain text. Please email written materials in an attached document in its original source format (i.e., no PDF files, please).

Digital photos or scanned image files sent for consideration should be in JPG format and resized down to 600-1200 pixels on the longer axis (if the source file is larger than these dimensions), and compressed to no larger than 250kB. Larger files will be requested by the editor if necessary. Submitted photos may be cropped or adjusted for color, brightness, or contrast as the editor sees fit without notice to the photographer. When submitting by email, all files should be sent as attachments—DO NOT embed pictures or documents within the email body. Photos with copyright or signature text visible in the image will not be accepted. Photographers will be acknowledged in the photo caption.

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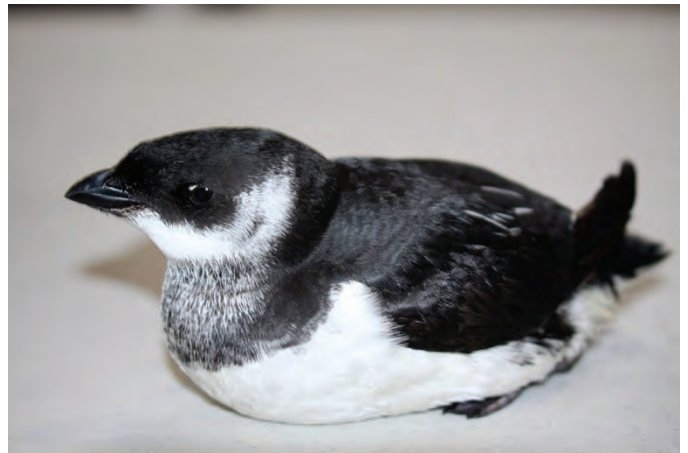
*Pink-footed Goose, Lake Muhlenberg, Lehigh County. See p. 66.  
(Photo by Tom Johnson)*



*Purple Sandpiper, Gull Point, Erie County. See p. 60.  
(Photo by Geoff Malosh)*



*Putative Black-headed x Ring-billed Gull (left), Philadelphia County.  
See p. 71. (Photo by George Armistead)*



*Dovekie, found in New Hope, Bucks County. See p. 51.  
(Photo by Zach Boles)*



*Herring Gull (probable Vega), Tullytown, Bucks County. See p. 51.  
(Photo by George Armistead)*



*Harris's Sparrow, near Beltzville SP, Carbon County. See p. 39.  
(Photo by Dustin Welch)*