

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



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# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

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In Focus ... Inside Back Cover

Cover: **Bahama Woodstar (*Calliphlox evelynae*)**. One of the most extraordinary birds ever to appear in Pennsylvania, this adult male Bahama Woodstar inexplicably appeared at a feeder in Denver, Lancaster 20-24 April 2013 (here 23 April). If accepted as a natural vagrant, it would represent the first record for Pennsylvania, and just the fourth for the North American mainland and first outside of Florida. (*Meredith Lombard*)

Three new county compilers have stepped up to the plate since the last update in this space. **Debra Grim** is the new compiler for *Huntingdon*, and her first report appears in this issue. Debra takes over for Greg Grove, who currently serves as the Winter Season Editor, Winter Raptor Survey coordinator and compiler, and co-compiler for *Mifflin*. Greg will be keeping all of these positions and leaves *Huntingdon* in capable hands. Thanks very much to Greg for his continued efforts and to Debra for contributing as a compiler and giving Greg some much needed help!

Ramsay Koury has decided to move on from compiling for *Perry*. Ramsay came aboard as *Perry* compiler in 2010 shortly after his election to the PSO Board of Directors in the same year. PSO extends its thanks to Ramsay for his three years on the board and for his service as *Perry* compiler. I personally want to thank Ramsay as well, for the many helpful thoughts and constructive feedback on *Pennsylvania Birds* that has shared with me over the years. Stepping into his place for *Perry* is **Vern Gauthier**, the current (and continuing) compiler for *Cumberland*. Vern is now one of five compilers to handle two counties—thanks Vern!

Lastly, David Eberly has turned the compiling for *Delaware* over to **Brian Quindlen**. David became *Delaware* compiler in 2008, shortly after I myself came aboard as editor, and took the *Delaware* duties off of Doris McGovern's hands, who had been doing the hard work of holding down both *Delaware* and *Philadelphia* for some time. David picked up right where Doris left off and ensured there was no interruption to the continuity of quality reporting out of *Delaware*. David is also assisting Brian with the transition, so we can be sure the best traditions of reporting in this significant county in Pennsylvania birding history will be carried forward. Thanks David and Brian!

At the same time, the number of counties without a compiler has reached 12, the highest number in the

past six years. These are *Butler*, *Cameron*, *Columbia*, *Elk*, *Lawrence*, *McKean*, *Montour*, *Northumberland*, *Potter*, *Union*, *Tioga*, and *Warren*. Some of these are fairly heavily birded, with local bird clubs operating in the immediate vicinity—surely there are PSO members in these areas willing to contribute to the journal.

Successful compilers have the following skills: punctuality, good writing skills, ability to follow instructions, punctuality, a working knowledge of birdlife in their county (or a willingness to learn), punctuality, an eagerness to contribute to the official record of birdlife in Pennsylvania, punctuality, and punctuality.

*Pennsylvania Birds* has a very specific style that is easy to learn and follow, and an editorial staff that is willing to help out with suggestions on writing style and content.

If you think this describes you and you have interest in compiling one of the vacant counties, please contact the editor.

Geoff Malosh  
Editor

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# Bahama Woodstar (*Calliphlox evelynae*) in Lancaster County

Scott Weidensaul and Sandy Lockerman

Perhaps the most extraordinary Pennsylvania rarity in decades—a Bahama Woodstar in Lancaster County 20-24 April 2013—was also a cautionary tale in the dangers of seeing what one expects to see.

On 22 April, Weidensaul received an email from Ruth Witmer of Denver, Pennsylvania with photographs of what she believed was a Broad-tailed Hummingbird, which had appeared two days previously at their feeder. A review of the photographs (which largely obscured the bird's tail) seemed to support Mrs. Witmer's initial identification.

Lockerman, who bands hummingbirds under Weidensaul's permit, captured the bird shortly after her arrival later that morning, and marked it with a numbered leg band (USGS Banding Lab #P24356). She immediately noticed a number of anomalies inconsistent with a Broad-tailed Hummingbird, however, including an unusually short wing, a gorget strongly tinted with purple, and most strikingly, a deeply forked tail with large areas of rufous.

With the bird in hand, and at Weidensaul's suggestion, she contacted Fred Bassett of Montgomery, Alabama who has extensive experience banding Broad-tailed Hummingbirds in the northern Rockies. He suggested the possibility of a hybrid, perhaps involving another *Selasphorus* species. Photographs of the bird were forwarded that evening to Weidensaul (who was out of town) and Bassett, to hummingbird banders Robert S. and Martha Sargent in Clay, Alabama, and to bander Kelly Bryan in Fort Davis, Texas.

All concurred with Bassett's initial conclusion that the bird was most likely a hybrid of western origin. Potential parent species discussed included Rufous, Allen's, Lucifer's, and Mexican Sheartail, all predicated on the assumption that the hummingbird was most likely in part Broad-tailed, and—like all the other vagrant species occurring in Pennsylvania to that point—western in origin.

Meanwhile, Lockerman alerted the PABIRDS listserv to the presence of the presumed hybrid. A few birders accepted the Witmers' open invitation to see the hummer, and Chris Bortz of Jonestown posted his photographs of the bird in flight by the evening of 23 April. Pittsburgh-area bander and ornithologist Bob Mulvihill saw those images the morning of 24 April and was the first to suggest Bahama Woodstar, a species no one had considered, given the assumption of western hybrid origin.

In fact, as Mulvihill realized, the Denver hummingbird was a perfect match

for an adult male woodstar. It had a slightly decurved bill, pink-violet gorget, deeply forked tail with very short, green R1 feathers and extensive rufous on the R2-4 rectrices. A prominent patch of rufous was visible under each wing. Underparts were dark greenish suffused with rufous, and separated from the gorget by a white collar.

Measurements were also consistent with the limited data available on Bahama Woodstar: wing length of 39.45mm, tail 31mm, culmen 15.55mm, and weight 3.41g. Lockerman noted significant subcutaneous fat (2 on a 0-5 scale). The lack of violet on the forehead suggests this individual was of the nominate *evelynae* race, found throughout the Bahamas except for Inagua (Raffaele et al. 1998).

The identification was made early on the morning of 24 April, and although it was quickly posted to listservs and alert services, the hummingbird was last seen only a few hours later, around 12:30 EDT. Nearly 300 people made the trek to the Witmer home, but most arrived after the bird had departed.

The Lancaster County record has been submitted to PORC for review. Although the identification seems straightforward, the bird's origin remains the subject of speculation.

Bahama Woodstar is a sedentary species with little history of long-distance movement. There are just four records of five individuals from the U.S., all from south Florida, and all between 1961 and 1981 (Fisk 1974, Langridge and Sykes 1974, Owre 1976, Atherton and Atherton 1982). The final sighting, 17 July to 24 August 1981, was of an adult male and adult female together. The 1961 record was not accepted by ABA checklist committee because the specimen has been lost (Stevenson and Anderson 1994, B. Pranty, et al. 2008).

Beyond the fat deposits, which struck some observers as unusual for a sedentary species, there was no physical indication of captivity. A review of the relevant database by the Philadelphia Zoo showed that only 11 U.S. zoos (and none in Pennsylvania) house hummingbirds, and no woodstars are listed among any of these collections nationwide (A. Baltz, pers. comm.). Other than a single widely reported case in 2010 of a Dutch man smuggling hummingbirds in his pants from French Guiana to Europe, there appears to be little evidence for routine black market traffic in hummingbirds of any sort.

Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 produced no records of other Caribbean or Bahamian landbirds in its wake, making

it an unlikely causative factor, and unlike western *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, a tropical genus like *Calliphlox* would seem poorly equipped to have survived the very cold winter of 2012-13, although the ability of most hummingbird genera to undergo torpor is untested.

A review of cruise company websites suggests that the nearest port at which cruise ships from the Bahamas routinely dock is Baltimore, some 115 km distant. Passage time from Nassau appears to average 40-60 hours, which would pose a survival challenge for a hummingbird if no supplemental food source was provided, and seems at odds with the bird's excellent condition. For these reasons, we believe the most plausible explanation is that Pennsylvania's first Bahama Woodstar was a legitimate vagrant.

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Image 1: Bahama Woodstar. Head and gorget detail of the bird in hand, 22 April 2013 at Denver, *Lancaster*. A strong purple sheen to the gorget is visible, as is a white “collar” separating the gorget from a rufous- and green-colored chest. (Photo by Michael Burkholder)



Image 3: Bahama Woodstar. Tail detail of the bird in hand, 22 April 2013 at Denver, *Lancaster*, showing a deep fork with extensive rufous on R2, R3, and R4. (Photo by Michael Burkholder)



Image 2: Bahama Woodstar. Head, bill, and gorget detail of the bird in hand, 22 April 2013 at Denver, *Lancaster*. The lack of violet in the forehead evident in this image and in Image 1 suggested this bird was of the nominate *evelynae* subspecies. (Photo by Michael Burkholder)



Image 4: Bahama Woodstar. Bird in flight at feeder, 22 April 2013 at Denver, *Lancaster*. The bird's long tail and slightly decurved bill are evident in this image, as is an extensive patch of rufous on the flank under the wing. (Photo by Michael Burkholder)



# Raptor Migration Summary – Spring 2013

Laurie Goodrich

Four new statewide species records and a new statewide total raptor record were set by Pennsylvania's hawkwatches in spring 2013 (Table 1, 3). The hub for spring hawk-watching in the state has diverged from the central ridges to the lakeshore and ridges in recent years. Expanded coverage from the Lake Erie shoreline has revealed a new understanding of the spring migration. Efforts by Presque Isle watchers in 2013 confirm a consistent flow of migrating raptors moving along the Lake Erie shoreline with counts rivaling well-known sites in nearby New York with some of the highest spring counts in the East.

## Migration Summary

Five Pennsylvania watchsites tallied a record total of 29,783 hawks in 206 days and 1,131 hours of counting from early February to late May, a rate of 26.3 raptors per hour (Table 1). A traditional fall migration watchsite, Militia Hill, contributed a welcome single day of counts in April as part of a fund-raising event (Table 1). Although effort increased at Presque Isle and Hawk Mountain, effort decreased at Tussey Mountain and Allegheny Front, leading to a statewide decrease in total hours of 1131, compared to a ten-year average of 1266 (Table 1) and a dip from the record of 1502 set in 2012.

**Table 1: Pennsylvania watch-sites reporting for spring 2013**

Site	Hrs.	Total	per hr.
Allegheny Fr.	288	994	3.5
Hawk Mtn.	266.1	1411	5.3
Militia Hill	6	60	10.0
Presque Isle	282.5	26425	93.5
Tussey Mtn.	288.4	893	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1131</b>	<b>29783</b>	<b>26.3</b>

Storms in February challenged early-season watching; later, daily balmy weather in April appeared to disperse Broad-winged Hawk flights and keep one-day peak counts lower than usual for all sites (Table 2). Mid-March brought a Golden Eagle parade along the central ridges with 53 and 16 respectively 10 and 11 March at Tussey Mountain, and 9 and 9 for the same two days at Allegheny Front. Bald Eagles continued their upswing in Pennsylvania with consistent sightings at all the sites. The largest one-day counts for Bald Eagles soared north in late May with 19 at Presque Isle on both 19 and 31 May.

Statewide records were set for four species: 17,880 Turkey Vultures (previously 14,520 in 2011), 250 Bald Eagles (236 in 2012), 603 American

Kestrels (563 in 2011), and 25 Peregrine Falcons (23 in 2011) (Table 3). Above-average counts were observed for most species except Osprey which was 23% below average, Northern Goshawk at 40% below average, and Golden Eagle at 19% below average (Table 3).

Turkey Vultures dominated the migration count in 2013 comprising 60% of the raptors counted statewide. Large flights at Presque Isle largely contributed to this total, with four days surpassing 1000 vultures. Rare birds were few, and included a Swallow-tailed Kite gliding northeast over Hawk Mountain 28 April and a high-flying Short-eared Owl spotted at Presque Isle 7 April.

## Site Highlights

**Allegheny Front (Somerset/Bedford)** – Allegheny Front hawkwatchers tallied 994 raptors in 288 hours and 47 days of counts from 24 February through 7 May. Red-tailed Hawks comprised 20.5% of the migrants with Turkey Vultures representing 18.4% and Broad-winged Hawks 16.8% (Table 3). Season totals were below average for most species, possibly due to less coverage compared to prior years (Table 1, 3). A peak one-day count of 92 raptors was recorded 6 April with 26 Turkey Vultures, 11 Osprey, 39 Red-tailed Hawks, and 6 American Kestrels leading the numbers, along with the highlights of a lone Golden Eagle and Merlin. Other season highlights included back-to-back nine-Golden Eagle days 10 and 11 March, including a noteworthy sighting of a Golden Eagle attacking a migrating Sharp-shinned Hawk. West winds and snow greeted counters the same day as the season one-day high count of 29 Turkey Vultures 2 April (Table 2). A warmer day with east winds 23 April ushered the peak count of 54 Broad-winged Hawks overhead, along with 7 Ospreys (Table 2). One Osprey repeatedly dove on an immature Golden Eagle as it flew north. Seven Osprey and a lone Cooper's Hawk glided north 5 May, the site's last day for the season.

**Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Berks/Schuylkill)** – Hawk Mountain conservation science trainees, volunteers, and staff recorded 1411 raptors in above-average coverage of 266 hours and 45 days from 27 March 27 to 15 May (Table 1, 3). Broad-winged Hawks dominated the flight with 32.5% of migrants, and Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned hawks represented 10.9% and 9.6% of the flight respectively (Table 3). A new season record was set for 92 Cooper's Hawk, and a record set in 2000 for the Peregrine Falcon was tied

with six sighted. Most species showed above-average counts, except Osprey which dipped by 8%. Overcast skies on 23 April brought the season's one-day peak count of 89 raptors, including the peak count of 64 Broad-winged Hawks (Table 2). Six Osprey, 7 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 4 Cooper's Hawks also were sighted moving north. Light south winds and overcast skies 28 April brought the Mountain's rarest sighting, a high-flying Swallow-tailed Kite seen by several observers directly over the Lookout flying northeast along the ridge. It was a first for the spring season at this site. On the last count day, 15 May, 12 migrants were tallied including 4 Northern Harriers.

**Militia Hill (Montgomery)** – On 27 April, Militia Hill volunteers conducted a one day Raptorthon to support HMANA's hawkcount.org database and website. They tallied 60 migrants including 23 Turkey Vultures, one Bald Eagle, one Northern Harrier, 6 Sharp-shinned and 7 Cooper's hawks, one Red-shouldered Hawk, 16 Broad-winged Hawks, 3 Red-tailed Hawks, one American Kestrel and one unidentified buteo in six hours of coverage (Table 1, 3). This welcome addition to the spring hawk count reports was a reminder that notable spring flights occur widely across the state, particularly in April.

**Presque Isle (Erie)** – Presque Isle counters increased coverage and totals of migrants in 2013, recording 26,425 hawks in 71 days and 282.5 hours (Table 1) between 1 March and 31 May. New records or above-average counts were recorded for most species (Table 3). Turkey Vulture and Broad-winged Hawk comprised most the flight with 66% and 17.4% of the total respectively. Most the migrants were observed in April with 14,489 recorded. The best one-day count was 15 April when southerly winds ushered 2526 raptors along the lakeshore including 1534 Turkey Vultures, 527 Broad-winged Hawks, 104 American Kestrels, and 271 Sharp-shinned Hawks, along with rarer birds such as 5 Bald Eagles and a lone Peregrine Falcon. One of the Turkey Vultures showed leucistic plumage. Counts were strong through April and dwindled slightly during May. A late surge was noted for 19 May when 685 Turkey Vultures, 479 Broad-winged Hawks, 19 Bald Eagles, and 10 Osprey were tallied. On 31 May, the last day for the count, another 19 Bald Eagles soared past along with 82 Turkey Vultures, 26 Broad-winged Hawks and four Ospreys (Table 2). A lone Short-eared Owl flew high overhead 7 April.

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

Site	Turkey Vulture		Br-winged Hawk	
	Count	Date	Count	Date
<b>Allegheny Front</b>	29	4/2	52	4/23
<b>Hawk Mountain</b>	15	4/5	64	4/23
<b>Militia Hill</b>	23	4/27	16	4/27
<b>Presque Isle</b>	1921	4/4	832	4/30
<b>Tussey Mountain</b>	20	3/11	63	4/20

**Tussey Mountain (Centre)** – Tussey Mountain hawkwatchers tallied 893 hawks in 288.4 hours and 42 days of counts from 24 February to 21 April (Table 1). Hawk totals and coverage were below-average overall although March days were well covered. Red-tailed Hawks were the most numerous migrant representing 22.6% of the flight, followed by Golden Eagles with 19.8%, and Turkey Vultures with 19.5%. The highest one-day count was made 10 March when strong southeast winds carried 53 Golden Eagles, mostly adult, and 28 Red-tailed Hawks, 15 Turkey Vultures, 2 Bald Eagles among a total of 11 species of raptors. Continued southeast winds 11 March ushered another 16 Golden Eagles past the Mountain along with 6 Bald Eagles. The 53 Golden Eagles was noteworthy, since the site record is 62 Golden Eagles in 2008. The peak Broad-winged Hawk day occurred on

20 April with 63 birds flying ahead of snow squalls.

the state, with new records set for several raptors. In the spring of 2013, the Tussey Mountain (*Centre*) and Allegheny Front (*Somerset/Bedford*) sites continued to report impressive Golden Eagle flights, while Presque Isle (*Erie*) led with numbers for most other species, together bringing the total spring raptor count statewide to a mark just shy of 30,000. Southeast sites, Hawk Mountain (*Berks/Schuylkill*) and Militia Hill (*Montgomery*) recorded a variety of migrants consistently in April and early May providing good sightings on most days in late season.

Most state hawkwatches record other migrants as well as raptors including loons, gulls, herons, swallows, blackbirds, and other diurnal migrants. For example, Tussey Mountain reported 57 Tundra Swans, 107 Ring-billed Gulls, and 25 Red-winged Blackbirds on the peak Golden Eagle day of 10 March. Presque Isle

recorded thousands of other migrants through the spring with sightings of Common Loon, Sandhill Crane, Northern Flicker, and Eastern Meadowlark on their peak raptor day of 15 April. Counts of other species recorded at hawkwatches are summarized and archived at [www.hawkcount.org](http://www.hawkcount.org).

**Conclusion**

Spring raptor counts continued to bring excitement to spring birding possibilities across

possibilities across

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Table 3. Spring 2013 count results for Pennsylvania watch sites.

**ALLEGHENY FRONT (Bedford) - Bob Stewart, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	STKI	MIKI	UNID.	TOTAL
February	2	11.5	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
March	16	87.0	0	80	0	7	3	13	5	0	27	0	56	1	38	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
April	29	189.5	16	100	38	7	8	78	24	4	14	167	147	0	7	17	2	2	0	0	34	665
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>288.0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>994</b>
Total/hr.			0.06	0.64	0.13	0.05	0.04	0.32	0.10	0.01	0.14	0.58	0.71	0.00	0.16	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.13	3.45
% flight			1.61	18.41	3.82	1.41	1.11	9.15	2.92	0.40	4.12	16.80	20.52	0.10	4.53	1.71	0.30	0.20	0.00	0.00	3.82	100.00
Average	64.7	414.4	12.9	327.9	103.3	19.0	28.6	172.6	72.0	6.1	57.9	399.7	437.1	2.2	72.7	24.6	5.5	3.6	0.0	0.0	88.0	1833.9

**HAWK MOUNTAIN (Berks/Schuylkill) - Laurie Goodrich and Marta Sendra, compilers**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	STKI	MIKI	UNID.	TOTAL
March	2	2.0	0	14	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
April	29	182.0	76	38	76	33	27	127	67	1	11	381	114	1	0	25	2	6	1	0	159	1145
May	14	82.1	23	2	19	7	18	8	25	1	1	77	37	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	23	247
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>266.1</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>1411</b>
Total/hr.			0.37	0.20	0.36	0.15	0.17	0.51	0.35	0.01	0.05	1.72	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.68	5.30
% flight			7.02	3.83	6.73	2.83	3.26	9.57	6.52	0.14	0.92	32.46	10.91	0.07	0.00	1.98	0.35	0.43	0.07	0.00	12.90	100.00
Average	44.5	235.5	25.6	26.9	104.0	19.2	24.0	106.4	38.2	0.6	8.3	336.9	111.3	0.2	0.0	1.8	23.7	3.9	1.3	62.8	0.5	897.1

**Militia Hill (Montgomery) - Andy Dayer, Rich Conroy, and Lynn Jackson, compilers**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	STKI	MIKI	UNID.	TOTAL
April	1	6.0	0	23	0	1	1	6	7	0	1	16	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>60</b>
Total/hr.			0.00	3.83	0.00	0.17	0.17	1.00	1.17	0.00	0.17	2.67	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	10.00
% flight			0.00	38.33	0.00	1.67	1.67	10.00	11.67	0.00	1.67	26.67	5.00	0.00	0.00	1.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.67	100.00

**PRESQUE ISLE (Erie) - Jerry McWilliams, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	STKI	MIKI	UNID.	TOTAL
March	21	81.0	0	6689	1	24	26	74	45	0	419	0	402	17	0	58	4	0	0	0	14	7773
April	27	130.5	1	8728	93	71	64	1224	69	0	49	3251	419	7	1	467	12	10	0	0	22	14489
May	23	71.0	0	2029	90	77	32	441	15	0	0	1340	104	0	0	12	6	0	0	0	0	4163
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>282.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17446</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>1739</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>4591</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>26425</b>
Total/hr.			0.00	61.80	0.70	0.60	0.40	6.20	0.50	0.00	1.70	16.30	3.30	0.10	0.00	1.90	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.10	93.50
% flight			0.00	66.02	0.70	0.65	0.46	6.58	0.49	0.00	1.77	17.37	3.50	0.09	0.00	2.03	0.08	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.14	100.00
Average	49.2	169.1	0.8	7738.2	67.6	69.6	60.2	830.2	73.4	1.4	175.4	3691.4	511.6	21.8	0.0	1.4	248.6	10.6	6.6	45.4	0.2	13555.2

**TUSSEY MOUNTAIN (Centre) - Dan Ombalski, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	STKI	MIKI	UNID.	TOTAL
February	4	26.8	7	16	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	38
March	28	206.2	16	156	4	13	8	25	14	0	28	0	123	5	156	11	0	1	0	0	9	569
April	10	55.5	0	2	13	8	2	44	3	0	3	107	72	0	17	9	4	0	0	0	2	286
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>288.4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>893</b>
Total/hr.			0.10	0.60	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.20	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.40	0.70	0.00	0.60	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.10
% flight			2.58	19.48	1.90	2.58	1.12	7.73	1.90	0.00	3.58	11.98	22.62	0.56	19.82	2.24	0.45	0.11	0.00	0.00	1.34	100.00
Average	58.7	409.4	30.2	246.3	95.0	30.2	44.7	203.6	86.0	2.5	54.4	718.0	535.2	5.9	0.2	214.0	47.8	4.5	1.5	45.5	0.0	2341.3

**2013 TOTAL FOR ALL PENNSYLVANIA WATCHSITES**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	STKI	MIKI	UNID.	TOTAL
February	6	38.3	7	19	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	42
March	67	376.2	16	6939	5	44	38	112	64	0	475	0	584	23	194	69	5	1	0	0	27	8686
April	96	563.5	93	8891	220	120	102	1479	170	5	78	3922	755	8	25	519	20	18	1	0	218	16645
May	37	153.1	23	2031	109	84	50	449	40	1	1	1417	141	0	0	15	9	6	0	0	23	4410
<b>Total</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>1131.0</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>17880</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>2040</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>5339</b>	<b>1488</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>29783</b>
Total/hr.			0.12	15.81	0.30	0.22	0.17	1.80	0.24	0.01	0.49	4.72	1.32	0.03	0.20	0.53	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.24	26.33
% flight			0.47	60.03	1.12	0.84	0.64	6.85	0.92	0.02	1.86	17.93	5.00	0.10	0.75	2.02	0.11	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.90	100.00
Average	216.9	1265.5	104.1	4316.3	423.8	127.4	147.5	947.3	258.7	10.8	207.5	3600.9	1336.5	17.4	0.2	274.9	266.5	23.2	11.7	238.6	0.5	12254.7



## Record-breaking gulls in Erie County, March 2013

Geoff Malosh

The early spring of 2013 saw two memorable and unprecedented gull-related events at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*: a one-day, one-location tally of 12 gull species on 24 March at Beach 11, and the simultaneous presence of at least 52 Little Gulls in Presque Isle Bay on 27 March. Both numbers set all-time records not only for *Erie*, but for the entire state of Pennsylvania.

The second half of the winter of 2012-13 in the city of Erie was, for the most part, cold and miserable. The average departure from normal temperature for the period of 15 February through 31 March was -2.2°F, which included eighteen straight days below normal from 13 to 30 March, with a -6.3°F departure from normal over the latter period. This weather kept Erie Bay partially or mostly frozen well into March, and even late in the month on occasions when the bay would open during the day, it froze again overnight.

Gulls began to collect at Presque Isle in appreciable numbers in the second half of February, following a month-long lull after the end of the “fall season”, which for gulls often extends to the beginning of January. Scattered reports of Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, and Lesser Black-backed Gull were made in February and early March, as is normal for the area.

A very strong frontal system moved through northwestern Pennsylvania 10-11 March, which featured strong south winds and temperatures soaring above 60°F at Erie both days. This system culminated with a half-inch of rain on 11 March and a precipitous drop back to sub-freezing temperatures by 13 March, the first day of the prolonged and abnormally cold spell that would persist to the end of the month. This weather pattern in mid-March—a strong, migration-inducing southerly flow for 2-3 days followed by a deep cold pattern with persistent north and west winds—may have been the primary cause for what happened next: an avalanche of rare gulls that collected in the waters around Presque Isle.

Bonaparte’s Gulls appeared abruptly on 16 March, and with them came rarities: one or two Black-headed Gulls (first *Erie* record for March) and at least 4 Little Gulls. At least one Black-headed Gull would remain in the area though 26 March. Numbers of Bonaparte’s quickly jumped to several thousand over the next few days, and continued to steadily increase to a peak estimated count of 50,000 made by Jerry McWilliams on 21 March, before falling back to anywhere between 1000 and 15,000 on most days for the rest of the month.

Over the same period, daily counts of Little Gulls began to reach unprecedented heights. On 17 March, the first double-digit total (15+) was reported, and these double-digit counts remained a regular occurrence throughout the following week. Dozens of giddy observers reported seeing *groups* of Little Gulls among the Bonaparte’s all around the bayside of the park, from Vista 1 to Misery Bay and around the corner through the channel to Thompson Bay. Getting an accurate count of the Little Gulls proved very difficult, but one verified minimum count of 28 Little Gulls in the vicinity of Beach 11 on 22 March was made by Jerry McWilliams, who carefully watched the birds flying one-way into Thompson Bay. This number was already an unprecedented total for *Erie* and the entire state of Pennsylvania, but just about all observers agreed that there were actually more than 28 Little Gulls present on the park.

Meanwhile, reports of Glaucous, Iceland, and Lesser Black-backed Gull, had also all increased in frequency after 16 March, and all three species were being seen regularly by diligent observers willing to pick through the masses of gulls, particularly in Thompson Bay and off Beach 11 and Gull Point. A Thayer’s Gull was also occasionally noted beginning 16 March. All of these birds were being recorded against the usual backdrop of thousands of Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls normally present on the park at this time of year. Through 23

March, ten species of gull had been reported at Presque Isle since 16 March.

### Twelve-Gull Day: 24 March 2013

Spurred on by the many reports of this event, I made my way to Presque Isle on Sunday, 24 March. Presque Isle Bay was ice-free on 23 March, but the temperature had dipped to 22°F overnight (ten below average) with nearly calm winds, and by dawn the bay was covered almost completely by a thin layer of ice. As I drove along the bayside park road toward Thompson Bay, I saw dense pockets of ducks and gulls in patches of open water, including flocks of Bonaparte’s Gulls totaling about 5000 birds which included 2-3 Little Gulls.

I arrived at Beach 11 and Thompson Bay at 8:30, and except for a brief jaunt over to Horseshoe Pond to see a continuing Eurasian Wigeon, I would not leave the beach until after 16:00. Thompson Bay and the waters off Beach 11 were simply littered with gulls. A large portion of the water off Gull Point was frozen, as were large patches of Thompson Bay. Huge numbers of Herring, Ring-billed, and Great Black-backed Gulls were using the ice and waters off Gull Point, and among these were several Lesser Black-backed Gulls (final day total of 10) and 4 each of Iceland and Glaucous Gulls. Meanwhile, Bonaparte’s Gulls were mostly resting on the ice and water of Thompson Bay, with hundreds passing by Beach 11 throughout the morning as they came and went from the Thompson Bay roost. Just about every flock of Bonaparte’s that passed Beach 11 seemed to contain one or two Little Gulls.

Not long after I arrived at Beach 11, I was joined by Mike Weible and later by Jerry McWilliams. In short order, we had picked out a continuing Black-headed Gull resting among the Bonaparte’s, which brought the total number of gull species for the day to nine. At the same time Mike and I were making our own attempt to precisely quantify the Little Gulls present, and we came up with a solid count of 25 in Thompson Bay using the same method that Jerry used earlier in the week. When I slipped away to the Horseshoe Pond area, I found another 5 Little Gulls on Misery Bay. We supposed that we had at least 30 for the day, and both felt quite sure there were many more present.



Black-legged Kittiwake, first cycle, Presque Isle State Park, 24 March 2013. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)

Then at 10:30, just a few minutes after Jerry had departed to conduct that day’s Presque Isle hawk watch, things got very interesting. I recall Mike simply saying, “whoa...” and then frantically calling out reference points to get me onto the bird he had just spotted. When I first saw it for myself, I recall a brief

moment of shock, after which we both yelled out “Black-legged Kittiwake!” almost simultaneously. A kittiwake was out among the Bonaparte’s! It was a first-winter bird, obviously larger than nearby Bonaparte’s but not quite as large as a Ring-billed, with a small but thick all-black bill, a dark spot behind a dark eye, and a thick black half-collar on the back of the neck. It had a medium-gray mantle and an obvious thick black bar extending from below the fold of the wing back to the rump. Before long it flew and landed within perhaps 75 yards of us, allowing outstanding views. When it was in flight, the bold black “M” on the upperwing surface, characteristic of first winter Black-legged Kittiwake, was clearly visible.

Within five minutes Jerry was back, and we all watched the bird for the next ten minutes as it bathed and preened before it finally flew deep into a flock of resting Ring-billed Gulls and settled down out of sight. Jerry informed us that it represented the first spring record of Black-legged Kittiwake for *Erie*. In fact there is only one accepted spring record for Pennsylvania: two adults at Lake Ontelaunee, *Berks* 31 March 1991 (Keller, 1991).

We put the word out quickly, and within the hour at least ten other observers had joined us on the beach. Finally, about two hours after the initial sighting, the kittiwake was spotted again, this time again rather far off in Thompson Bay. At least four of the birders present by then saw the bird, but unfortunately, a Peregrine Falcon strafed the Bonaparte’s flock just at that moment, putting the kittiwake up with everything else. A number of the other people who had assembled on the beach had not yet seen the kittiwake, and it was not seen again that day or at any time thereafter. I have never seen birders so thoroughly dismayed at the presence of a Peregrine Falcon as I saw that day.

It was still only 12:30, but the day was hardly over, and the waters off Beach 11 were still buzzing with gull activity. Around 13:00, I found a first cycle Thayer’s Gull on the ice off Gull Point, the eleventh gull species of the day. Mike Weible, the only other person present who had seen ten species so far, quickly got on the Thayer’s, making eleven species for him as well. We started joking that we had to find a twelfth species while we could, with Mew and California Gulls mentioned as the most likely. We even started throwing out crazy suggestions like Slaty-backed, Ross’s, and Ivory. At that point, it seemed like anything was possible at Presque Isle.



Black-legged Kittiwake in flight, Presque Isle State Park, 24 March 2013. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)

One species nobody had mentioned as a possibility for us was Franklin’s Gull, so we were all quite shocked (and thrilled) when Ben Coulter, who had unfortunately arrived after the second and last kittiwake sighting, picked a pink-bellied, adult Franklin’s Gull out of the crowd. Mike and I had our twelfth species after all.

I stayed for another two or three hours hoping for thirteen, but it was not to be. The Franklin’s and Black-headed Gulls continued to make appearances all afternoon, but the kittiwake

and the Thayer’s never reappeared. I left, completely exhausted and with a back aching from standing and shivering on the beach for 8+ hours, but thoroughly happy with the event, one of the most memorable of my now numberless days in the field. Jerry soon verified what we surely suspected, that twelve gull species in one day (in one single location, no less) was an *Erie* record. Suspecting it was also a Pennsylvania record, I conferred with August Mirabella, long-time compiler for *Bucks* (the only other county in Pennsylvania in which I could imagine a 12-gull day could possibly have happened), and he agreed that our 12 species in one day was surely a first for Pennsylvania.



Franklin’s Gull in flight (at right), Presque Isle State Park, 24 March 2013. (Photo by Geoff Malosh)

#### After 24 March

Though the kittiwake was not seen again after 24 March, the gull action at Presque Isle remained impressive, and there was still another record to be broken. Although numbers of Bonaparte’s dropped off sharply after 24 March, with daily counts of no more than 1000 or so by the end of the month, numbers of Little Gulls remained extraordinarily high for a time. On 27 March, Tom Johnson and Cory DeStein confirmed 52 Little Gulls in a single flock of 2500 Bonaparte’s in Presque Isle Bay off Vista 1, with up to six others seen off Beach 11 later in the day. As Tom described later on the PABIRDS listserv, it was an astonishing sight.

Jerry McWilliams reported in late March that there seemed to be turnover among the Little Gulls, or at least different birds observed from day to day when the maximum numbers of them were present; for example, adults with complete hoods would be seen one day but not the next. This gave credence to the idea that there were actually more than 52—perhaps even many more—moving through the Presque Isle area in the second half of March. Numbers did finally begin to dwindle not long after 27 March, with daily reports of up to 3 continuing to 7 April.

One of the 52 Little Gulls counted on 27 March had a long dark pink ribbon attached to it, and was photographed that day by Tom Johnson. Several observers saw this distinctive bird, and it was later seen on 29 April at Eriean Harbor, Ontario, about 30 miles east of Point Pelee on the north shore of Lake Erie.

One Black-headed Gull was present through 26 March but it (or they) seemed to depart with the bulk of the Bonaparte’s Gulls. The Thayer’s Gull was seen through 26 March as well, and what might have been a different Thayer’s was observed 25 March. As expected, the Iceland and Glaucous Gulls also mostly departed by the end of March, but one of both species persisted into May; the Iceland, a first year bird that had a fishing lure stuck in its bill, remained to at least 27 May.

There is no way to know for sure what was so special about the gull migration of 2013, and why such unprecedented numbers



of Little Gulls and other rarities appeared in the second half of March, but the overall weather pattern in March was very unusual and surely contributed. The warm southerly flow of 10-11 March probably triggered a large migration that had been pent up following a miserable start to the month, but once birds began flowing into the Presque Isle area, they encountered a long cold snap, frozen water, and conditions unfavorable for migration until the end of the month. Numbers of staging birds quickly built over the week following 13 March, culminating in a huge mass of Bonaparte's and other gulls present on 21 March, including many Little Gulls. Many of the Bonaparte's pressed on despite the conditions, but the Little Gulls seemed to linger, and their numbers may have even continued to build throughout the week following 21 March. At last when the weather broke at the end of the month, gulls of all species finally departed *en masse*.



Little Gull, basic adult in flight, Presque Isle State Park, 23 March 2013. (Photo by Cory DeStein)

### Regional Context

Previously, there had been only one double-digit count of Little Gulls ever at Presque Isle or anywhere in Pennsylvania, when 13 were counted on 8 January 1983 (Stull, Stull, and McWilliams, 1985). These birds were among a flock of about 400 Bonaparte's Gulls in Sturgeon Bay, the section of Presque Isle Bay between Leo's Landing and the park office (Jerry McWilliams, pers. comm.). Otherwise, daily counts at the park had never exceeded 8 or 9 birds before the event of 2013. Little Gulls have also been found with increasing frequency on the Susquehanna River from Harrisburg south, but always in single digits. The single day high count anywhere on Pennsylvania's portion of the Susquehanna is probably the 9 birds off Ft. Hunter in *Dauphin* 25 March 2007 (Williams, 2007).

Springtime aggregations of Little Gulls numbering 50 or more birds are quite rare in northeastern North America away from the Atlantic coast, except in Ontario where maximum daily counts of this magnitude are normally reached at least once every few years. Ontario's largest counts of Little Gulls are made primarily along the north shore of Lake Erie, around Oshawa on the north shore of Lake Ontario, and along the Niagara River (Alan Wormington, pers. comm.). In fact in 2012 alone, 145 Little Gulls were recorded at Turkey Point, Ontario on 11 March 2012, and 137 were at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario 26 March 2012 (Wormington, 2013). Turkey Point is near Long Point on the north shore of Lake Erie, more or less directly north across the lake from Presque Isle. On 31 March 2013, just five days after the peak count at Presque Isle, 92 Little Gulls were tallied at Turkey Point (Wormington, 2014 *in press*). Quite possibly, many of these were birds that had been at Presque Isle a few days before.

Away from the lakeshores of southern Ontario and the Niagara area, however, such flocks of Little Gulls are nearly

unheard of around the Great Lakes. Season-long aggregate totals of Little Gulls in spring along the south shore of Lake Erie in Ohio have reached as many as 85 birds, but there are probably no single one-day records of Little Gull anywhere approaching 50 for Ohio (Bill Whan, pers. comm.). In Michigan, the largest aggregation of Little Gulls known is 17 birds in June and July 1975 on the western shore of Lake Erie (Granlund, et al. 1994, Adam Byrne, pers. comm.). The story is similar in the other Great Lakes states, making the 2013 event in Pennsylvania that much more exceptional.

### Acknowledgments

Observations discussed in this report were taken from the eBird database <[www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)>, reports to the PABIRDS listserv, and from Jerry McWilliams' *Erie* report that appears on page 119 of this issue. Individuals whose sightings contributed to the report were: Ben Coulter, Michael David, Cory DeStein, Jason Fidorra, Tom Johnson, Geoff Malosh, Jerry McWilliams, Jerry Stanley, Shannon Thompson, Mike Weible, and Dave Wilton, as well as many eBird contributors. Weather data was taken from the National Weather Service archives for the Erie station at <[www.nws.noaa.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=cle](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=cle)>. Readers are referred to the Birds of Note section on page 91 for specific observers of particular sightings discussed in this report.

Jerry McWilliams provided valuable perspective on the history of Little Gull at Presque Isle. Richard Williams, Eric Witmer, and Jonathan Heller provided information on the occurrence of Little Gulls on the Susquehanna River in the years since the mid-1990s. August Mirabella provided information on gull history in Bucks County. Adam Byrne, Phil Davis, Shaibal Mitra, Bill Whan, and Alan Wormington kindly provided information about large flocks of Little Gulls (or the lack thereof) in the historical records of surrounding states and provinces, and additional data was collected from *North American Birds*. Jerry McWilliams and Paul Hess reviewed earlier drafts of this manuscript.

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# Sedge Wrens successfully breed in Montgomery County in 2012

Paul Driver

In the summer of 2012 a pair of Sedge Wrens successfully bred at the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, just north of Philadelphia in *Montgomery*.

The birds were discovered 13 August when I heard a Sedge Wren singing before sunrise in a ten acre hayfield at the corner of Terwood Road and Creek Road. A second bird was seen and heard nearby, uttering a chip call and a raspy alarm. The habitat was dry grassland, comprised of separate stands of big bluestem, little bluestem, and Indian grass. Sedges and bushes were notably absent.

Subsequently, the male was heard singing persistently in the early morning hours before sunrise and regularly throughout the day, except at dusk, surprisingly, when I never heard it. It had three song posts, all in big bluestem, each about 70m apart. The bird was always hidden from view while singing, which sometimes went on for hours. Singing was last heard 1 September.

On 6 September I discovered the nest site by watching a bird with a grasshopper in its bill visit a spot near the edge of a big bluestem stand. I observed it go to the same spot several times, carrying away a fecal sac on one occasion. I was able to pinpoint the exact location of the nest, which was a good distance (50m) from the nearest singing post. On subsequent days, the bird (most likely the female) was observed flying low over the grass to the nest site, occasionally making the raspy call. Only one bird was ever observed feeding the young in the nest. On 11 September there was no activity at the nest site and the nest was approached and examined for the first time. It was 15 inches off the ground, hidden in the base of a 7' big bluestem tussock, and contained two unhatched and unmarked white eggs. The entrance faced west.



Image 1: Sedge Wren breeding habitat, *Montgomery*, August 2012, comprised of big bluestem, little bluestem, and Indian grass. (Photo by Paul Driver)

That evening, fledglings (at least three) were observed returning to the nest at dusk. They continued to return to the nest shortly before sunset during the next week and were last seen approaching the nest 17 September. They were heard during the day that week in the big bluestem near to the nest site, calling with chips which were identical to the first few notes of the adult song. Thereafter they were observed and heard on several dates in the Indian grass area (ca. 100 meters north of the nest), keeping close to each other and an adult. Subsong by one of the fledglings was first heard 6 October, by which time it was only seven weeks old. They were last observed 14 October.

The nest was collected in December and given to the

Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. It measured 15x7.5cm, domed with a 2.5x3 cm side entrance. It was composed of grass with a lining of fine fibers, which I believe was thistle down, and some hair.



Image 2: Sedge Wren nest, *Montgomery*, September 2012, situated in a stand of big bluestem. (Photo by Paul Driver)

Working back from the date the fledglings left the nest, I estimate that the pair probably arrived at the end of July. The family apparently left the area in mid-October.

Sedge Wrens raise their first brood in the spring in the upper mid-western states and adjacent Canada, and then often disperse to nest a second time elsewhere, to the south or east (Herkert, et al., 2001 and Bedell, 1996). The second nesting is frequently very late compared to other songbirds, and there is little site fidelity. Consequently nesting is easily overlooked. In this case, the male sang persistently and the fledged young were also very vocal, which aided in the discovery and in the confirmation of successful breeding.

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## References

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*Addendum: In 2013, Sedge Wrens returned to the same location. Singing was first heard 1 August and on 10 August a second bird arrived. The two counter-sang at dawn until the 21st, after which only one was heard. Singing decreased towards the end of the month, and was last heard briefly 2 September. At the time of writing, breeding had not been confirmed.*

**SECOND ATLAS OF BREEDING BIRDS IN PENNSYLVANIA** edited by Andrew M. Wilson, Daniel W. Brauning, and Robert S. Mulvihill with acknowledgments, 202 color figures, 484 color maps, 16 tables, 7 appendices, cited literature, species index, 9 x 12 in., 612 pp., The Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park, PA 2012, hardcover, \$64.95.

There is an absolutely valid reason why the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology unanimously established a new honor and award recently, the Golden Pileated Award. It is only given for major projects that have high state and regional ornithological, conservation, and research values. The 2013 Golden Pileated Award was presented to the three editors of the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania, Andy Wilson, Dan Brauning, and Bob Mulvihill. Well known by Pennsylvania birders, this trio of avian experts commanded an army of 83 regional coordinators and nearly 2000 volunteers in collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing more than 1.5 million bird sightings between 2004 and 2009. In addition, seasonal staff conducted a rigorous point count sampling protocol in almost every one of the 4694 blocks in the state, to estimate detection probabilities, breeding densities, and overall population estimates. Thanks to state of the art methodology and technologies, more than half of the 190 breeding species detected in the project received advanced estimates of statewide populations.

Three other individuals are recognized in the second Atlas (pp. iii and iv) for their outstanding work with the book. Geoff Malosh served as Photo Editor for the excellent color photographs that illustrate the introductory eight chapters and the 190 species accounts. Catherine D. Haffner held the position of Production Assistance and Editing, and Andrew Mack was the Bibliographer. Especially noteworthy in the new atlas are the fourteen pages of well-deserved Acknowledgments (pp. xi-xxiv) including principal funders, general financial supporters, 70 regional coordinator teams, over 1900 Atlas volunteers, and two and a half page listing of project personnel.

Change is universal, constant, and inevitable even for birds and their dynamic communities. Perhaps one exception to that rule is the beautiful color painting by Julie Zickefoose on the cover jacket of the second Atlas, duplicated on p. ii, of a first generation male Brewster's Warbler bringing a plump caterpillar to its Golden-winged Warbler mate. The

painting was commissioned in memory of Dr. Kenneth C. Parkes (1922-2007), Curator of Birds at Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, who wrote a seminal paper on the genetics of the Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler complex in the Wilson Bulletin in 1951. Parkes had a career-long fascination with avian hybrids. Zickefoose, no stranger to Pennsylvania birders, also painted a pair of Chestnut-sided Warblers at their nest for the cover of the first Atlas. Otherwise, the physical changes between the first Atlas published twenty-one years ago in 1992 and the current second Atlas are many and noteworthy. Immediately obvious is the change in size: 8.5 x 10 inches for the first Atlas, 9 x 12 inches for the second, and 496 pages for the first atlas vs. 612 pages for the second. Changes to presentation of the content are equally obvious: the first Atlas has 190 black and white maps and species drawings vs. the second with 202 color illustrations, 190 superb color images and 484 color maps. Additionally, the first Atlas has 3 appendices vs. the second's 7; the first Atlas has 27 pages of Literature Cited vs. the second's 31 pages; and finally the first Atlas has 4 pages of Species Index vs. the second's 17 pages. Indeed, a great wealth of knowledge of Pennsylvania's birdlife has accumulated in the past twenty years, and the second Atlas provides an unprecedented summary of the details.

The eight introductory chapters to the second Atlas discuss topics such as habitats and their changes (Chapter 3), atlas methodology (Chapters 4 and 5), coverage and results (Chapter 6), and contributions to conservation (Chapter 7). These topics constitute the nuts and bolts of the project, so to speak, that are necessary to fully understand the 190 species accounts.

Surprisingly, the amount of Pennsylvania forest cover has changed little since reaching 60% of the state (16.6 million acres) in the 1960s, but these figures were tabulated in 2007. A more recent (2010) Pennsylvania Energy Impacts Assessment by the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Nature Conservancy found that about 60,000 new Marcellus wells are projected by 2030, of which two-thirds of well pads are estimated to impact 91,000 to 220,000 acres of interior forest habitat. Add to that up to 2900 new wind turbine facilities by 2030, of which nearly 80 percent are projected to be in forest areas with up to 36,500 acres of forest interior avian habitat impacted.

The second Atlas stresses defoliation affecting forest canopy cover and identifies pests like Gypsy moth and hemlock woolly

adelgid as especially troublesome. Also, Pennsylvania farmland and grassland contracted to 23% of the state by 2005. Changes in crop types and agricultural practices, such as the rapid increase in permanent pastures and earlier and more frequent cuttings, reduced the availability of fields suitable for grassland-obligate birds. The first and second cuttings generally coincide with the peak of breeding for many of species. On the other hand, it is estimated that 114,000 acres of surface mine grasslands were available for these same species during the second Atlas period. Only 2% of the state's area is comprised of wetlands, a habitat type that continued to decline between the two atlases, while developed lands increased by 4% in the same period.

Many improvements in methodology occurred between the first and second Atlases. Although the basic units were identical—the same 4937 blocks as were used as in the first atlas—"regional" boundaries were demarcated in the second Atlas using a geographic rather than a political approach. DeLorme's *Pennsylvania Atlas and Gazetteer* was used to delineate the regions, due to its ready availability and the fact that it is already organized by the same topographic quadrangles that define the survey blocks. Its page numbers clearly defined region numbers and left no ambiguity in determining which region was responsible for each block, thereby providing the foundation for organized fieldwork by volunteer Block Owners and the 83 Regional Coordinators.

During field work, obtaining confirmed breeding evidence was stressed for rare, unexpected, conservation, or priority species in each block. In following with typical breeding bird atlas protocol, safe dates were established and minimum data were collected for all sightings, such as species name, breeding code, observation date, block code, and observer's name. Special survey protocols were developed for marsh and nocturnal birds to obtain higher uniformity of coverage across the state for these declining species. The second Atlas also adopted a comprehensive point count sampling protocol to support multiple statistical approaches for estimating detection probabilities, nesting bird densities, and population sizes of breeding species. This was conducted by summer staff as a parallel project complementing the volunteer-based atlas effort.

Indeed, efforts and results for this project were extraordinary. About 1900 volunteers completed surveys in all of the 4937 atlas blocks, and submitted 854,773 records of 218 species plus two hybrids. Of

these, 190 were considered breeding species. The result was an average of 71.1 species per block or about 74 percent of targeted species. Volunteers accumulated 106,953 field hours, another 34,192 administrative hours, and 890,000 field miles valued at more than \$2 million. The overall results of the second Atlas were positive, to say the least: compared to the first atlas, block occupancy increased at least 15 percent for 72 species, while occupancy declined by at least 13 percent for 40 other species (table 6.5). In fact, observed changes in block occupancy between the two atlases provide a somewhat optimistic view of birds of greatest conservation concern, probably due to increased efficiency in locating them. Three species (Merlin, Great Black-backed Gull, and Eurasian Collared Dove) had never been documented to nest in the state prior to the second Atlas, and Double-crested Cormorant, Sandhill Crane, and Blackpoll Warbler had not nested in the state at the time of the first Atlas. Other historic confirmed breeding species in the second Atlas but not in the first were Ring-billed and Herring Gulls and Red Crossbill. Major range expansions in the second Atlas included Canada Goose (largest increase with 1816 blocks), with Wild Turkey, Red-bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers, Carolina Wren, and Hooded Warbler increasing more than 1000 blocks. Eight of the most widespread species were found in over 95% of blocks during both atlases: Blue Jay, American Crow, Gray Catbird, Common Yellowthroat, Indigo Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, and Song Sparrow (see table 6.6). Species that showed dramatic declines in breeding since the first Atlas included Summer Tanager (-91%), Black Tern (-73%), Common Nighthawk (-71%), Blue-winged Teal (-68%), and Northern Bobwhite (-68%).

Analysis of relative turnover rates (see chapter 5 for methods) identified a preponderance of 32 wetland and early succession species with higher than expected turnover of blocks between atlas periods (figure 6.9). Table 6.7 highlights species for which there is evidence of northward and southward latitudinal changes in distribution. There were sufficient data from point count surveys to derive population estimates for 115 mostly songbird species (table 6.8) of which 49 increased by more than 15%, while 34 decreased by more than 13%. It seems likely that about 100 million individual birds attempt annually to nest in the state. Multivariate analysis of point count data (see chapter 5) suggests that common breeding songbirds show five groupings based on habitats called "avifaunal guilds": Northern Hardwood Forest, Forest Generalist, Carolinian Forest, Generalist/Urban, and Farmland (see table 6.6) plus two additional guilds for

mostly non-songbirds: Riparian and Wetland (see table 6.9). In sum, for all three forest guilds range expansion outnumbered range contraction by an overall ratio of 2:1 (40 expanding vs. 19 contracting species; see table 6.9). Records were submitted with information about hemlock cover. Although these data do not prove dependence on hemlocks, they do suggest that hemlock is an important component for more than 25 percent of 27 species recorded in that micro-habitat (see table 6.10).

Without any doubt, the first and second Atlases are the greatest contributions to Pennsylvania avian conservation in the state's history. Some years ago, a Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) was established by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to access federal funds and serve as a blueprint for state conservation action. The WAP identified a set of priority species of concern and outlined habitat-based and species-specific actions for each bird. The species were then categorized into five conservation tiers: immediate concern, high-level concern, responsibility species, PA-vulnerable, and maintenance concern. Likewise, the birds were further evaluated to reflect the state's responsibility to the broader regional, continental, or global populations. Species for which the state has a high responsibility were defined Pennsylvania's Species of Greatest Conservation Need. For example, 17 percent of the global Scarlet Tanager population breeds in Pennsylvania. Table 7.2 (pp. 73-74) is a summary of first and second Atlas results for Pennsylvania's WAP of avian species either confirmed or probably breeding during either atlas period. Their conservation statuses were assigned at various geographical scales using seven habitats: agricultural lands/grasslands, deciduous or mixed forest, coniferous or northern forests, ledges, bare soil, and artificial structures, streams-islands-bottomlands, succession-shrubland-young forest, and wetlands-water-bodies-shores.

Population estimates and density maps from second Atlas point count data enable scientists to focus on parts of the state that support the greatest densities of high-priority avian conservation species. Analyses could suggest management actions in various regions, and changes in bird populations could aid managers to find causes for declines from land use changes, less environmental quality, weather events, or human-caused stresses. Observed climatic changes between atlas periods generate questions regarding the potential effects of climate change on Pennsylvania birds.

The last segment of the second Atlas, and the bulk of the book (pp.87-469), is made up of the species accounts. Fifty-two

authors wrote comprehensive and authoritative essays of each species. The accounts are illustrated by vivid photographs usually taken somewhere in the state. A distribution map provided for each species is the primary result of the second Atlas, reflecting all observations at the scale of the atlas block. Only possible, probable, and confirmed breeding records are used in these maps. The second map, labeled "Distribution Change," shows the differences in block detection between the first and second Atlases. The third map, titled simply "Density," was derived from atlas point count data for only species of sufficient collected data. A "Number of Blocks" surveyed chart of the first and second Atlases shows percentage of change for each species account. A second chart, titled "Breeding Bird Survey Trend," is included for applicable species with sufficient data.

The *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* is a monumental game changer in Pennsylvania's ornithological history that should be obtained and read by anyone with an interest in the avifauna of Pennsylvania. This unique book is the final result of a very long and at times painful process of designing, steering, planning, collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing field data, proof reading, copy editing, map-making, image editing, and countless other tasks, before finally reaching an extraordinarily high standards of scientific excellence. Indeed, the *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* sets a very high bar for all future atlases, worldwide. A much deserved "thank you" is extended to editors and the many volunteers who made this grand achievement possible.

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Unlike last spring's record breaking warmth, this season's temperatures were closer to normal. Many compilers commented the warbler migration was less than spectacular. There were some interesting shorebirds found, including some larger than normal flocks, and a few large flocks of waterfowl. Several leucistic birds were also reported.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported from *Bedford*, *Berks*, *Franklin*, *Indiana*, *Lancaster*, *Lebanon*, *Montgomery*, and *Northampton*. Single birds in *Bedford*, *Indiana*, and *Franklin* represented the handful that break the normal pattern of occurrence in the eastern side of the state. For *Indiana* it was only the sixth record. A flock of 95 **Snow Geese** were seen from the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch in *Bedford* in March. **Ross's Goose** made its now annual appearance and was found in five counties. A blue morph Ross's was an interesting find at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. A dark morph **Snow x Ross's Goose** was also at Middle Creek, moving between the *Lancaster* and *Lebanon* sides of the refuge. A flock of 50 **Brant** in *Erie* was picked up in flight by scanning the sky at the Erie Hawkwatch, an unusual spring record. A **Barnacle Goose** was in *Northampton*. Small numbers of **Cackling Geese** were found in the eastern counties with the exception of a single bird in *Somerset*. An interesting leucistic **Canada Goose** was photographed in *Allegheny*. The body was dirty white and the black head and neck were replaced by dark brown. This bird was present at the same location in 2011.

**Mute Swans** were seen with young in *Berks* and others were in a few counties. **Trumpeter Swans** were in eight counties with birds in *Chester* continuing from the winter, and one in *Erie* the entire season.

**Eurasian Wigeon** made a good showing this spring with reports from five counties. Two birds were in separate locations in *Lancaster*. A **Green-winged (Common) Teal** was in *Bucks*. The **Harlequin Duck** that wintered in *Armstrong* remained into the season, happily bobbing in the wake below Lock and Dam #4 at Freeport on the Allegheny River. Its companion **Long-tailed Duck** was by its side the entire time. All three scoters were seen across the state. **Surf Scoters** and **White-winged Scoters** were widespread with reports of surfers in 14 counties and white-winged in 13. **Black Scoter** was the least reported and found in five counties.

Some spectacular numbers of **Northern Pintails** were in several counties in March. At Dunning's Creek

Wetlands in *Bedford* over 300 were found, over 500 were on Lake Ontelaunee in *Berks*, Bald Eagle State Park in *Centre* hosted 369, two hundred were in the Pymatuning Area in *Crawford*, 100 were on the Susquehanna River in *Dauphin*, 135 were at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in *Lebanon* and 367 were at Shenango Reservoir in *Mercer*. A great count of at least 250 **Long-tailed Ducks** was made in *Erie*.

**Red-throated Loons** were found in 13 counties. A **Pacific Loon** was a great find in *Lebanon*. A probable **Pacific Loon** was in *Lancaster*. A nice total of 60 **Common Loons** were in *Berks* in April followed by 50 in May, both fallouts due to rain. **Eared Grebe** was reported in three counties: *Bucks*, where it was a first county record, *Erie*, where it's almost annual, and *Greene*. **Red-necked Grebes** were in 12 counties. **Great Cormorants** were reported from the usual *Berks*, *Bucks*, and *Philadelphia* where they remained from the winter season.

Bitterns and herons always provide some highlights of less common species, and the secretive bitterns are always a nice surprise even in the areas they are known to breed. **American Bitterns** were found in 16 counties, and **Least Bitterns** were in seven counties. Although uncommon, **Snowy Egrets** were seen in the usual eastern counties of *Bucks*, *Delaware*, *Lancaster*, *Northampton*, and *Philadelphia*. One in *Erie* was a bit unusual, although they have been found there with some regularity in recent years. Only two **Little Blue Herons** were reported this spring, in *Bucks* and *Fayette*. **Tricolored Heron** was in five counties including a first for *Bedford*. The only **Cattle Egret** reported was in *Northampton*. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were in 11 counties so they are not detailed in the Birds of Note, but they are a species of concern due to their local breeding locations. Even more restricted is the **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, which continues to hold on at the *Dauphin* breeding site. Reports came from only two other counties. **Glossy Ibis** were in six counties. A nice size flock of 13 were seen in flight in *Lebanon* and one in *Mercer* was a rare visitor to the northwestern part of the state.

**Black Vultures** were reported from 11 counties. Sightings in *Bedford*, *Erie*, *Fayette*, *Greene*, *Somerset*, *Wayne* and *Wyoming* were outside their expected range. They are becoming regular as migrants in *Somerset* and *Bedford*. Surprisingly, a pair was confirmed nesting for the first time in *Fayette*.

Single **Swallow-tailed Kites** were in *Berks* and *Montgomery*. **Mississippi Kites** were in five counties. The bird in *Adams* was observed chasing a Red-tailed Hawk. Usually kites are seen in flight so behaviors such as interactions between with other species are not often observed. Two sightings occurred at the Bucktoe Creek Preserve in *Chester*, a regular location to see this species due to the dedication of a small group of observers who watch the skies with intense regularity during migration. Two sightings were made in *Northampton* too. **Northern Goshawks** were seen at spring hatch watch sites in *Bedford* and *Lehigh*, but there were also sightings away from the ridges. Leucistic **Red-tailed Hawks** were in *Allegheny* and *Montgomery*.

It was a good season for rails. A **Black Rail** was heard in *Berks* but apparently did not remain in the area. Interesting was a **Clapper Rail** found dead in *Franklin* in the town of Chambersburg, a location far inland from the coast. A **King Rail** was in *Philadelphia* for two days. A probable **King Rail** was in *Montgomery*, but because it was heard as a nocturnal migrant, specific identification could not be determined. **Common Gallinules** were reported in only six counties. **Sandhill Cranes** were reported in 14 counties, the same total as last year.

Quite a few interesting shorebirds were present this spring. **Black-bellied Plover** was only found in five counties; however they are more common in fall. A large flock was in *Bucks*. **American Golden Plover** is unexpected in spring, but one was at Presque Isle in *Erie*. Two **Piping Plovers** were observed on separate days in *Erie*, one banded and one unbanded. *Erie* and *Lancaster* observers had the pleasure of seeing the elegant **American Avocet** this spring. Single **Willetts** were in *Franklin* and *Northampton* (second county record), four were in *Bedford* and five in neighboring *Somerset*. **Upland Sandpipers** were in *Clarion*, *Crawford*, and *Venango*, all three counties are breeding sites for this declining species. **Whimbrels** were in three counties, and all observations were of multiple birds. A flock of 100 was observed migrating in *Chester*. *Indiana* saw its second record, and six were in *Erie*. **Ruddy Turnstones** turned up on six counties, all away from Lake Erie. A flock of 150 **Red Knots** were seen on the move in *Bucks*. Like the Ruddy Turnstone, all **Sanderling** reports were from four "inland" counties. A flock of 150 were seen in migration in *Bucks* (the same location as the turnstones). Large

flocks (by Pennsylvania standards) of the common peeps were notable. A flock of 125 **Least Sandpipers** were in *Lancaster* and large flocks of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were in *Allegheny* and *Bedford*. **White-rumped Sandpipers** were in eight counties. Three **Western Sandpipers** were in *Bedford*. Very unusual in spring, single **Stilt Sandpipers** were in *Bedford* and *Lebanon*. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were present in four counties. Reports of phalaropes were exceptional, with all species reported. **Wilson's Phalaropes** were in *Indiana* (third record) and *Lebanon*. **Red-necked Phalaropes** were in six counties and **Red Phalaropes** were in five counties, and one was listed as possible in *Cambria*.

It was also a great spring for gulls, particularly in *Erie* where there was an amazing concentration of **Little Gulls**. Among them were some other rarities, including two **Black-headed Gulls**. A **Franklin's Gull** and a **Black-legged Kittiwake** were all present the same day! A **Black-headed Gull** was in *Dauphin* along with three sightings of **Little Gull**. **Little Gulls** were also in *Berks* and *Lancaster*. **Laughing Gulls** were present in *Philadelphia* where they are regular. Reports also came from *Bedford*, *Erie*, *Lancaster*, and *Montgomery*. A **Franklin's Gull** was a nice find in *Indiana*. **Thayer's Gulls** were in *Erie* and *Lebanon*. **Iceland Gulls** were in four counties including an injured bird that lingered in *Erie*. Large numbers of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were in *Bucks* and *Lehigh*, **Glaucous Gulls** were in *Bucks*, *Erie* and *Lebanon*, and **Great Black-backed Gulls** were in five counties. Two hybrid gulls were identified this season. A **Herring x**

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** was in *Bucks* and a **Great Black-backed x Herring Gull** was in *Erie*. Tern reports were highlighted by a **Least Tern** in *Erie* and **Arctic Terns** in *Bucks* and for the first time in *Somerset*.

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** were in three counties. Despite all the talk about the rapid expansion of this species, it apparently is not yet occurring in Pennsylvania. A **White-winged Dove** was in *Lancaster*. **Barn Owls** were in seven counties including one found dead in *Bedford*. A migrant in *Erie* was the first for many years, and three active nests were in *Dauphin* and one was in *Bucks*. A **Snowy Owl** was in *Bedford* for a few days in March. **Long-eared Owls** lingered at winter roosts in several counties. A **Chuck-wills-widow** returned to the site in *Lebanon* where it was detected last year.

Only the fourth record for North America (and of course a first for Pennsylvania), a **Bahama Woodstar** visited a feeder in *Lancaster* for a few days in April. The bird was banded and well photographed by those fortunate to see it during its brief stay. **Rufous Hummingbirds** that wintered in *Chester* and *Montgomery* lingered into the spring season.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were in four counties and *Erie* recorded its first **Say's Phoebe**. Normally restricted to higher elevations, a **Brown Creeper** nesting in *Allegheny* was unusual. **Marsh Wren** reports were good with birds found in ten counties. A **Bicknell's Thrush** was heard on nocturnal migration in *Dauphin*. A possible Bicknell's was in *Montgomery*. A leucistic **American Robin** was photographed in *Allegheny*.

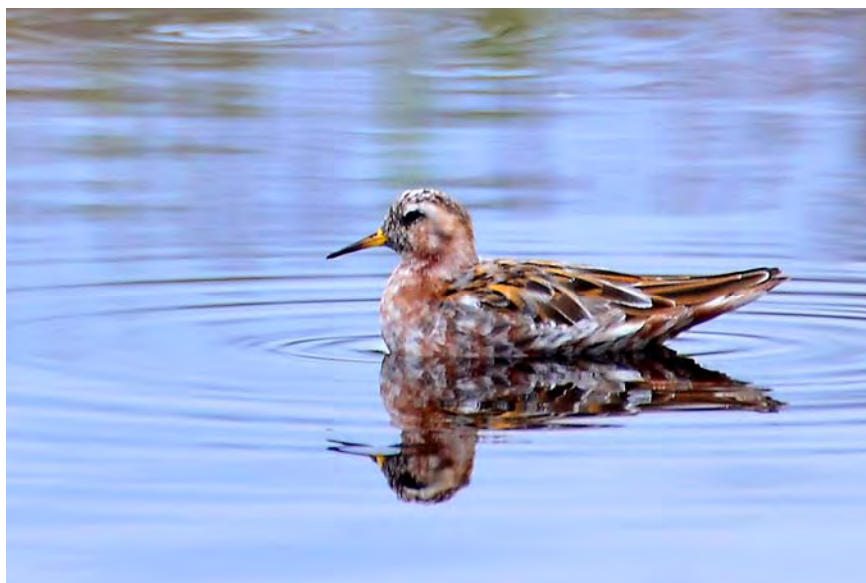
**Golden-winged Warblers** were found in 16 counties including those with breeding populations and those where the birds are now only migrants. **Brewster's Warblers** were in seven counties and **Lawrence's Warblers** were in *Bucks* and *Franklin*. The only **Connecticut Warblers** reported were two separate birds in *Erie*. **Prothonotary Warblers** were found in 11 counties and **Orange-crowned Warblers** were in nine counties, a good showing for the spring. **Canada Warblers** were surprisingly only reported in two counties and probably underreported.

**Clay-colored Sparrows** were in six counties including the breeding sites in *Clarion* and a territorial male in *Allegheny*. A **Lark Sparrow** was found in *Westmoreland* and a **Le Conte's Sparrow** that wintered in *Chester* remained to late April. A leucistic **Chipping Sparrow** was in *Allegheny*. **Oregon Juncos** were in *Centre* and *Dauphin*. A **Dickcissel** was found in *Cumberland*, which has been a fairly regular host for this species during the breeding season.

A **Summer Tanager** visited a feeder in *Erie* for a day and one in *Lebanon* provided a third county record. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were in *Chester* and *Erie* and a **Brewer's Blackbird** was found in *Lancaster*. A wintering **Baltimore Oriole** in *Bucks* remained to April and a **Bullock's Oriole** that wintered in *Montgomery* remained to the end of March. Another was in *Berks*. **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported at the usual locations in nine counties.

Winter finches were widespread and many remained into spring. **Red Crossbills** were in small numbers eight counties. The exception was a flock of 100 in *Cumberland*. **White-winged Crossbills** were reported in 15 counties. **Common Redpoll** also staged a healthy invasion with reports in 24 counties. **Hoary Redpolls** were found in four counties, usually associated with Common Redpolls, and a *rostrata* ("Greater") **Common Redpoll** was documented in *Centre*. **Pine Siskins** were also widespread and were listed in 32 county reports. Read the *Centre* report for information about a banded **Pine Siskin** that was recaptured far away from Pennsylvania. Observers were treated to the sites and sounds of **Evening Grosbeaks** in eight counties. The large flock that spent the winter in *Forest* continued well into the spring.

Reports were received for 48 counties. Thanks to the county compilers for organizing the numerous spring reports.



This **Red Phalarope** in transitional plumage at SGL 236, *Susquehanna* 5 May 2013 represented one of five records in Pennsylvania this season, an unprecedented statewide spring flight for this rare visitor. (Photo by Sherry Sparks)

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 out of 10 years during this time period.

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

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – *Bedford, Berks, Franklin, Indiana, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montgomery, Northampton.*

**Ross's Goose** – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/20 (Matt Wlasniewski) and two there 3/23 (Peter and Jane Wolfe); *Bucks*: one flying over Nockamixon State Park 3/21 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/12 (Aden Troyer *fide* Chad Kauffman); *Lebanon*: 2 at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/4 (Randy Miller), a blue morph at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/19 (Randy Miller), and a white morph at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/12 (Aden Troyer) and 3/29 (Jonathan Heller, Eric Heisey); *Mercer*: one at Shenango Wildlife Area 3/6 (Neil Troyer); *Northampton*: one flying over Beersville 3/1 (Bill Etter).

**Snow Goose x Ross's Goose** – *Lancaster*: a dark morph individual at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/26 (Tom Johnson, Jan Getgood); *Lebanon*: the same bird on the Lebanon side of Middle Creek 3/29 (Jonathan Heller).

**Brant** – *Erie*: a flock of 50 flew over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 5/19 (Roger Donn, Jerry McWilliams, Russ States).

**Barnacle Goose\*** – *Northampton*: one at Northampton Quarry 3/7-11 (Billy Weber, m.ob., *no doc*).

**Cackling Goose** – *Berks*: up to three at Lake Ontelaunee 3/2-28 (m.ob.), 11 in Albany Twp. 3/1 (Frank Dickman, no details); *Dauphin*: one at Fort Hunter 3/30 (Robyn Henise, Don Henise, Ramsay Koury); *Lancaster*: three sightings of one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/1-19 (m.ob.); *Lebanon*: several sightings 3/7-19 (m.ob.); *Lehigh*: one in New Tripoli (Frank Dickman) and one at Fogelsville Quarry (Chris Hugosson) both 3/3; *Montgomery*: present at Green Lane Park 3/3 and 3/9 (Kevin Crilley) and at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 3/10 (Paul Driver); *Northampton*: at several locations with a high of 4 at Albert Road Ponds 3/17 (Billy Weber); *Somerset*: one flying over Somerset Lake 3/5 (Mike Lanzzone, Jeff Payne, Jim Moses).

**Mute Swan** – *Berks*: a brood of 8 at Lake Ontelaunee 5/9 and a brood of 6 there 5/13 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: 13 at the Penn-Warner Tract 3/23 was the max count (Mark Gallagher); *Jefferson*: one along Rte. 380 on 4/20 (John Keener); *Lebanon*: one at Kreider's Retention Pond 3/17 (Dave McNaughton) and 3/28-29 (Tim Becker, Michael Mayer); *York*: resident at Spring Grove, 5 at Gifford Pinchot State Park 5/15-16 (Dick Cleary, Dean Newhouse).

**Trumpeter Swan** – *Bedford*: two banded birds at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 4/23 with one remaining to 5/15 (Tom Dick), *Berks*: three at Blue Marsh Lake 3/20 (Paul Michaly, Joan Silagy); *Chester*: two in Parker Ford 3/18-4/6 were believed to be the same individuals that wintered on the Schuylkill River (Rob Blye, m.ob.); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park all season (Jerry McWilliams, et al.); *Franklin*: one in Chambersburg 3/13-22 (Bill Oyler, Dale Gearhart,

Carl Garner); *Lancaster*: 2 at the Conejohela Flats 4/27 (Eric Witmer) and one there 4/30 (Gordon Dimmig); *Lebanon*: an immature at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 5/10 (Stan Stahl); *Montgomery*: the pair wintering in nearby *Chester* were in Pottstown 4/7 (Lisa Miller).

**Eurasian Wigeon** – *Berks*: two males at Lake Ontelaunee 3/3-5/11 (m.ob.); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 3/16-28 (Fred McCullough, Carol McCullough, et al.); *Franklin*: one near St. Thomas 3/1-5 (Carl Garner); *Lancaster*: one at Wood's Edge Park 3/7 (Justin Bosler) and one was at the Conejohela Flats 3/9 (Meredith Lombard); *Mercer*: one at Shenango Wildlife Area 3/19 (Steve Sanford, Shannon Thompson).

**Green-winged (Common) Teal\*** – *Bucks*: one at Upper Makefield firehouse 3/12 and LaSalle College, Newtown 3/21 (Mark Gallagher, *doc submitted*).

**Harlequin Duck\*** – *Armstrong*: the bird that wintered continued up to 4/7 (Michael Dreibelbis, Chad Kauffman, Alex Lamoreaux, *no doc*).

**Black Scoter** – *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 3/10 (Tom Dick); *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 4/14-15 (Ken Lebo, Michael Weaver); *Cambria*: one at Prince Gallitzen State Park all season (Dave Gobert); *Erie*: up to 3 present at Presque Isle State Park through mid-Apr (m.ob.); *Mercer*: one at Lake Wilhelm 3/22 (Jerry Stanley).

**Pacific Loon\*** – *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake State Park 5/11 (Jonathan Heller, Chuck Berthoud, Robert Peda, David McNaughton, Jarrod Derr, Chris Bortz, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

**Eared Grebe\*** – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 4/17 (August Mirabella, *doc submitted*); first county record; *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 4/25 (Mike Weible, *no doc*); *Greene*: one at Lake Wilma 4/13 (Jan Churney, Kathy Kern, Marjorie Howard, *no doc*).

**Great Cormorant** – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 4/5 (Rudy Keller), *Bucks*: high single-day counts of 30 at Mud Island 3/2 and 12 at Bristol 3/2 (Devich Farbotnik), one at Rohm and Haas, Bristol 5/23 (Devich Farbotnik); *Philadelphia*: last reported from the winter season 4/22 (Frank Windfelder).

**Least Bittern** – *Bedford*: first of the season heard at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 4/14 (Tom Dick), *Berks*: one calling at Glen Morgan Lake IBA 5/17 (Ken Lebo, Matt Wlasniewski); *Cumberland*: one at State Game Lands 169, Mountain Road Marsh 5/11 (Andrew Markel, Dan Snell); *Erie*: two at Presque Isle State Park 5/27 (Shannon Thompson); *Huntingdon*: one at Old Crow Wetland 4/28 (Greg Grove); *Susquehanna*: one at an undisclosed location 5/12 (Jerry Skinner), *Philadelphia*: one at Darby Creek 4/27-28 (Debbie Beer, et al.).



**Snowy Egret** – *Bucks*: two at Bradford Dam 5/7 (August Mirabella), one at Rohm and Haas, Bristol 5/11 (Bob Mercer), and four 5/18 and one 5/23 (Devich Farbotnik) at Rohm and Haas, Bristol; *Delaware*: six flying up the Delaware River at Marcus Hook 5/31 (Al Guarente); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/15 (Don Snyder); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 4/29 (Stan Stahl) and 5/15 (Bob Schutsky); *Northampton*: one at Nazareth Quarry 4/19 (Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell-Schall); *Philadelphia*: one at Tinicum 5/19-29 (m.ob.).

**Little Blue Heron** – *Bucks*: one at Rohm and Haas 5/11 (Bob Mercer); *Fayette*: one at Greenlick Run Lake 5/7 (Tim Andersen, Laura Hahn), second county record; *Philadelphia*: one imm. at Tinicum 5/9 (Brian Henderson); *Westmoreland*: one at Mammoth Park 5/11 (Donna Mohney, Georgia Shalak, *no doc*).

**Tricolored Heron\*** – *Bedford*: one at Whitetail Wetlands 4/30 (Connie Hunt, Tom Dick, *no doc*); *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 5/9 (Paul Michaly, *no doc*).

**Cattle Egret\*** – *Northampton*: one at Greemar Road Pond (Billy Weber, et al., *doc submitted*).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 4/18 (August Mirabella), one there 5/5 (Jeff Vinosky *vide* Devich Farbotnik), and two at Quakertown Swamp 4/26-29 with one remaining 4/30-5/1 (Devich Farbotnik); *Dauphin*: present at the breeding site in Harrisburg 4/12 (Tom Johnson, Ramsay Koury, Richard Williams), by season's end there appeared to be at least 12 active nests (Tom Johnson); *Lebanon*: one at Shuey Lake 5/8-9 (Dave McNaughton, Jarrod Derr, Tim Becker, Kathy Becker, Randy Miller).

**Glossy Ibis** – *Bucks*: three at Rohm and Haas, Bristol 5/19 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one at Exton Park 5/5 (Geoff Bently, Kelly Colgan-Azar), presumably the same bird was near Exton Park 5/6-8 (Holly Merker, et al.), and 5 were over ChesLen Preserve 5/9 (Holly Merker); *Lancaster*: one at Beechdale Road Pond 5/8 (Stan Stahl); *Lebanon*: a flock of 13 over Memorial Lake State Park 5/27 (Ed Bernot); *Mercer*: one at Shenango Wildlife Area 5/9 (Steve Sanford, ph. Geoff Malosh, et al.); *Montgomery*: 6 flying over Norristown Farm Park 5/13 (W. Brian Henderson).

**Swallow-tailed Kite\*** – *Berks*: one at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 4/28 (*vide* Laurie Goodrich, *doc submitted*); *Montgomery*: one near Fort Washington State Park 5/11 (Langhorne Smith, Hugh Sargeant, Henry Crouter, Bob Ridgely, *doc submitted*).

**Mississippi Kite\*** – *Adams*: an adult chasing a Red-tailed Hawk at Long Pine Run Reservoir 5/11 (Andrew Markel, Dan Snell, *no doc*); *Bucks*: one at Oxford Valley Mall 5/22 (Gerry Dewaghe, Christine Dewaghe, *doc submitted*); *Chester*: two separate sightings at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/20 (Larry Lewis, Kelly Nunn, Hank Davis, Kathleen Pileggi, m.ob., *doc submitted*), and one there again 5/29 (Larry Lewis, *no doc*); *Delaware*: one flying over Boothwyn 5/23 (Bruce Childs, *no doc*); *Northampton*: one in Beersville 5/31 (Billy Weber, *no doc*) and one in Williams Township 5/25 (Arlene Koch, *no doc*); *Philadelphia*: one at Mt. Airy 5/25 (Matt Sharp, *no doc*).

**Northern Goshawk** – *Allegheny*: one at Natrona Heights 3/9 (Paul Hess); *Berks*: two at Henningsville 4/14 (Paul Saenger); *Centre*: one on Hall Road 5/27 (Joe Verica); *Crawford*: one near Woodcock Lake 3/24 (Ronald Leberman), one in West Mead Twp. 3/26 (Isaac Field); *Forest*: one at Buzzard Swamp 5/19 (David Yeany II, Three Rivers Birding Club); *Lebanon*: one at Mt. Greatna 4/19 (Sid Hostetter, Randy Miller); *Lehigh*: two at Bake Oven Knob 4/11 (John Traynor), one at Coopersburg 4/21 (Jeremy Kleinberg).

**Black Rail\*** – *Berks*: one heard calling near Reading 5/20 through late June (Kathy Grim, *doc submitted*).

**Clapper Rail\*** – *Franklin*: one found dead in Chambersburg 4/17, specimen was collected by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (*doc submitted*).

**King Rail\*** – *Philadelphia*: one at Tinicum 5/27-29 (Debbie Beer, Linda Widdop, Mike Rosengarten, et al., *doc submitted*).

**King/Clapper Rail\*** – *Montgomery*: calls of this species pair were picked up by a nocturnal flight call recording station at Elkins Park 5/16 (Paul Driver).

**Common Gallinule** – *Bedford*: two at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 4/24 (Tom Dick); *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 5/9 (Dan Altif, Jason Horn); *Bradford*: one at the Taylor Road Marsh 5/4 (Lewis Frederick); *Crawford*: present at the Conneaut Marsh 4/6-5/19 (m.ob.); *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 from 5/11-13 (Andrew Markel, Dan Snell, Vern Gauthier); *Lawrence*: at a traditional breeding site on Wampum-New Galilee Road beginning 4/27 (Mark Vass, eBird); *Mercer*: 6 at Pennsy Swamp 5/26 (Steve Sanford).

**Black-bellied Plover** – *Bucks*: approximately 100 flew by near Quakertown 5/30 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: 2 at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 4/26 (Mark Vass) and 7 at Tamarack Lake 5/27 (Robert Leberman); *Dauphin*: one heard on nocturnal migration over the Deer Valley Golf Club 5/27 (Tom Johnson); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 5/20 (Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 5/11 (Gloria Lamer, Georgette Syster); *Lancaster*: 7 at the Conejohela Flats 5/12 (Bob Schutsky); *Lebanon*: 6 at Kreider's Retention Pond 5/12 (Stan Stahl), followed by four there 5/14 (Stan Stahl, Tim Becker), one 5/17 (Randy Miller), and one 5/28-30 (Tom Johnson, Dave McNaughton); *Northampton*: one at Minsi Lake 5/28 (Matt Sabatine); *Somerset*: four at Somerset Lake 5/12 (Andy McGann), one there 5/28 (Mike Lanzone).

**American Golden Plover** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/8 (Drew Mortensen).

**Piping Plover\*** – *Erie*: one banded bird at Presque Isle State Park 5/14-15 (Jason Fidorra, *doc submitted*) and one unbanded bird there 5/30 (Roger Donn, *no doc*).

**American Avocet** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/1 (Mary Birdsong); *Lancaster*: one at the Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands 5/11 (Larry Coble *vide* Bruce Carl).

**Willet** – *Bedford*: four at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/13 (Tom Dick); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 5/7 (Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart); *Indiana*: 5 at Yellow Creek State Park 5/11 (Gloria Lamer, Georgette Syster); *Northampton*: one at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 5/8 (Matt Sabatine, m.ob.), second county record; *Somerset*: 5 at Somerset Lake 5/11, one still present 5/12 (Mike Lanzone, m.ob.).

**Upland Sandpiper** – *Clarion*: one at Mount Airy 5/6 (Dan Efrogmson, Steve Sanford) and 5/19 (Carole Winslow), two at Mount Zion 5/20 (Chad Kauffman, Joan Renninger); *Crawford*: one to three at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 5/1-12 (m.ob.); *Venango*: 6 at Barkeyville Strips 5/11 (Gary Edwards, Meg Kolodick).

**Whimbrel** – *Chester*: a flock of 100 flying over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/27 (Larry Lewis, et al.); *Erie*: six at Presque Isle State Park 5/23 (Sam Stull), two present 5/24 (Sam Stull, et al.); *Indiana*: 4 at Yellow Creek State Park 5/28 (Tom Glover, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Mike Shaffer), second county record.

**Ruddy Turnstone** – *Bedford*: two at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/13 (Tom Dick); *Centre*: one at Colyer Lake 5/24 (Joe Verica, Susan Braun, Carl Engstrom); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 5/8 (Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee, Gloria Lamer, Ken Truitt); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 5/15 (Bob Schutsky); *Lebanon*: one at Kreider's Retention Pond 5/12-20 (Stan Stahl, Tim Becker, Dave McNaughton, Jonathan Heller, Randy Miller, Jim

- Fiorentino); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 5/7 (Mike Lanzzone), 4 there 5/16 (Tim Anderson).
- Red Knot** – *Bucks*: a flock of approximately 150 flew by near Quakertown 5/30 (Devich Farbotnik).
- Sanderling** – *Bedford*: two at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/15 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: a flock of approximately 200 flew by near Quakertown 5/29 (Devich Farbotnik); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 5/22 (Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart).
- Stilt Sandpiper** – *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 4/24 (Tom Dick); *Lebanon*: one at Kreider's Retention Pond 5/11 (Andrew Markel, Dan Snell).
- Short-billed Dowitcher** – *Allegheny*: 5 at Imperial 5/12 (ph. Geoff Malosh); *Bedford*: 35 at Dunnings Creek 5/13 (Tom Dick); *Lebanon*: single birds at Kreider's Retention Pond 5/3-4 (Pat Williams, Richard Williams, Tim Becker, Chris Bortz, Randy Miller), 5/8 (Jarrod Derr, Dave McNaughton) and 5/15-16 (Tim Becker, Dave McNaughton); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 5/22 (Mike Lanzzone).
- Wilson's Phalarope** – *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 5/25 (Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles), third county record; *Lebanon*: one at Kreider's Retention Pond 5/20 (Jim Fiorentio).
- Red-necked Phalarope** – *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/15 (Tom Dick); *Berks*: two at Fleetwood 5/8 (Rudy Keller, et al.); *Cambria*: three at Prince Gallitzen State Park 5/8 (Chris Grecco); *Franklin*: one at Chambersburg 5/8 (Bill Oyler); *Lebanon*: one at Kreider's Retention Pond 5/19-20 (Dave McNaughton, Tim Becker, Randy Miller, Gerry Boltz); *Northampton*: one at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 5/24 (Billy Weber, Matt Sabatine); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 5/7 (Mike Lanzzone).
- Red Phalarope\*** – *Fayette*: one at Greenlick Run Lake 5/7 (Tim Andersen, Laura Hahn, *doc submitted*); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 5/9 (Carl Garner, Dale Gearhart, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 5/15 (Bob Schutsky, *no doc*); *Lycoming*: one in Williamsport 5/11 (ph. Nate Fronk, *doc submitted*); *Susquehanna*: one at State Game Lands 236 on 5/5 (Sherry Sparks, *doc submitted*).
- Black-legged Kittiwake\*** – *Erie*: one first cycle bird at Presque Isle State Park 3/24 (Mike Weible, ph. Geoff Malosh, *doc submitted*) represented the first spring record for *Erie* and just the second spring record for Pennsylvania.
- Black-headed Gull\*** – *Dauphin*: one at Marysville 3/16-21 (Ramsay Koury, Andy Markel, *m.ob., no doc*); *Erie*: two at Presque Isle State Park 3/16-26 (Mike Weible, Drew Mortensen, Jerry McWilliams, *doc submitted*).
- Little Gull** – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 4/12 (Ken Lebo); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 4/12-14 (Ian Gardner, et al.); *Dauphin*: one at Marysville 3/12 (Dave McNaughton), one near Three Mile Island 3/29 (Gordon Dimmig), one at Harrisburg 4/8 (Tom Johnson); *Erie*: at least 35 at Presque Isle State Park 3/16-4/7 (*m.ob.*) and 52 counted 3/27 (Tom Johnson, Cory DeStein); *Lancaster*: 3 on the Susquehanna River at the Rocks 3/23 (Eric Witmer, Mike Epler), 2 there 3/24 (Gordon Dimmig) and one was present on the river 3/30 (Jonathan Heller, Tom Garner).
- Laughing Gull** – *Bedford*: one at Shawnee State Park 5/5 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: first reported for the season at the Penn-Warner Tract 3/13 (Devich Farbotnik), total for the PAMC 5/11 was 1642; *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/29 (Drew Mortensen, Roger Donn, Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: 2 on the Susquehanna River 5/31 (Meredith Lombard); *Montgomery*: 4 at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 5/12 (Martin Selzer, Paul Krepto); *Philadelphia*: arrived at Tinicum 3/10.
- Franklin's Gull** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 3/24-25 (Ben Coulter, et al.); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek State Park 4/16 (Lee Carnahan Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Ken Truitt).
- Thayer's Gull\*** – *Erie*: one or 2 at Presque Isle State Park 3/16-26 (Mike Weible, Geoff Malosh, Jerry McWilliams, *no doc*), and likely a third 3/25 (Mike Weible, *no doc*); *Lebanon*: one at Lion's Lake 3/7 (Dave McNaughton, *no doc*).
- Iceland Gull** – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 3/28 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: reported from six sites, including five at Nockamixon State Park 3/17 (Al Guarente), and 3 at the Penn-Warner Tract 3/25-26, 4 there 5/4, and one there 5/11 (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: up to 4 at Presque Isle State Park from 3/16 to early April, an injured bird remained to 5/25 (*m.ob.*); *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna River 3/9 (Eric Witmer, Meredith Lombard, Dick Cleary, Mike Epler).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** – *Berks*: last seen at Blue Marsh Lake 3/17 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: high count for the season if 486 at Nockamixon State Park 3/25 (Devich Farbotnik) was probably a new single-site *Bucks* record as well, and other reports were made through 5/17; *Chester*: one in Unionville 3/11 (Kelley Nunn); *Erie*: up to 25 reported during the season at Presque Isle State Park, last 5/7 (*m.ob.*); *Lancaster*: three sightings on the Susquehanna River 3/10-24 (Mike Epler, Gordon Dimmig); *Lehigh*: 60 at Lehigh Canal Park 3/24 was the high count for the season (Mark Boyd), last seen 3/31 at Dorney Pond (Ed Komito); *Montgomery*: present through 4/7 (Stephen Kacir), season high was 38 at Green Lane Pond 3/11 (George Franchois); *Northampton*: two reports at Nazareth Quarry in Apr were last; *Philadelphia*: last was one at Pennypack on the Delaware 5/26 (George Armistead).
- Glaucous Gull** – *Bucks*: last was one adult at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/13 (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: up to 15 during the season at Presque Isle State Park, last 5/4 (Jerry McWilliams, *m.ob.*); *Lebanon*: one continued at Lion's Lake from the winter up to 3/3 (Chris Bortz, *m.ob.*).
- Great Black-backed Gull** – *Berks*: last reported at Blue Marsh Lake 3/29 (Peter Montgomery); *Chester*: recorded at Marsh Creek State Park 4/12 (Kelly Nunn), Unionville 3/10 (Kelly Nunn), Bucktoe Creek Preserve 3/10 (*m.ob.*) and Struble Lake 3/1 and 3/3 (Holly Merker, Rick Robinson, Mike Coulter); *Erie*: present all season; *Lancaster*: 8 at Lake Clark 3/23 (Eric Witmer), one on the Susquehanna River at The Rocks 3/24 (Gordon Dimmig), one at the Conejohela Flats 5/8 (Bob Schutsky); *Montgomery*: 2 at Norristown Dam 3/7 (W. Brian Henderson); *Somerset*: one flew over the Lanzzone property 3/16 (Mike Lanzzone).
- Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull** – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 3/24-25 (August Mirabella, Devich Farbotnik).
- Great Black-backed x Herring Gull** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 3/25 (Jerry McWilliams).
- Least Tern\*** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/31 (Drew Mortensen, *no doc*).
- Arctic Tern\*** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/11 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*); *Somerset*: one or two at Somerset Lake 5/7 (Mike Lanzzone, *no doc*), first county record.
- Eurasian Collared Dove** – *Berks*: one at Shartlesville 4/26 (Matt Spence); *Cumberland*: one north of Newville 4/20 (Annette Mathes, Susan Strassner, Kathy Kuchwara, Joan Renninger); *Lebanon*: present in Quentin 3/3 (Jonathan DeBalko) and 4/8-9 (Dave McNaughton, Tim Becker), present in the Fontana area 5/1-7 (Jonathan Heller, Andy Keister, Tim Becker), two near Fontana 5/21 (Chuck Berthoud) and single birds there 5/23-31 (Jonathan Heller, Andy Keister, Chris Bortz).
- White-winged Dove\*** – *Lancaster*: one along Edisonville Road 5/26 (Tom Raub, *no doc*).
- Barn Owl** – *Bedford*: one found dead at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 3/20 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: nested successfully for the second year in a row (Devich Farbotnik); *Dauphin*: three active nests during the season at Milton S. Hershey

campus (Nate McKelvie); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/12 (Roger Donn); *Lebanon*: one near Ono 4/3 (Dave McNaughton); *Montgomery*: one recorded during nocturnal flight at Elkins Park 5/10 (Paul Driver); *Snyder*: one near Beaver Springs 3/28 (Jason Weller).

**Snowy Owl** – *Bedford*: one at Dunning's Creek Wetlands and Whitetail Wetlands 3/15-18 (Connie Hunt).

**Long-eared Owl** – *Bucks*: last reported at Peace Valley Park 3/13 (August Mirabella); *Crawford*: one at Stainbrook Park near Woodcock Lake 5/25 (Ronald Leberman); *Erie*: total of 5 at Presque Isle State Park 3/25-4/30 (Roger Donn); *Montgomery*: two at Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust 3/10 (Paul Driver) and one there 3/24 (Paul Driver); *Northampton*: one heard calling at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 3/9 (Matt Sabatine).

**Chuck-wills-widow**\* – *Lebanon*: one heard at Fort Indiantown Gap 4/30-5/14, presumably the same bird present each summer since 2010 (Tom Johnson, Tim Becker, Kathy Becker, Randy Miller, Chris Bortz, *doc previously submitted*).

**Bahama Woodstar**\* – *Lancaster*: one visited a feeder in Denver 4/22-24 (Sandy Lockerman, Delmas and Ruth Witmer, *doc submitted*), first state record and fourth for the ABA area.

**Rufous Hummingbird** – *Chester*: a female continued from the winter season in Chadds Ford up to 3/5 (Gale Brewer); *Montgomery*: a female that wintered in Meadowbrook was last seen 4/13 (Bert Filemyr, W. Brian Henderson, Stephen Kacir), an immature male that wintered in Elkins Park was last seen 3/22 (Paul Driver), and a female that had been wintering was banded in Harleysville 3/1 (Scott Weidensaul) but was not reported thereafter.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – *Bedford*: one at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 5/28 (Tom Dick); *Clearfield*: one in the Dubois Area 5/19 (Dan Richards); *Indiana*: one on the Ferrence Farm 5/11 (Gary Ferrence); *Lehigh*: one at Lynn 5/20 (Frank Dickman).

**Say's Phoebe**\* – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle S.P. 4/14-17 and 4/20 (Drew Mortensen, et al., *doc submitted*), first county record.

**Bicknell's Thrush**\* – *Dauphin*: one identified by nocturnal flight call over Deer Valley Golf Club 5/27 (Tom Johnson, *no doc*).

**Snow Bunting** – *Allegheny*: a flock of 40 were at Imperial the entire season (m.ob.); *Bradford*: two on Windfall Rd. 3/1 and 200 there 3/7 (Lewis Frederick); *Cambria*: present in the Patten area 3/31 (Dave Gobert, John Salvetti); *Crawford*: four at the Pymatuning Causeway 3/8, six there 3/10 (Ronald Leberman) and 3/23 (Isaac Field); *Cumberland*: two at Mud Level Road 3/25 (Andrew Markel); *Fayette*: 12 near Mount Pleasant 3/21 (Tim Anderson, Laura Hahn); *Mercer*: one at Shenango River Reservoir 3/16 (Neil Troyer).

**Brewster's Warbler** – *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 5/9 (Andy Keister), one at Scotia Barrens 5/16-18 (Matt Rockmore, Anne Fasoli); *Clearfield*: one at Sabula 5/16 (Dan Richards); *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 (Annette Mathes, Susan Strassner, Kathy Kuchwara) and SGL 230 (Ramsay Koury) on 5/11; *Dauphin*: two on Peter's Mountain 5/25 (Annette Mathes, Kathy Kuchwara); *Huntingdon*: two different individuals at Masseyburg 5/9 and 5/10 (Greg Grove); *Northampton*: one at Jacobsburg State Park 5/10 (Adam Smith) and perhaps the same bird there 5/19 (Billy Weber).

**Lawrence's Warbler** – *Bucks*: one at SGL 56 on 5/11 (Paul Cooper, Mark Gallagher); *Franklin*: present at SGL 76 on 5/5 (Carl Garner).

**Connecticut Warbler** – *Erie*: single birds at Presque Isle State Park 5/25 (Russ States) and 5/28 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 5/20 through June (Jeff McDonald, m.ob.); *Centre*: one at the

Rusnak Hill strip mine 5/25 (Joe Verica); *Clarion*: returned to the breeding site at Curllsville 5/9 (Daniel Hinnebusch); *Clearfield*: three at Troy Hill Road 5/16 (Jim Dunn); *Northampton*: one in Weaversville 4/30 (Jim Figlar); *Philadelphia*: one at Naval Business Center 4/10 (George Armistead).

**Lark Sparrow**\* – *Westmoreland*: one near New Alexandria 4/12 (Ken Byerly, Linda Huber, *no doc*).

**Le Conte's Sparrow**\* – *Chester*: the bird that wintered at Waterloo Mills Preserve was last seen 4/26 (Kevin Fryberger, *doc previously submitted*).

**Harris's Sparrow**\* – *Carbon*: continuing from the winter season at Whitey B Drive to at least 5/5 (Dustin Welch, Rich Rehrig, eBird, *doc previously submitted*).

**Dark-eyed Oregon Junco**\* – *Centre*: one continued from the last season 3/16-17 (Nick Bolgiano), *Dauphin*: one in Harrisburg 4/10 (Nancy Juris, Carl Juris, *no doc*).

**Dickcissel** – *Cumberland*: one on Hunter's Road 5/19 (David McNaughton).

**Summer Tanager**\* – *Erie*: one visited a feeder in North East 4/25 (Tim Lyons, *no doc*); *Lebanon*: one in Spring Hill Acres 5/8 (Jonathan Heller, *no doc*); third county record.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** – *Chester*: a male at Elverson 3/24 (Bob Cook, Ruth Cook), one in Pocopson (*vide* Dave Krue), one in Downingtown 4/6 and 4/16 (Gretchen Roth), all were at feeders; *Erie*: two males visited a feeder in Lake City 4/14 (Elaine Gaczkowski).

**Brewer's Blackbird**\* – *Lancaster*: one at Speedwell Forge Reservoir 4/8 (Stan Stahl, *no doc*).

**Bullock's Oriole**\* – *Berks*: one in Bern Twp. 5/4 (Joan Silagy, *no doc*); *Montgomery*: the bird that wintered in Gilbertsville was present up to 3/28 (Mary Ache, m.ob., *doc previously submitted*).

**Hoary Redpoll**\* – *Berks*: one at a feeder on Kittatinny Ridge 4/6-7 (Steve Brady, *doc submitted*); *Centre*: one near Stormstown 3/29 (Drew Weber, Alex Lamoreaux, Matt Rockmore, *doc submitted*); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 3/2 (Jerry McWilliams, Ed Kwater, *no doc*); *Wayne*: one in the southern part of the county 4/21 (Michael Gadomski, *no doc*).



A very exciting find on the *Lebanon* PAMC 5/11 was this **Pacific Loon** (at center) that put down at Memorial Lake State Park, part of a memorable day on the lake that also featured fallouts of waterfowl and terns. (Photo by Jarrod Derr)



## Photographic Highlights



**Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*).** This distinctive leucistic individual was photographed at the famous Bald Knob pond, Imperial, *Allegheny* 7 March 2013, where it appeared to be paired with a normally plumaged Canada Goose. This same bird was present in the Bald Knob area in March 2011. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*).** These two displaying males were nicely photographed at Nottingham Twp., *Washington* 17 April 2013. (*Don Weiss*)



**Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*).** These two birds at East Coventry, *Chester* 19 March 2013 were presumably the same two that spent much of the winter on the Schuylkill River on the *Chester/Montgomery* border. Following their initial sighting at Green Lane, *Montgomery* 19 November 2012, they remained in this general area until at least 7 April 2013. (*Holly Merker*)



**Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*).** This remarkably up-close portrait of Pennsylvania's elusive state bird was made in Washington Twp., *Butler* 15 April 2013. (*Jake Dingel*)



**Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*).** This male put down for a few hours at the famous Bald Knob pond in *Allegheny* 16 March 2013, the fourth record for the pond since 1993, all in March. (*Jeff McDonald*)





**Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*).** Virginia Rails are normally very difficult to see well, but sometimes become emboldened in early spring when they arrive on territory, like this bird in Downingtown, Chester present 23 April 2013 through the season, and shown here 25 April. (Holly Merker)



**Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*).** Piping Plover has been found with increasing frequency at Gull Point, Erie over the past few years, and recent habitat management activities there may help continue this trend. This bird (banded at Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan) was present at Gull Point 14 to (here) 15 May 2013. (Jerry McWilliams)



**Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*).** It was a historic season for this species at the Bald Knob pond in Allegheny, which included a record-breaking flock of at least 77 birds 28 May 2013. This bird was one of 11 there 30 May 2013. (Geoff Malosh)



**Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*).** The herald of a good shorebird season at the Bald Knob pond, Allegheny was this early and fine-looking Pectoral Sandpiper there 30 March 2013. (Jeff McDonald)



**Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*).** Another highlight at Bald Knob was a flock of 5 short-bills of the *hendersoni* subspecies, one of which is shown here 12 May 2013. This species has become less frequent in Allegheny over the past decade, so any record these days is sure to grab the attention of local birders. (Geoff Malosh)





**Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*).** This fledgling was nicely photographed at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, *Philadelphia* 28 April 2013. This bird was from one of two nests at the refuge within a half mile of each other. (*Sanjib Bhattacharyya*)



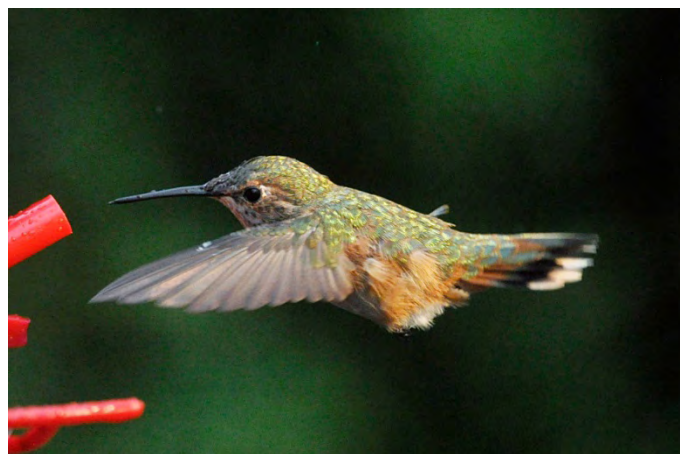
**Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*).** Sometimes lost among all the commotion and press afforded the masses of geese and swans at Middle Creek W.M.A. in *Lancaster/Lebanon* is the refuge's population of wintering Short-eared Owls. This cooperative bird was photographed there 1 March 2013. (*Joan Borden*)



**Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*).** This fine image of a gray morph Eastern Screech-Owl was made at Springville, *Susquehanna* 19 March 2013. (*James F. Borden*)



**Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*).** The cryptic Whip-poor-will is very difficult to observe by day. This bird provided a great opportunity for study at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 10 May 2013. (*Michelle Franz*)



**Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*).** One of at least four Rufous Hummingbirds that successfully wintered in Pennsylvania was this female at Meadowbrook, *Montgomery*, shown here 12 April 2013, the second-to-last day it was known to be present. (*Bert Filemyr*)





**Common Raven (*Corvus corax*).** The Common Raven continues its expansion from the mountainous forests of Central Pennsylvania to which it was formerly confined. This nest at Imperial, *Allegheny* contained 5 nestlings 25 April 2013 (here), one of three known nests in urbanized *Allegheny* in recent years. (Geoff Malosh)



**Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*).** One of Pennsylvania's most welcomed signs of spring is the song of the Louisiana Waterthrush. This adult was photographed nicely near a nest at Mingo Creek County Park, *Washington* 8 May 2013. (Jeff McDonald)



**Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*).** What is perhaps Pennsylvania's largest colony of Cliff Swallow was still thriving at Moraine State Park, *Butler* this year. This adult was collecting mud for a nest there 28 April 2013. (Jake Dingel)



**Nashville Warbler (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*).** This very rare winter Nashville Warbler was present in a backyard in Manayunk, *Philadelphia* 23 February to 16 March 2013, shown here 3 March. This species occasionally persists into December in Pennsylvania but February/March records are extremely unusual. (Ken Januski)



**Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*).** Easy to hear on nocturnal migration, the Swainson's Thrush can nonetheless prove difficult to find on the ground by day in spring. This bird was photographed at Erie, *Erie* 27 April 2013. (Michelle Franz)



**Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*).** Another characteristic herald of spring in Pennsylvania is the Yellow Warbler. This beautiful singing male was at SGL 213, *Crawford* 3 May 2013. (Jake Dingel)





**Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*).** This male at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 25 April to 1 May 2013 (here 29 April) exhibited very unusual behavior as it foraged out in the open near Beach 10, allowing very close approach and photos for its entire stay. It also set a new early date for *Erie*. (Steve Friel)



**Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*).** This Clay-colored Sparrow at the Naval Business Center, *Philadelphia* 10 April 2013 was one of five clay-colored in Pennsylvania away from known breeding areas this spring. (George Armistead)



**Palm Warbler (*Setophaga palmarum*).** The "Yellow" (Eastern) Palm warbler is rarely seen in far western Pennsylvania, so this bird at Boyce-Mayview Park, *Allegheny* 13 April 2013 was very unusual. The early date is typical of "Yellow" Palm Warblers in this region, as that subspecies tends to leave the wintering grounds earlier than their Western counterparts. (Jeff McDonald)



**Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*).** This Harris's Sparrow wintered at Whitey B Drive, *Carbon* (near Beltzville S.P.), and remained to 5 May 2013, shown here still in first winter plumage 29 March 2013. (Dustin Welch)



**Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*).** This fine adult was well photographed at Perkiomen Creek, *Montgomery* 11 April 2013. (Tom Johnson)



**Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*).** The *Carbon* Harris's Sparrow is shown here on the last day of its long stay, 5 May 2013, now nearly in full alternate plumage. It was first found 1 January 2013. (Dustin Welch)





**Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*).** The understated beauty of the Vesper Sparrow was wonderfully captured in this image made at Graver's Hill, Northampton 10 April 2013. (Dustin Welch)



**Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*).** This species of special concern is still seen statewide on migration, but in greatly reduced numbers compared to decades ago. This winter adult was nicely photographed at Pardee Lake, Union 14 April 2013. (Matt Levanowitz)



**White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*).** White-winged Crossbills lingered into the spring season, reported in 15 counties after 1 March. This female at Presque Isle State Park, Erie 5 May 2013 was one of 2-3 there that day, and established the second-latest spring record for Erie. (Geoff Malosh)

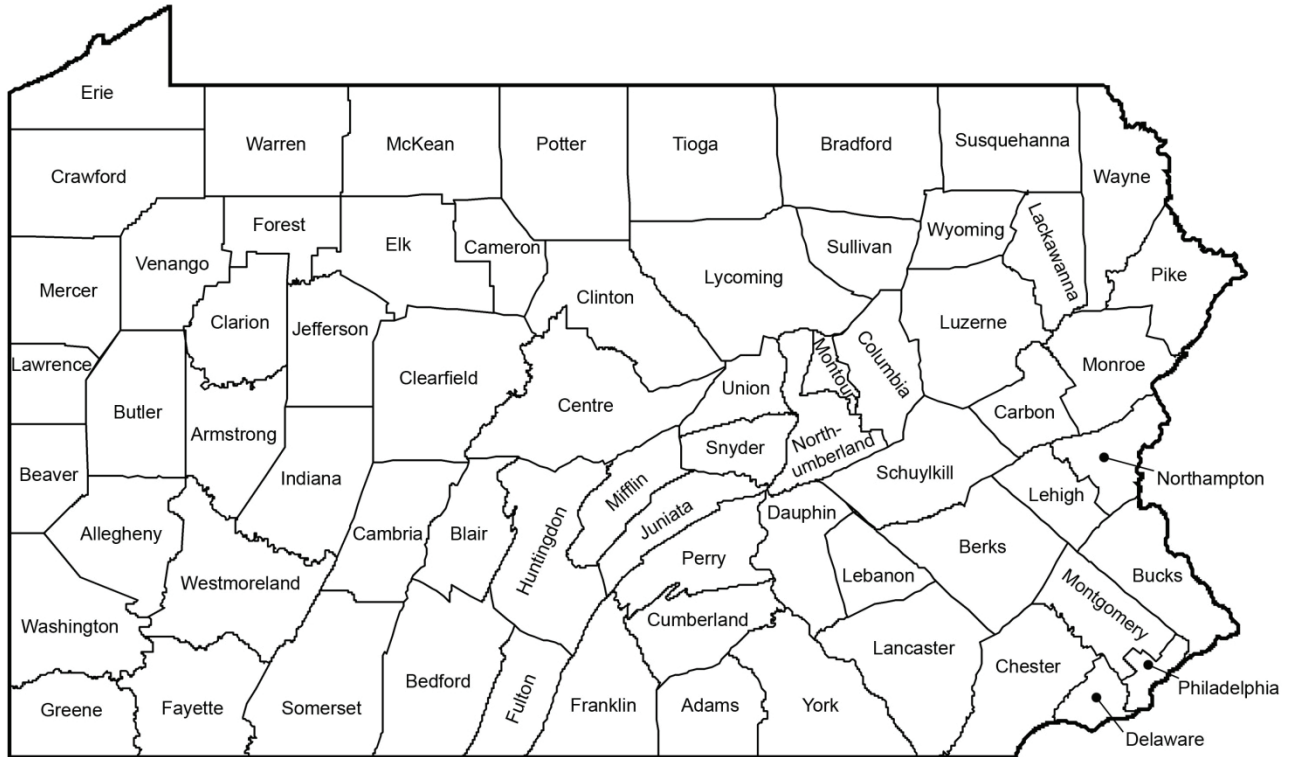


**Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*).** The continuing male Bullock's Oriole successfully completed its third winter at Gilbertsville, Montgomery, present this year through 28 March 2013 and shown here 15 March. When it first appeared in 2011, it was in first winter plumage. (Howard Eskin)



**Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*).** Scattered flocks of redpolls persisted across the state into the spring season, following a nice flight of the species in the winter months, and were recorded in 21 counties after 1 March. These birds were at a feeder New Milford, Susquehanna 24 March 2013. (Diane Marshman)





**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 May 2013)

**Adams County**

Locations: Buttonwood Road Farm Pond (BRFP), East Berlin (EB), Freedom Township (FREE), Gettysburg (GBG), Gettysburg College (GC), Gettysburg College Quarry (GCQ), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Mountain Rd (MTN), State Game Lands #249 (SGL).

It was a better than average spring period with 155 species reported. There were no appreciably early or late dates. The 5/11 PAMC, led by PJR, was one of the more productive efforts recently with 113 species found.

A single blue morph **Snow Goose** was at BRFP 3/17 (PK). **Tundra Swan** extended their annual stopover along Germany Rd. to at least 3/29 with 130 the high count 3/17 (PK). A nice find on the PAMC were 2 **Blue-winged Teal**. The high count for **Ring-necked Duck** was 79 from Devonshire Village 3/1 (AW). There were 11 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at LPRR 3/23 (RG, TS) and LPRR later provided a late single along with a lone **Common Loon** and an **American Coot** 5/11 (DA, AM, DS). A pair of

**Double-crested Cormorant** were overhead at GNMP 4/15 (AW).

With three reports, **Ring-necked Pheasant** were more frequent than normal. There were six observations of **Wild Turkey** but most were of single birds. There was good reporting of **Osprey** (5), **Bald Eagle** (4), and **Northern Harrier** (9). The raptor highlight was a **Mississippi Kite** at LPRR during a 5/11 Big Day count (AM, DS). The adult was chasing a **Red-tailed Hawk** for the majority of the 3-minute observation.

As usual, spring shorebirds were limited. This year's better observations were 7 **Lesser Yellowlegs** and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** on the PAMC and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at GCQ 5/14 (AW). The three reports of **Wilson's Snipe** were 2 birds each at GCQ 3/25 (AW) and BRFP 4/12 (PK) and a single on the PAMC.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was not reported but a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found at Spangler's Spring 5/11 (MB, SK). A nice find was an **Eastern-whip-poor-will** at LPRR 5/11 (DA). The initial **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** came from GBG 4/24 (JH). There were 12 reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** with a high count of 8 at GNMP 4/12 (PaK). The two reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** were normal for this period. A **Merlin**

was at Wenksville 3/6-7 (DS).

Highlights among vireos were two 5/11 reports of **Yellow-throated Vireo** with two birds at LPRR (AM, DS) and two at Spangler's Spring (MB, SK). **Common Ravens** continue to be regularly observed with the majority of reports west of Rte. 15. Six sites reported **Purple Martin** and the GC colony had 40 birds 5/3 (AW). A single **Black-capped Chickadee** was detected on the PAMC. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** continued to please observers with their presence through 4/27. Both **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were regular into mid-Apr (m.ob.). A **Swainson's Thrush** at SGL 5/12 (DJG) was the only *Catharus* sighting for the period. A single report of 14 **American Pipit** came from GC 3/25 (AW).

A total of 25 warbler species made for the best warbler spring in a number of years. Highlights included a **Cape May Warbler** at Spangler's Spring 5/11 (MB, SK), a **Wilson's Warbler** at FREE 5/12 (DJG), a **Canada Warbler** at SGL 5/12 (DJG), and **Yellow-breasted Chat** along Birch Run Rd 5/11 (DA) and at MICH 5/18 (BF). In contrast, sparrows were somewhat below normal. **American Tree Sparrow** was at GNMP 3/15 (RG, TS). Noticeably underreported was **Grasshopper Sparrow** with just one report of 2 on the PAMC. **Fox Sparrow** were at Granite Schoolhouse Lane 3/20 (AW) and along Shippensburg Road 3/23 (MB). **White-crowned Sparrow** was found up to the 5/11 PAMC.

Feeder watches can be routine at times but rewards such as an immature male **Blue Grosbeak** in the company of an **Indigo Bunting** kept interest high. The two were feeding on white millet at MTN 5/13 (RDS). There were four reports of **Bobolink**, and **Eastern Meadowlark** continues to be regularly observed. Three **Orchard Orioles** were found on the PAMC. There were a number of reports of **Purple Finch** with a high count of 9 along Ridgewood Drive 4/15-21 (SJ). A good find for the PAMC was 6 **Pine Siskins**, the only report for the period.

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, David Arrow, Nicholas Bakner, Mike Bertram, Scott Blanchard, Conococheague Field Trip (CFT), Bill Franz, Dwane Gehman, Ron George, Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Brian Henderson, Judie Hogan, Steve James, Rebecca Jarvis, Robert Keefe, Paul Kepple (PaK), Anne Kerns, Sara Koenig, Nancy Locher, Andrew Markel, Peter Robinson (PJR), David Shealer (DSh), Dan Snell, Tracy Snyder, Jason Verdier, Andy Wilson, Nathan Zalik.

## Allegheny County

Locations: Boyce-Mayview Park (BMP), Dashiels Dam on the Ohio River (DASH), Imperial (IMP).

March was cold with some snow. The weather finally became mild in early April. A flock of 50 **Tundra Swans** flew over Whitehall 3/5 (SSn), one flew over Shaler Twp. 3/6 (JH) and 5 were over Natrona Heights 3/11 (PH). A leucistic **Canada Goose** was photographed at IMP in early March (GM). The bird's body was white and the neck was brown instead of black. What was apparently the same bird was seen in the Imperial area in March 2011. Duck highlights include a nice showing of **Gadwall** with 4 at Wingfield Pines 3/5 (MV), 3 on the Allegheny R. in Blawnox 3/6 (AH, PM), 2 in Findlay Twp. 3/14 (MV), 8 at North Park 3/21 (JH), and 3 in Findlay Twp. 4/14 (JS, SS, MV). Max count of **Blue-winged Teal** was 9 at Wingfield Pines 4/13 (ST). Single **Northern Shovelers** were in Findlay Twp. 3/23 (GM) and North Park 4/6 (PL, SL). Two were at DASH on the Ohio R. 4/10 (GM). A nice count of 8 **Northern Pintail** were at IMP 3/11 (CD, BC) and one was at North Park 4/6 (PL, SL). Two were at BMP 3/10 followed by 4 on 3/17 (FK). **Green-winged Teal** max was 14 at Imperial 4/14 (GM). **Canvasback** included one at Brunots Island on the Ohio R. 3/9 (MV), 2 at North Park 3/16 (BM) and one at IMP 3/17-26 (AP, et al.). **Redhead** numbers were higher than normal with one at Wingfield Pines 3/5 (MV), 4 at IMP 3/12 (GG), 7 in Findlay Twp. 3/16 (MV, MF), 3 at Duck Hollow 3/16 (MF), 6 at North Park 3/16 (BM), 3 at BMP 3/16 (JM) and one at Fox Chapel 3/24 (STh, SuT). The few reports of **Long-tailed Duck** included single birds at Duck Hollow (TSh, JSh, RG, SG) and IMP 3/16 (JM) and 4 at Riverfront Park on the Southside of Pittsburgh 3/17 (MV). Up to two **Ruddy Ducks** were at Brunots Island 3/3-4/28 (BMu, JHa, ST, et al.). Two were at Duck Hollow 4/17 (TM, NM) and one was at Wingfield Pines 4/30 (RT, JHa).

A **Common Loon** was on the Ohio R. at McKees Rocks 3/13 (MV). A bird at North Park 3/4 (JB) remained at least to 5/23 (m.ob.). A bird at DASH 5/5 (MV) remained to 5/23. One was seen flying over Schenley Park in Pittsburgh 5/11 (KJSJ). An early **Great Egret** was at Oakmont 3/24 (AH, PM). One was at DASH 4/10 (GM) followed by two there 4/14 (GM), one was at Brunots Island 4/12 (MV) and one at North Park 5/30 (SK). **American Bittern** is rarely found in the county so three reports this spring were exceptional. One was found at the wetlands in BMP 4/8 (FK), one was

at IMP 4/14 (JM, ST) and one was flushed from a small pond at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve in Fox Chapel 5/16 (BSh) and again 5/23 (BSh). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was photographed along the Monongahela R. at the waterfront shopping center 4/29 (fide DW).

An **Osprey** was at North Park 3/31 (JH), a bit early. In mid-Apr, a pair was building a nest in Leetsdale (GM) for the second year in a row. One was seen flying over IMP daily 4/18-20 (GM, MV, PK), then again 4/27 (MV). One was perched on a powerline tower at Brunots Island 5/5 (MV). Always exciting, a **Northern Goshawk** flew through a yard in Natrona Heights 3/9 (PH). A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was spotted near IMP 3/17 (AP). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was in Gibsonia 3/4 (KP), an unusual location and one was at IMP 3/20-21 (CD, JHa). Two **Peregrine Falcons** were seen perched on a water tower in Greentree in May (fide KJSJ) and photographed 5/18 (ST). **Bald Eagles** were noteworthy this season with two new nests discovered in the county. One in the Hays section of Pittsburgh was the first known within the city limits and the birds successfully hatched two young (BMu, m.ob.). The other new nest was in Oakmont, however the nest was originally built by Red-tailed Hawks so there were disputes between the hawks and eagles and as of this writing, the eagles apparently have not nested there. The nest that has been in Crescent Twp. for several years was also active (MV, et al.).

Two **Virginia Rails** were at IMP 4/14 (GM). They were relocated 5/18 (CD) and were still present 5/25 (JM). A **Sora** was also found at IMP 4/14 (GM) and it remained well into May (CD, JM, GM). Last year Sora was confirmed breeding so perhaps both species will be confirmed this year.

A **Semipalmated Plover** was at IMP 5/12 (GM), followed by two 5/13-15 (GM, JHa). One was there again 5/28 (GM). The high count of **Greater Yellowlegs** was 4 on 4/21 (AP, AH, PM) and **Lesser Yellowlegs** maxed at 3 on 5/8 (GM). **Solitary Sandpipers** were present at Wingfield Pines, IMP, Harrison Hills Park, North Park and BMP. Max count was 3 at IMP 5/3 (MV) and North Park 5/15 (POB). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** put on a show this spring at IMP. Normally found in small numbers, a flock of 77 was there 5/28 (ph. GM), the highest total ever recorded in the county that I am aware of, and certainly the highest at IMP. Other nice flocks included 17 on 5/23 (ST, GM), 12 on 5/24 (MV) and 11 on 5/30 (GM). **Least Sandpipers** were there 5/3-18 (m.ob.) with a max of 10 on 5/7 (GM) and 5/11 (GM, MV). The only **Pectoral Sandpiper** was a single bird at IMP 3/30 (ph. GM). **Short-billed Dowitcher** is uncommon in spring so 5 at IMP 5/12 (ph. GM) were unexpected. **Wilson's Snipe** were at IMP 3/10-5/5 with a max count of 9 on 4/19 (MV). **American Woodcock** was first heard displaying at IMP 3/10 (GM). Development seemed to cease at the site for the time being, and the cleared area was growing up in grass again this spring, but the potential for development to continue is of concern.

The **Bonaparte's Gull** migration at DASH was lackluster with small numbers of birds passing through. The max count was 41 on 4/7 (GM). Three were on the Allegheny R. at Highland Park 4/14 (MF). The max **Ring-billed Gull** count at DASH was 95 on 3/30 (GM). **Caspian Terns** were at DASH 4/7-13 with high counts of 4 on the first and last date they were observed. Amazingly, only a single **Forster's Tern** was seen, on 4/14 (GM).

Up to 4 **Short-eared Owls** continued at IMP from last season and were last reported 3/22 (m.ob.). The wintering **Barred Owl** in Schenley Park in Pittsburgh was heard calling 3/5 (SY, RY). Two were calling at North Park 4/10 (DN), one was at Sewickley Heights Park 4/27 (GM, JM) and a pair was at BMP 5/4 (FK). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** called briefly at SGL 203 in Marshall Twp. 4/26 (GM). **Common Nighthawk** reports include one in Ohara Twp. 5/8 (PB), one at Schenley Park 5/15 (KJSJ) and one in Squirrel Hill 5/16 (DWe). One flying over Penn Hills 5/17 (MF) may have been a migrant because the habitat is not suitable for breeding nighthawks. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard calling at SGL 203 in Marshall Twp. 5/9 through the month (GM, et al.). This site has been supporting whips for many years and hopefully will remain a breeding site for them. There were two reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker**; one visited a feeder in Natrona Heights 4/13 (DH) and one was at a feeder in Fox Chapel 5/23 (BO).

Two **Willow Flycatchers** were at BMP 5/11 (FK), one was at Frick Park 5/13 (DWe), and they were back at IMP 5/14 (GM). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen and heard in Sewickley 5/18 (POB). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was in Moon Twp. 5/14 (GM). A **Purple Martin** was at IMP 5/28 (GM). There are a few colonies in the county, but birds are rarely seen away from them. Three **Bank Swallows** were at DASH 4/13 (GM, JM, ST). Two **Bank Swallows** and a **Cliff Swallow** were there 5/7 (GM). A **Bank Swallow** and a **Cliff Swallow** were at McKees Rocks 5/14 (MV). The **Northern Shrike** that wintered at IMP was seen regularly up to 4/2 (m.ob.).

A **Common Raven** was seen at Duck Hollow 3/3 (BMu, JHa, ST) and one was seen in the vicinity of the Bald Eagle nest in the Hays section of Pittsburgh 3/24 (JS, SS). The pair nesting at IMP fledged four young. Unfortunately two of the juveniles were found dead near the nest site in early May (MV, JM). Two were observed begging food from an adult 5/11 (GM). **Fish Crow** reports include two in Greenfield 3/14 (PK), one in South



Fayette Twp. 3/21 (JHa), two at Duck Hollow 3/23 (ST) and two at McKees Rocks that day (MV), one in Squirrel Hill 4/11 (SS), two at Brunots Island 4/12 (MV), one at Wingfield Pines 4/13 (ST) and two at Harrison Hills Park 4/20 (PH, JS, SS, FI, AB), a first for that location. A **Brown Creeper** was observed building a nest in Sewickley 4/26 (DN) and again up to early May. This species is a rare breeder in the county.

Migrant thrushes were sparse this spring. Single **Veeries** were only found in four locations and one of those, North Park, is a breeding site. The only reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were at North Park 5/15 (POB) and around 4 birds heard on nocturnal migration at Moon Twp. 5/16 (GM). Few **Swainson's Thrushes** were found and the highest count was made 5/16 when an estimated 20 flight calls were heard at dawn in Moon Twp. (GM). The first **Hermit Thrush** was found 3/21 at Frick Park (JS, SS) followed by regular reports to mid-May, about normal. Since **Wood Thrushes** breed in many locations, it's difficult to determine if arrivals are migrants summer residents. A leucistic **American Robin** with white patches all over its body was photographed in Brackenridge 3/10 (GN).

A large flock of 80 **American Pipits** were at IMP 5/11-14 (MV, GM), the third largest number recorded since I've been compiler. The flock of 40 **Snow Buntings** wintering at IMP continued through the season (m.ob.). This was the most reliable flock of buntings ever found in the county.

A total of 33 species of warblers were reported. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was found at Harrison Hills Park 5/2 (AH) where it continued through May (m.ob.). A rare breeder in the county, the steep slopes along the Allegheny River at this park provides good habitat. Reports of **Northern Waterthrush** included one at Etna 4/30 (BC), one at Bridgeville 5/14 (DW) and one at Harrison Hills Park 5/18 (GM). Now rare here, a **Golden-winged Warbler** was found at Walker Park in Sewickley 5/4 (ST). The only report of **Mourning Warbler** also came from Walker Park 5/4 (GM, ST). There were only two reports of **Cape May Warbler**: one at Sewickley Heights Park 5/17 (GM) and one at IMP 5/19 (GM). **Kentucky Warblers** returned to breeding sites at Sewickley Heights Park by 5/1 (GM), Harrison Hills Park 5/5 (PH, FI, AB) and the IMP area 5/7 (GM). One was at the future Pittsburgh Botanic Garden site 5/5 (BMu) and one was at Boyce Park in Plum Borough 5/12 (AH, PM). **Northern Parulas** included one at Harrison Hills Park 5/12 (MF), one at Schenley Park 5/13 (KSJ), one at Sewickley Heights Park 5/17 (GM), one near Walker Park 5/18 (MF) and one in Frick Park 5/26 (JS, SS). **Palm Warbler** is less common in spring than fall in the county, so reports from six locations were higher than normal. An early **Pine Warbler** visited a feeder in Pine Twp. 3/16-23 (BVN, PL, SL). One was at Beechwood Farms 4/12-14 (BSh, MF), one was at Sewickley Heights Park 4/15 (GM), one was in Jefferson Hills 4/19 (ST), one was at Frick Park 4/22 (SS), one at Walker Park in Sewickley 4/28 (GM) and one was at Sewickley Heights Park 5/4 (GM, ST, JM). This is an uncommon migrant in *Allegheny*. Rare here, a "Yellow" **Palm Warbler** was at BMP 4/13 (ph. JM). The only **Canada Warbler** was at Frick Park 5/11 (MF). **Wilson's Warblers** included one in Schenley Park 5/16 (KSJ), one at IMP 5/14 (GM), and one in Pine Twp. 5/13 and 5/17 (PL, SL). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was first heard at IMP 5/13 (GM). One was at Knob Hill Park 5/16 (KD) and one was at BMP 5/27 (AP).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was discovered at IMP 5/20 (JM) and remained through the season. Apparently it was a lone male singing and setting up a territory. Although recorded a few times in other locations in the county, this was the first one at the Imperial Grasslands since May 2004. A leucistic **Chipping Sparrow** with a small brown cap, brown tail, white patches in the wings and a white body was in Pine Twp. 4/11 (PL, SL). **Fox Sparrows** moved through on schedule in March and April. Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported in Pine Twp. 5/17 (PL, SL) and North Park 5/18 (POB). A flock of 30 **Rusty Blackbirds** were in Findlay Twp. 3/3 (ST, GM), a good count for here. Three were at Frick Park 3/19 (JS, SS), 5 were at IMP 4/10 (GM) and one was at Jefferson Hills 4/19 (ST).

An **American Goldfinch** was on a nest in Pleasant Hills on the extremely early date of 4/28 (BMu). Up to 6 **Purple Finches** were in Pine Twp. in April (PL, SL), one was in Natrona Heights in mid-Apr (PH), one was in Pleasant Hills 4/13 (BMu) and two were at Frick Park 4/25 (JS, SS). In May single birds were in Sewickley Heights Park 5/1 and Moon Twp. 5/15 (GM), two were at Harrison Hills Park 5/5 (PH) and two remained in Pine Twp. up to 5/27 (PL, SL). Northern finches remained from the winter season. **Common Redpolls** were present up to 4/8 with high counts of 40 at IMP 3/11 (CD, BC) and 53 in Pine Twp. 3/28 (PL, SL). **White-winged Crossbills** were in a few locations, most reliably at Lakewood Memorial Gardens in Indiana Twp. where a flock of about 70 were last reported 3/26 (m.ob.). A flock of 60 were in Fox Chapel 4/6 (BSh). **Pine Siskins** were the most numerous and widespread of the finches with small numbers reported in fourteen locations (m.ob.). The last were reported 5/15.

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### Armstrong County

Locations: Crooked Creek (CC), Creek Road (CR), Cochran's Mill (CM), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Lock & Dam 5 (L&D 5), Parks Industrial Park (PIP), Polka Hollow (PH), Rosston (RT), Worthington (WT), Yatesboro (YB).

First **Tundra Swans** appeared at KR 3/10 (MH, RH); CC hosted 26 on 3/11 (MO) and 3 lingered at CC until 3/23 (MVT). **Wood Duck** arrived 3/18 at CC (TR). Two **American Wigeons** arrived at KR 3/10 (MH, RH) and at CC 3/17 (MVT); Wood's Pond harbored 34 on both 3/26 and 4/7 (MH, RH). Top **Mallard** count was 51 at KR 3/10 (MH, RH). Single **Blue-winged Teal** at PIP 3/30, 4/1 (MVT), 2 **Northern Shovelers** 4/7 (MH, RH), at KR, 18 **Northern Pintails** 3/10 (MH, RH), and 18 **Redheads** 3/26 (MH, RH) at KR were the only reports for the previous four species. CC hosted the first **Ring-necked Duck** 3/9 (BB); 74 at KR 3/10 (MH, RH) was the maximum count. Two **Greater Scaup** 3/4 (MVT) at PIP were the only ones reported. A **Lesser Scaup** appeared at RT 3/2 (TR); best count was a mere 6 at KR 3/26 (MH, RH); singletons lingered 4/1 (MVT) both at CC and PIP. The immature drake **Harlequin Duck** found this past February continued at L&D 5 through 4/7 (MD, CK, AL) and was molting into adult plumage. A female **Long-tailed Duck** was still accompanying the male **Harlequin** 4/7 (MD, CK, AL), and another **Long-tailed Duck** appeared at RT 3/17 (TR). Best **Bufflehead** tally was 12 at CC 3/30 (MVT); 2 lingered at L&D 5 through 4/4 (TR). CC harbored 4 **Hooded Mergansers** 3/4 (MVT) and KR hosted a raft of 81 on 3/26 (MH, RH). **Common Merganser** maxima at CC included 20 on 3/11 (MO) and 27 on 3/24 (MO). Top **Red-breasted Merganser** tallies included 55 at KR 3/26 (MH, RH), 22 at KR 3/29 (MO), and 17 at CC 3/24, 28 (MVT). **Ruddy Duck** reports included one at RT 3/30 (TR) and 5 at CC 4/15 (MH, RH).

Two **Common Loons** at KR 3/26 (MH, RH) were first arrivals; last noted was one at CC 5/11 (JV, MVT). Single **Pied-billed Grebes** appeared at L&D 5 on 3/3 (TR), at KR 4/13 (DG, GG), and at Robb's Fording 4/15 (MH, RH). First **Horned Grebe** arrived at CC 3/4 (MVT); high counts included 21 at KR 3/26 (MH, RH) and 18 at CC 3/30 (MVT). **Double-crested Cormorant** reports included one at KR 4/13 (MK), 4 at KT 4/24 (MH, RH), and one at CC both on 5/5 (TR) and 5/11 (MVT). CC yielded the first **Osprey** 4/15 (MVT). A **Northern Harrier** was hunting over a field near Elderton 4/7 (MH, RH). Six **Bald Eagles** was a good count at CC 3/24 (MO); one chick was visible in a nest with the two adults perched nearby 4/7 (MH, RH) near KR. **Broad-winged Hawk** arrived 4/15 (MVT) on CR.

Only one **American Coot** was reported, at KR 3/10 (MH, RH). Single **Spotted Sandpipers** were found 4/13 (DG, GG) at KR, 4/24 (MH, RH) along the Allegheny at KT, and 5/11 (MVT) at CC. **Bonaparte's Gull** records included 2 at CC 4/15 (MVT) and one at KT 4/24 (MH, RH). KR harbored 25 **Ring-billed Gulls** 3/10 (MH, RH). Five **Herring Gulls** were present at KT 4/24 (MH, RH), but the nest appeared unoccupied this year.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were at five locations: at CC 5/19 (TR), along Nicholson Run Road 5/25 (TR), along Hogg Road 5/26 (TR), and 2 on the Margaret BBS 5/30 (MH, RH). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found only at PH 5/20 (MVT). Twenty-eight **Chimney Swifts** circled over downtown KT 4/24 (MH, RH). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found 4/13 (MVT) at PH.

First **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was listed 5/11 (MVT) along CR, which yielded the first **Eastern Kingbird** 5/7 (SG). Five vireos were first sighted 5/3 (MVT): **White-eyed Vireo** and **Yellow-throated Vireo** along PH; **Warbling Vireo** at both CM and CC; and **Red-eyed Vireo** at both PH and CC. CR yielded the first 2 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** 4/15 (MVT). Only 2 **Purple Martins** were noted, one at CC 5/5 (TR) and the other at Green Acres Road 5/26 (TR). Three **Tree Swallows** had returned to CC by 4/6 (MVT). A **Bank Swallow** 4/24 (MH, RH) at KT was the only one listed. First **Barn Swallow** was spotted at Wood's Pond 4/7 (MH, RH). Last **Red-**



**breasted Nuthatch** was near Leechburg 4/15 (MVT). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** arrived at CC 4/13 (TR), the same day (MVT) the first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was sighted at PH. The season's only **Veery** was noted at SGL 247 on 5/11 (TR) and the only **Swainson's Thrush** was found 5/3 (MVT) at CC. **Wood Thrush** returned to CM 4/28 (MVT). First **Gray Catbird** appeared along CR 4/30 (MVT). **Brown Thrasher** returned to CC 4/15 (MH, RH, MVT).

**Ovenbird** had returned to PH by 4/28 (MVT). First **Louisiana Waterthrush** was spotted at PH 4/11 (MVT), but by 4/15 they had returned to CM (MH, RH, MVT) and CR (MVT). Warbler dates of return included: 4/28 (MVT) for **Blue-winged Warbler** at CM; 4/30 (MVT) for **Black-and-white Warbler** at Grantz Hollow; 4/30 (MVT) for **Common Yellowthroat** at PH, 5/3 (MVT) for **Hooded Warbler** at CC, 5/5 (TR), and for **American Redstart** at CC. Single **Cape May Warblers** were noted 5/20 (MVT), both at CM and on CR. **Cerulean Warblers** were listed at five locations with first report along Roaring Run Trail 5/2 (MH, RH). **Northern Parula** arrived 5/3 (MVT) at CC and 5/7 (SG) along CR. CR produced the only **Blackburnian Warbler** 5/11 (MVT) and the first **Yellow Warblers** 4/30 (MVT). The lone **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was found at PH 5/11 (MVT). Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were sighted at RT 3/2 (TR). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were observed at CM 4/15 (MH, RH) and again 5/27 (MH, RH); 2 were located along CR 5/7 (SG). The first **Black-throated Green Warblers** were at CC and at PH 4/28 (MVT). The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** noted was observed near Olivet 5/13 (MH, RH).

**Eastern Towhees**, **Chipping Sparrows**, and **Field Sparrows** had all returned to CC by 4/13 (TR). Last **White-throated Sparrow** lingered at CC 5/5 (TR). **White-crowned Sparrows** moved through *Armstrong* between 5/3 and 5/11 (MVT). The Roaring Run Trail yielded the first **Scarlet Tanager**, first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, and **Baltimore Orioles** 5/2 (MH, RH). The only **Orchard Orioles** noted were 5 on the Armstrong section of the Sheloceta BBS 5/27 (MH, RH) and 5 on the Margaret BBS 5/30 (MH, RH). A **Pine Siskin** visited a yard near SGL 247 on 3/9 (TR).

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## Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Big Beaver Wetlands (BBW), Beaver Falls (BF), Brady's Run Pak (BRP), Dashields Dam area (*Allegheny/Beaver* line) (DASH), Economy Borough (ECON), Independence Marsh (IND), Monaca (MON), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH).

A **Mute Swan** was at RCSP 4/7 (MV, m.ob.). Families of **Wood Ducks** totaled 22 adults and ducklings at New Brighton 5/7 (MV) and 14 at BRP 5/26 (TJ). Four **Gadwall** were at RCH 3/2-10 (TJ, KG, MV), 3 were at BBW 3/21 (KG), and one was at IND 3/24 (MV). A nice assortment of waterfowl at AR 3/23 included 19 **American Wigeon** (GM). Eight wigeons were at IND 3/3 (ST, JH), and smaller numbers were there and elsewhere through 4/5 (m.ob.). No more than 2 **American Black Ducks** were at RCH and on the Beaver R. through 3/31 (GM, MV). The only report of **Blue-winged Teal** was of 5 at IND 4/5-7 (MV). A male **Northern Shoveler** remained at IND from late Feb to at least 3/6 (GM), and 4 were noted at RCH 3/21 (MV) and 4/7 (TJ, DR). A nice tally of 11 **Northern Pintail** was made at IND 3/6 (GM), and 2 were present there 4/5-11 (MV). Small numbers of **Green-winged Teal** were noted at BBW, RCH, and IND 3/21-4/7, with a peak of 10 at BBW 3/31 (KG).

The only **Canvasback** after Feb was one at RCH 3/21 (MV). Large numbers of **Redhead** from late Feb continued in the RCH area into early Mar, headed by a total of 58 between RCH and Industry 3/2 (TJ, KG). A flock of at least 22 was at IND over the same time, which peaked at 24 on 3/6 (GM). Last was one at AR 3/22 (BS). Good totals of **Ring-necked Ducks** included 16 at IND 3/6 (GM), 74 in the BBW area 3/21 (KG), 30 at AR 3/29 (RN, DK), 24 at IND 4/5-7 (MV), and 22 at BBW 4/11 (BS). Ten **Greater** and 50 **Lesser Scaup** at AR 3/23 (GM) provided the high count for each species. Greater Scaup was found on just two other dates, but Lesser Scaup was a fixture at RCH for most of Mar, with daily counts of up to 28 frequently reported (m.ob.). A flock of 35 **scaup sp.** crossing the county line below DASH 4/14 was believed to be Lesser Scaup, and was rather late for such a large number. A single **White-winged Scoter** was at RCH 3/9-13 (MV) and drew the attention of several observers. A flock of 6 **Long-tailed Ducks** at RCH 3/17 (DR) was reported to eBird, followed by one at RCH 3/26 (MV). Daily totals of **Bufflehead** never exceeded 8, but they were reported from five different locations throughout Mar (m.ob.). The only

**Common Goldeneye** to appear after Feb was one at RCH 3/21 (MV); this species frequently departs southwestern Pennsylvania by the end of Feb, so only one report for the spring season was not surprising. **Hooded Merganser** was not found after 4/7 but the species breeds in the BBW area most years. Two reports of **Common Merganser** bookended the season; one possibly continuing from Feb was at RCH 3/2 (TJ, KG), and a pair was on the Beaver R. at Beaver Falls 5/20 (MV). This species has been seen somewhat regularly in late spring and summer in *Beaver* but breeding has not been confirmed in recent decades. **Red-breasted Mergansers** were still passing DASH as late as 4/11 (GM), and 3 birds including a male (unusual in Apr) were at BRP 4/27 (ph. SJ). Four **Ruddy Ducks** were at BBW 4/11 (BS), otherwise reports were limited to singles at RCH 3/31, 4/24, and 5/23 (all MV).

Single **Common Loons** were at AR 3/22 (BS), MON 4/11 (MV), RCH 4/24 (MV), and RCSP 5/10 (GM); the latter was an adult in breeding plumage on the park's small reservoir, following another adult that was there 5/4-5 last year. **Pied-billed Grebes** continued at several locations from the winter season to at least 4/11, when 4 were noted at BBW (BS). Small numbers of **Horned Grebe** were at RCH in Mar, which along with 3 at AR 3/23 (GM) comprised all reports. Flocks of **Double-crested Cormorants** migrating along the Ohio R. at DASH and MON were below average both in flock size and in frequency of sightings; best counts were 77 at MON 4/11 (MV), 65 at MON 4/7 (MV), and 43 at DASH 4/11 (GM). **Great Egret** had a decent showing; one was at IND 4/7-11 (MV, et al.), one flew past MON 4/7 (MV), one passed DASH 4/10 (GM), and 2 passed DASH 4/14 (GM).

**Ospreys** were active at the established nests in Aliquippa and Potter Twp. but no report was made of the Midland nest. A fourth nest site was established on the Beaver R. at BF, with adults on the nest 5/20 (MV). *Beaver* sees increasing numbers of migrant Osprey these days as well, this year including several sightings at RCSP 4/7-13 (m.ob.), a place where they were considered accidental as recently as the 1990s. One was also seen at BRP 4/7 (TJ) and 4/27 (SJ). Osprey also now nests in adjacent *Allegheny*. **Bald Eagles** were noted variously around the county, primarily on the rivers, through 5/5 (m.ob.). A male **Northern Harrier** was seen near Fombell 5/12 (TJ, KG, SG). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were noted setting up for nesting attempts in suburban areas of Aliquippa 3/9 (BW) and Center Twp. 3/17 (CA); the latter was a returning pair.

Last **American Coots** were 3 at BBW 4/11 (BS). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at IND 4/20 and 5/11 (PK), and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on the Beaver R. at BF 5/20 (MV) was unusual for the location. **Bonaparte's Gull** migration was very poor this year. The cold and miserable weather throughout Mar hung on to 4/7 and was more or less a repeat of the pattern in 2007, when migration along the rivers was similarly dismal. Interestingly, in both of these years (2007 and 2013), many tens of thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls were already on Lake Erie by mid-Mar despite the horrendous weather, perhaps indicating that the bulk of migration missed southwestern Pennsylvania altogether in these two years, however counterintuitive that may seem considering the weather. First Bonaparte's in *Beaver* this season were 3 at RCH 3/16 and last were 3 at MON 4/14 (both MV); in the meantime the top single day count was a meager 41 passing DASH 4/7 (GM). Numbers of **Ring-billed Gulls** were also low, with a peak at DASH of just 95 on 3/30 (GM, JM) and only two other days with more than 40 in the early Apr timeframe. Even terns were below average. A season total of just 18 **Caspian Terns** migrated along the Ohio R. 4/7-19 (GM, MV, JM), and just one **Forster's Tern** was seen, that on 4/14 at DASH (GM).

A **Great Horned Owl** was found on a nest in Chippewa Twp. 4/7 (TJ), and two **Barred Owls** counter-calling in daylight at IND 4/12 (TJ) were quite unexpected for that location. The only report of **Common Nighthawk** was one at Aliquippa 5/19 (BW). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** attended a feeder in ECON 4/21 (BS, BA). That same yard held the attention of at least 3 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** 4/11 (BS, BA). Another sapsucker was in a different ECON yard 4/7-15 (KD) and one was at RCSP 4/14 (JS, SS).

**Peregrine Falcons** were seen in the Monaca area again this spring but they apparently abandoned their nesting location on the underside of the East Rochester Bridge that was established in 2007; instead this year they were found setting up on the old Pittsburgh and Lake Erie (P&LE) railroad bridge (now operated by CSX) about a mile downstream from the East Rochester site. Also known as the "Beaver Bridge", the P&LE is the first span that crosses the Ohio R. immediately downstream from the Beaver R. outflow, and is by far the tallest bridge in the area. Food was seen being delivered to the top of the bridge by an adult bird 5/13 and calls (presumably of young birds) were heard (MK, *vide* AM). On 5/21, game commission officials (DB and MK, *vide* KSJ) confirmed that the original location on the East Rochester Bridge was definitely vacated and that the birds probably had an active nest near the top of the P&LE bridge; however, the placement of the nest high on one of the bridge towers precluded any banding attempt or even direct verification that young were actually present. At any rate,

fledging had not been observed by the end of the season.

It was difficult to gauge the passerine migration in *Beaver* this season due to poor coverage of wood lots by birders in the second half of the season. For example there was only one report of **Least Flycatcher**, at RCSP 5/10 (GM), and only two of **Great Crested Flycatcher**, at Fombell 5/5 (TJ, KG, SG) and RCSP 5/27 (TJ, KG). Arrivals of the breeding vireos were basically on time, but Blue-headed Vireo and Philadelphia Vireo were not reported at all. A **Common Raven** was seen near Industry 3/2 (TJ, KG); *Beaver* remains one county in this region into which ravens have yet to make a strong expansion, very much in contrast with nearby *Allegheny* and *Washington*. Five **Tree Swallows** at IND 3/13 (MV) were a bit early, but other swallows were more or less on time. Following their remarkable irruption this past winter, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** persisted at a handful of locations into early spring, last seen at Aliquippa 3/23 (BW), RCSP 3/30 (KJSJ), and ECON 4/24 (KD). **Carolina Wren** was reported very frequently to eBird, perhaps an indication that their population did well this winter, which was consistently cold and gray, but had no extended deep freezes. **Winter Wren** was noted at BRP 4/7 (TJ) and ECON 4/17 (KD). Small numbers of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** persisted into Apr at ECON (KD) and RCSP (JS, SS). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was noted only at RCSP from 4/14-30 (JS, SS, GM), another indicator of poor coverage this season. A **Veery** at BRP 5/11 (TJ) was the only spot-breasted thrush other than **Wood Thrush** reported. An **American Pipit** was at a seep in Independence Twp. from the winter through the very chilly start to Mar, last seen 3/3 (MV).

Warblers were poorly reported. Perhaps no better indicator of the scant coverage this season were the total of just one report each for **Blackburnian Warbler** (5/2 at RCSP) (GM), **Blackpoll Warbler** (5/19 at Aliquippa) (BW), **Chestnut-sided Warbler** (5/10 at RCSP) (GM), and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** (5/10 at RCSP) (GM). First **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at RCSP 4/5 (JS, SS). **Black-and-white Warblers** were found only between 4/20 and 5/2. The only report of **Tennessee Warbler** was 2 at RCSP 5/10 (GM), and **Nashville Warbler** and **Magnolia Warbler** were also both only at RCSP 5/2-10 (GM, et al.). **Kentucky Warbler** had a nice season at RCSP and was noted on at least five dates beginning 4/30 (GM, et al.). **Cerulean Warbler** was noted on territory at RCSP by 5/2 (GM). **Northern Parula** is a sparse breeder at RCSP; two still there 5/27 (TJ, KG) were probably breeding or at least summering. A **Pine Warbler** was present at an ECON feeder 4/1-3 (KD), and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was noted in the same yard periodically from 4/11-5/11 (KD). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was singing at RCSP 5/27 (TJ); this species, recently confirmed breeding in *Beaver* in the Pine Run area in 2011, has been a summer resident at RCSP for several years now, but breeding has not been confirmed at the park. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at RCSP 4/30 was out of habitat and an obvious migrant (GM).

**Fox Sparrow** was found only at ECON 3/24-4/9 (KD). A flock of 100 **Red-winged Blackbirds** at a farm in Independence Twp. 3/3 was accompanied by 15 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** and 31 **Rusty Blackbirds** (ST, RM, JH, GM). The only other **Rusty Blackbird** was one at IND 4/5 (MV). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was at the same farm as the blackbirds 3/10 (ST). A few winter finches lingered into Apr, primarily at ECON, were up to 3 **Purple Finches** were present to 4/27 (KD) along with 2 **Common Redpolls** 3/18-30 (both KD). **Purple Finch** was also noted at RCSP 4/20 (PK). **Pine Siskins** were a fixture in the same ECON yard as the other finches, with 16 on 3/12 and single digits noted almost daily through early May (KD), but a flock of 36 there 5/15 (KD) was both quite late and certainly composed of birds migrating back through the region from elsewhere. A single **Pine Siskin** was also noted at an Aliquippa feeder 5/16 (BW), also likely part of this mid-May push of siskins though the area.

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### **Bedford County**

Locations: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Allegheny Front (AF), Crum Bog (CB), Dunning Creek Wetlands (DCW), Lambert Mountain Rd. (LMR), Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC), Shaffer Mountain Rd. (SMR) Shawnee State Park (SSP), and White-tail Wetlands (WTW).

Some of the more exciting birds found this season **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Trumpeter Swan**, **Tricolored Heron**, **Snowy Owl**, **Red-necked Phalarope**, and **Laughing Gull**.

Unless noted otherwise, the observations are those of the author. There was heavy snow in March with accumulations to four feet. The Allegheny Front Hawk Watch, at 2800 feet, was for all practical purposes unattended for most of March due to 24 to 48 inches of drifting snow. Despite the weather obscurations there were some record-breaking counts of waterfowl.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** arrived 3/8 and lingered to 4/18 at DCW. Ninety-five **Snow Geese** were counted flying over the AF 3/11. The high for **Canada Geese** was 350 at DCW 4/24. Two banded **Trumpeter Swans** arrived on 4/23 with one lingering until 5/15. Trumpeters have been visiting DCW for 19 years. Eighty-five **Tundra Swans** settled into DCW 3/30. The following were high counts including several new records for DCW and SSP: 1130 **Wood Ducks** (DCW) 3/26, 168 **Gadwall** (DCW) 3/20, 330 **American Wigeon** (DCW) 3/26, 626 **American Black Duck** (DCW) 3/26, 1081 **Mallard** 3/26 (DCW), 30 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/14 (DCW), 35 **Northern Shoveler** 3/29 (DCW), 348 **Northern Pintail** 3/30 (DCW), and 104 **Green-winged Teal** 3/20 (DCW). The diving ducks were as follows: 2 **Canvasbacks** (DCW) 4/18, 36 **Redheads** (DCW/WTW), 470 **Ring-necked Ducks** (DCW/WTW) 3/26, 4 **Greater Scaup** (DCW) 3/10 and 43 **Lesser Scaup** (DCW) 3/20. The following singletons were counted: **Surf Scoter** 3/24 (SSP), **White-winged Scoter** 3/10 (DCW), **Black Scoter** 3/10 and a **Long-tailed Duck** 3/30 at DCW. Twenty-one **Buffleheads** and 4 **Common Goldeneyes** were counted on 4/21 at SSP. A total of 236 **Hooded Mergansers** were at DCW 3/29. There were 102 **Common Mergansers** and 144 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at SSP 3/24.

Gallinaceous birds continue to thrive with **Northern Bobwhite** overwintering and breeding successfully, certainly not an event of the recent past. **Wild Turkey** is definitely on the rise and can be found in fields and forests throughout the county. **Ring-necked Pheasant** will probably reach the point of not being stocked since they are now surviving the winter. Twenty **Common Loons** were seen 3/29 at SSP. Eight **Pied-billed Grebes** was the high count for DCW 3/23. Thirty-five **Horned Grebes** visited SSP 3/24. A pleasant surprise was a **Red-necked Grebe** singleton at DCW 4/14. Sixty-three **Double-crested Cormorants** was a low count for SSP 4/1. At DCW/WTW two **American Bittern** were seen on 4/14 and lingered for a week. The first **Least Bittern** was seen and heard 4/14 at DCW. Seven **Great Blue Heron** were seen on 4/27 and a **Great Egret** was flushed 5/13 at DCW. A surprising and first time visitor was a **Tricolored Heron** 4/30 at WTW (CH, TD). Five **Green Herons** were seen 5/15 on the DCW/WTW complex. Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** visited DCW 5/17.

As mentioned, the AFHW missed many count days due to inclement weather, especially March when heavy snow resulted in the lowest number of count days in 14 years. The total count was 967 with the following breakdown: **Black Vulture** 16, **Turkey Vulture** 183, **Bald Eagle** 16, **Northern Harrier** 11, **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 94, **Coopers Hawk** 31, **Northern Goshawk** 4, **Red-shouldered Hawk** 42, **Broad-winged Hawk** 181, **Red-tailed Hawk** 213, **Rough-legged Hawk** one, **Golden Eagle** 49, **American Kestrel** 18, **Merlin** 3, **Peregrine Falcon** 2, and 39 unidentified raptors. At DCW Golden Eagles were found chasing Canada Geese 3/20, and a Rough-legged hawk and a Harrier were diving at Ruddy Ducks 3/22.

Both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were seen at DCW 5/11. Two **Common Gallinules** were observed 4/24 and 38 **American Coots** 3/23 at DCW. Three **Sandhill Cranes** were observed flying over the wetlands 4/25 (CH, JF). Bittern Pool at DCW is drawn down at the end of April to provide 5 acres of exposed mudflats. The estimate of shorebird passage is around 4000 per season for the period from late March to June. Shorebirds rarely stay long, but arrive and leave the same day or following day. On most days there are a hundred or more at Bittern Pool. Each year varies; however, over a period of a year the expectation is 22 to 25 species. The day high counts seen this year were: 5 **Black-bellied Plover** 5/3, 7 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/15, 5 **Killdeer** 5/21, 45 **Greater Yellowlegs** 5/31, 30 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/13, 5 **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/10, 4 **Willet** 5/13, 15 **Spotted Sandpiper** 5/15, 2 **Ruddy Turnstone** 5/13, 2 **Sanderling** 5/15, 50 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/13, 3 **Western Sandpipers** 5/27, 42 **Least Sandpipers**, 3 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 5/15, 4 **Baird's Sandpiper** 5/15, 4 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 5/11, 4 **Dunlin** on 5/27, one **Stilt Sandpiper** 4/24, 35 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/13, 18 **Wilson's Snipe** on 5/11, 3 **American Woodcock** and one **Red-necked Phalarope** 5/15.

The following gulls and terns were mostly seen at SSP: one surprising **Laughing Gull** 5/5, 2 **Bonaparte Gulls** 3/30, 500 **Ring-billed Gulls** 3/29, one **Herring Gull** 4/1, 2 **Caspian Tern** 4/1, one **Common Tern** 3/30, and 5 **Black Tern** (DCW) 3/30. Heavy snow affected **Barn Owls** at DCW with at least one that died 3/20. Two **Short-eared Owls** were seen flying low over fields at WTW/DCW (3/29). A big surprise was a **Snowy Owl** hunting fields at WTW/DCW from 3/15 to 3/18 (CH).

The following flycatchers were observed at Shaffer Mt. Bog: 2 **Eastern Wood-Pewee** 5/22 and one **Acadian Flycatcher** 5/23. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** singleton was observed on the PAMC (DB). The following



*Empidonax* flycatchers were counted at DCW: one **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 5/28, 8 **Alder Flycatchers** 5/24, 6 **Willow Flycatchers** 5/15 and 3 **Least Flycatchers** 5/26. The attraction for the Alder and Willow flycatchers is related to the plantings of hundreds, if not thousands, of alder and willows 18 years ago. Other flycatchers seen on DCW include 5 **Eastern Wood-Pewee** 5/27, a **Great Crested Flycatcher** 5/28 and 4 **Eastern Kingbirds** 5/20. The following vireos were heard or seen: one **White-eyed Vireo** 5/25 (DCW), 2 **Yellow-throated Vireos** 5/28 at (Saylor Bog), one **Blue-head Vireo** 5/18 (DCW), 2 **Warbling Vireo** (PAMC), one **Philadelphia Vireo** 5/29 (WTW), and 16 **Red-eyed Vireo** on the PAMC. A **Carolina Chickadee** was heard on 5/26 at DCW. Two **Carolina Wrens** were reported on the PAMC. Two **Marsh Wrens** arrived 5/24 and remained to nest at DCW. The following thrushes were seen: 2 **Veeries** 5/20 (SMR), 2 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 5/20 (SMR), one **Swainson's Thrush** (PAMC), 3 **Hermit Thrush** 5/20 (PAMC), and 6 **Wood Thrush** 5/20 (LMR).

Selected warbler sightings included 2 **Golden-winged Warblers** 5/28 (WTW), 2 **Tennessee Warblers** 5/25 (AFHW), 2 **Nashville Warblers** 5/14 (AF), one **Northern Parula** 5/24 (DCW), 6 **Yellow Warblers** 5/22 (DCW), 5 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** 5/20 (AFHW), 2 **Magnolia Warblers** 5/20 (SMR), 2 **Cape May Warblers** 5/20 (SMR), 2 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** 5/15 (SMR), 4 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** 5/18 (SSP), 2 **Black-throated Green Warblers** 5/15 (SMR), 3 **Blackburnian Warblers** 5/15 (SMR), 3 **Pine Warblers** 4/26 (WTW), one **Prairie Warbler** 4/26 (SSP), one **Palm Warbler** 3/26 (SMR), 3 **Blackpoll Warblers** 5/2 (SMR), 3 **Cerulean Warblers** 5/7 (SMR), a **Black and white Warbler** 5/17 (LMR), 5 **Worm-eating Warblers** 5/17 (LMR), 5 **Ovenbird** 5/19 (LMR), **Northern Waterthrush** 5/2 (DCW), 3 **Kentucky Warblers** 5/27 (SSP), 2 **Hooded Warblers** 5/17 (LMR), **Canada Warbler** 5/18 (SSP), and **Yellow-breasted Chat** 5/25 at DCW.

At the base of the AFHW along LMR are rich grassy fields where 2 **Vesper Sparrows**, 6 **Savannah Sparrows**, 6 **Grasshopper Sparrows** and 2 **Henslow's Sparrows** were seen 4/20 (TD, SD). Other sparrows of interest were 4 **Lincoln's Sparrow** 4/20 at WTW and 22 **Swamp Sparrows** 5/10 at DCW. Eight **Bobolinks** were counted at WTW 5/20 and they were also found in multiple locations within the county (TD, CH). Two **Orchard Orioles** and 3 **Baltimore Orioles** were seen 5/7 at DCW.

**Purple Finches** were abundant in March, but they were no competition for the irruption of **Common Redpolls** which took over thistle feeders. Some birders including the author thought they also saw **Hoary Redpoll**, but this was unconfirmed. Lastly, **Pine Siskins** arrived 4/10 along with **Evening Grosbeaks** at the AF. Twenty **Evening Grosbeaks** were counted on the PAMC.

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## Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh L. (BML), Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (HMS), L. Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands 106 and 110, Kittatinny Ridge (SGL).

Unlike some recent warm, early springs, this one was colder and drier than average. Widespread frost in mid-May was unusual in this century. Many days of northerly or northwesterly winds seemed to delay migration. Neotropical migrant breeders were slow to fill in their ranges.

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Gotwals pond, Oley 3/23 (RK) closed the season on this species. The seasonal high count of **Snow Geese** was a modest 10,000 (118 Blue) at LO 3/20 (RK). As usual, wounded birds and their mates and offspring lingered through May. During the peak **Snow Goose** flight, a **Ross's Goose** was at LO 3/20 (MW) and two were there 3/23 (P&JW). One to three **Cackling Geese** were reported at LO among **Snow Geese** 3/2-28 (m.ob.). A flock of 11 **Cackling Geese** was reported without details in Albany Twp. 3/1 (FD). One brood of eight recently hatched **Mute Swan** cygnets was seen at LO 5/9 (RK) and another brood of six young cygnets was there 5/13 (RK). Predation may have taken a toll, as three cygnets were seen with one pair and two cygnets with another at LO 5/25 (RK). Three swans slowly circling above BML 3/20 were assumed to be **Tundra Swans** until they started calling and identified themselves as **Trumpeter Swans** (JS). Observers viewing them through a low power scope after they settled far out on the lake could see no yellow on the bills (PMi, JS). The seasonal high count of **Tundra Swans** was 265 at BML 3/12 (MSI), and one still at LO 4/17 (KL) was a bit late.

The 25 reported duck species gave birders much aquatic eye candy to watch over a long season. **American Wigeons** were prominent, with a seasonal high count of 390 at LO 3/11 (RK) and 200 still there 4/9 (RK). Two **Eurasian Wigeon** drakes appeared among their native relatives 3/3

and left with some of the last **American Wigeon** pairs 5/11 (m.ob.). One or two **Mallard x American Black Duck** hybrids continued to be seen with their parent species at LO until 3/20 (RK). Flocks of ten **Blue-winged Teal** at LO 3/31 (P&JW) and at BML 4/14 (PM) were fairly typical high counts of this species. Uncommon **Northern Shovelers** numbered one to three on a few dates at LO and Shartlesville 4/1-25 (m.ob.). The spring high count of **Northern Pintails** was 530 at LO 3/11 (RK), the peak flight time for this early migrant, but 169 were still there 4/7 (AM). Fifteen **Canvasbacks** at LO 3/23 (DH) was a good count of an uncommon duck that quickly comes and goes. **Redheads** sometimes linger on small ponds, as did 12 in a pond along Adams Hotel Rd. 3/3 and later (RK, m.ob.). A modest movement of **Greater Scaup** and **Lesser Scaup** peaked in March, when they often popped up like bathtub toys in large flocks of **Snow Geese** on LO. Rain brought the only **Surf Scoter**, a drake, to BML 4/17 (KL). The only reported **White-winged Scoter** was at LO 4/25 (RK). A **Black Scoter** was at LO 4/14-15 (KL, MW) and two were at BML 4/30 (RK). A **Long-tailed Duck** was at LO 3/1 (MS) and singles were at BML 3/12 (PM) and 4/18 (KL). Rain accounted for the spring high counts of 190 **Buffleheads** at LO (MSI) and 65 at BML (KL) 4/17. A **Common Goldeneye** drake at LO 4/25 (RK) was late for this winter duck. **Hooded Merganser** is a recent breeder in *Berks* and nesting is not confirmed every year. Confirmation came this year when a **Hooded Merganser** duckling was photographed as part of a **Wood Duck** brood on the Gibraltar Rail Trail along the Schuylkill River 4/26 (MV). These species use similar natural and manmade nesting cavities, and **Hooded Mergansers** sometimes lay eggs in **Wood Duck** nests. Though the peak spring count of **Common Mergansers** was 2000 at LO 3/3 (RK), the usual time, 1000 were still there 3/21 (RK). The seasonal high count of 51 **Red-breasted Mergansers** was made at LO 3/30 (RK). The rain on 4/17 that brought down **Buffleheads** and other waterfowl (see below) accounted for the high counts of 125 **Ruddy Ducks** at BML (MSI) and 60 at LO (KL).

Birders with many years of experience recall the pleasure of seeing and hearing wild **Northern Bobwhite** coveys in the 1960s and 1970s, but any of these quail reported now are assumed to be escaped or released birds. The largest group reported in recent years was 6 between Birdsboro and Gibraltar 4/14-15 (CS). A single was heard in southern *Berks* 5/14 (MSI). Multiple reports of **Ring-necked Pheasants** around BML were probably birds that survived the winter after release last fall. The few **Ruffed Grouse** reports came from the Kittatinny Ridge as usual (KG, DKr, MW).

Two **Red-throated Loons** at BML 4/18-20 (m.ob.) were the only ones reported. Sixty **Common Loons** were at LO 4/18 after rain (RK) and rain delayed 50 at BML 5/8-10 (JS). Singles were at LO and BML through the end of May (RK, JS). The storm on 4/17 dropped seasonal high counts of 37 **Horned Grebes** at BML and 12 at LO (KL). A breeding plumaged **Horned Grebe** at BML 5/22 (JS) was the latest on record. A raft of 400 glossy adult **Double-crested Cormorants**, crests flaring, was on LO 4/5 (RK), the largest flock reported this spring. A few yards away from this flock was a first year **Great Cormorant** (RK), a species that rarely strays this far inland from the lower Delaware River. Five **American Bitterns** reported from five sites 4/8-5/12 (RF, SH, RK, MW) added up to a good season for detecting this species. A **Least Bittern** called for ten minutes at Glen Morgan L. IBA 5/17 (KL, MW), where they have been found for years. This is private property that is officially closed and, as far as is known, remains vulnerable to future development. The **Great Blue Heron** rookery near Oley was down to seven or eight nests this year (RK), probably because of selective logging a few years ago. The large colony in Spring Twp. remains active. The other known colonies were not visited. Six migrating **Great Egrets** were reported from six places 3/18-5/26 (RF, KL, MSI, AU, MV). The first **Tricolored Heron** reported since 1998 was photographed at BML 5/9 (PMi). Of the eight **Tricolored Herons** recorded in *Berks*, this was the second in spring, the first at Hamburg 5/11/1989 (KG). Seven **Black-crowned Night-Herons** arrived at their fragmented Wyomissing breeding area 4/19 (KA), a later arrival date than usual. Starting 4/20 (MW), birds were regularly seen fishing at the base of the LO spillway, the easiest place to see them in summer.

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** flying northeast high above the Kittatinny Ridge was identified by its spread tailed silhouette and flight style at HMS 4/28 (*file* LG). At least four **Bald Eagle** nests at LO, in Oley Twp., Marion Twp. and off Rt. 724 near Rt. 10 were active (m.ob.). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was thought to be on territory at SGL 110, where nesting has occurred before, in May (KG). Two adult **Northern Goshawks**, thought due to size difference to be a male and a female, flew at treetop height over Henningsville while making passes at each other 4/14, to the great surprise of the observer (PS). There are a few other April records of this rare accipiter, mostly from the Kittatinny Ridge. Three young fledged from a **Red-shouldered Hawk** nest this spring at Green Hills L. (KL), part of the large Piedmont forest block in southern *Berks* that is the local stronghold of this species. Few migrating **Broad-winged Hawks** were reported this spring, but a courting pair at Baldy Hill, District Twp. 5/5 (CE) gave encouraging evidence that this hawk



persists as a breeder in the larger forest fragments in that area. A juvenile dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was late at HMS 4/19 (LG). BML's two wintering **Merlins** were still being seen 3/23 (JS), later than usual.

A **Black Rail** (second county record) first heard calling on private land near Reading 5/20 (KaG) was still being heard in late June. Its voice was recorded. A detailed account of this bird will be in the next seasonal report. A **Virginia Rail** was heard at Peters Creek, LO 4/21-22 (MSI) and two were heard there 4/29 (KL). A **Sora** was heard at Glen Morgan L. IBA 5/17 (KL). A **Common Gallinule** was seen skulking along the edge of Peters Creek cove, LO 5/9, the red frontal shield and white lateral stripe noted (DA, JH). Five **Sandhill Cranes** were seen flying above Rt. 419 near Womelsdorf 4/26 (TM *vide* JS).

Eleven species of nonbreeding shorebirds were reported, mostly common migrants in small numbers. The hotspot for most of these was a newly re-graded shallow pond surrounded by bare fields on School Rd. near Fleetwood. Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** at this pond 3/11 (RK) were the earliest ever recorded in *Berks*. Another **Pectoral** was seen at Evansville Rd. 3/13 (KL). A high count of 85 **Wilson's Snipe** was made at Gotwals pond, Oley during a wet period 4/12 (RK). Two colorful female **Red-necked Phalaropes** were at Fleetwood 5/8 (RK, m.ob.). While watching the phalaropes and other shorebirds from his car, MW noted interesting behavioral differences in the species' reactions to a passing thunderstorm. Most of the shorebirds fled into the surrounding grass during the storm, but the phalaropes mostly submerged in the pond and drew their heads down, facing into the wind, a behavior probably reflecting their partly pelagic lifestyle. After the storm passed, they popped back up and resumed feeding.

As noted previously in spring reports, **Bonaparte's Gulls** (and **Little Gulls**) migrating through this part of Pennsylvania do not stray far from the Susquehanna Valley just west of *Berks*. The spring high count of **Bonaparte's Gulls** in *Berks* was just 42 at LO 4/15 (KL). A breeding plumaged **Little Gull** at LO 4/12 (KL) provided the long awaited second *Berks* record and was enjoyed by many birders who hadn't seen the first two birds in 1995. A first winter **Iceland Gull** at BML 3/28 (RK) was the first there since 1/21/13. The last two reported **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were immatures at BML 3/17 (RK), and the last reported **Great Black-backed Gull** was at BML 3/29 (PM). **Terns**, as usual, were few and didn't linger. One or two **Caspian Terns** were seen at BML and LO on five days, 4/17-5/7 (m.ob.). A **Black Tern** was at BML 4/25 (KL), a **Common Tern** was at BML 4/17 (KL) and a **Forster's Tern** was at LO 4/18 (FD).

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was seen at the recently discovered Shartlesville colony 4/26 (MS). **Barred Owls** heard in April at French Creek State Park (KL) and Henningsville (PS) were in or near established locations, but a bird at LO 3/16 (TF) and one on New Bethel Church Rd., Albany Twp. (MW) were not. A **Short-eared Owl** migrating north was seen at BML by woodcock watchers 3/9 (PM). A few **Common Nighthawks** were seen migrating at various locations 5/15-21, with the largest count of seven made at BML 5/19 (PM). A migrating **Merlin** flushed shorebirds near Fleetwood 5/5 (KL).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SGL 106 on 5/14 (RK) and another at SGL 110 on 5/17 (KG). **Common Ravens** were again reported from sites all over the county, but no new nesting confirmations were made and the birds did not nest on the communications tower near Rt. 501 on the Kittatinny Ridge as they did last year (KG). **Bank Swallows** returned late to their only known *Berks* nesting place at the Haines & Kibblehouse quarry at Hay Creek, Birdsboro, with six seen there 5/18 (KL). Most wintering and migrating **Red-breasted Nuthatches** had left by early May, the latest recorded being a bird at SGL 106 on 5/18 (EK). A **Winter Wren** was thought to be territorial at SGL 110 in early May (KG). These birds inconsistently nest at the southeastern edge of their Pennsylvania breeding range on the Kittatinny Ridge. Four **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were seen at four sites 5/18-28 (CB, KL, KLu, PM), their traditional migration time. A few **Swainson's Thrushes** were detected in a slightly wider timeframe. More than 200 **American Pipits** were seen along roadsides in the Oley Valley after a light snowfall 3/25 (PO). Three identifiably described **Lapland Longspurs** on a farm near Bally 4/20 (BD) were the latest ever reported.

The compiled list of 32 warbler species looks good in print, but in reality non-breeding migrants were few, requiring much field time to find. An **Orange-crowned Warbler**, unusual anytime, was seen and heard at LO 4/25 (MS, DB). Single **Mourning Warblers** were at SGL 110 on 5/16 (KL) and at French Creek State Park 5/27 (RK). Four **Kentucky Warblers** were found at four scattered sites 5/4-14, one of them at a known breeding location. One to three **Tennessee Warblers**, **Cape May Warblers** and **Bay-breasted Warblers** were found at each of a few places in mid- to late May (m.ob.). The only reported **Cerulean Warbler** was near Hamburg 5/18 (KG). Two of very few double digit counts of non-breeding warblers were of 12 **Blackpoll Warblers** at SGL 106 5/18 (EK) and 24 **Palm Warblers** at BML 4/13 (SH). A few experienced birders noted that they didn't find **Blackpoll Warbler** this spring. Two **Wilson's Warblers** were near Leesport

5/20 (DK). A pair of **Yellow-breasted Chats** set up territory in a fairly small clearing of the large forest of French Creek State Park in late May (RK).

A **Vesper Sparrow** near LO 4/11 (TJ) and one in Maxatawny Twp. 4/18 (RK) were on time as arrivals, as were a **Grasshopper Sparrow** in Maxatawny Twp. 4/18 (RK) and two on Monument Rd., Hamburg 4/28 (KG). Four **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported during their usual May migration period, the latest one at SGL 110 on 5/27 (KG), the latest date on which one has been found there. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** pleased feeder watchers starting 4/20. **Indigo Buntings** and **Bobolinks** were slow to appear and occupy their nesting areas in May. One to four **Eastern Meadowlarks** had been reported at various places by the end of April, reflecting their diminished population in *Berks*. Small numbers of **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported 3/17-4/26, the largest group of seven at LO 4/13 (MSI). An oriole identified as a male **Bullock's Oriole** because of its large white wing patch and head pattern briefly visited a suet feeder in Bern Twp. 5/4 (JS).

Northbound **Purple Finches** moved through in April and May, with good numbers visiting some feeders, as 20 in Bern Twp. 4/11 (JS). Small numbers of **White-winged Crossbills** continued to be seen now and then in March and April, mostly in Norway spruces at and near LO. The largest reported flock was of 11 birds near Leesport 4/21 (DK). This location also hosted the last reported bird, a female in a birdbath 5/2 (DK). A **Common Redpoll** last visited a feeder near Breezy Corner 4/7 (P&JW), this being the only location south of the Kittatinny Ridge that consistently attracted a few of these birds this winter. A feeder on top of the ridge also hosted its last two birds 4/7 (SB), but these **Common Redpolls** were upstaged by a **Hoary Redpoll** photographed at the same feeder 4/6-7 (SB). This was the first **Hoary** identified in *Berks* since 1996 and was apparently the southernmost **Hoary** in the eastern US during the 2012-13 redpoll irruption. Wintering **Pine Siskins** dwindled through the period, with a final surge of 50 birds at Hamburg Reservoir 5/11 (MW).

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#### **Blair County**

Locations: Canoe Creek State Park (CCSP), Monastery Rd. impoundment and fields (MON).

Luis Moore, a volunteer at CCSP for the past 11 years, has been honored with the 2012 Cavity-Nesting Monitor Award, sponsored by the Bureau of State Parks, for his work with CCSP's nesting box program. Information for this report were obtained primarily from eBird with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (*B&G, 2010*).

Spring brought a few reports of uncommon waterfowl, including a single **Gadwall** spotted 4/11 at CCSP and up to 6 **Blue-winged Teal** at Moorhen Marsh 4/13-20. CCSP was the waterfowl hotspot, with up to 4 **Northern Pintail** observed there 3/10-13 and as many as 15 **Redheads** 3/17-23. A single **Greater Scaup** was identified 3/12 at Plain Nine Reservoir and 4 at CCSP on 3/23 (all MD). **Lesser Scaup** were also found at CCSP with up to 20 noted 3/6-5/11 (MD, JD). Three were also identified 3/26-4/10 at Clubhouse Dr. pond, and 2 at MON 4/12. Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were at Kittanning Reservoir 3/17 and one was at CCSP 3/29 (all MD).

**Ring-necked Pheasant** is uncommon in the region although it is an introduced species. Up to 3 were observed 3/4-5/12 at CCSP (JM, JC, MD, JD, NLF). Two were found nearby on Turkey Valley Rd. 3/10 (MD), and single birds were spotted 3/26 at the Clubhouse Dr. Pond (MD) and 4/9 in Altoona (SK). A rare migrating **Red-throated Loon** made a stop at CCSP 3/29-4/1 (MD). **Horned Grebes** were observed 3/13-4/17 at CCSP (MD, JC, DeG, GG, JD), with a high of 29 recorded 3/17 (MD). A single bird was noted 3/17 at Horse Shoe Curve Park, and 3 were spotted 3/24 at Kettle Reservoir (both MD). A rare **Red-necked Grebe** was identified 4/14 at CCSP (JD) in the company of Horned Grebes. There were two reports of rare **Great Egrets**. Three were noted 4/12 at MON (MD), and 2 were spotted 4/27 in Altoona (SK). A few **Green Herons** were observed,

including up to two 4/13-5/11 at Moorhen Marsh (MD), one in Altoona 4/26-5/11 (SK), and 2 on 5/9 at CCSP (MD).

Two or 3 **Black Vultures** were observed throughout the spring in Altoona (SK). They were also observed 4/27 on the Lower Trail (JD). **Ospreys** were widely observed in April, with the last report coming on 5/9 of a single bird observed in Duncansville (AW). A single **Golden Eagle** "glided" over the highway in Altoona 3/3 (AF) and a **Northern Harrier** was spotted 3/23 on Mill Lane (MD). The first **Sharp-shinned Hawk** of the season was noted 4/9 in Altoona (SK), but they were reported more widely the first half of May, with reports of single birds 5/7 off Norris Ln. (GW), and three sightings 5/11 at different locations (SK, MD). Up to 3 **Cooper's Hawks** were observed in Altoona throughout the spring (SK), and a single bird was spotted 4/14 at CCSP. Another was seen 5/11 on the Lower Trail (both MD). As many as 4 **Bald Eagles** were reported at CCSP throughout the spring (MD). There were also scattered reports from three other locations (MD, SK, JD). One **Red-shouldered Hawk** was observed 3/23-27 at CCSP (MD).

A single **Virginia Rail** was noted at Moorhen Marsh 5/11 (MD), and a "very sickly" **Sora**, which apparently misjudged migration, was found on a snowy mountain top near Tyrone about 3/16 (JK). Two additional **Soras** were found 5/11 at Moorhen Marsh. Up to 4 **Semipalmated Plovers** were present 5/17-20 at MON (both MD).

Area birders found several uncommon shorebirds, with the most frequently observed the **Spotted Sandpiper**, which was reported at five locations, including a high of 23 on 5/17 at MON (MD). In fact, most reports of shorebirds came from MON with high counts of **Solitary Sandpiper** and **Least Sandpiper** occurring on that date. Additional species noted there included up to 24 **Solitary Sandpipers** from 5/9-20, as many as 3 **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/10-14 and 5/11, and a single **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/29-5/9. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was spotted 5/14 and up to 22 **Least Sandpipers** were present 5/9-20. Three **Pectoral Sandpipers** were observed 4/10. One **Solitary Sandpiper** was also observed 5/11 and a **Wilson's Snipe** was present 4/11, both at CCSP. Another **Wilson's Snipe** was noted 4/1 at Moorhen Marsh (all MD).

All reports of gulls and terns were from either CCSP or MON. At CCSP up to 23 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were observed 3/26 and 4/14 (MD, JD), and a single **Caspian Tern** was noted 4/14. Two **Forster's Terns** were recorded 5/11. At MON, 30 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 5 **Herring Gulls**, and one **Forster's Tern** were noted 4/12 (all MD). All these are uncommon in this region.

Three uncommon **Common Nighthawks** were observed, one 5/20 off Rte. 36 west of Altoona (AF), and 2 in Altoona 5/23 (MD). One **Belted Kingfisher** was noted 3/12 at the Plain Nine Reservoir (MD), and up to 3 were spotted in Altoona (SK). They were present at CCSP throughout the spring (MD, GW, NLF), and one was observed 4/27 on the Lower Trail (MD). The only unusual woodpecker was **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—two in Altoona 4/9 (SK) and on 4/14 and 5/3 on the Lower Trail (MD).

Single **Acadian Flycatchers** were noted 5/11 in Altoona (SK) and 5/20 at CCSP (MD). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were reported at five locations in May. Up to 3 **Eastern Kingbirds** were spotted 4/19-5/26 at CCSP (MD, GW, BrG). Single birds were present 5/10 at MON (MD) and 5/11 in Altoona (SK). Five locations had up to 3 uncommon **Yellow-throated Vireos** present in May. Up to 5 **Warbling Vireos** were noted 4/27-5/11 on the Lower Trail (MD, IG), and a single bird was observed 5/2 off Wertz Rd. (GW). Reports of up to 2 were made 5/2-28 at CCSP (MD, GW, BrG). Five were noted 5/11 in Altoona (SK). **Fish Crows** are uncommon in Blair; however, one was observed 3/23 at CCSP (MD), and two were noted 4/9 in Altoona (SK). **Common Ravens** were widely reported in limited numbers, as were **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**. Both are uncommon species. Three **Bank Swallows** were observed 5/10-12 at CCSP (MD, NLF). Up to 2 **Cliff Swallows** were noted 4/21 and 5/10-11 at CCSP, while as many as 50 were counted 5/3-11 at Lake Altoona. Up to 3 were seen 5/14-20 at MON (all MD).

Some other uncommon species included **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, of which 2 were observed 3/2 in Hollidaysburg (JM). Up to 3 were present 3/11-24 at three locations in Altoona (SK, SM, MD), and one was noted 5/11 in Frosty Hollow (LB). Up to 3 **Brown Creepers** were spotted 4/9 and 4/26 in Altoona (SK) and 4/10 and 5/3 on the Lower Trail (MD). One was identified 4/14 at CCSP (JD). Single **Winter Wrens** were located at 3/17 in Altoona (SK), 4/14-5/3 on the Lower Trail (JD, IG), and on 5/3 off Rte. 36 west of Altoona (MD). A single **Veery** was observed 5/122 off Rte. 453 west of Tyrone, and a **Swainson's Thrush** was at CCSP on 5/11 (both MD).

Twenty-two species of warbler moved through Blair this spring, seven of which were common to abundant. Single **Worm-eating Warblers** were noted 5/3 on the Lower Trail (IG) and 5/20 off Rte. 36 west of Altoona (AF). Altoona had three reports of up to 4 **Louisiana Warblers** 4/9-5/11 (SK). One was also noted 4/10-14 and 5/3-11 on the Lower Trail (MD, JD, IG), and another bird was spotted 4/21 at CCSP (MD). CCSP was also the site of the only **Northern Waterthrush** observation 5/12 (NLF) and a single uncommon **Blue-winged Warbler** 5/11 (MD). Two **Golden-winged**

**Warblers** were identified 5/11 in Altoona (SK). **Black-and-white Warblers** were the most frequently observed uncommon warbler, with reports from seven locations. Two **Hooded Warblers** were located 5/4 off Wertz Rd. and one was present 5/7 off Norris Ln. (both GW). Another was spotted 5/11 at Lake Altoona (MD). Up to 3 uncommon **Cerulean Warblers** were identified 5/3-6 on the Lower Trail (IG, MD), and 2 were seen 5/11 at CCSP (MD). Six were observed the same day in Altoona (SK). Up to 4 **Northern Parulas** were also seen in Altoona 4/26-5/11 (SK), and one or 2 on the Lower Trail 5/3-6 (IG, MD). **Magnolia Warblers** were reported 5/11 in Frosty Hollow (LB) and 5/12-13 at CCSP (NLF, MD). Single **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were observed on 5/11 in Altoona and at Chimney Rocks Park (both MD). Four were spotted 5/20 off Rte. 36 west of Altoona (AF). The only reported **Palm Warbler** was found 5/3 also off Rte. 36 west of Altoona (MD). All the **Yellow-throated Warbler** sightings were from the Lower Trail 4/20-5/3 (MD, IG), where a male was "singing from [a] Sycamore along [the] river" (IG). This is a rare migrant in this region. Three **Prairie Warblers** were observed 5/11 in Altoona (SK), and another was spotted the same day at CCSP (MD). CCSP also hosted a **Yellow-breasted Chat**, which was found 5/12 (NLF).

County birders reported five uncommon sparrow species. A **Savannah Sparrow** was observed 4/14 at CCSP (JD), and another was seen 5/3 off Rte. 36 west of Altoona (MD). The latter location also hosted 3 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 5/3-11 (MD). Up to 8 **Fox Sparrows** were observed 3/11-20 at two locations in Altoona (SK, SM), and 2 were noted 3/19 off Avalon Rd. (MD). Another bird was identified 3/23 at CCSP (JC). The last report was of 5 on 4/9 in Altoona (SK). Moorhen Marsh hosted up to 4 **Swamp Sparrows** 4/13-20 and 5/11, while a single sparrow was observed 5/11 at MON (all MD). All **White-crowned Sparrow** observations occurred on 5/11, with 2 spotted at CCSP (MD), 4 in Altoona (SK), and one in Frosty Hollow (LB). A single **Bobolink** was present 5/20 at MON (MD). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported from five locations. Five **Rusty Blackbirds** were spotted 3/28 on S. Eagle Valley Rd. (MD). **Orchard Orioles** were spotted at two locations, 2 on the Lower Trail 5/3-6 (MD) and 2 more 5/11-28 at CCSP (MD, BrG).

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### Bradford County

Locations: Barclay Cemetery (BAC), Canton Marsh (CMA), Chemung River south of Tozer's Landing (CRT), Cummskey Rd (CUR), Graham Rd. Canton (GRR), Guthrie Ponds, Sayre (GUP), SGL 239 (west of Athens) (G239), Pasture nest to Hess Farm Equipment between Canton and East Canton (HEPA), Macham Lake, west of Athens (MAL), Mt. Pisgah State Park (MPSP), Northern Bradford Co. (NBR), Pennsylvania Migration Count (on 5/11/13) (PAMC), Peck Hill (PEH), Seeley Rd between Windfall and Alba (SER), Susquehanna River (SUR), Southwest Bradford Co (SWBR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Taylor Rd. marsh just south of Grover (TRM), Woods Rd (WRD), Wildwood Dr., Sayre (WWD).

Winter conditions held on into spring a bit longer than in recent years. The number of uncommon species was a bit more than in recent years as well, although this is probably a reflection of the increasing number of excellent birders reporting from Bradford.

A nice number of waterbirds were seen this spring. Three hundred **Snow Geese** were at Windfall 3/1 (SFe). Two **American Wigeons** were seen 4/14 at WWD. Two pairs of **American Black Ducks** were seen 3/10 on a pond at TNE (TG). On 3/29, 4 **Blue-winged Teal** were at a spring along Rt. 414 just east of Canton (LFr), and 2 were found 4/14 on WWD (CW). A **Northern Shoveler** was observed 3/20 at HEPA (LFr). Two **Northern Pintails** were at HEPA 3/20 and 3/29 (LFr). On 3/18 there were 4 **Green-winged Teal** in a snowstorm in a marsh south of Canton; and 4 were found 3/20 and 3/29 at HEPA (LFr). Other sightings were of a pair 4/2 on a beaver pond at TNE (TG), one at PEH 4/7 (AV, GV), and 6 at Big Pond 4/9 (RYo). A male **Ring-necked Duck** was seen 3/17 at a pond near the intersection of Marsh and Higley Rd, Wilmot vicinity (TG), and one was in the Troy area 4/30 (RYo). A **Lesser Scaup** was at a pond 3/11 at Windfall (SFe) and one was at MAL 4/14 (JBa). Three **Buffleheads** were observed at TRM 4/13 (RYo), and 2 on 4/14 at the GUP (JBa). A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** were at a pond at TNE 3/10 (TG) and a female was at a pond at WRD 3/6-9 (CM). There were 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** 4/4 at MPSP, one was calling at SGL123 at Dunnings (RYo), one was at the Taylor Rd. Marsh 4/12 (LFr); and 3 were at MAL 4/14 (JBa). Unusual were 2 **Horned Grebes**



4/9 at MPSP, and 3 on 4/14 at MAL (JBa). Notable was a large group of 30 **Great Blue Herons** loafing on the island in the SUR off Sugar Run 3/20 (DB, MBu); subsequent counts were 32 on 3/24 (JBo) and 33 on 3/24 (TG). This group had been seen there for about a week. Don Detwiler of the Pennsylvania Game Commission gave two possibilities for this behavior: a colony population gathered around a common abundant food source (the SUR), or a group of non-reproducing juveniles.

On 5/2 a **Turkey Vulture** nest with two eggs was found in a shallow cave in cliffs that porcupines frequent at TNE (TG). There were three sightings of **Osprey**: 4/3 at a beaver pond and 5/3 flying over fields, both at TNE (TG), and 4/19 at PEH (AV, GV). There were many **Bald Eagles** sighted, including: an adult on a nest near the SUR in the Ulster vicinity 3/24 (NB), an adult on a nest near Rummerfield 3/24 (JBo), 2 adults and 3 fledglings near Rummerfield 4/29 (RYa), one on Main St. in Athens 5/8 (AK), 2 immatures circling over a pond on WRD 5/10 (CM, GM), 8 throughout the county 5/11 on the PAMC (m.ob.), and 2 adults at Ridgebury Lake 5/21 (BB, LB). **Northern Harrier** was seen in four locations (m.ob.). A **Northern Goshawk** was seen eating a chicken near Monroeton 3/8 (MF), and one was observed at SGL 239 west of Athens 4/14 (CW). Remarkable were four sightings of **Red-shouldered Hawk**: one 3/25 at a beaver pond at TNE (TG), one 5/31 at Sunfish Pond (SK), and two on the 5/11 PAMC: one in NBR (MBo, MP, JP) and one at Mud Pond, Barclay Mt. (TG). A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was at SER 3/7 (LFr, NF), another dark morph was at Granville Summit 3/8 (RYo), and one was south of Troy 3/17 (RYo).

A **Virginia Rail** was at the CMA 4/12 and 4/23 (LFr). Very unusual was a **Common Gallinule** at the TRM 5/4 (LFr). **Sandhill Cranes** were 2 on 3/17 at Overton (SW)m one on 4/20 at TRM (LFr)m one 4/21 at Overton (SW), and at Oak Hill 5/6 and for about a month prior (RW). Three **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at Alba 4/12 (RYo). The first two displaying male **American Woodcocks** of the season were at TNE 3/11 (TG). A **Wilson's Snipe** was at CMA 4/12 and 4/23 (LFr). There were 2 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** at GRR 5/31 (LFr). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was in Canton 5/29 (LFr). Quite unusual was a **Common Nighthawk** 5/11 on the PAMC at East Smithfield (RG). On 4/3 a pair of **American Kestrels** was mating on a tree branch near the SUR at Wysox (TG); as of 5/22 a pair was nesting in a barn on Pine Valley Rd (LFI, SFI). A **Merlin** was seen 3/23 along Rt. 414 east of Canton (LFr). Other Merlins included 2 on the PAMC 5/11: one in NBR (MBo, MP, JP) and one at SGL 239 west of Athens (CaH, ChH).

A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Tozers' Landing, Sayre 5/6 (MBo); and 2 were seen 5/11 on the PAMC in NBR (MBo, MP, JP). **Blue-headed Vireos** were at GRR 4/23 (LFr), in the Troy area 4/27 (RYo), on Tip Top Rd. 5/7 (SR), and 4 on the PAMC 5/11 (LFr, NF, TG, LH, RY). A single **Fish Crow** was at the GUP 4/25 (DL). Small numbers of **Horned Lark** were seen in March (m.ob.). A **Bank Swallow** was in the Troy area on 4/24 (RYo), 4 were at the CRT 5/8 (MBo), and 12 were found on the PAMC 5/11 in NBR and G239 (MBo, MP, JP, CaH, ChH). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was observed 4/19 on GRR (LFr). There were three observations at TNE: 4/25, 4/26, and 5/2 (TG). On 5/11, 3 were tallied on the PAMC: 2 at G239 (CaH, ChH) and one on WRD (CM). Only one **Blue-grey Gnatcatcher** was reported, that on the 5/11 PAMC on WRD (CM). A **Northern Mockingbird**, which had been there for some weeks, was still present 3/22 at a feeder in Sugar Run (DB, MBu). Amazingly, a **Lapland Longspur** appeared on SER 3/4-5, and 2 were there 3/7 (LFr, NF). Two **Snow Buntings** were on Windfall Rd. 3/1, and 200 were there 3/7 (LFr).

Many of the more unusual warblers were seen this spring. **Blue-winged Warbler** was at TNE 5/6 (TG); 2 were at Woodside Rd 5/12 (SR), and one in southeast Bradford 5/11 (TG). A few **Nashville Warblers** were along the CCC Rd. near Wheelerville 5/6 (LFr), and there were 2 found 5/11 on the PAMC in SWBR (LFr, NF). Two **Magnolia Warblers** were at the BAC on 5/12 and 2 at were CUR 5/16 (SR). A **Cape May Warbler** was on VFW Rd. in Asylum Township 5/12 (SR). On 5/9 a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at TNE (SN), and five were seen 5/11 on the PAMC (m.ob.). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was at WRD 5/11 on the PAMC (CM), and one was at the BAC 5/12 (SR). A **Pine Warbler** was at the TRM 4/13 and one was feeding low in pine tree in Canton 4/15 (LFr). Two **Prairie Warblers** were seen 5/14 at Falls Creek Rd., Barclay Mt. (SR), and there were 4 on the PAMC 5/11 (m.ob.). A **Palm Warbler** was at TRM 4/19 (LFr) and one was at MPSP 4/24 (RYo). Two **Black-and-white Warblers** were in SWBR 5/11 on the PAMC (LFr, NF). The only **Northern Waterthrush** was at MPSP 5/11 on the PAMC (LG, RYo). Only one **Louisiana Waterthrush** was found, singing along Crane Swamp Creek near Hollenback 5/11 on the PAMC (TG). A **Kentucky Warbler** was at PEH 5/26 (AV, GV). Very unusual was a **Wilson's Warbler** on CUR 5/16 (SR).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was observed 4/17 at Coryland (RYo). Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were at WWD 4/14 (CW). A single **Orchard Oriole** was in SWBR 5/11 on the PAMA (LFr, NF). A singing male **Purple Finch** was at TNE 4/16 (TG), one was on Upham Rd 4/19 (RB), and 3 on the PAMC 5/11: 2 at PEH (AV, GV) and one on WRD (CM). Among the best sightings of the

spring was a male **White-winged Crossbill** 3/16, drinking water from a table top on the porch on Wilawanna Rd, Sayre vicinity (MZ). After many sightings of **Common Redpolls** during the winter, spring reports included 6 at a thistle seed feeder at TNE 3/21 (TG) and the last sighting at PEH 4/20 (AV, GV). Following few sightings of **Pine Siskin** during the winter, 30 were seen 4/29 at a feeder on WRD (CM), 6 were on WRD 5/11 on the PAMC (CM), and 12 were in Towanda 5/13 (SR). Lastly, there was a wonderful sighting of 12 **Evening Grosbeaks** at GRR 4/2 (LFr), which continued for about a week.

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### **Bucks County**

Locations: Bowman's Hill (BHP), Bradford Dam (BRD), Maple Knoll Farms (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Quakertown Swamp (QTS), Rohm & Haas-Bristol (RHS), State Game Land #157 (SGL#157), Tinicum Twp. (TNT).

The perception was that temperatures were low. That was true compared to the extremes of some recent years. However, only March was actually below the 30 year average, with temperatures 2°F below normal. April and May were 1.1°F and 0.5°F above respectively. March had three days with snow and six days of light snow amounting to only about five inches plus or minus total depending on location. Precipitation was low with over an inch below normal each month, with a total of 3.85 inches below normal for the period. Waterfowl passed through in modest numbers with a couple of modest fallouts. Shorebird habitat was apparently limited since no large numbers were reported on the ground, but some large fly-by flocks were detected. Probably due to long periods of northerly winds, the largest numbers of long distance migrants arrived later than in recent very mild springs. Thus low species diversity and numbers prevailed until about 5/13 when single site diversity and numbers increased. These migrants lingered or dribbled through until numbers decreased when a warm spell occurred about a week or so later. Very small numbers of transient migrants were reported after that. Regular large warbler fallouts of only a few decades ago rarely happen here anymore, and there were none reported this year.

A total of 231 species were reported for the three-month period compared to 238 for the previous five-year average. Only two species were recorded earlier than any previous spring, and one stayed later, making this unusual compared to recent years when many new records were set. This year marked the 21st time for our participation in the Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC). On 5/11, 59 participants provided 24 area reports totaling 165 species, the third-highest species count, compared to the previous 10 year average of 157 species and all time high of 172. The total of 1156 individuals of 25 warbler species and one hybrid on the PAMC was below the previous 10 year average of 1357. Although in recent years, many migrants had passed before the count due to the warm springs, this year many came after the count due to the delays caused presumably by unfavorable migration weather. **Yellow Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, and **Common Yellowthroat**, all common local breeders, provided 590 of those individuals, with 241, 129 and 220 respectively. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** contributed 129, short of last year's 172. Thus, four species accounted for 62% of the warbler total.

Historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson 1998 and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Diane Allison compiled and submitted highlights for the PAMC data. Weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, New Jersey (NOAA). Note that per the NOAA website, the normal period used for averages is the previous three decades 1981 through 2010. eBird records have been reviewed for this report.

The only significant migrant report for **Snow Goose** was about 400 at NSP 3/21 (DFa). The 13 at Buckingham Twp. 4/4 was the only other migrant flock reported (AM, JMi). The 6 at PVP, including 3 immature birds, continued through 3/16 (BK), and then 5 remained through the period. Two also stayed at Point Pleasant (HE, JG). At least one injured bird at each site presumably contributed to their late stays. Why the apparently healthy



companions stay would be interesting to know. The injured bird at PVP has now survived almost two and a half years. One was tallied for the PAMC 5/11 at Tullytown (DFa). A flyover small goose at NSP 3/21 fit the size expectations for **Ross's Goose** (DFa). Probably under reported, the single site high count for **Mute Swan** was 13 at PWT 3/23 (MGa). The highest single site report of **Tundra Swan** came from PVP 3/13, where 46 were on the water (HD), and possibly another estimated 100 were seen flying over (RFR). Only 17 others were reported at four sites on five dates between 3/1 and 4/14 (DA, EB, HD, DFa, AM).

A sampling of modest single site high counts of dabbling ducks follows: **Wood Duck** 26 PVP (ZM), **Gadwall** 32 3/5 PWT (MGa), **American Wigeon** 34 PWT 3/23 (MGa), **American Black Duck** 25 LTP 3/15 (PT), **Blue-winged Teal** 6 BRD 4/16-24 (KR, SS), **Northern Shoveler** 26 PWT 3/23 (MGa), and **Green-winged Teal** 51 BRD 4/1 (AM). A **Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)** at Upper Makefield firehouse 3/12 and LaSalle College, Newtown 3/21 (ph. MGa, doc.) was probably the same bird reported in the winter season. High single site counts of diving ducks were also generally low. **Canvasback** and **Redhead** are occasional to rare here. Two **Canvasbacks** were at PVP 3/1 (AM) and 4 stopped at NSP 4/12 (DFa). Buckingham Twp. sewage ponds was an unusual location for a long staying female **Redhead** present 3/7- 4/11 (KR, RHe, HD, MGa, AM). Two were at RHS 3/2 (DFa), 3 stopped at PVP 3/7 (AM), and 7 were at NSP 3/25 (DFa). The last report was a male at PVP 4/7 (PF ph., FR). High single site counts for **Ring-necked Duck** were 120 at PWT 3/5 (MGa), 162 at Milford sewage ponds 3/24 (GF), and 198 at SGL 56 on 3/24 (AM). A group of 110 **Greater/Lesser Scaup** was at PWT 3/6 (BK). One **Greater Scaup** was reported at NSP 3/1 (PT), and 2 there 3/8 (EB) provided the only reports. A **Surf Scoter** was at NSP 4/8 (DFa), and two stopped at PVP 4/17 (AM). A **White-winged Scoter** at NSP 4/20 (PC) provided the only report. **Long-tailed Ducks** were scarce, with one at NSP 4/10 (DFa), 2 there 4/14 (DFa), and one at PVP 4/14-16 (KR, AM). **Bufflehead** high counts were 74 at Falls Twp. Community Park 3/20 (BK) and 46 at PVP 4/17 (AM). **Common Goldeneye** apparently mostly departed before the period, with the high report 9 at Yardley 3/2 (MGa). Two at PVP 4/6 (PH) provided the last report. The highest site report for **Hooded Merganser** was 21 at NSP 3/24 (PC). As in recent years, lingering pairs continued at QTS into May raising suspicion that nesting occurs there (DFa). On 5/19, there were 6 birds there, none of which were adult males (DFa). The high report for **Common Merganser** was 1130 at PVP 3/1 (AM), with numbers after 3/7 dropping off quickly to double digits (m.ob.). Twelve juvs. were with a female at New Hope 5/28 (AM, JMj). A record high single site high count of 42 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at PVP 3/26 (KR), with 17 more at NSP the same day (DFa) was a surprise. The previous known high was only in the low twenties (DFa), and usual high counts are in the single digits. Two late birds were at NSP 5/9 (DFa), and one was at Playwicki Park 5/21 (DP). The high site counts for **Ruddy Duck** were 70 at Falls Twp. Community Park 3/17 (JP) and 62 at PVP 4/17 (AM). Up to five lingered at PVP into May (m.ob.), with the last report 3 5/25 (AM).

Northern Bobwhite and Ruffed Grouse were not reported. Ruffed Grouse has not been reported for PAMC since 1995. There were four reports of **Ring-necked Pheasant**, all assumed to be released birds (RHe, MR, PC, HD, LD). **Wild Turkey** reports in eBird were mostly in the low single digits (m.ob.). Most interesting was a large flock in TNT, with the highest count 92 on 3/11 (DL, KT). **Red-throated Loon** reports were unusual for both number and length of stay. One was at PVP 3/7-3/16 (AM, m.ob.), and a presumably different bird was there 3/25-30 (DFa, m.ob.). Another was unusual for in being in alternate plumage at PVP 5/8 (DFa), which is rare here. NSP had a basic plumaged bird 5/8-9 (DFa). Six locations produced **Common Loon** reports. Essentially they were present throughout the period reported in mostly low single digit counts, with 36 dates specifically mentioned (m.ob.). The only high counts were 14 at NSP 4/12 (DFa) and 27 there 4/20 (PC). Most were in alternate plumage right up to 5/31 (m.ob.). At least one **Pied-billed Grebe** was again at our only reported breeding site at the former US Steel, Falls Twp. 5/4 (DFa). One at PVP 5/27 (KR) was unexpected that late in May since the steady flow of migrants ended 4/21 (KA, m.ob.). There was a steady flow of **Horned Grebes** from three sites starting 3/16 at NSP (DFa, m.ob.), with the last straggler at Falls Twp. 5/18 (DFa). Most reports were of only one or 2 birds, with 8 at NSP 4/14 (DFa). However, a nice fallout of waterfowl occurred 4/17, with 18 **Horned Grebes** at NSP (DFa) and 31 at PVP (AM). All but 6 of the PVP birds were gone the next day (AM). The 4/17 fallout brought the first and long anticipated county record of **Eared Grebe** (ph. AM, doc.). **Double-crested Cormorant** monthly high counts were 24 at CCP 3/29 (MGa), 159 at PVP 4/11 (AM), and 267 at PVP 5/8 (AM). The high single site and day count for **Great Cormorant** occurred 3/2 with 30 at Mud Island and 12 at Bristol (DFa). One was still present at RHS 5/23 (DFa).

**American Bittern** was reported at QTS 4/8-5/11. The highest count was 6 on 4/27. Although some potentially favorable migration evenings

lacked coverage, at least 10 individuals were noted leaving the site over the period (all DFa). Of the 10 **Great Blue Heron** nest sites known last year, nine were active this year, with at least 150 nests reported (DA, DFa, MF, AR, AM, CS). This has been a fairly stable total for a few years, although the count at each site varies up or down each year. There are likely other unreported sites. **Great Egret** was reported from at least eleven sites between 3/31 and 5/24 (MD, MG, m.ob.), with the high site count of 10 at RHS 4/17-20 (GW, DFa). Nine were still there on 5/11 (BM). Four flew by Falls Twp. Community Park 5/17 (JP), and 4 were at Bristol Marsh 5/18 (DA). The other reports were mostly of one each. **Snowy Egret** is uncommon here in spring and particularly away from the southern part of the county. Thus, 2 at BRD 5/7 (ph. AM) were a surprise. One was at RHS 5/11 (BM) followed by 4 there 5/18, with one still there 5/23 (both DFa). An adult **Little Blue Heron** was also at RHS 5/11 (BM). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported from Silver Lake Park at least once in each month (DFa, MGa), with the high count only 2 on 5/11 (BM). One was at Churchillville Park in mid-Apr (VDe, NZ). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at PVP 4/18 (ph. AM). Probably a different bird was there 5/5 (JV, *fide* DFa). Two adults frequented QTS 4/26-29, with one still noted 4/30-5/1 (DFa). Three **Glossy Ibis** at RHS 5/19 provided the only report (DFa).

**Osprey** was back at the Mud Island area nest 3/15 (FW), and the other nest just up river from there was occupied 5/19 (DFa). The Riegelsville nest was occupied 3/18 (EB). An adult **Mississippi Kite** was at the Oxford Valley Mall on 5/22 for the only report (GD, CD, doc.). There were two new **Bald Eagle** nests reported (AM, DFa), but one of the existing nests was lost to development and one was believed to be inactive (JMj). Thus, our known active nest count remains at five. Twelve young were produced (JMj). A BASE jumper illegally climbed the New Britain Twp. nest site 4/7 and jumped off. He was warned to tell all others pursuing his hobby to not use this site or police would be called (JMj). The jumper observed two young juvs. and one egg in the nest. No third juv. was ever detected. Police had to be called for teens running all-terrain vehicles under the same nest despite a previous warning (JMj). QTS produced 2 **Virginia Rails** 5/1 and one **Sora** on 4/22 and 5/1 for the only reports (DFa). An **American Coot** at US Steel 5/11-5/18 was suspected of being territorial (AM). A late bird was at Lake Towhee 5/27-31 (PT).

Fifteen shorebird species were reported in mostly small numbers on the ground. A flock of approximately 100 **Black-bellied Plovers** flew by near Quakertown 5/30 (DFa). A **Semipalmated Plover** was at PWT 5/11 (DFa) and they were present at BRD on three dates between 5/16 and 5/31 (AM, DFa), with the high count of 8 on 5/19 (DFa). A flock of approximately 150 **Red Knots** flew by near Quakertown 5/30, and about 200 **Sanderlings** went by the same site 5/29 (both DFa). One **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at PWT 5/11 (DFa) provided the only report. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Nockamixon Twp. 3/22 (DFa) matched our previous early date record. One was at BRD 4/17-18 (AM ph., GJ, BK). Unusual for a spring number and length of stay, 6 were at Pine Run Dam 4/20-27 (SG ph.). A **Dunlin** at PWT 5/11 (BM) provided the only report. After their initial arrival and displays, **American Woodcock** are rarely reported. This year there were four entries in eBird, all in Mar (DA, AM, PT, BW). One was sitting in a bucket of a front end loader at a construction site 3/21 (BW) and later died of severe head trauma at the Aark (LS). Also, 2 were near Quakertown 5/30 (DFa).

Compared to last year's early departure of gulls due to the very warm winter and spring, gulls lingered in numbers this year. Most counts for **Bonaparte's Gull** were in the low single digits reported at five sites between 4/2 and 5/29 (AM, m.ob.). The high count was 58 at PWT 4/13 (DFa). **Laughing Gull** was first reported 3/13 at PWT (DFa), and the PAMC total was 1642. **Iceland Gull** stayed later this year with reports from six sites. The Mar high counts were 5 at NSP 3/17 (AG) and 3 at PWT 3/25-26 (DFa). There were no reports for Apr, but 4 were at PWT 5/4, with one still there 5/11 (all DFa). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** also lingered in high numbers longer this year, with the high count 486 on 3/25 at NSP (DFa). This is likely a new single site high count for the county. There were still 175 at NSP 4/6 (AM). Two were noted for PAMC in southern **Bucks** 5/11, and the only other May report was one at PVP 5/17 (AM). A few usually stay near Tullytown all summer. A presumed **Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull (hybrid)** was at NSP 3/24-25 (AM, DFa). Reports of adult **Glaucous Gull** are unusual here, so one 4/13 at PWT was noteworthy and provided the last report (DFa). A **Caspian Tern** was at PVP 4/13 (AM) and another was at PWT 5/11 (DFa). A **Black Tern** at PWT 5/11 (DFa) and 2 at Uhlertown 5/31 (PC) were good spring finds. An early **Common Tern** was at PVP 4/12 and 2 were at PWT 5/11 (all DFa). The eighth county occurrence of **Arctic Tern** was at PWT 5/11 (DFa). Two **Forster's Terns** were at PVP 4/17 (AM, DFa, KA) and 2 were at NSP the same day (PT). Two were at Mud Island 5/4 and 5/19 (both DFa).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was more obvious this year with reports from at least 15 sites and almost every day starting 5/7 (LK, m.ob.). **Black-billed**

**Cuckoo** also was better represented with reports from 10 sites starting 5/9 (RS, m.ob.). An active **Barn Owl** nest with eggs in a nest box in late Apr (DFa) marked the second year in a row for nesting here. **Barred Owl** reports came from six sites, which is about normal for the last couple of years (m.ob.). The last **Long-eared Owl** was at PVP 3/13 (AM). The last healthy **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was reported at PVP 3/7 (AM). Adding to the several car casualties reported last season, one was found dead 4/9 in TNT (DA). Another was taken to the Aark in mid-Apr (JH) and remains their as of this writing (LS). If reports received are an indication, the only place in spring to now see sizable numbers of **Common Nighthawk** locally is along the Delaware River. They were first noticed south of Washington Crossing Park 5/9, and 10-15 were in continuous view there the evening of 5/12 (JMa) and again 5/14 starting in mid-afternoon (*fide* JMa). A conservative count of 75 was at Tinicum Park 5/19 (DA). Reports from eleven other sites were all in the single digits (m.ob.). The last reports were 5/30 of one each at Yardley (MGa) and near Quakertown (DFa). Rarely reported here, an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was in Nockamixon Twp. 5/16 (DFa). The first reported **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at Pine Run Community 4/24 (KK). Reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** were above average. Since one of the breeding pair at the TNT multi-year nest site was killed last year by a car, only one bird returned on 4/22 but vanished after a few days (KF). One was near SGL 157 on 3/14 (DFa), and one was at SGL 157 from 5/10-12 (DFa,GJ, BK, ML). SGL 56 had 2 on 5/15 (PC). Another was at East Rockhill Twp. 5/28-31 (HR). The probably increasing **Pileated Woodpecker** was entered in eBird at 33 sites (m.ob.). The PAMC tally of 14 provided a new high count. Other than the resident pair of **Peregrine Falcons** at Bristol that produced 4 juv. (HE), only two others were reported. One was at BHP 5/11 (MR) and one climbed in a thermal and headed northeast at BRD 5/27 (AM, JMi).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported at SGL#157 5/17-20 (DFa, AM, ML, et al.), MKF 5/22 (RS), and Churchville Park 5/25 (HD). **Alder Flycatcher** was at Dark Hollow Park 5/11 (GJ), SGL 157 from 5/17-20 (DFa, AM, et al.), PVP 5/17 (JV, *fide* Dfa), and West Rockhill Twp. 5/19 (SS), for a better than average season. The last known breeding sites for **Least Flycatcher** in the county have been vacant for decades, and only 3 migrants were entered in eBird 5/11-17 (DFa, JMi, AM, RS, MGa). An early **Eastern Kingbird** at Buckingham Twp. sewage ponds 4/16 matched our spring previous early arrival date 4/16 (RHe). A **White-eyed Vireo** at BRD 4/17 provided a new spring early arrival date (AM). They were reported from only eight sites, with some of those being migrants. The low numbers suggest an apparent declining summer resident status here (m.ob.). The Nockamixon Twp. quarry and Nockamixon Cliffs nest sites for **Common Raven** were successful again this year (DFa). The only other reported sites were PVP 4/17 (AM, Dfa), lower TNT 5/11 (DA, ZM), and Giving Pond 5/31 (DA). MKF was the only site reporting **Horned Lark**, with the high count being about 75 3/27(RS). Two were still present 4/18 (RS). A small new colony of **Purple Martins** was noted at PWT 5/11 (DFa). A sizable colony of **Cliff Swallows** at PVP that was found during the first Breeding Bird Atlas seems to have vanished. Only one bird was at the nest site this year until 5/31, and then there were none (AM). A few nests at NSP in recent years have also been abandoned this year (DFa).

The steady reports of this winter's irruptive **Black-capped Chickadees** stopped by 3/15 (AM, m.ob.), but two were convincingly described 3/30 at QTS (KP). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** moved back north in small numbers until 5/13 (m.ob.), with all but a handful of reports being of single birds. One at Churchville 5/18 may have been one of the local breeding birds of recent years (VDe). Two **Marsh Wrens** were at QTS 5/11-12 (JV, Dfa). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was barely noted, with one to two at BHP 5/18-22 (DFa, m.ob.) and one at PVP 5/23 (LWC). **Swainson's Thrush** did significantly better in comparison as usual, with reports between 5/9 and 5/22 from at least nine sites (m.ob.). The high single site counts were 3 at PVP 5/15 (KA) and 5 at BHP 5/18 (DFa, AM, JMi). The unusual total absence of **Brown Thrasher** continued from winter until migrants started arriving 3/30 (VDe, m.ob.). **American Pipit** was on a more normal schedule compared to last year's early departure. The high count was 38 at MKF 4/29, with 17 still there 5/1 (RS). **Cedar Waxwing**, also near absent most of the winter, was entered in eBird only twice in Mar and Apr, 3/19 (KP) and 4/29 (KW). A steady flow of migrants did not begin until 5/10 (AM, m.ob.).

A total of 32 warbler species was reported. The following includes some that are our most consistently scarce. Golden-winged Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Cerulean Warbler were not reported. A **Lawrence's Warbler** was detected at SGL 56 on 5/11 (PC, MGa). **Prothonotary Warbler** returned to PVP for the third year in a row, with the male first noted 5/9 (AM, SS). Reports of it and a presumed male continued through the period (m.ob.). One was at BRD 5/11 (JV, *fide* Dfa), and another was at QTS 5/18 (SG). **Tennessee Warbler** was only reported at Neshamany State Park 5/15 (DBe), BHP 5/18 (DFa), and SGL 157 on 5/20 (DFa). Its loud trill is sadly now an infrequent occurrence here. **Mourning**

**Warbler** was only reported at SGL 157 on 5/20 (DFa, AM). Two sites at SGL 157 produced **Kentucky Warbler** 5/10 (GJ, BK) and 5/17-20 (DFa). One was at Lake Towhee Park 5/11 (PT). **Hooded Warbler** was reported from five sites starting 4/28 (DFa, m.ob.), with SGL 157 the most regularly reported site and only likely breeding site. The only **Cape May Warblers** reported were one at BHP 5/9 (GG) and one at SGL 157 on 5/17 (DFa, et al.). **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at SGL 157 on 5/10 (GJ, BK) and 5/19 (DFa, ML). It was also reported at NSP 5/17-18 (JV, Dfa) and BHP 5/18 (DFa). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** provided a new early arrival date 4/24 at BRD (GJ). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Riegelsville starting 4/22 (AM, JMi) and one was at Falls of the Delaware Park 4/27 (JP). **Wilson's Warbler** was only reported at five sites on six dates (m.ob.). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at PWT starting 5/11 (DFa) and at Falls of the Delaware Park 5/16 (MGa).

A **Vesper Sparrow** at PVP 4/12 (DFa) provided the only report. The high report for TNT hayfield **Grasshopper Sparrows** was 3 on 5/1 (GJ). A **Fox Sparrow** at SGL 56 on 4/26 established a new spring late departure date (PC). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was only reported at MKF 5/13 (RS), PVP 5/13 (JV, Dfa), and SGL 157 on 5/20 (DFa ph., AM). **White-throated Sparrow** was widespread and late in May, with the last report 5/21 at PVP (AM, m.ob.). High counts for May occurred 5/13, with 17 at MKF (RS) and 35 at PVP (AM). A late **Dark-eyed Junco** at US Steel 5/11 contributed to the PAMC total, and a bird with an apparently injured leg was at SGL 157 on 5/20 (DFa, AM). **Blue Grosbeak** was not detected at its normal stronghold area until 5/18, when one was at US Steel (DFa). One was at PVP 5/13 (DE), and one was at BHP 5/18-22 (AM, JMi, MGa, GJ, BK). **Bobolink** was first reported rather late 5/9 (GJ), with the high report 85 at MKF 5/15 (RS). **Eastern Meadowlark** was reported at eleven sites (m.ob.), some just migrant stops, and somehow barely survives despite almost all breeding sites being in fields that are mowed often by early Jun. **Rusty Blackbird** was reported starting 3/2 at Silver Lake Park (DFI), with high counts there being 10 on 3/10, 3/23, and 4/13 (MGa, JP, DFI). The single site high was 19 at LTP 4/7 (SS). One at BRD 5/8 (GJ) was the last of the season. The female **Baltimore Oriole** that wintered in Warwick Twp. was last seen 4/27 (DP). The first migrants arrived the next day 4/28 at BRD (GJ) and Wrightstown (DL). After going through our area in the fall and being almost absent for much of the winter, the steady flow of returning **Purple Finch** reports began 4/10 (BK) and continued until 5/14 (DA, m.ob.). The high count was 12 at BHP 4/24 (MGa). Four **White-winged Crossbills** stopped at Plumstead Twp. 4/5 (AW) and one was at Doylestown Twp. 4/17-23 (RHe) for the only reports. A late Bensalem report of **Common Redpolls**, included 9 2/16, 11 2/23, 9 3/15, and one 4/4 (VK, *fide* RfR). These added to the few previously reported winter birds. The scarcity of **Pine Siskins** during the winter after the large fall invasion was followed by a dribble of birds moving north between 3/16 and 5/11 (MGa, Dfa, m.ob.). They were reported in mostly low single digit counts from 14 sites, with the high report about 20 at SGL 157 on 5/5 (DFa).

**EXOTICS:** A **Chukar** was at Riegelsville a few days at the end of May (DBr).

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#### Butler County

The following addendum to the winter report and short note regarding the *Butler* PAMC 5/11 were submitted by Gene Wilhelm.

Following the sightings of **Black-headed Gull** 12/2-3 reported in the

last issue, one was found on the CBC 12/15 with 9 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 100+ **Ring-billed Gulls**, and 2 **Herring Gulls** at the South Shore Day Use Area (JB, BD, GD, RJ, DM, GU, BW, GW). It was almost certainly the same bird that had been seen earlier in the month.

Highlights of the *Butler* PAMC 5/11 (all at Moraine State Park unless otherwise indicated) included 3 **Bufflehead**, 4 **Hooded Merganser**, 15 **Common Merganser** (BD, GW), 5 **Common Loon**, 2 **Horned Grebe**, 37 **Double-crested Cormorant** (BD, MV, PK, GW), one **Least Bittern** MSP (BD, GW), one **Northern Harrier** at Slippery Rock (BD, GW), one adult **Peregrine Falcon** at Swamp Run Road (BD, GW), 8 **Upland Sandpiper** (BD, GW); one **Black Tern**, 146 **Common Tern**, one **Forster's Tern** (BD, MV, PK, GW); one Philadelphia Vireo at Slippery Rock (BD, GW), 8 **Horned Lark** at Wolf Creek Narrows (GU, BW), one **Hermit Thrush** on Slippery Rock Creek (BD, GW), 8 **Ovenbird** (BD, GW), 2 **Vesper Sparrow**, 3 **Grasshopper Sparrow**, and 15 **Henslow's Sparrow** at County Line Road (BD, GW), one **Lincoln's Sparrow**, one **Rusty Blackbird** (BD, GW), 8 **Pine Siskin** at the Bird Watcher's Store (BD, GW).

No compiler. Observers: Jim Barcaskey, Barb Dean, George Dean, Rob Jernigan, Peter Keyel, Donielle Murphy, Gary Uber, Mark Vass, Bob Walczak, Gene Wilhelm.

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### **Cambria County**

Locations: St. Lawrence (STL), Patton (PA), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG).

Waterfowl were very plentiful with large flocks of **Tundra Swans** on the lake and overhead at PG (DG, JS). **Gadwalls** and **American Wigeons** were very common this spring. **Northern Shovelers** were seen in flocks up to 15 at PG (DG, JS). **Northern Pintail**, **Canvasbacks**, and **Redheads** appeared in good numbers. **Redheads** were seen in flocks of up to 200 at PG (DG, JS). **Lesser Scaup** and a **Black Scoter** lingered through the period at PG. **Common Loons** and **Horned Grebes** were frequent throughout the period at PG. **Bald Eagles** nested again at PG. First **Virginia Rail** was at PG 4/21 (JS). Shorebirds were very few at PG with only a handful of species reported. The best find was 3 **Red-necked Phalaropes** and a possible **Red Phalarope** at PG 5/8 (CG). A flock of 35 **Forster's Terns** were seen over PG 5/11 (DG). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** first heard by a turkey hunter was later verified in the St. Lawrence area (DG). This was the first record of an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** in the past 30 years. Several locations reported **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**.

Nice counts of **Veery** were seen and heard near STL (DG, JS). Good flocks of **Snow Buntings** and **Lapland Longspurs** were seen 3/31 (DG, JS) in the Patton area. Warblers were numerous this spring. PAMC day 5/11 was the best with higher than usual numbers for **Nashville**, **Bay-Breasted**, **Black-and-white**, **Northern Parula**, **Black-Throated Green**, and **Blackburnian**. **Common Redpolls** stayed well into the period with the last one at PA 4/28 (DG). A group 16 **Pine Siskins** was seen at PG 5/11 (BG).

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### **Cameron County**

No compiler.

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### **Carbon County**

No report.

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### **Centre County**

Locations: ARBOR (ARBOR), Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Black Moshannon S.P. (BMSP), Colyer L. (COL), PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220 west of Julian (JUL), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (MMNC), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), Tofrees pond and game lands (TOF).

Thirty-two birders participated in *Centre's* PA Migration Count on 5/11. They found 145 species and 5,284 individual birds. Due to a worsening problem with the spillway, COL was threatened with being totally drained during the spring; however, after lowering the lake 17 feet, the PA Fish and Boat Commission temporarily halted the drawdown. There is no timeline for

fixing the dam, although a grass-roots campaign is underway to get funding for repairs. For more information, go to <http://tinyurl.com/pu33gte>. Information for this report was obtained primarily 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, 2010 (*B&G*, 2010).

The following uncommon species were widely reported and will not be discussed further in this report: **Gadwall**, **Blue-winged Teal**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Redhead**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Green Heron**, **Osprey**, **Northern Harrier**, **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, **Cooper's Hawk**, **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Wilson's Snipe**, **Barred Owl**, **Belted Kingfisher**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Alder Flycatcher**, **Willow Flycatcher**, **Least Flycatcher**, **Great Crested Flycatcher**, **Eastern Flycatcher**, **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Warbling Vireo**, **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, **Bank Swallow**, **Cliff Swallow**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Brown Creeper**, **Winter Wren**, **Veery**, **Swainson's Thrush**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, **Northern Parula**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Palm Warbler**, **Pine Warbler**, **Savannah Sparrow**, **Fox Sparrow**, **Swamp Sparrow**, **White-crowned Sparrow**, **Bobolink**, **Eastern Meadowlark**, **Rusty Blackbird**, **Orchard Oriole**, **Bobolink**, **Eastern Meadowlark**, **Rusty Blackbird**, and **Orchard Oriole**.

A flock of 47 rare migrating **Snow Geese** 3/10 stopped at BESP; 4 were observed there 4/27. An even rarer blue morph Snow Goose was spotted in a flock of Canada Geese 4/11 at COL (all JV); a second was reported 4/13 at Curtin (JV, JD, MaR). **Northern Pintails** were noted at BESP 3/3-4/4 (JV, et al.), including a large flock of 369 on 3/3 (JV). Up to 13 were observed 3/10-29 at Curtin Wetlands (MaR, et al.), and one was spotted 3/24 at JUL (BA). One or 2 were noted 3/17-23 at Curtin wetlands (AL, et al.), and 2-4 were spotted 4/16-21 at COL (MD, RD, BA, JD). **White-winged Scoters** were observed at BESP 4/11-12 (MD, et al.), with a high of 9 noted 4/12 (CE). One was spotted 4/12 at Curtin wetlands (IG, AL, JoL), and two were seen the same day at COL (AL, JoL, BA). BESP and Curtin also hosted a few **Long-tailed Ducks**, with up to 10 noted at the former location 3/12-4/17 (DoW, et al.) and a female at the latter lake 4/12 (CE, IG, AL, JoL). Most reports of **Common Goldeneye** were from BESP 3/2-22 and 4/12-17, where up to 8 were observed (MaM, et al.). Three were spotted 3/16 at JUL (BA) and a male was observed displaying to a female Redhead 3/16-30 at the Duck Pond (AnF, et al.). One was seen 4/12 at Curtin wetlands (IG, AL, JoL, CE).

**Northern Bobwhite** was a PAMC surprise 5/11. A single bird was heard and photographed 5/11 on Sinking Creek. It joined in the dawn chorus and continued singing much of the day (LR, MR). The species is considered to be extirpated in this region, so this bird was probably an escapee or released. A single male **Ring-necked Pheasant** was spotted 4/11-12 near COL (AL, JoL, NaB). Up to 3 rare migrating **Red-throated Loons** which were reported 3/2-10 and 4/11-15 at BESP (JV, et al.). It was a good year for **Red-necked Grebes**. Four of this casually occurring migrant was spotted 4/12 at BESP (IG, CE, AL, JoL, DE); the same day one was also observed at Curtin wetland (IG, CE, AL, JoL). Another single bird was noted 4/20 at COL (J&RK). Single uncommon **American Bitterns** were seen 4/10 at SCO (JV) and 4/17 at Curtin (AL). Two rare **Great Egrets** were observed 4/9 at TOF (AL, JoL), and single birds were noted 4/4-12 at Curtin wetland (JoL, et al.), 4/19-21 at SCO (JV, et al.), off Rte. 550 north of State College 4/12 (DO), and 5/11 at BESP (BESP eTT data, CE, NK).

**Black Vultures** seem to have established themselves in the county, at least south and east of the Allegheny Front. They were widely reported throughout the spring. A few **Golden Eagles** were spotted, including an adult 3/8 in Boalsburg and another adult the same day at Walnut Springs Park-Lederer Park (both JV). Single birds were observed 3/17-22 at BESP (BS, et al.) and TOF on 4/9 (AL). A **Northern Goshawk** was heard 5/27 on Hall Rd. (JV). There were three reports of single **Rough-legged Hawks**. This unusual species was noted 3/2 in State College (RK) and 3/10 at BESP (BESP eTT data). A dark morph was spotted 3/27 at B2BE (MD).

**Bald Eagles** were widely observed; however, some of them had a rough spring. The nesting pair at Fisherman's Paradise appeared to be incubating eggs in early March. However, by 4/17, their efforts appeared to have failed, possibly due to predation (RC), although an observer spotted an adult on the nest 5/12 (NiB). There were no reports of eaglets at this site this year. The local wildlife rehabilitator reported that a Bald Eagle was found 2/28 on Barns Lane in Benner Twp. with severe injuries to the head. An eagle had been reported to have been struck by a plane shortly before this bird had been brought in. Although the bird was transferred to a specialist facility in Delaware, it ultimately had to be euthanized due to the extensive injuries to the brain (RG). On a happier note, the BESP pair began repairing the nest at the same site as last year, and an adult was spotted on the nest on 4/7. Two eaglets hatched and by 5/25, they appeared to be nearly as large as the adults and testing their wings in the nest (MaR, et al.).



Two rare migrating rail species were observed. Up to 4 **Virginia Rails** were heard or ph. 4/15-5/8 at JUL (JV, et al.). Another was heard 4/14-19 at Curtin wetland (JV), and as many as 3 were identified at MMNC 4/22-5/1 (AL, JoL, MD, BA). A single **Sora** was noted 4/7-27 at JUL (DiB, et al.), and a Shaver's Creek Birding Cup team was pleased to find one 5/4 in a marshy area on Geary Rd. (NB, SB, RF, MO).

**Semipalmated Plovers** were reported 5/11-25 at COL (JV, MaR, CE, SB, BA) with a high of 14 observed 5/24 (JV). A single rare **Ruddy Turnstone** found its way to COL 5/24 (JV, SB, CE). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were observed 5/4 on Old Gatesburg Rd. (AL, NF, DW, IG). Up to 18 were identified 5/7-26 at COL (JV, et al.). Old Gatesburg Rd. also produced two **Least Sandpipers** 5/4 (AL, NF, DW, IG), and as many as 15 were observed at COL (JV). A single bird was spotted 5/12 at the Yeager Hollow Ponds, and 2 were noted 5/18 at Curtin wetlands (both JD). A single **White-rumped Sandpiper**, which is casually encountered here, was photographed 5/19 at COL (CE, JV, SB). Up to 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were reported at that same location 4/17-5/22 (JV, et al.). COL also had the only report of **Dunlin**, which is rarely found in the region; three were photographed 4/19-20 (JV, AL, JoL, RD, BA).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported from five locations, with several large flocks observed at BESP, including a high of 271birds 4/14 (JV). An adult **Little Gull** was spotted 4/12-14 at BESP (IG, et al.). This species is accidental in the region. Most **Herring Gull** observations 3/2-5/8 were at BESP (IG, et al.), but 4 were spotted 3/29 in Unionville (DO), and up to 7 were present 4/11-12 at Curtin wetland (AL, JoL, MD, NaB, IG). One was seen on 4/19 at ARBOR (AL, MD, MB, RD). BESP also had most of the **Caspian Tern** reports, with up to 12 noted 4/11-5/8 (MT, et al.). As many as 4 were ph. 4/12 at TOF (JV, DE), and a trio were spotted 4/12 at COL (AL, JoL, BA, RD). Up to 20 **Common Terns** were counted 5/11 at BESP (JV, CE), and a single **Forster's Tern** was reported 4/19 at COL (IG).

Single **Black-billed Cuckoos** were spotted in four locations, and 2 were noted 5/26 at Bear Meadows (BA). A rare **Short-eared Owl** was observed 3/28 on Rock Rd. (JV). The toots of 3 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were heard 3/9-10 at BMSP, and another was identified 5/4 at Bear Meadows (both IG). Only four **Common Nighthawks** were observed, including 2 near Stormstown 5/29 (MB) and single birds 5/18 in Boalsburg (JH) and 5/26 in State College (CE). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported from five locations, including a high of 23 at SCO 5/17 (JV). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported from a remarkable five locations. A pair was reported 4/28-5/11 in the Williams Rd.-Tusseyville Rd.-Airport Rd. area (JV, et al.), including a report of a pair making an "investment" in a future generation of woodpeckers" (JV). Single birds were noted 4/27-5/11 on Sinking Creek (MR, LR), in Park Forest 5/9-19 (NEK, SB, JP), at Curtin wetland 5/4 (DE, NaB), and the Deibler Rd.-Rte. 45 intersection (AL, NF, DW, IG). A **Merlin** was photographed 3/6 on Nixon Rd. (JV), and a vocalizing bird was spotted 3/29 in State College (NiB). Single birds were observed 3/22 and 4/11 at BESP (JoL, AL). Four **Peregrine Falcons** were reported: one each at TOF 4/7 (JV), BESP 4/11 (AL), Curtin wetlands 4/21 (AL, et al.), and near Carson's Corner (DB).

Only one rare **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was noted, a single bird 5/24 at BESP (BESP eTT data). Up to 3 **Alder Flycatchers** were reported at BESP 5/19-31 (NB, JV, WK, GJ, MHI). Up to 3 were also observed 5/19-27 at Bear Meadows (CE, NiB, MaR, BA, SB). One was noted 5/21 at SCO (MaR). One of the continuing **Northern Shrike** reported during the winter at BESP was reported 3/17-23 (CE, et al.). **White-eyed Vireos** were observed in three locations. Single representatives of this uncommon species were noted 4/22-5/9 at BESP (MSa, et al.), 4/26 in Bald Eagle Creek near the glider port (AL, JoL), and 5/10 at SCO (RD). SCO was also the site of the only **Philadelphia Vireo** report, a single bird spotted 5/18 (JV, JoH). **Fish Crows** have been considered common in the State College area for some time. Now they appear to be developing another cluster in the Bald Eagle Valley, particularly around BESP and Howard, where there were numerous reports, including a nesting pair. Unfortunately a microburst destroyed the nest tree, and all four nestlings died. Elsewhere, 8 were noted 4/16 at COL (IG), and one was heard there 5/4 (SB, NB, RF, MO). **Common Ravens** were widely reported, and the famous Beaver Stadium pair was reported to have 3 large young in the nest 4/30 (MB).

Most **Purple Martin** observations were from the BESP, with up to 6 seen around nesting gourds in Howard 4/7-5/26 (BS, et al.), and up to 2 were seen within BESP 5/8-28 (IG, CE, BA, JD). A single rare **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported 5/13 at SCO, and 4 were seen 5/28 in State College (both JV). **Northern Mockingbirds** are uncommon on the Allegheny Plateau, where 2 were spotted 5/27 at the Rusnak Hill reclaimed strip-mine (CE). Another was found 5/31 on the Kato-Orviston Rd. (StB). Although **American Pipits** were widely reported, their numbers were generally very low. An exception occurred 5/24, when approximately 200 were found foraging in the fields along Whitehall Rd. 4/24 (IG).

Area birders reported 34 warbler species this spring, eleven of which

are common or abundant migrants; ten uncommon species were widely reported. **Northern Waterthrush** arrived in May, with one or 2 observed 5/4-26 at Bear Meadows (NB, et al.). Up to four were reported 5/11-19 at MBSP (NiB, JD), and a single bird was spotted 5/15 at MMNC (JD). The last report was of 2 observed 5/20 at TOF (JV). Another unusual species, **Golden-winged Warbler**, was noted on several occasions at BESP 5/4-25 (AL, et al.). Reports from SCO 5/4-27 indicated that up to 3 were present (NB, et al.), and one was observed 5/25-26 in Bear Meadows (BA). Single **Brewster's Warblers** were seen 5/9 at BESP (AnK) and 5/16-18 at SCO (MaR, AnF). A rare **Orange-crowned Warbler** was photographed 5/2 at ARBOR (JoL, JM, JaM), and a second was seen 5/9 in JUL (DP). A rare migrant, **Mourning Warbler**, was first noted 5/16 near Mingoville (AnF). A second bird was spotted 5/29 at BESP (MSc). **Kentucky Warbler** is another rare migrant; one was heard singing 5/16 at SCO (MaR), while one was reported 5/30 on S. Gatesburg Rd. (JV). Only one **Cape May Warbler** was reported; it was observed 5/21 at SCO (JV). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were noted, one 5/4 at SCO (DE, NaB) and one 5/26 on Rattlesnake Pike (JV). One or two **Bay-breasted Warblers** were noted 5/10-21 at SCO (JV). Single birds were reported 5/13 at ARBOR (RD) and 5/14-19 at BESP (BA, NB). A rare **Yellow-throated Warbler** was observed 5/9-22 in Unionville (DO). The **Prairie Warbler's** bouncing ball song was heard 4/28-5/23 at BESP (NB, AnK, CE, BA), and at SCO 5/2-4 (MoM, et al.). A single bird was reported 5/11 at TOF (NaB), and 2-3 were noted 5/25-27 at the Rusnak Hill reclaimed strip-mine (JV, CE). Up to 8 were observed 5/27 at the Panther Grasslands (JV). A **Canada Warbler** was identified 5/3 along Black Moshannon Cr. (NF), and up to 6 were located 5/3-29 at BMSP (NiB, PS, JD). One or 2 were found 5/15-19 at SCO (JoH, AnF, JD), and as many as 16 were reported at Bear Meadows 5/19-27 (CE, et al.). Single **Wilson's Warblers** were spotted at five locations, including MMNC 5/8-29 (RD, AC, NB, JV) and 5/13 in State College (RC). Two were photographed, one 5/13-28 at ARBOR (RD) and another 5/18-19 at BESP (JD, NB). One also found its way to Bear Meadows, where it was reported 5/19-26 (NiB, BA). At least one **Yellow-breasted Chat** was observed 5/18-26 at BESP (JD, et al.).

A single rare **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at the Rusnak Hill reclaimed strip mine 5/25 (ph. JV). Uncommon **Vesper Sparrows** and **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported in small numbers at several scattered locations. Up to 8 rare **Henslow's Sparrows** were identified 5/3-27 at SGL 100-German Settlement Grasslands (AL, NF, IG, JV, CE). Two were also observed 5/27 in the Panther Grasslands (JV). A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** was spotted 4/25 at the ARBOR (IG), and another was noted 5/18 at SCO (AnF). The continuing **Oregon Junco** that was first reported 12/31/2012 was photographed 3/16-17 at the same location in State College (NiB).

The finch irruption continued through mid-May. **Purple Finch** were widely noted, with a high of 17 reported 5/9 at SCO (IG). An unfortunate female **Red Crossbill** became road kill 3/9 at BMSP (IG). Three **White-winged Crossbills** were spotted 3/2 at the Duck Pond (ML), and at least 4 were noted 3/13 at Windsor Court (CE). An even dozen were spotted 4/2 off Decibel Rd. (JK). **Common Redpolls** were widely reported, including up to 200 on 3/29 near Stormstown (DW, AL, MaR). Careful observation of that flock produced a trio of redpoll species and subspecies: Common Redpoll, **Greater Redpoll**, and **Hoary Redpoll**. Details of the latter two were posted to nemesibird.com. **Pine Siskins** were widely reported, with a high of 32 observed 5/11 on Sinking Creek (LR, MR). Two that were banded 3/14/2009 in State College (NK) were recaptured 5/10/2012 in Kamloops, British Columbia (NK). A single female **Evening Grosbeak** was identified 5/17 in Gray's Woods (JoH).

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## Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), ChesLen Preserve (CP), Exton Park (EP), Laurels Preserve (LP), Longwood Gardens (LWG), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Struble Lake (SL), Upper Main Line YMCA (UMLY), Westtown School Property (WSP).

Spring was slow to start in the region, featuring persistent northwest winds, spring snow, and sub-freezing March evenings. These factors seemed to delay the first wave of spring migrants, which trended towards later-than-normal arrival dates. There was a good amount of rainfall, limiting the amount of shorebird habitat available, and making shorebirds harder to find. Highlights included **Glossy Ibis**, **Sandhill Crane**, and **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** visiting county bird feeders. A few winter rarities continued into spring, including a pair of **Trumpeter Swans**, a **Rufous Hummingbird**, and a **Le Conte's Sparrow**. The winter finch irruption was a continuing feature through much of spring, with a few found late into May.

**Snow Geese** waved through the skies heading northward at the beginning of the period, which is peak time for their migration. The largest push was noticed 3/10, when tens of thousands were counted heading north (m.ob.). During this exodus north, up to 2 possible **Ross's Geese** were thought to be among the throngs of Snow Geese witnessed (KN). A pair of **Trumpeter Swans**, thought to be the same individuals present earlier in the year along the Schuylkill R., was discovered 3/18 at a small retention pond in Parker Ford (RB). The pair continued at this site through 4/6 (RB, m.ob.). A nice high count of 15 **Blue-winged Teal** was made 4/15 at the Honey Brook WTP (AG). **Redheads** often steal the waterfowl show with their beauty, and this spring were found in small groups on county lakes, including WSP, where 6 were seen 3/1-3/4, 12 at SL 3/18 (LW), and 5 at MCSP 3/24 (HM, WBH, m.ob.). **Greater Scaup** were found in multiple locations, but only in small numbers on each occasion (m.ob.). Five **Common Goldeneyes** was a nice find at CL 3/26 (RR). **Red-breasted Mergansers** dropped into county waters on multiple occasions (m.ob.), with a late sighting 5/22 at MCSP (HM).

Typically found in smaller numbers in *Chester*, a staggering 71 **Wild Turkey** were carefully counted on a field at Crow's Nest Preserve 3/11(SS). **Common Loons**, regular in spring, are often seen on the larger lakes or in flight as they migrate north. Reports came from multiple locations, with the highest concentration at MCSP where a high count of 34 was made 4/18 (HM). A single **Red-necked Grebe** appeared on the lake at MCSP 4/12 (HM, m.ob) during a storm, and remained present through 4/13 (NP). A spring storm resulted in the high count of 159 **Double-crested Cormorants** on SL 4/24 (HM). The typically elusive **American Bittern** upheld that reputation by only showing to one lucky birder on two occasions: 4/4 at WSP and 5/26 at EP (NP). A possible **Least Bittern** was reported from EP 4/14 (WBH, KN). A single **Black-crowned Night-Heron** in flight over Unionville 5/8 was a great record of this irregular spring migrant (KN). A great count of 3 was seen at EP on the same date (MC). Although still an irregular spring migrant in the region, the last few years have been good for **Glossy Ibis**. One was discovered foraging around the pond at EP 5/5 (GB, KCA). Presumably the same ibis was relocated in a retention pond near EP in Exton 5/6, and continued there through 5/8 (HM, m.ob.). A surprise was a flock of 5 **Glossy Ibis** in flight, and circling the wetlands at CP 5/9 (HM).

**Mississippi Kites** have been annual spring visitors for the past several years in *Chester*. Again this year, BCP was the "go-to" site for this southern raptor. The first observations were 5/20, when two separate sightings occurred; one offering long and excellent looks (LL, KN, HD, KP, m.ob.). Another was spotted there 5/29 (LL). All individuals that could be aged were immature. A pair of **Bald Eagles** built a nest in a Guthrieville community to the delight of many local residents. This was the first known nest in recent decades in this area of the county. One chick hatched, and was being tended to by both parents, but unfortunately succumbed to an unknown cause of death the third week in May (PGC). Other active nests included one in Cochranville, and another in Pocopson Twp.

Marsh birds can be tricky to locate, but this spring both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were found in multiple locations. The often-secretive Virginia Rail was found near WSP and was consistently detected 4/5-7 (BR, m.ob.). Three more were found at CP 4/13 (KN), and another was found there 5/21 (HM). A large wetland on private property in Downingtown held a pair of

**Virginia Rails** from at least 4/23 through the end of the reporting period, suggesting probable breeding (HM). A good spot for this species is EP, where one revealed itself 5/11 (NP). **Soras** are the more likely rail to be seen in the open, and one consistently appeared for birders at EP 4/11-15 (GT, m.ob.). One was also reported in Easttown 4/11 (AC). Another was at CP 4/13 (KN). An outstanding find were 4 **Sandhill Cranes** on a private property 3/24 (MC). This species is typically found solo or in pairs, so this was a very nice record for spring.

Migrating shorebirds did not find the best habitat here in *Chester* this spring due to plentiful rainfall, so numbers were moderate. Expected regular spring migrants were found in typical to low numbers. Highlights included a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at CL 5/15 (RR), **Pectoral Sandpipers** found at EP 5/7 (GT), 5/9 (DMcN), and Wilson Road 5/9 (KF, m.ob.). A nice surprise was a **Dunlin** foraging around CL 5/15 (RR). A large push of migrant shorebirds was noted flying above BCP 5/27, while birders were scanning the skies for them during the annual evening Shorebird Watch. Most of these were not identifiable due to distance, but approximately 100 **Whimbrel** were detected moving towards their northern breeding grounds (LL, et al). In general, it was a slow season for shorebird watching at this site, and unfavorable winds were thought to be the culprit.

Regular in spring, **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen over county waters on a few occasions, including: 3/26 at Kurtz's Fish Hatchery (BQ, et al), 4/12 at MCSP during a storm (HM, KN), and 4/19 at Somerset L. (KN). A single report of a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** came from a Unionville yard 3/11 (KN). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were recorded at MCSP 4/12 (KN), Unionville 3/10 (KN), BCP 3/10 (m.ob.), and SL 3/1 (HM, RR) and 3/3 (MC). **Caspian Terns** were noted around local lakes on a few occasions this spring. Two were a nice treat 4/13 at MCSP (NP), and another 3 were seen there 4/15 (AG). One was also spotted at CL 4/17 (MQ). **Common Terns** are rare and irregular migrants in spring, and typically associated with storms. A rainstorm brought 2 to MCSP 4/12 (HM, KN).

There were multiple reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** starting after the first week of May (m.ob.). Less commonly encountered, **Black-billed Cuckoo** reports were few and included one record of 2 at LWG 5/8 (CM) and another photographed at EP 5/11 (AS *vide* GT). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found in East Whiteland Twp. 3/10, possibly a lingering winter resident at this location (MC). **Common Nighthawks** pushed northward in nice numbers 5/16, with 23 observed over Chadds Ford (HD), and another 20 seen in Unionville (KN). Other reports of fewer individuals came from locations and observers across the county through the end of the reporting period. The Chrome Barrens region of the county is the last stronghold for **Eastern Whip-poor-will**. These vocal nightjars were first heard here 4/27 (BK), and continued, presumably nesting in this location (m.ob.). The female **Rufous Hummingbird** that spent winter in Chadds Ford was last seen 3/5 (GBR). The first and only sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in 2013 thus far were both 5/10, with one at BCP (KN) and another at Hibernia Park that same day (RR). There were two reports of **Peregrine Falcon** this season: one in Goshenview 3/8 (NP), and another in Downingtown 5/8 (KF).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** is an uncommon spring migrant, and was only reported once, from BCP 5/19 (JS). Another irregularly detected flycatcher is **Alder Flycatcher**; one was heard and seen 5/18 at Welkinweir (RK). Widespread in other parts of the state, **Least Flycatchers** are not as regular in spring here, but birders managed to find them on multiple occasions in May, especially 5/15 when they were reported from 4 locations county-wide (m.ob.). The recent trend of **Common Raven** sightings continued this spring. Two solos were reported from E.Coventry Twp, 3/3 (RB) and 3/7 (SS). Another was spotted over Eagle 4/14 (NP). After an irruptive fall and winter season, widespread reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** continued through the end of the reporting period (m.ob.). Uncommon spring migrants, **Marsh Wrens** were detected 3 times in Apr.: one at CP 4/22 (HM), another at the LP 4/25 (KF), and another at CP 4/26 (KN). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** is always a treat in spring, and few lucky birders managed to locate single birds: one captured at the banding station at Rushton Farm 5/18 (DM, et al), another seen at the LP that same day (KN), one found on the property of the WSP 5/20 (BR), another at Waterloo Mills Preserve 5/20 (KF).

Thirty-three species of warbler were reported this season. Some of the more notable species included **Prothonotary Warbler**, which is an irregular spring migrant. A single male was found at Hibernia Park 4/27 (LL, m.ob.). Another was found at LWG 5/2 (LL, et al). One lucky birder found this brilliant yellow treat in his yard 5/11 (HD). A report of a Prothonotary heard at WSP 5/20, was intriguing as the habitat there could be conducive for breeding (BR). A surprising feeder guest was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** gleaned from a yard in Avondale 3/8 -9 (WBH, m.ob.). This species is known to irregularly over-winter in the county, but this bird was only seen on the two dates noted. Absent were reports of Tennessee Warbler this spring. A remarkable find was a singing male **Golden-winged Warbler** on a private property 5/11 (MC). This warbler, rare in the county and only locally common in the state, is not regularly found in *Chester*. There was only a



single report of **Nashville Warbler**, which was at LP 5/15 (KF). A singing male **Mourning Warbler**, an uncommon spring migrant, was a treat at BCP 5/15 (AU). **Kentucky Warblers** are becoming harder to find in the county, and this spring saw only two reports: a single bird at LP 5/11 (KF), and another along the Brandywine Trail 5/18 (NP). Two **Common Yellowthroats** were found on private property 3/24, and were thought maybe to be over-wintering birds rather than early migrants (MC). A single **Cape May Warbler** was located at LWG 5/11 and was the only report of this species (LL, et al.). **Cerulean Warblers** were heard along the Struble Trail 5/12 (NP) and 5/15 (KF). Typically irregular in spring, **Bay-breasted Warblers** were located on several occasions. One was found at LWG 5/11 (LL et al.), another was seen in Devon 5/14 (MC), one at UMLY 5/16 (BR), and two were seen in Uwchlan Twp. 5/18 with a single bird found in the same spot 5/19 (HM). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were located along waterways in several locations this spring. First sighted 4/18 at Kerr Park in Downingtown, a location where they have been reliable the last several breeding periods (HM). WSP held two records 4/21 (AL) and 5/14 (BR). A single bird was located along Springlawn Trail 5/11 (HM, KS). One was reported at White Clay Creek 5/18 (AB, MS), and another at Hibernia CP 5/19 (BR). Uncommon migrants, **Wilson's Warblers** were located on three occasions: 5/13 at LWG (DK, et al), and 5/14 and 5/18 at CL (RR).

A single **Vesper Sparrow** was a nice find at BCP 4/14 (HD). The **Le Conte's Sparrow** that took up winter residence at Waterloo Mills Preserve was last seen 4/26 (KF). **Lincoln's Sparrows** are irregularly found in spring, and this spring was no exception, with only one detected at Hibernia CP 5/20 (RR). Reports of **Blue Grosbeak** came mostly from BCP where they are known to breed (m.ob.), and up to 2 were found paying a visit to a feeder near Landenberg 5/13-16 (AM).

It was a remarkable spring for male **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** visiting feeders around *Chester*, with three reports. The first report came from Elverson, where a brilliant male delighted the avid birder hosts with his presence 3/24 (B&RC). Another report was of a single bird attending a feeder in Pocopson (*fide* DK). A third bird made a few appearances at a feeder in Downingtown 4/6 and again 4/16 (GR). Since **Rusty Blackbirds** are declining nationwide, the many observations in *Chester* during the spring period were encouraging. Though they are regular migrants, they are not always detected in good numbers, but this spring seemed to be an exception. WSP was a reliable spot for this species starting 3/30 through 4/23 with up to groups of 6 (TS, m.ob.). A nice high count was of 12 seen on a private property 4/12, where there is inviting habitat for this species (MC). Another site for multiple observations was the Stroud Preserve, where this species was noted: 4/9, 4/11, and 4/25 (RuR, WBH, KN).

An irruptive year for winter finches, many lingered long into the reporting period. **Purple Finches** reports were widespread, and mostly birds visiting feeders (m.ob.). Despite a good fall and winter for sightings of both crossbill species, there were no reports of **Red Crossbills** during the reporting period. **White-winged Crossbills** continued to be seen through late Apr., with LWG being a favored location for these northern visitors. A high count of 12 was recorded 4/21 (AM), and a second highest count from the same location and observer 3/2. Two were seen again at LWG 3/19 (JD). Another report was from Valley Creek Park 3/10 (MC). The **Common Redpoll** attending a Chadds Ford feeding station in winter continued daily until 3/29 (KS). After a strong presence in winter, **Pine Siskins** continued to be reported throughout the county until 5/21 (m.ob.).

Observers: **Holly Merker, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, PA 19335, 610-733-4392, HCybel@aol.com**, Kelly Colgan-Azar, Anne Bekker, Geoff Bently, Rob Blye, Gale Brewer (GBR), Bob and Ruth Cook, Mike Coulter, Alan Crawford, Hank Davis, Jessica Donohue, B Kevin Fryberger, Al Guarente, W. Brian Henderson, Bill Keim, Rick Keyser, Dave Krueel, Andrew Leidig, Larry Lewis, Carol Majors, Andrea Martin, Doris McGovern, David McNaughton, John McNamara, August Mirabella, Lisa Miller, Kelley Nunn, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Kathleen Pileggi, Nick Pulcinella, Brian Quindlen, Marian Quinn, Brian Raicich, Rick Robinson, Gretchen Roth, Russell Rogers (RuR), Joe Sebastiani, Vince Smith, Michael Sonkowsky, Kim Steinger, Arthur Steinberger, Tim Sterrett, Scott Stollery, George D. Tallman, Andy Urquhart, Laura Wagner, Ken Walsh, Ann Williams.

### Clarion County

Locations: Cherry Run/Rimersburg (CR), Curllsville strips (CV), Foxburg Islands (FB), Madison Shop Rd (MS), Mount Airy (MA), Mount Zion (Piney Tract IBA/SGL 330) (MZ), Sarah Furnace (SF).

A nice selection of waterfowl was reported mostly from CR, a recently discovered area that appears to draw in a nice variety of birds during migration. A collection of small to medium sized ponds on reclaimed strip

mine fields outside of Rimersburg, the water here is apparently of good enough quality to provide some respectable habitat for these birds. The selection includes up to 2 **Gadwall** until 3/26, up to 12 **American Wigeon** also through 3/26, and up to 10 **Northern Pintail** through the same date (MM). The pintails in particular were an excellent number for the county. In later migration, **Blue-winged Teal** were first seen here 4/1 with 6 birds present, and then continued in smaller numbers through 4/26 (MM). During this period **Green-winged Teal** were also seen starting with one bird on 3/20 and continuing through 4/26, with the maximum count of 11 birds 4/9 (MM). Another pond on reclaimed strip mine property at CV hosted 7 **Greater Scaup** 3/12, a decent number for this small body of water (MM). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** provided an excellent record for the county 3/17, present on a medium size privately owned pond outside of Rimersburg for just a day (MM). A single **Ruddy Duck** was present late into the season at MA on a farm pond 5/19 (CW).

**Wild Turkey** are a common sight in the county, but it was very unusual to find a hen on a nest site in scrub and brush not even 10 feet off a rural dirt road near CV 5/11 (MM, CW). The nest had 16 eggs in it, and was located under some wild honeysuckle bushes. On the following day all but one egg remained but the bird was not seen again and subsequent checks showed the nest site to be unsuccessful, likely due to high disturbance probable at this location. **Common Loon** is another species not uncommon to the county in migration, however this year 4 birds were found on the Clarion River outside of Clarion 4/17 (PM). This river is smaller and has poorer quality than the Allegheny and Kahle Lake where they are normally found. The last bird noted for the season was seen at Sarah Furnace 5/11 on the Allegheny River (CW). The best raptor of the season was a first year **Golden Eagle** hunting over reclaimed strip mine fields at CR 4/7 (MM, ST). There are no other reports in the past 10 years. Of note because of their declining status, one or 2 **Northern Harriers** were reported at five sites in the county, all reclaimed strip mine fields or in proximity to them. These sites were CV, CR, MA, MZ and also one property not far from CV. Reports began 3/10 at CV and continued through the end of the spring season (FB, SG, MM, CW). **Bald Eagle** remains a successful nester along the rivers, with at least one fledged young seen in the nest along the Clarion River 5/10 in central Clarion (CW). South of Parker on the Allegheny River, 3 young birds were photographed in a nest where the first reportedly hatched 3/18 (MM). Two adult birds were also seen at Kahle Lake 4/7 (MM, ST).

Scattered reports of shorebirds were made, always of note in Clarion. At SF on the Allegheny River, 4 **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen during the PAMC 5/11 (CW). At MS, a area of flooded fields and marsh at the edge of a recently reclaimed strip mine outside of Rimersburg, four species of shorebirds were reported this season. **Least Sandpipers** were seen 4/25 with 2 birds, and then a single bird 5/16 (MM). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present 5/6, and **Solitary Sandpiper** were found 4/25 with 2 individuals and then 3 on 5/9 (MM). **Wilson's Snipe** were also present at MS, first on 3/26 with three individuals, almost a month later than their early arrival last year (MM). A single bird was again there 4/6 (CW). A single **Wilson's Snipe** was also seen in a flooded farm field in Limestone 4/6 and again 4/8 (F&JW). **Greater Yellowlegs** were reported starting with a single bird on the Allegheny River at FB 4/7 (MM, ST) and then 3 birds at a farm pond on MA 4/14 (CW). A single bird was seen calling in a flyover sighting near CV 5/11 (CW). **Upland Sandpipers** were not reported until one was heard calling at MA 5/6 (DE, SS), and then a single bird was also seen there 5/19 (CW). Two birds were noted at the bowl area at MZ 5/20, an area where they have not previously been reported (CK, JR). **American Woodcock** were first heard calling and performing display flights 3/11 near CV, a little more than a week later than their first date last year (CW).

The only significant report among gulls was 29 **Bonaparte's Gulls** along the Allegheny River at FB 4/7 (MM, ST). **Barred Owls** are not as commonly reported in Clarion as other owls, so a report of a bird calling from 5/20-29 in a wooded area at the edge of Rimersburg is worth noting (MM). **Short-eared Owls** were noted for the season only at MA, with a single bird seen 3/5 and 3/15, then two birds together 4/6 (CW). No reports were received for this species after this date, leaving breeding once again unlikely for them this year. A single report of **Merlin** was received for the season, a bird not frequently reported. It was seen at the Clarion University campus 4/23 (JK), and although details were not available it was suspected to be utilizing the scattered stands of spruce and pines on the grounds of the campus during migration.

Most flycatchers were noted arriving approximately a week later than normal this year. **Acadian Flycatchers** were not back until 5/19 at SF (SC), **Willow Flycatchers** were first reported back that date also near CV (CW), and **Alder Flycatchers** were first noted with 2 birds heard near Frogtown 5/25 (CW). **Eastern Phoebe** was conspicuously late with an arrival date of 4/5 near CV (CW), close to a month later than its previous early date, and approximately 3 weeks later than its typical arrival period. An unusual **Marsh Wren** was at MS 5/16 (MM). Only two other sightings are known of this

species in the county, both during migration. On 4/1, another species not always reported was noted at CR when 25 **American Pipits** were seen in reclaimed strip mine fields at the site (MM).

**Worm-eating Warblers** continue to be regular at their breeding site in SF, first seen 5/2 and then reported through the end of the season (SC, MM, CW). **Louisiana Waterthrush** also continues to utilize this site despite the questionable water quality of the streams here due to acid mine drainage. They were first heard singing 4/18, somewhat later than their usual arrival, and then a pair found together 5/2 at another site along the Armstrong Trail along the Allegheny River (CW). **Tennessee Warblers** made a very early return, or at least for a single individual, seen 5/2 near CV feeding on a flowering quince and fighting for position with a **Baltimore Oriole**. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found singing along Phillipston Rd. near East Brady 4/21 (CW), another uncommon species for the county although likely undetected in some areas as there is habitat available. The only other warbler of note was a **Wilson's Warbler** near CV 5/10 and 5/18 (CW). This species is not annual in spring.

**American Tree Sparrows** were late leaving this season. Up to 16 were still near CV 4/4, then gradually decreasing through the next week to 4/15 (CW). **Clay-colored Sparrows** returned to their regular breeding site at CV, but were not reported this year until 5/9, a week later than last year (DH). **Vesper Sparrows** are always the least reported grassland sparrow in the county, and this year were not noted until a singing male was seen 5/19 at CV (MM). Both **Grasshopper Sparrows** and **Henslow's Sparrows** were about a week later than their previous early dates, with Grasshopper at CV 4/26 (MM) and Henslow's back at Rankin Rd. near CV 4/21 (CW). Henslow's Sparrows in particular continued with regular reports in their usual locations through the season and numbers appeared to be excellent, with high counts of at least 18 birds 4/30 at MA, increased numbers at CV with habitat changes, and continuing numbers of 20+ at MZ (CW). **Scarlet Tanager** numbers were noted to be high this year during PAMC 5/11, with birds singing from every size of woodlot and a very conservative count of 33 for the small amount of the county surveyed (CW, RS).

**Purple Finches** are regularly present in appropriate habitat in the county, but this year they were observed nest building 5/10 in a yard with blue spruce and Norway spruce near CV (CW). The birds were building in the top of a blue spruce and 4 birds were noted on that day. The last of the crossbill invasion came with a sighting of a single female **Red Crossbill** at MZ 5/14 (MM). **Common Redpolls** remained numerous through March at feeders in Strattanville, Limestone, Clarion, Rimersburg, and CV (JH, RM, MM, CW, F&JW). Numbers reached as high as ~60 in Limestone and continued there through 3/30, and the last were reported from Strattanville and Rimersburg both 4/3. **Pine Siskins** were also seen in small numbers at feeders, with up to 3 birds at Rimersburg through 5/16 (MM), last seen with 12 birds at CV feeders 5/18 (CW). Rounding out the winter finch invasion, a single sighting of **Evening Grosbeaks** was reported from a feeder in Limestone where one male and 2 females present 3/25 (F&JW).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, 814-745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net**, Fern Bauman, Shawn Collins, Dan Efroymsen, Steve Gosser, Daniel Hinnebusch, Janice Horn, Murray Jukes, Chad Kauffman, Jon Kauffman, Ron Montgomery, Mark Moore, Phyllis Morrow, Joan Renninger, Steve Sanford, Ruth Schurr, Shannon Thompson, Fran and Jack Williams, Brian Young.

### Clearfield County

Locations: Bimini Lake (BL), Curwensville Dam (CD), Dubois Area (DB), Troy Hill Road (THR), Westover (WST).

**Tundra Swans, Lesser Scaup, Redheads, Common Mergansers, Red-breasted Mergansers, Hooded Mergansers, Common Loons, and Horned Grebes** were at CD (CG). The **Great Blue Heron** colony near WST was active again this spring (DG). A **Great Egret** was at BL 3/31 (DR). A **Golden Eagle** flew over DB 3/19 (DR). Several **Virginia Rails** were heard calling near DB 4/17 (DR). There were 16 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at CD in late May (CG). A **Common Nighthawk** was at BB 5/19 (DR). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported at DB 5/19 (DR). A **Northern Shrike** was seen at THR 3/31 (JD). A single **Fish Crow** was at DB in March (DR). A single **Lapland Longspur** was at CD 3/31 (CG). The warbler migration was good with **Brewster's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Pine Warbler** and **Louisiana Waterthrush** among the sightings. Three **Clay-colored Sparrows** were at THR 5/16 (JD). One **Blue Grosbeak** was at THR 5/16 (JD). **Red Crossbills** were seen at DB 3/19 (DR).

Observers: **Dave Gobert, 287 Beech Road, Patton, PA 16668, (814) 674-8359, djgobert@verizon.net**, Chris Grecco, Jim Dunn, Dan Richards.

### Clinton County

Locations: Avis (AV), Lock Haven (LH), South Avis (SA), and Susquehanna River (SR).

A waterfowl fallout 3/19 produced **Green-winged Teal** and **Northern Pintail** on the SR near McElhatten (BZ) and **American Wigeon, scaup sp., Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Bufflehead, and Wood Duck** at SA (CCH). **Tundra Swans** were observed in fields east of Lock Haven from 3/15 to at least 3/19 (m.ob.). A rather late **Surf Scoter** was seen on the SR at LH 5/23 (DR). **Common Loons** were seen at the same location 4/11 (m.ob.). A late **Common Loon** was spotted on the SR at Farrandville 5/18 (m.ob.). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at Ritchie Road near Hyner 3/9 (WL). In a field west of LH 3/16, a mixed flock of blackbirds contained about 30 **Rusty Blackbirds** (WL). Also 3/16 at SA, a single **Lapland Longspur** was observed in a flock of about 300 **Horned Larks** (WL). A lone **White-winged Crossbill** was reported coming to a feeder near AV 3/19 (BZ). **Common Redpolls** were visiting feeders in Woolrich until 3/11 (CCH). One **Pine Siskin** was observed at the same feeders 5/3 (CCH). Another was at a feeder near AV 4/11 (BZ).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Rd., Lock Haven, PA, 17745-8153, (570) 748-7511, wnlubscher@comcast.net**, Carol and Charles Hildebrand, Dave Rockey, Beth Zbegner.

### Columbia County

No compiler.

### Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Crawford County Refuge (CRCO), Custards (CUS), Ernst Bike Trail (EBT), Erie National Wildlife Area (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva Marsh (GM), Hartstown Marsh (HM), McMichael Road (McM), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Shellito's Pond (SP), Springboro (SPR), Sugar Lake (SL), Tamarack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

Seventy-five **Snow Geese** were counted at PGMA 3/17 (RS). Top count for **Tundra Swan** was 278 at WL 3/17 (RFL). One bird remained at TL into Jun. Best counts for ducks were 50 **Common Merganser** at WL 3/17 (RFL), 112 **Red-breasted Merganser** at CL and PYM 4/6 (RFL, IF), 630 **Hooded Merganser** 3/23 (RFL), 146 **Gadwall** at CM, HM and PYM 3/30 (RFL, IF), 159 **American Wigeon** 3/30 at CM and PYM (RFL, IF), 200 **Northern Pintail** at PYM 3/9 (RFL, IF), 1149 **Redhead** at CL and PYM 3/23 (RFL), 52 **Canvasback** at PC 3/8 (RFL), 130 **Greater Scaup** at CUS (RFL, IF), 2450 **Lesser Scaup** at CL and PYM 4/14 (RFL, IF), 1746 **Ring-necked Duck** at CM, PYM and CL 3/30 (RFL, IF), 1921 **Bufflehead** at CM, PYM and CL 4/14 (RFL, IF), 9 **Long-tailed Duck** at PC 3/23 (SC), 4680 **Ruddy Duck** at CL and PYM 4/14 (RFL, IF). A **Surf Scoter** was at the FH by the front gate 5/13 (SS) and remained 5/19.

Sightings of **Ruffed Grouse** were better than usual with a pair seen at EBT 4/5 (IF), one near SL 4/14 (RE), one drumming in Meadville 4/21 (RFL, IF), and one noted on Carmon Road se. of CL 5/27 (RFL). **Common Loon** were seen 3/14-5/27 mostly at CL and PYM; the top count was 22 at SL 4/11 (RE). **Horned Grebes** were noted in good numbers 3/3-5/27 at area lakes with 41 total birds in Crawford 4/14 (RFL, IF, m.ob.). An **American Bittern** was located at ENWR 4/21 at close range near the main entrance ponds (RFL, IF). A pair of **Great Egret** were seen at TL 4/6 (SC) and 3 were found in PA 5/11 (m.ob.). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was studied at FI along the front of the Wildlife Museum 5/19 (RFL, BG, JG, RCL).

**Northern Harrier** were in good numbers with 5 at PA 3/3 (SC), one at SL 4/5 (RE), one in the TL area 4/16 (RE), and single birds seen at PYM, ENWR, and CL (m.ob.). A **Northern Goshawk** was seen near WL 3/24 (RFL) and perhaps the same bird in West Mead Township 3/26 (IF). Lone **Broad-winged Hawk** were noted 4/15 at Meadville (IF) also at ENWR 4/21, EBT 5/3, County Line Road 5/25 (RFL, IF), and one 5/3 at PA (LM). Seven **Rough-legged Hawks** at PGMA (MV) was the top total and also last date recorded. One adult **Golden Eagle** was at PGMA 4/20 (RFL), 2 were at McM 4/15 (SR, IF), and one was near French Creek in Meadville 5/1 (IF). **Bald Eagle** top counts were 12 on 3/8 (SD) and 3/30 (RFL, IF). A **Peregrine Falcon** was found near Westford, South of Espyville 3/10 (RFL), one was at CUS 4/9 (SR, IF) and one at the PGMA 5/4 (RFL, IF).

**Sandhill Cranes** were reported on 22 days this season with 8 at PA 3/30 the top number (SC). They were also noted at CM and ENWR this period (m.ob.). Higher water levels at CM seemed to bring rails close up to



roads this spring. There were 10 different reports of **Virginia Rail** from CM (m.ob.). One or 2 **Soras** were found 4/13-5/28 at HM and CM (m.ob.). One to 2 **Common Gallinules** were at CM 4/6-5/19 (SC, RFL, IF, RCL, BG, JG).

A pair of **Black-bellied Plovers** were located at PGMA 4/26 (MV). Seven **Black-bellied Plovers** were noted 5/27 at TL (RFL). Up to 3 **Upland Sandpipers** were at PGMA 5/1-12 at PGMA (m.ob.). **Greater Yellowlegs** were well represented starting with 2 at PGMA 3/20, 156 there 4/21 (RFL, IF), and last at the PGMA 5/4 (RFL, IF). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were recorded on 18 dates in Apr and May. Best count was 95 at PGMA 4/21 (RFL, IF). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were near SPR 3/19 (TCN). Some 14 **Least Sandpipers** were located at TL 5/25 and 4 were at PGMA 5/28 (RFL, IF). Ten **Dunlin** were seen at PGMA 5/25 (RFL, IF). Two **Sanderlings** were at PGMA 4/20 (RFL). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was seen at PGMA 4/20 (SC). **Wilson's Snipe** put on a better than usual show with 30 at CM 3/24 (SC) and 1 – 22 at several locations 3/17-4/23 (MV, RE, SS, SR, IF, MJ). **American Woodcock** reports included 5 at WL 3/30 (SC), 4 in SPR 4/21 (TCN), and 2 at ENWR 4/21 (RE).

Numbers of gulls seemed down this spring and no rarities were reported. A **Common Tern** was noted at TL 5/25 (IF, RFL). One **Black Tern** was seen 5/11 at FH (TCN) and a pair was at PYM (RE). One was at FH 5/12 (TCN). A pair of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were found 5/11 at CM (SC, RH), one was at ENWR 5/18 (RFL, RCL) and one at Geneva 5/26 (TCN). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at CM on Towpath Road 5/19 (RFL, RCL) and one was at ENWR 5/26 (TCN). A **Long-eared Owl** was near Stainbrook Park, WL 5/25 (RFL). Two **Barred Owl** were calling at Towpath Road, CM 3/30 (RFL, IF). Two were calling at Saeger Hill (Meadville) 4/24 (RFL, IF) and one was at ENWR 5/4 (SC). One **Eastern Screech-Owl** was along Porter Road, CL 3/17 (RFL). A **Common Nighthawk** was recorded 5/22 over Meadville (RFL) and 3 were near SL 5/29 (RE). Three **Red-headed Woodpecker** were seen at McM (RFL) and one to 2 were found there 4/16-5/26. (SC, IF, TCN, SR).

All the common flycatchers were noted in good numbers, and better than last spring. A pair of **Common Ravens** was seen and heard over near TL (RCL) 5/20. A **Northern Shrike** was seen near CUS 3/23 (RFL). The first **Red-eyed Vireo** was one bird near SL 5/7 (RE). All the other vireos were in normal numbers and arrival times (m.ob.). Three **Purple Martin** were first noted at CUS 4/11 (SR, IF). Some 575 **Cliff Swallow** were present at PS 4/14 (RFL, IF). **Barn Swallow** were first seen 4/6 with 5 at PC (RFL, IF). Twenty **Tree Swallows** were first seen 3/12 (RFL). About 500 **Bank Swallows** were first noted at PS 4/14 (RFL, IF). Lone **Marsh Wrens** were at McM 5/18 (RFL, RCL) and 5/25 (RFL, IF) and one was at Towpath Road, CM 5/26 (TCN). One **Winter Wren** was at SL 4/15 (RE), and one on the EBT in Meadville 4/17 (IF). Both **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were recorded but in small numbers. Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were noted first 4/15 at Geneva and 4 were noted at CM 4/27 (RFL, IF). The first returning **Wood Thrush** were found 4/30 on the EBT (IF) and a **Veery** was first seen northeast of Meadville 4/28 (IF). Lone **Swainson's Thrushes** were seen 5/12 (SC) and 5/25 at Towpath Road (RFL, IF). The first returning **Hermit Thrush** was noted at Wayland, northeast of Meadville 4/8 (RFL). A **Northern Mockingbird** was seen at the Meadville Public Library 4/16 (IF) and one was at Teakettle Road, PGMA 5/19 (RFL, ECL, BG, JG). The first reported **Gray Catbird** was seen at HM 4/23 (SR, IF). An amazing 200 **American Pipits** were seen at Wilson Road, PGMA 4/27 (RFL, IF). Four **Snow Buntings** remained at PC 3/8 and 6 were there 3/10 (RFL) to 3/23 (JB, IF).

One to 2 **Prothonotary Warblers** were found at McM 5/1-26 (m.ob.). The first **Blue-winged Warbler** was noted at McM 4/27 (SC). The first **Yellow Warbler** was found at SPR 4/21 (TCN). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were recorded 5/1 on McM (SC). They were also found near Cochranon (RE), Towpath (SC) and Geneva (m.ob.). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen near Rundeltown 4/19 (AT). **Pine Warblers** were recorded 4/14-5/4.

A **Vesper Sparrow** was recorded 3/30 on Porter Road (RFL), and 3 were recorded PGMA 4/14 (SC). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were located at CM 4/30 (SC). **Fox Sparrows** were first noted 3/13, followed by one at SPR (TCN). Single **Indigo Buntings** were noted 5/11 (RFL) and Towpath 5/25 (RFL, IF). The first **Scarlet Tanager** was seen at Towpath Road 5/1 (SC).

An **Orchard Oriole** was present at ENWR 5/4 (SC), followed by one at HM 5/15 (RFL), one at SP 5/15 (TCN), and one at WL 5/25 (RFL). The top count of **Rusty Blackbird** was 40 at CUS (RFL) 4/8.

On 3/10 there were 4 **Red Crossbills** in a pine tree near SM (RFL). Six **White-winged Crossbill** were found at TL 4/8 (SR, IF). Ten **Common Redpolls** were found east of Westford 3/23 (RFL), 13 near SL 3/25 (RE), and 3 at SPR 3/29 (TCN). Single **Pine Siskin** were noted at SPR 5/1 and 5/11 (TCN).

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### Cumberland County

Locations: Mountain Road Marsh (MRM), Michaux State Forest (MSF), Mud Level Road (MLR), Opossum Lake (OL), Pine Grove Furnace State Park (PGFSP), Propagation Ponds (PP), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF).

Waterfowl of note included 200 **Snow Geese** at the SGL 169 PP 3/17 (AM) and 12 at Wiltinger Preserve Boiling Springs 4/9 (PB). There were numerous sightings of up to 3 **Tundra Swans** but only a few of 10 or more as follows: 18 at Zion Road, Mount Holly 3/2 (VG), 21 at OL 3/16 (AM), and 10 at the SGL 169 PP 3/17 (AM). Two **Northern Shovelers** were at the SGL 169 PP 3/17 and one was at the same location 3/29. The only 2 **Redheads** of the period were at the Locust Point Road ponds 3/23 (VG, PB). One **Greater Scaup** was found at Brackbill Road Pond, Mechanicsburg 3/2 (PB) and one was on OL 5/18-25 (VG, AM, PB, NLF). One **Lesser Scaup** was seen on OL 3/2 (AM), and 11 more were at MLR 3/25 (AM). One male **Long-tailed Duck** paid a visit to SGL 169 MRM 3/29-30 (AM, PB, VG, RTSG). One **Bufflehead** was reported from Kuhn Lake 3/22 (VG), one at OL 4/16 (RF), and 5 at the Zion Road Pond, Mount Holly 4/17 (PB). One **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen at OL 3/16 (AM), another at the SGL 169 PP 3/17 (AM), along with one at Burgner's Mill Road Conodoguinet Creek 3/18 (VG), and still one other at Hidden Pond Huntsdale 4/3-4/6 (DS, RK). There were ten reports of one or 2 **Ruddy Ducks** throughout the period.

In May 4 **Common Loons** at the pond at Colonel Denning S.P. and the Camp Yoliwja Pond (VG, m.ob.), and one to 5 at OL (NLF, AM, DS). There were several reports of **Pied-billed Grebe**, notably including the individual present on the Big Spring since 11/12. One **Horned Grebe** was found at each of Colonel Denning S.P., OL, SGL 169 PP and MRM, Huntsdale Hidden pond 3/26-3/29 (VG, AM, PB, MW), and 4 were at PGFSP 4/7 (RTSG). As usual **Ruffed Grouse** were reported in the TSF on the North Mountain at Meadows Road and Elk Hill Road. There was an unusual report of 2 at SGL 169 MRM 5/19 (DM) but they may have been released. One **American Bittern** was reported on Rte. 233 north of Newville 5/2 flying out of a wet field with scattered areas of cattails (VG). One was also reported at SGL 169 MRM 3/6-17 (AM, PB). A **Least Bittern** was at SGL 169 MRM 5/11 (AM, DS). Seven **Virginia Rails** were on the Big Spring 4/12 and another 2 were there 5/3 (AM). Two were reported on Creekview Road in the marshy area near Kuhn Pond 4/14 (VG). One was also reported at SGL 169 MRM 4/21 (MW), and 3 from flight calls at Hill Top Road north of Newburg 5/11 (AM, DS).

The only raptors of note were two **Golden Eagles** at SGL 169 3/9 (AM) and one **Merlin** at the Green Spring Fish Hatchery 4/12 (VG). One **Sora** was heard at Mount Holly Marsh Preserve 4/10 (PB), one or 2 at SGL 169 MRM 4/21-5/17 (AM, DS, VG, MW), and 3 on the Big Spring 5/3 (AM). The only **Common Gallinule** was one at SGL 169, Cabin Road 5/11-13 (AM, DS, VG). There were a several reports of up to 5 **American Coots** primarily from SGL 169, OL, Huntsdale and Mount Holly. It was a poor season for shorebirds and nothing notable was found. Two **Black Terns** were reported from OL 5/11 (DG). One **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was north of Newville near the intersection of Mountain and Meadows Road 4/20 (AnM, SS, KK, JR). Two **Common Nighthawks** were found at the TSF, Meadows Road 5/17 (VG, AM). The only reports of **Eastern Whip-poor-will** were also from Meadows Road where 2-5 were reported in the month of May (VG, AM, PB). The only places left to find Whip-poor-wills in *Cumberland* are on the north and south ridges.

There was on **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at TSF, Meadows Road 5/17 (VG, AM). One **Bank Swallow** was at a Newburg home 4/21 (AM) and one was at SGL 169 MRM 5/15 (AM), and the only report of **Cliff Swallow** was 6 in Mechanicsburg 5/5 (CR). The only report of **Lapland Longspur** was an astounding count of 13 on MLR 3/25 (AM). The only **Snow Buntings** for the period (2) were also at MLR 3/25 (AM).

Two **Mourning Warblers** were at SGL 230 on 5/11 (RK), and another was at PGFSP 5/12 (GK). **Wilson's Warblers** were one at SGL 169 Cabin Road 5/11 (BF, LF), one at SGL 230 5/11 (RK), one at OL 5/18 (NLF), and one at the West Fairview Trail 5/19 (RK). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was at SGL 169 Bridgewater Road 5/10 (VG, AM). There were two reports of single **Brewster's Warblers** 5/11 at SGL 169 (SS, AnM, KK) and SGL 230 (RK). No Golden-winged Warblers were reported at Meadows Road or any other location in *Cumberland*. It also seemed there were fewer **Blue-winged Warblers** and **Yellow-breasted Chat** at the Meadows Road location than in the past few years. Maturing trees may be pushing these species out.

One **Dickcissel** was on Hunters Rd. 5/19 (DM) and 100 **Rusty Blackbird** were at Big Spring 3/2 (VG, PB). There were several reports in the first week of May of up to 100 **Red Crossbills** in the Camp Michaux PGFSP area. Nine **White-winged Crossbills** were at OL 3/1 (AM) followed by reports the first half of May of up to 12 in the Camp Michaux PGFSP area; there were 35 individuals at Shed Road north of Newville 5/11 (AnM, SS). Two **Evening Grosbeaks** were at SGL 169 5/4 (AM).

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### Dauphin County

Locations: Blue Mountain (BMT), Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (FIG) Harrisburg (HGB), Hershey (HER), Haldeman Island (HI), Hershey Important Bird Area #45 (HIBA), Highspire Reservoir (HR), Hummelstown (HUM), Milton S. Hershey School campus (MSH), Peter's Mountain (Pmt), Stony Creek Valley (SCV), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR at Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR from Harrisburg (SRHB), from Marysville (SRMV), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Three Mile Island (TMI), Wildwood Lake (WL).

The largest flight of **Snow Geese** of the season was reported 3/6 when about 5500 flew over SHT (JG). A lone **Snow Goose** was at SRWF 3/23-30 (m.ob.). A much smaller flight of 120 headed north over SHT 3/30 (PW & RW) and a single was observed in the HIBA 3/31 (JL, AL). A **Cackling Goose** was at SRFH 3/30 (R&DH, RK). **Tundra Swan** was along the SR throughout the month of March especially from SRWF where the highest count of 84 was made 3/16 (RK, AMk). There were also reports from the HER-HUM area including 35 over Canal Rd. in SHT 3/2 (PW, RW) and 12 at the MSH campus 3/18 (NM). The first report of **Blue-winged Teal** was one on HI 3/16 (MB, MD, SB, et al.). From late Mar to mid-May, **Blue-winged Teal** was reported regularly from both WL and SRWF (m.ob.), with the last report of 2 at WL 5/21 (EBt). **Northern Pintail** was among the species that were common on the SR throughout Mar with many reports from both SRMV and SRWF. Most notable was the high count of 100 along North Front St. HBG 3/9 (AMa); they also continued at WL through mid-Apr (m.ob.). After a good winter for **Redheads** their numbers peaked again in mid-March with 163 at SRWF 3/16 (RK, AMk) and 198 on 3/23 (PB, VG, RK, MM). These were new high-count records for *Dauphin*. **Redhead** continued through 4/12 when the last report of six birds was made from SRWF (AL, JL). The only **Canvasback** was a single drake at SRWF 3/22 (EBt). **Long-tailed Duck** was reported 3/16-18 from SRWF to SRMV with a high count of 21 on 3/16 from SRWF (RK). Reports continued from SRWF to 4/1 when one was observed (JDR, DM). A single female **Surf Scoter** was at SRHB 3/31 (RK). One **White-winged Scoter** was found at SRFH 3/9 (RK) and 5 were at this location 4/17 (CB). Also on 4/17, one male **Surf Scoter** and one female **White-winged Scoter** were observed SRHB (EBt). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were regular from mid-Mar through Apr (m. ob.) with a high count of 18 from SRFH 3/26 (JB). There were only a few reports of **Ruddy Duck** on the SR. The two highest counts were 18 at SRHB 4/17 (EB) and 20 at SRWF 5/11 (AMk, DS).

A **Red-throated Loon** was observed at SRFH 3/30 (MT, RK, et al.) and was still present 4/6 (D&GG, et al.). Another **Red-throated Loon** was at this location 4/17 (CB). **Common Loon** was still being reported SRWF on 6/1 (NZ). A **Red-necked Grebe** was the highlight of the Ned Smith Waterfowl Watch at Millersburg 3/10 (SB, HW). A month later, 3 were observed at SRFH 4/12 (RK). A **Ruffed Grouse** with at least 8 chicks and a **Wild Turkey** with about 7 chicks were on a PMt trail 5/25 (AMa, KKu).

A **Great Blue Heron** nesting colony along Canal Rd. in SHT continued to grow through early spring. At least 12 active nests were observed in early April at one site and four at another site a few hundred yards down the Swatara Creek. By late May young were observed in many of the nests and a high count of 29 (adults and nestlings) was tallied 5/29 (PW, RW). The first report of **Great Egret** came was 3/15 at WL; this has been a consistent return date for this species at WL for the past decade (SL). The first **Black-crowned Night-Heron** of the season was noted 3/30 at SRWF (AL, IG) and the first **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were observed at various locations within their mid-town HBG nesting colony 4/12 (TJ, RK, RW). The annual PGC Wade Island Nest Survey was conducted 5/2. The number of **Great Egret** nests remained a rather consistent 181 which is above the 10 year average of 164. The number of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** nests continued their gradual decline with only 48 this year. This is below the 10

year average of 84 and the second lowest count since the survey began in 1985. The highest count was in 1990 when 345 Black-crowned nest were tallied. There was a slight decline in the number of **Double-crested Cormorant** nests to 162. This was the first year that showed a decline in the number of nests since the first one was documented in 1996. As always, thanks to DB for supplying the survey results. The PGC also conducted a count of the number of **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** nest sites in mid-town HBG. On the date the survey was taken there were five active nest sites, with each sycamore having 2 to 4 nests (JK). On 6/2 an informal survey was taken and a total of 27 birds, including adults and nestlings, were counted on 12 active nests. Again, all nests were in sycamore trees with two or more nests in each tree (TJ).

Unfortunately a new **Osprey** nest first reported 5/1 on a power post in a Steelton rail yard along Rt. 230 was unsuccessful (KKg, et al.). On a more positive note there are now two **Osprey** nests on TMI. The original pair has been nesting on the meteorological tower on the north end of the station for a few years. A second pair built a nest on a platform on the south end of the island, which was erected in the late 1980s in an attempt to provide a nest site for Osprey but had attracted no attention until this spring (MS). *Dauphin* lacks an official "hawk watch" so it is noteworthy when high raptor counts occur. On 4/19, viewed from SRMV, 17 **Osprey** and 561 **Broad-winged Hawks** were counted from 09:30 to 11:00 crossing the SR and following the ridge line (DS). A **Sora** was reported at WL 4/27 and a **Virginia Rail** observed there 5/22 (EBb).

A **Black-bellied Plover** called several times as it headed north over the Deer Valley Golf Club the night of 5/27 (TJ). **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Least** and **Solitary Sandpipers**, and **Wilson's Snipe** were all reported at WL during April and May (m.ob.). One **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at HIBA 4/1 (PW, RW). **American Woodcock** began displaying in the fields near the location of the former Giant grocery store along Linglestown Rd. the second week of March (SL).

A **Black-headed Gull** was found among the hundreds of **Ring-billed Gulls** at SRMV 3/16 (RK, AMk). Sightings continued to 3/21 (m. ob.). The first **Little Gull** of the season was reported 3/12 at SRMV (DM). Since 1994 **Little Gull** has been observed along the SR from HBG to Marysville nearly every year from mid-Mar through mid-Apr. Another **Little Gull** or two were at the Tri-County Boat Club just north of TMI 3/29 (GD), and one was sighted from SRHB 4/8 (TJ). Two **Caspian Terns** were at SRHB 4/8 (TJ) and another was at WL 4/17 (LU). **Forster's Terns** were observed SRWF from 4/12-5/12 with a high count of 7 on 4/12 (m. ob.). Two **Black Terns** were noted during the PAMC 5/11 on the SR near Middletown (PF).

There were three active **Barn Owl** nesting sites on the MSH campus (NM). A property owner on Mohawk Lane in Londonderry Twp. reported a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** roosting in one of their pine trees for part of the winter and early spring (SS). This report was confirmed 4/9 (SL). As expected, **Common Nighthawks** were over HBG and Susquehanna Twp. 5/4-21 (EBt, EC). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was photographed in HUM near the Swatara Creek 4/19 (PF). Other **Red-headed Woodpeckers** included one along Rakers Mill Rd. between Elizabethville and Lykens 5/13 (CB) and a single adult at Lake Tobias Park, Halifax 5/26, a fairly reliable spot for this species (CKa). The Harrisburg **Peregrine Falcon** pair had a busy season. Four eggs were laid from 3/13-20. The first egg hatched 4/20 and the full brood of four by 4/23. The banding of the three females and one male took place 5/21 and the first to fledge was the male 5/31. By 6/3 all four had fledged although there were a few minor mis-flights and some rescue and rehabilitation was needed. Thanks to SH for frequent updates. The Clarks Ferry Bridge pair raised three young, one male and two females, banded 5/13 (SL). The young birds fledged the last week of May however it is uncertain whether all three were successful. The two adults and one fledgling were observed 5/26 (EC). The TMI site also had three young that were expected to fledge in early June (MS). Reports of **Merlin** included one in Susquehanna Twp. 4/22 (EBt) and one at SRWF 5/11 (AMk, DS).

A single **Purple Martin** was reported in Susquehanna Twp. 4/27 (EBt) and eight were observed along the Wormleysburg waterfront 5/11 (NZ), noteworthy since **Purple Martins** are normally only seen in the county during migration. The last confirmed nesting was in the early 1990s. A **Marsh Wren** was among the species reported at WL 5/22 (EBt). The only **American Pipit** was one along Henninger Rd. near Berrysburg 5/1 (CB). Three **Swainson's Thrush** were found at the Middletown boat launch park 5/8 (PW & RW). A **Bicknell's Thrush** was identified by three nocturnal flight calls heard over the Deer Valley Golf Club, along with four **Gray-cheeked** and 42 **Swainson's Thrushes** 5/27 (TJ).

Two **Brewster's Warblers** were observed along the log road on PMt 5/25 (AMa, KKu). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was photographed 4/9 at SRFH (TJ) and another was on the old State Hospital Grounds 4/9-10 and again 4/24 (DG). The Parkway West trail atop BMT continues to be a good spot for **Cerulean Warbler**; one was found 5/13 (P&RP) and another was there 5/23 (DM). **Cerulean Warbler** was also found atop PMt 5/20 (CB),



5/25 (AMa), and 5/29 (WC). A **Canada Warbler** paid a visit to the Oakmont community south of HUM 5/15 (CM). A **Tennessee Warbler** and a **Wilson's Warbler** were among the species found along the Greenbelt Trail in Paxtang 5/22 (DH).

The second week of Mar was the week for migrating **Fox Sparrow** at multiple locations (BH, RS, P&RW, et al.). **Fox Sparrow** was still being reported in early Apr when 4 were noted in Swatara Twp. (LU). An **Oregon Dark-eyed Junco** paid a brief visit to a HBG yard 4/10 (N&CJ).

**Blue Grosbeak** returned to FIG 5/20 where one singing male was observed (DM). The first report of **Bobolink** came from HER 5/9 where 4 were observed (CM). Later in the month two singing males were reported on fields along Shelahamer Rd. 5/27 (PW, RW) and three were along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA 5/29 (CKt). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported at HR 4/6 (SH) and four were present 4/13 (P&RW). Other sightings of **Rusty Blackbirds** were 3 at WL 3/11 (EBt), 6 on 4/17 (LU) and about 15 on 4/21 (BH). A single **Rusty Blackbird** was still present at HR 4/27 (LC). The first **Baltimore Oriole** of the season was early on 4/8 in Swatara Twp. (AMa).

Observations of **Purple Finch** increased in mid-Apr with one location in SHT reporting 32 on 4/28 (JG) and continuing into early May (m. ob.). On 3/5, three **White-winged Crossbills** were reported at Zoo American (TB) and on 3/17 one **White-winged Crossbill** and one **Pine Siskin** were reported at feeders in Susquehanna Twp. (EBt). A flock of about 20 **Common Redpolls** returned to feeders atop BMt 3/24 (M&RB). Although there were a few **Pine Siskins** reported in Mar and Apr, their numbers increased in early May with a high count of 46 in SHT 5-9 (PW & RW); six were still present there 5/18 (PW, RW).

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### Delaware County

Locations: Barrett's Meadow (BM), Bethel Springs E.S. Nature Trail (BS), Brandywine Conservancy-Chadds Ford (BC), Crum Reservoir (CR), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware River (DR), Earle's Lake (EL), Episcopal Academy (EP), Haverford College-Delco portion (HC), Hildacy Farm-NLT (HF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-DelCo portion (TI), International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), Swarthmore College (SC), Thornbury Trail (TT), Tyler Arboretum (TY).

It seemed like a long, cold, gray, and windy spring, although weather in May was better. Most birders thought migrants were delayed and some of the arrival dates support that notion. The most exciting event was the documentation of successfully nesting **Common Ravens** in the county's flatlands some 100 miles south and east of the ridges.

**Snow Geese** bypassed the county this year as the only report was of 55 at BS 3/20 (BQ). A total of 27 **Northern Pintail** were at BS 3/1 (BQ) was the only county report of this species. Rare in *Delaware* were 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at SR 3/20 (AG).

An occasional visitor, **Horned Grebes** were present, with one at SR 3/20 (AG), 2 at SR 4/3 (TB) and one at TI 4/20 (TB). Two **Great Egrets** at BC 3/19 (AG) were a few weeks early. Six **Snowy Egrets** flying upriver at DR-Marcus Hook 5/31 (AG) and 2 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at the same location 5/30 (AG) were uncommon for *Delaware*.

Once again 5 active **Osprey** nests were noted along the DR (AG, DE). An unexpected back yard surprise was an immature **Mississippi Kite** at Boothwyn 5/23 (BC). After some fear that the nest had been abandoned, an adult **Bald Eagle** was finally noted on nest at SR 3/15 (AG) and a nestling was seen to pop its head up 4/11 (DE, AG). For the fourth consecutive year **Red-shouldered Hawks** bred at HF 4/27 (*fide* DM).

Overhead **Sandhill Cranes** are irregularly reported in *Delaware* but one on the ground may have been a first for the county. A **Sandhill Crane** was photographed walking in a yard and driveway in the Glen Mills School

area 5/12 and was seen again flying low in the same area 5/15 (*fide* JP). After a nice run of successive years this was the second consecutive spring that **American Woodcocks** were not found at DT. However, they were found displaying at BM 3/7 (AG) and 3/11 (DE).

**Barred Owls** have been present at the same location on the Bridle Path at RCSP for four consecutive springs. To my knowledge no one has ever reported more than one individual at a time or any other sign of nesting, but it remains a good possibility. The cooler spring appeared to delay the arrival of the **Chimney Swifts**, at least relative to recent history. This year the **Chimney Swifts** did not arrive until the last week in Apr (m.ob.), more than a week later than the 4/15 arrival date last year. The same appeared true for hummingbirds. The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was in Swarthmore 4/25 (DE), an average arrival date, but that was the only report in Apr and regular sightings did not commence until 5/4 (m.ob.).

S.A.

In Apr 2012 there were a few sightings of a pair of **Common Ravens** at DT (AG et al). This was followed by reports in the fall that ravens had spent the summer in a working quarry in Glen Mills, a little over a mile from DT. On 3/7 local birders were escorted by a quarry worker to a nest in a structure inside the quarry (DE, AG, NP). Begging calls were heard coming from the structure 5/5 (DE). On 5/10 the quarry manager reported that the young had fledged. That day one fledgling was observed being fed (DE) and 3 fledglings were observed and one photographed being fed 5/11 (DE). The quarry worker reported that one bird had fledged 5/8 and the other two 5/9.

Eagerly sought after yet less than annual, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at RCSP 5/14 (TB). Locally rare **Alder Flycatchers** were reported from two locations: RCSP 5/16 (AG, DE) and EA 5/23 (WS). The RCSP location also sported a **Willow Flycatcher** at the same time, offering an opportunity to practice distinguishing the calls. Only one **Least Flycatcher** was found RCSP 5/11 (DE). This year **Cliff Swallows** were late returning to the stables where they nest at RCSP 5/15 (AG). This was two weeks later than the date they were first seen (4/30) last year. Presumably this also was due to the cool spring. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were common all winter and a few were reported well into May (m.ob.). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** stayed in a back yard in Concord Twp. 5/18-20 (BB) and one was observed at RCSP 5/17 (AG).

The warbler species count was 29, one short of the five-year high of 30. Highlights were **Tennessee Warbler** and **Nashville Warbler** at RCSP 5/17 (AG), **Cape May Warbler** at HC 5/18 (ebird), **Bay-breasted Warbler** at HC 5/14 (ebird), 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers** at RCSP 5/16 (AG, DE), and **Wilson's Warbler** at RCSP 5/10 (EW), 5/11 (DE), and 5/16 (AG, DE).

Presumably just stopping by were 30 **Bobolinks** at EA 5/11 (WS); this species is an increasingly unusual bird in the county, especially this many. In late April lingering **White-winged Crossbills** visited a pond at a home in Middletown. They were last observed 5/2 when one male and 3 females stopped by for a drink of water (AG).

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### Elk County

No compiler.

### Erie County

Winter persisted into March and even well into April, so waterfowl lingered through the period with several divers remaining into the summer season. Two **Piping Plovers** were well documented from Gull Point on Presque Isle S.P., one a banded bird from Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan and the other not banded. An unprecedented number of **Little Gulls** were among the thousands of **Bonaparte's Gulls** that peaked during the last half of March. A record one day count of 12 species of gulls also occurred during this influx of gulls. Winter finches remained through the spring season including very late **White-winged Crossbills** and large numbers of **Pine Siskins**, where they were especially evident passing the Presque Isle Hawk Watch. The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park (PISP) unless noted otherwise.

**Snow Geese** have become regular in spring, but large flocks are still noteworthy; a flock 55 birds (47 white and 7 blues) was seen at the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 3/26 (JM). Unprecedented in spring, and at such a late date, were the 50 **Brant** that flew over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 5/19 (RD, JM, RSt). The unmarked **Trumpeter Swan** remained on and around PISP all season (JM, et al.). A nice adult male **Eurasian Wigeon** was at Horseshoe Pond 3/16-28 (F&CM, et al.). Up to 15 **Surf Scoters** remained on PISP to 5/25 (m.ob.). As many as five **White-winged Scoters** were still present on PISP to early May (m.ob.). The rarest of the three scoters, the **Black Scoter**, was still reported into mid-Apr with as many as three birds through the period (m.ob.). The 250+ **Long-tailed Ducks** 3/21 was a very high spring count (JM).

Rarely reported in spring was a **Red-throated Loon** off Beach 10 on 4/19 (JF) and another off Beach 10 on 4/26 (JM). Only two **Red-necked Grebes** were found, both in the bay 3/12 (JM) and 4/9 (MW). A molting **Eared Grebe** off Sunset Point 4/25 was a good find (MW). Nearly annual, but always quite rare, was a **Snowy Egret** with some **Great Egrets** in Thompson Bay 5/15 (DS). Strangely, the only **American Bittern** reported was one flushed on Gull Point Trail 5/15 (JM). Equally underreported this spring **Least Bittern**, with just 2 in Niagara Pond 5/27 (ST).

Now regular in the county, but still noteworthy enough to report, was a **Black Vulture** over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 4/14 (JM, RD), and two at Siegel Marsh 5/15 (MW) provided the first record well away from the lake. The only **Golden Eagle** was one adult over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 4/13 (RD, JM).

The season total of 22 **Sandhill Cranes** was a bit lower than recent years. Singles and small groups were reported 3/16-5/19, mostly near the Lake Erie shore (m.ob.). The **American Golden Plover** that flew past Gull Point 5/8 was only the fourth *Erie* record for spring (DM). The charismatic **Piping Plover** was reported again this year with a leg banded bird from Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan 5/14-15 (JF) and an un-banded bird 5/30 (RD). The highly distinctive **American Avocet** was spotted along Sunset Point, then later off Beach 11 on 5/1 (MB). A record early **Spotted Sandpiper** was found at PISP 4/7 (AL). Six **Whimbrel** flew past Gull Point 5/23 (SS) and two more landed at Gull Point the next day (SS, et al.). It was a good year for **White-rumped Sandpipers** with at least a total of 15 birds reported 5/18-29 (MW, JM).

A **Laughing Gull** was picked out of a mixed flock of gulls at Gull Point 5/29 (DM, RD, JM). During a record breaking day of gull species, a **Franklin's Gull** was snagged out of a large flock of **Bonaparte's Gulls** 3/24 (BC et al.). It was seen again 3/25. It was hard to say for sure how many **Little Gulls** were really around PISP during the latter half of March, but as many as 35 birds were seen daily 3/16-4/7 (m.ob.) and at least 52 were counted 3/27 (TJ, CD). Among the **Bonaparte's Gulls**, that at one time numbered to as many as 50,000 birds 3/21 (JM), were at least two **Black-headed Gulls** from 3/16-26 (MW, DM, JM), providing the first *Erie* record for Mar. There was an apparent adult **Great Black-backed Gull x Herring Gull** in Presque Isle Bay 3/25 (JM). It wasn't the best season for **Thayer's Gulls** with one or two from 3/16-26 (MW, GM, JM) and likely a different bird on 3/25 (MW). Up to four **Iceland Gulls** were reported from 3/16 to early Apr with an injured bird remaining to 5/25 (m.ob.). The season total of 25 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** through 5/7 was about the norm for spring time (m.ob.). **Glaucous Gulls** totaled about 15 for the season and were reported through 5/4 (JM). The first spring record of a first cycle **Black-legged Kittiwake** in *Erie* was among the 12 species recorded on that great gull day 3/24 (MW, GM). The adult **Least Tern** that buzzed by Gull Point 5/31 was the first sighting of this species in *Erie* since 1990 (DM).

Very rare and no longer annual, a **Barn Owl** was flushed from a pine east of B-trail 5/12 (RD). A total of five **Long-eared Owls** were located in the pines 3/25-4/30 (RD). A high flying **Short-eared Owl** passed over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 4/7 (MW) and another was flushed along the beach just west of Sunset Beach 4/16 (JF). Only one **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found in the pines this spring, east of B-trail 3/31. An apparent injured **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found in *Erie* 4/18 (*vide* SSM).

Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were reported from PISP 5/23: one on Pine Tree Trail (DM) and one on Long Pond Trail (MF). The county's first **Say's Phoebe** was well studied and photographed along Thompson Bay from 4/14-17 and again on 4/20 along Sidewalk Trail (DM, et al.). Two **Eastern Kingbirds** 4/18 were very early at Thompson Bay (MV). The **Northern Shrike** from the winter season at the Fairview Industrial Park remained to at least 3/7 (DM) and another made a one-day appearance in Franklin Center 3/19 (JD).

A **Brewster's Warbler** was a good find on Sidewalk Trail 5/12 (SC). One to three **Golden-winged Warblers** were at various sites on PISP 5/9-10 (JM, KA, RSt). It was a good year for **Yellow-throated Warblers**. They are not annual, so four different birds at various places on PISP from 4/25-5/18 was quite noteworthy (m.ob.). The **Prairie Warbler** singing at *Erie* Bluffs S.P. 5/31 was the only one reported this spring (JM). At least four

**Worm-eating Warblers** were found on PISP from 5/3-24 (MF, GM, JM, MP). The 5/24 bird was captured and banded. A **Kentucky Warbler** demonstrated unusual behavior when it fed out in the open along a sandy ridge off the Beach 10 parking lot. It was very tame and allowed itself to be closely approached and well photographed by many 4/25-5/1 (MPI). It also represented a record early date for *Erie*. Singing **Connecticut Warblers** were located with one near the park rangers station 5/25 (RSt) and another on Gull Point Trail 5/28 (JM).

A male **Summer Tanager** made a brief visit at a feeder in North East 4/25 (TL). Two male **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were photographed at a feeder in Lake City 4/14 (EG). An early **Baltimore Oriole** was photographed in Harborcreek 4/19 (*vide* KA).

A male **Red Crossbill** visited a feeder in *Erie* 5/15-17 (NA). Not surprising were the number of **White-winged Crossbills** that made brief appearances in the county. There were 7 flying over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch (JM, MW) 3/31, 4 in the pines at the Beach 11 parking lot 4/24 (JM, RD), and 2-3 along B-trail 5/4 (ph. GM); these last birds provided the second May record for *Erie*. Small flocks of **Common Redpolls** continued through the period to at least 4/5 (m.ob.). A **Hoary Redpoll** was at Pine Tree Trail 3/2 feeding on the ground with **Common Redpolls** (JM, EK).

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### Fayette County

Location: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL).

There were two days at GRL this spring with good numbers of waterfowl, loons and grebes. Summaries for each day follow. On 3/25 the following were observed: 11 **American Wigeon**, 2 **Green-winged Teal**, 2 **Redhead**, 33 **Ring-necked Duck**, 2 **Lesser Scaup**, 4 **Hooded Merganser**, 12 **Red-breasted Merganser**, 2 **Common Loon** and 3 **Horned Grebe** (MF). Waterbirds reported 3/28 included: 8 **American Wigeon**, 7 **Redhead**, 114 **Ring-necked Duck**, 3 **Bufflehead**, 2 **Hooded Merganser**, 26 **Common Merganser**, 4 **Common Loon**, 2 **Pied-billed Grebe** and 2 **Horned Grebe** (TA). Other waterfowl highlights at GRL included 37 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 3/17-21 (TA) and a **Ruddy Duck** 5/7-11 (TA, LH).

Rare in the county, two **Black Vultures** were at SGL 51 on 4/18 (CD). Surprisingly, a nest containing two eggs was discovered and documented in that area this spring (TA, LH). It was the first breeding record for *Fayette*. A **Ruffed Grouse** was at SGL 51 on 5/1 (CD). An **Osprey** was at GRL 5/11 (TA, LH). Up to 6 **Broad-winged Hawks** were at SGL 51 in May (CD).

An early **Great Egret** was reported near Mount Pleasant 3/17 (EJR, eBird) and another was at GRL 4/12-13 (MF, TA). Another rarity in the county, an adult **Little Blue Heron** was at GRL during a stormy day 5/7 (TA, LH). I know of only one other county record. Single **Green Herons** were at GRL 5/11 (TA, LH) and SGL 51 on 5/17 (CD).

Another amazing find at GRL was a **Red Phalarope** 5/7 (TA, LH) that was photographed. The only other shorebird reports included **Killdeer** first found 4/1 at GRL (MF), and a **Solitary Sandpiper** and 7 **Spotted Sandpipers** there 5/7 (TA, LH). Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at GRL 4/1 (MF). A flock of 12 **Ring-billed Gulls** and 11 **Herring Gulls** were there 3/18 (MF). Two **Forster's Terns** were resting on the water at GRL 4/12 (MF). The storms 5/7 also downed 4 **Black Terns** at GRL (TA, LH); video was taken of the birds. A **Barred Owl** was found at SGL 51 on 5/17 (CD). Five **Black-billed Cuckoos** were at SGL 51 on 5/17 (CD).

Two **Philadelphia Vireos** were at Mill Run Reservoir 5/16 (TA, LH). Four **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at SGL 51 on 5/1 (CD). Three **Winter Wrens** were there 5/6 (CD). Reports of thrushes were all from SGL 51 and included a **Veery** 5/1 and 5/17, a **Swainson's Thrush** 5/1, 4 **Hermit Thrushes** 4/18, and 2 **Wood Thrushes** 5/1 and 15 on 5/17 (CD). A **Brown Thrasher** was at Ohiopyle State Park 4/27 (JH, MK). Two **American Pipits** were at GRL 3/25 (MF). A flock of 12 **Snow Buntings** and 100 **Horned Larks** were found near Mount Pleasant 3/21 (TA, LH). Both species are rarely reported here, but there aren't many observers searching farm fields.

The majority of the warbler reports came from SGL 51 on 5/1, 5/6, and 5/17. Highlights include 3 **Worm-eating Warblers**, 15 **Black-and-white Warblers**, single **Nashville Warblers**, 5 **Kentucky Warblers**, 3 **Cerulean Warblers**, 3 **Northern Parulas**, 5 **Magnolia Warblers**, 4 **Blackburnian Warblers**, 20 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, and a **Yellow-throated Warbler**



(CD). All are breeders with the exception of Nashville Warbler. Warblers at Ohiopyle State Park 4/27 included 2 **Louisiana Waterthrushes**, 3 **Black-and-white Warblers**, a **Nashville Warbler**, 3 **Hooded Warblers**, 2 **American Redstarts**, 3 **Northern Parulas**, 2 **Yellow Warblers**, 3 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, 4 **Yellow-throated Warblers** and 5 **Black-throated Green Warblers** (JH, MK). Two **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at GRL 5/11 (TA, LH).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found at Ohiopyle S.P. 5/27 (JK, EM). Three **Eastern Meadowlarks** were in the Ohiopyle area 4/27 (JH, MK), one was at SGL 5/1 on 5/1 (CD), and 4 were at GRL 5/11 (TA, LH).

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### Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Cook Forest (CF), Kellettsville (KE), Marienville (MA), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake (TL).

Highlights this season included nice varieties of migrating waterfowl and warblers and the **Evening Grosbeak** irruption continuing until May.

The first **Wood Ducks** were seen 3/23 at TI; the only **American Wigeon**, as well as three **Ring-necked Ducks**, were spotted at TI 3/25 (all FM). A **Greater Scaup** was found 5/11 at BS (JM). **Lesser Scaup** were observed from 3/23-30, with a high of 23 at TI. A single **Long-tailed Duck** was reported 3/30 at TI. Two **Bufflehead** were present 3/23 at TI, and 14 were seen 4/3 at Nebraska. **Hooded Mergansers** were noted the fourth week of Mar, with a high of 28 on 3/23, when 22 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were present as well, at TI (all FM, JM).

Although **Ruffed Grouse** are resident, they have not been often reported, but they were well-reported during this period, with 16 sightings from BS and different locations in the ANF (m.ob.). **Common Loons** were reported 3/23-5/19 (m.ob.). A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was noted 4/7 at TI (AL, CK, MD). **Horned Grebes** were present 3/23 at TI and 4/3 at Nebraska (FM, JM). Six **Double-crested Cormorants** were tallied 5/11 at Beaver Meadows (JM), and a single at BS 5/19 represented one of the latest records for *Forest* (ST).

The first **Turkey Vulture** was spotted 3/26 at MA (JB). **Ospreys** were noted from 4/19 throughout the period, primarily at BS, where 4 were observed 5/4 (m.ob.). A **Northern Goshawk** was found on a Three Rivers Bird Club outing at BS 5/19 (m.ob.). **Bald Eagles** were reported from various locations in *Forest* (m.ob.). The first **Red-shouldered Hawk** was spotted 3/10 near TI (FM, JM). Three **Broad-winged Hawks** 4/19 at BS were the first arrivals (DYII).

A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at BS 5/4 (MM). A single **Greater Yellowlegs** was at BS 5/4 (MM) and 5/11 (JM). A single **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at BS 4/19 (DYII) and 5/4 (MM). **American Woodcock** were reported from various locations; the first was 5/4 at BS (MM). A **Bonaparte's Gull** and two **Caspian Terns** were nice finds 4/19 at BS (DYII). Caspian Terns have not been reported in the county since 2004.

There were several records of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**; the first was 5/17 at the ANF, where the only **Black-billed Cuckoo** was observed 5/18 (IG). **Barred Owls**, not often reported here, were present at two locations (IG, FM, JM). The first **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at BS 4/19 (DYII); a high of nine was tallied 5/17 at the ANF (IG).

The first two **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were observed 5/17 at the ANF (IG); first **Acadian Flycatcher** 5/4 at Muzette (FM, JM). The only **Willow Flycatcher** was at BS 5/19 (m.ob.). There were many reports of **Blue-headed Vireo**, the earliest 4/19 when 8 were at BS (DYII). **Warbling Vireos** were found 4/30 at KE and 5/4 at TI (FM, JM). The first **Red-eyed Vireo** was heard 5/11 at TI (JM). **Common Ravens** were noted at various locations throughout the reporting period (m.ob.). Six **Tree Swallows** were first seen 3/19 at TI (FM). The only **Bank Swallow** was 5/4 along Tionesta Creek (FM, JM). Three **Cliff Swallows** were at KE 4/30 (FM, JM). There were eleven sightings of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** throughout the period, and several reports of **Brown Creeper** (m.ob.). The first **House Wren** was noted 5/11 at TL (FM, JM). The first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at TL 4/27 (FM, JM). The last **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at the ANF 5/18 (IG). The only **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at BS 5/19 (m.ob.). **Veery** was first found on the PAMC 5/11, when four were near TI (JM). The first **Hermit Thrush** was reported 4/11 at the ANF (FM), and the first **Wood Thrush** 4/30 at Tionesta Creek (FM, JM). Earliest report for **Gray Catbird** was 5/11 at TL (JM); the first **Brown Thrasher** was present 4/23 near TI (FM).

First **Ovenbirds** were at the ANF near TI 5/2 (FM). **Louisiana**

**Waterthrush** was observed 5/12 at CF (PR) and 5/26 along Blue Jay Creek (IG). The only **Northern Waterthrush** was at the ANF near MA 5/17 (IG). The only report of **Blue-winged Warbler** was 5/11 near Neilltown (WD). There were several sightings of **Black-and-white Warbler**; the first was 4/19 at BS (DYII). A **Tennessee Warbler** was noted 5/19 at BS (m.ob.). There were many **Hooded Warbler** reports, the first 5/2 at the ANF (FM); a high count of seven was 5/12 at CF (PR). The first **American Redstart** was spotted 5/4 at Muzette (FM, JM), and 5 were tallied 5/19 at BS (m.ob.). **Cape May Warblers** were present 5/17 and 5/18 at different areas of the ANF; on 5/17 two **Cerulean Warblers** were also observed (all IG). **Northern Parulas** were first found 5/4 near TI (FM, JM). **Magnolia Warblers** were first spotted 5/4 at TL (FM, JM), while ten were tallied 5/19 at BS (m.ob.). Seldom seen migrating in *Forest*, a **Bay-breasted Warbler** was a nice find, also 5/19 at BS (m.ob.). There were many reports of **Blackburnian Warblers**, with a high of 15 at BS 5/19 (DY, DYII). There were multiple sightings of **Chestnut-sided Warbler** as well, with a high of 11 at the ANF 5/18 (IG). A single **Blackpoll Warbler** was at BS 5/19 (m.ob.). There were many reports of **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, with a high of 14 at the ANF 5/17 (IG). The only **Prairie Warbler** was near Redclyffe 5/11 (JM). Perhaps our most common warbler, the **Black-throated Green Warbler**, was reported many times, with a high of 20 at CF 5/12 (PR). **Canada Warblers** were found only 5/11 at BS (JM) and 5/23 at the ANF (IG).

The last **American Tree Sparrow** was at MA 4/19 (DY). **Fox Sparrows** were reported 3/13-4/12, with a high of 6 on 3/16, all at feeders near TI (FM). **White-throated Sparrows** were observed 3/2-5/17 (m.ob.). A high of 23 **Scarlet Tanagers** 5/17 at the ANF was impressive, as well as a high of 27 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** (IG). **Baltimore Orioles** were first noted 5/4 near TI.

**Purple Finches** were seen at various locations throughout the period, with a high of 8 at feeders near TI 4/21 (FM, JM). **Common Redpolls** were reported 3/2 at MA (GM), and up to 13 from 3/2-31 at TI (FM, JM). The only **Pine Siskin** was near TI 4/23 (FM). The **Evening Grosbeak** irruption that began last Nov, primarily at two sites in *Forest*, continued into May. The tally of 150 birds 3/2 at backyard feeders in MA represented the high count for the irruption (GM). The last birds were reported at this site 4/19 (DYII). At TI, the tally of 41 **Evening Grosbeaks** 3/2 represented the high count, and the birds continued, with counts varying from one to 17, until 5/11, when one remained to be tallied for the PAMC (FM, JM).

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### Franklin County

Locations: Chambersburg Area (CA), Edenville Area (EA), Greencastle Area (GA).

A **Trumpeter Swan** was present on Bender's Pond in the CA 3/13-22 (BO, DG, CG). There was a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Kriner Road 4/11-13 (DC, BO, DG). Other birds of interest at Bender's pond included 4 **Common Loons** 4/18, **Horned Grebe**, **Wood Duck**, 2 **Common Goldeneye**, and **Redhead** 3/16 (BO). Greencastle Reservoir had seven **Redhead** 3/2 and 5 **Canvasbacks** 3/25. A lone **Eurasian Wigeon** was reported 3/1-5 (CG) on a pond near St. Thomas.

An **American Bittern** was observed at Bender's Pond 4/14 (BO). There were three successful nests of **Bald Eagles** in the county, one near Fayetteville with one eaglet, one near Pleasant Hall with three eaglets, and one near Greencastle with three eaglets. There was one other nest site which was not successful this year. A **Clapper Rail** was found dead on the parking lot of a local business in Chambersburg 4/17 which was taken by the Pennsylvania Game Commission for preservation. Kriner Road holding pond was occupied by an **American Coot** for the entire report period.

Shorebirds at Greencastle Reservoir included a **Red Phalarope** 5/9, a **Black-bellied Plover** 5/20, a **Willet** 5/7, a **Sanderling** 5/22, a **White-rumped Sandpiper**, a **Dunlin** 4/1 and 2 **Black Terns** (CG, DG). A lone **Red-necked Phalarope** was observed on a retention pond in Chambersburg 5/8 (BO).

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** came to feeders near Shady Grove 5/4-9 (DG). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were regular visitors at the same feeders 3/17 and at another feeder near Caledonia. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported 3/1-5/12 (CG, DG, VB). Notable warblers included **Blue-winged**, **Golden-winged** and **Lawrence's** 5/5 (CG), **Hooded**, **Kentucky**,

**Cerulean**, and **Prairie Warbler** 5/5 (BK, VB). **Fox Sparrows** were present at feeders near Shady Grove 3/1-4/7 (DG) and in Caledonia 3/27 (VB). There were at least 30 **White-winged Crossbills** in the pines in Lincoln Cemetery, CA 3/15 (DC). **Pine Siskins** came to a feeder in the Caledonia area 3/1-5/31 (VB).

Observers: **Dale Gearhart, P.O. Box 155, Shady Grove, PA 17256, (717) 860-5799, dgearhart01@comcast.net**, Valerie Barnes, David Cooney, Carl Garner, Bob Keener, Bill Oyler.

#### **Fulton County**

No report.

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#### **Greene County**

Locations: East View (EV), Enlow Fork (EF), Franklin Twp. (FT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Ralph Bell Farm (RBF), Ryerson State Park (RSP), Sycamore (SY), Whiteley Twp. (WT).

A **Tundra Swan** was on Creek Road in Greene Twp. 4/13 (MH, KK). At Hunting Hills, 3 **Wood Duck** made their first appearance 3/2 (TD). **Gadwall** and **Blue-winged Teal** were found in Dunkard Twp. 4/27 (KK, MH). In Richhill Twp. an **American Black Duck** was found 3/26 (DH). On 3/11 an outing of Ralph K. Bell Bird Club found **American Wigeon**, 2 **Canvasback**, 3 **Ring-necked Duck** and 10 **Redhead** at Waynesburg Sportsman Club (m.ob). A **Northern Shoveler** was in WT 3/2 (TD) and a **Bufflehead** was in FT 3/16 (m.ob.). At Lake Wilma, 3 **Ring-necked Duck**, 8 **Hooded Merganser** and 5 **Common Merganser** were reported 3/10.

**Wild Turkey** was seen copulating in a backyard at LCR 4/3 (MLP). A **Common Loon** was at Lake Wilma 5/27 (LH). **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen at Rohanna's pond 4/9 (JH), and an **Eared Grebe** was found at Lake Wilma 4/13 (JC, KK, MH). A few new **Great Blue Heron** rookeries were located this spring, one along the creek in Gilmore Twp. with 3 nests (MH) and one in WT containing 8 nests (MH, JC). At the rookery in Center Twp. there were 30 nests and 32 birds 4/6 (MH). **Great Egret** was first reported 4/4 (JC); two were found at EF 4/10 (JC, MH) and one was reported on the PAMC 5/11. A **Black Vulture** was seen in EV feeding on a black snake 4/30 (JH, MH). Several **Turkey Vulture** were noted in RRVL 3/2 (MG).

Two **Ospreys** were in Jefferson Twp. 4/27 (KK, MH) and again at RSP 5/5 (m.ob.). At RSP a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted 5/5 (m.ob.). **Broad-winged Hawk** was first noted along I-79 on 4/22 (BB). A **Red-tailed Hawk** nest containing 2 young was found in the middle of a utility pole in Wayne Twp. 5/2 (JC, MH). **American Kestrels** were at RBF 3/29 (RKB).

**Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Solitary Sandpiper** were in Greene Twp. 4/27 (KK, MH), and **Wilson's Snipe** was in Monongahela Twp. on Creek Road 3/30 (MH).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was first heard at SY 5/1 (JC) and the first **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard on the PAMC 5/11. At LCR 4/23 an **Eastern Screech-Owl** was seen using a wood duck box (MLP). Two **Barred Owl** were heard and seen in Gray Twp. 4/29 (DC, JuC). **Chimney Swift** was first sighted 4/13 in Wayne Twp. (JC, MH, KK). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was 4/18 at EV (MH). **Belted Kingfisher** was found at SY 3/11 (JC) and on 4/14 a pair were seen at a nest hole in Richhill Twp. (MH, KK). **Red-headed Woodpecker** is rarely reported in Greene but several sightings were made this year: in Center Twp. 5/11 (WF), at a home in Waynesburg 5/13 (FS), and in Nineveh 5/21 (C&CA).

During a RKB Bird Club outing at RSP 5/5 the first **Eastern Wood-pewee** of the season was heard (m.ob). **Acadian Flycatcher** and **Willow Flycatcher** were first reported on the PAMC 5/11. **Great-crested Flycatcher** gave good looks to those attending the annual bird walk at RBF 5/18 (RKB). The first sighting of **Eastern Kingbird** was made 4/27 (KK, MH). In Wayne Twp. the first **White-eyed Vireo** was heard 4/26 (JC, MH) and **Yellow-throated Vireo** was heard 4/20 in Morgan Twp. (MH). On 4/23 a nest believed to be occupied by **Common Raven** was found in a two-sided building in Jefferson Twp. (RKB, MH, JW). **Purple Martin** was first sighted 3/12 on Chartiers Hill (JoP *vide* RKB). Both **Tree Swallow** (RKB) and **Barn Swallow** (CDB, LB) were at RBF 4/4. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was last reported at RBF 4/25 (RKB). At LCR 5/6, when a flower pot was moved a **Carolina Wren** flew out of a nest that contained 5 eggs (MLP). In Clarksville the first **House Wren** was noted 4/20 (JP). A **Winter Wren** was reported at Claylick 4/16 (LA). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was first sighted 4/13 (KK, MH). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was found 5/11 in FT (TD) and at EF 4 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were reported 4/21 (KSJ). Two **Hermit**

**Thrushes** were at Tintalge Farm 4/28 (AP). **Wood Thrush** and **Gray Catbird** were found in Cumberland Twp. 4/27 (MH, KK) and **Brown Thrasher** was first seen at EV 4/8 (JH). **Cedar Waxwing** was first reported at Claylick 4/16 (LA).

**Ovenbird** made their first appearance at LCR 4/26 (MLP). EF was the location for the first of the season **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, and **Cerulean Warbler** 4/28 (m.ob). The first reported **Louisiana Waterthrush** was heard in Jackson Twp. 4/9 (MH). WT was the location for the first **Blue-winged Warbler** and **Hooded Warbler** 4/27 (KK, MH), and for **Tennessee Warbler**, **Kentucky Warbler** and **Magnolia Warbler** 5/11 (AH). Jefferson Twp. had the first **Prairie Warbler** (KK, MH). **Common Yellowthroat** was heard 4/26 (JC, MH). **American Redstart** and **Northern Parula** first appeared at EF 4/21 (KSJ). **Yellow Warbler** was found at SY 4/12 (JC). **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and **Black-throated Blue Warbler** were found 5/11 at RSP (JM). The last **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was 4/28 at Tintalge Farm (AP). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found in Richhill Twp. 4/6 (MH) and in SY a **Pine Warbler** was seen visiting a feeder 3/31 (JC). **Blackpoll Warbler** was heard at RBF 5/18 (LG). In Jackson Twp. a **Black-throated Green Warbler** was heard 5/11 (MM). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was first heard on Whites Ridge in FT 5/2 (JC, MH).

**Field Sparrow** was first heard 4/8 (MH). **Fox Sparrow** was last reported at RBF 4/11 (RKB). **White-throated Sparrow** was last found 5/11 and **White-throated Sparrow** was last seen at RBF 5/13 (RKB). The last **Dark-eyed Junco** was reported at LCR 4/21 (MLP). **Scarlet Tanager** was found at EF 4/21 (KSJ) and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found at LCR 4/20 (MLP). FT was the site of the first **Indigo Bunting** 5/6 (TD). **Purple Finch** was last reported 4/17 at LCR (MLP). Morris Twp. was the last reported location of **Pine Siskin** 5/14 (C&CA).

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#### **Huntingdon County**

Locations: Aitch Access (AA), Alan Seeger Natural Area (AS), Brumbaugh's Access at L. Raystown (BA), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Ennisville (ENN), Entriken Overlook at Lake Raystown. (ENT), Greenwood Furnace SP (GF), Huntingdon (HU), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Lake Raystown (LR), Lower Trail at Alexandria (LT), Marklesburg waterfowl area (MAR), Masseyburg (MAS), McAlevys Fort (McF), Old Crow wetland (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd (PF), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Smithfield (SF), Stone Mt (SM), Stone Mt. hawk watch (SMHW), Stone Valley (SV), Summit Schoolhouse Road (SSR), Trough Creek Valley (TCV), Tussey Mt (TM), Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch (TMHW), Whipple Dam SP (WD).

A blue morph **Snow Goose** was at OC for over a week beginning 3/24 (GG); perhaps the same individual was observed at WD 4/9 (GG). Sixteen **Northern Pintail** visited LP 3/3 (GG). A count of 13 **Blue-winged Teal** was made at AA 3/31 (GG). Notable sightings at AA Lake Raystown 3/24 included 40 **American Wigeon**, 50 **Redhead**, 35 **Hooded Merganser**, and 60 **Red-breasted Merganser** (GG).

One **Red-throated Loon** appeared on JR near HU 4/14 (GG). **Great Egret** was reported at OC 3/31 (GG) and 4/27 (JD) and at Hutchinson Pond in Stone Valley 4/7 (JS). One **Black-crowned Night-Heron** flew over OC 5/11 (JD) and 3 were over Stone Valley 5/2 (JS, DW). An **American Bittern** was found at OC (JK). On 4/30 at least a dozen active nests were counted in the **Great Blue Heron** rookery that has existed for at least six years on Rt. 655 in Big Valley (GG). A calling **Least Bittern** and a **Sora** were found at OC 4/28 (GG), with further reports of **Sora** 4/29 (JK, AL) and 4/30 (JL).

**Rough-legged Hawk** was reported on SSR 3/26 (AL, IG). The total of 177 **Golden Eagles** counted at TMHW was near the long-term average. Fifty-three Golden Eagles passed by 3/10 (partially witnessed by a PSO field trip group led by CK) with a strong southeast wind; this was the second highest daily total. The persistent northwest winds during much of Mar may have played a role in lower than average counts of other raptors, particularly **Red-tailed Hawks** and **Sharp-shinned Hawks** (NB).

LP held 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/20 (GG). At least 20 **Solitary Sandpipers** were counted during a storm at LP 5/15 (GG), and 25 **Spotted Sandpipers** were along JR near Spruce Creek (MB). A total of 18 **Wilson's**



**Snipe** were on Allison Road near Alexandria 3/25 (JK). Two **Forster's Terns** were at AA and 2 **Caspian Terns** were at MAR 4/12 (GG).

Barr Road was the site of multiple observations of one or 2 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** 4/30-5/18 (DG, GG, JK, DW). Another **Red-headed Woodpecker** was in a backyard 5/5 (DW). Eighteen **Cliff Swallows** were reported 5/4 at Trough Creek Bridge (JB). **Marsh Wren** was reported at OC 5/10 (JK) and 5/12 (GG, DG). Two different **Brewster's Warblers** were reported at MAS 5/9 and 5/10 (GG). A singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at AS (IG, MD, BV). A PAMC count between Alexandria and Mooresville yielded a **Yellow-breasted Chat** along the JR and a singing **Kentucky Warbler** on Mule Road in Rothrock Forest 5/11 (JK). A total of 21 singing **Cerulean Warblers** were counted on LT 5/18 (NB). Two **Prairie Warblers** were near McF 5/3 (DG). Eleven **Fox Sparrows** were at a feeder near McF 3/18 (DG, GG). There were 25 **Rusty Blackbirds** and 45 **American Pipits** on Allison Road near Alexandria 3/25 (JK). Twenty-four **Bobolink** were reported at OC 5/11 (TK).

Sixty **Pine Siskins** were reported at AS (IG, MD, BV). A small flock of **White-winged Crossbills** were found at Scare Pond Road and Rt. 26 (JP). Four **Evening Grosbeaks** were at feeders in Ennisville 4/2 (DW).

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### Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TL), Yellow Creek (YC).

Area lakes remained pretty much frozen through 3/20 with an estimated 95 percent still frozen at YC 3/10; TL was at least 10 percent thawed on the same date. By 3/26 YC was almost 80 percent open. Dates producing the highest numbers of waterfowl were 3/23-24.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was observed 3/10 (DW) with 20 **Canada Geese** sitting on the mudflat on the southeast side of YC lake near the mouth of Little Yellow Creek; this was the sixth county record. **Tundra Swans** moved through the county between 3/8 (KT) and 3/30 (MH, RH, FOP) when the last 23 were tallied; the high count of 58 occurred at YC 3/23 (KB, DC, EC, MH, RH, GL, TP, KT). First 3 **Wood Ducks** were noted 3/5 (KT), and by 5/11 (MM, NS) one hen at North Point was found with 6 ducklings. YC harbored 18 **Gadwalls** 3/12 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT) while Margus Lake yielded 16 on 3/18 (CL, GL); 29 were last spotted at YC 3/30 (DS). First **American Wigeons** were 7-9 on 3/10 (LC, DW) at YC, but wigeons frequented other area ponds this spring. Reports included 26 on Margus Lake 3/18 (CL, GL), 5 on a small pond near SH 3/22 (ED), and 50 the following day (LC) on Altemus's Pond near YC. Four lingered at YC 4/13 (DG). YC's respective high **American Black Duck** and **Mallard** counts of 34 and 145 were obtained 3/24 (LC). An amazing 55 **Blue-winged Teal**, the sixth highest count on record, were tallied at YC 4/23 (TG). The top **Northern Shoveler** count at YC was 11 on 3/30 (MH, RH, FOP) while **Northern Pintails** peaked at 14 on 3/23 (KB, DC, EC, MH, RH, GL, TP, KT). High **Green-winged Teal** count was 23 on 4/4 (SG). The 109 **Canvasbacks** was the third highest count at YC 3/24 (LC) and the **Redhead** tally had reached 152 the previous day (KB, DC, EC, MH, RH, GL, TP, KT). The high **Ring-necked Duck** count was also 3/24 with 593 counted (LC). Six **Greater Scaup** appeared at YC 3/24 (JC, LC, RC) but peak number of **Lesser Scaup** was 204 on 3/23 (KB, DC, EC, MH, RH, GL, TP, KT). A **White-winged Scoter** landed during the rain on the annual YC pontoon ride 5/28 (DC, EC, SD, TG, MH, RH, JK, MS). **Long-tailed Ducks** were spotted on 10 dates this season with a high tally of 18 on 3/16 (LC, MH, RH, KT). **Buffleheads** were in rather low numbers compared to other seasons with the top count a mere 54 on 3/24 (LC), the same day 74 **Hooded Mergansers** were noted. TL harbored 16 **Common Mergansers** 3/11 (JC, LC, RC) and YC's high of 14 occurred 3/30 (DS). The first 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers** arrived at YC 3/12 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT) when little open water existed, but numbers quickly peaked at 387 on 3/26 (LC, KT); 3 still lingered at YC 5/16 (MH, RH, JT). The high **Ruddy Duck** count of 35 occurred 4/9 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, KT).

YC hosted a single **Red-throated Loon** 4/9 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, KT); 2 were observed 4/13 (MK) and a singleton 4/14 (EF, MF). Two **Common Loons**, observed from the pontoon, still lingered at YC 5/28 (DC, EC, SD, TG, MH, RH, JK, MS). **Pied-billed Grebes** did not arrive in large numbers this spring with a high of only 11 on 4/11 (KT). The high

**Horned Grebe** was 3/30 when 44 were at TL (LC) and 145 at YC (MH, RH, FOP), a count not surpassed since 3/28/2008. First **Double-crested Cormorants** arrived at YC 4/4 (SG) where all but two sightings were in the single digits; 37 were noted 5/11 (GL, GS) and 12 on 5/14 (RN), both at YC. Earliest **Green Heron** appeared at YC 4/11 (KT), the earliest date of return with records back to 1987.

First **Turkey Vulture** was spotted at Nolo 3/2 (AB, DB, GL). The first migrant **Osprey** arrived at YC 4/2 (TG, RN). Last **Northern Harrier** was sighted at the West Lebanon strips 3/5 (DK, RN). Early **Broad-winged Hawks** included one near SH 4/12 (MH, RH) and one at YC 4/13 (MK). **American Coots** moved through YC between 3/10 (DW) and 5/8 (LC, MH, GL, KT) with the highest tally of only 55 on 3/23 (LC) and 3/24 (LC, KT), one of the lowest spring maxima on record.

A **Black-bellied Plover** stopped at YC 5/11 (GL, GS). **Semipalmated Plover** reports included one 5/16 (MH, RH, JT) and 7 on 5/28 (TG, MH, RH, MS) after half the crew went ashore drenched and chilled. First 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** arrived at TL 4/12 (LC) and first **Solitary Sandpipers** stopped at YC 4/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, ML, KT); last Solitary was found at YC 5/21 (LC, DC, EC, MH, RH, KT). **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen at YC between 4/9 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, KT) and 4/23 (TG). An 11th county record was established by 5 **Willetts** at YC 5/11 (GL, GS). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** at YC 4/9 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, KT) and one near West Lebanon 5/11 (MC, SG) were the only ones noted. The highlight of the 5/28 (TG, MH, RH, MS) pontoon ride occurred when 4 **Whimbrels** flew right over the pontoon giving observers great views; this was the second county record following the first of 17 individuals at the YC beach 5/15/1995. A **Ruddy Turnstone** on the beach at YC 5/8 (LC, MH, GL, KT) was the reward for leading bird outings for Grades K-2 that morning; this was the first turnstone at YC since 8/31/2005. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** sightings included one individual 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) and 17 on 5/28 (TG, MH, RH, MS) viewed from the boat. Groups of up to 6 **Least Sandpipers** moved through YC between 4/23 (TG) and 5/21 (LC, DC, EC, MH, RH, KT). Single **Dunlins** were noted on three dates between 4/20 (SG) and 5/14 (LC, SD, MH, RH, RN, KT) while 4/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, ML, KT) yielded 5. YC yielded single **Wilson's Snipe** 3/24 (LC), 4/6 (IH), and 4/13 (MH, RH) and another individual was found in Cherryhill Twp. 5/11 (BF, TF). Four **American Woodcocks** were performing near Creekside 3/29 (MH, RH). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was a great find at YC 5/25 (EF, MF), providing a third county record.

**Bonaparte's Gulls** migrated through the county between 3/30 (MH, RH, FOP) and 5/18 (LC, MH, RH, KT) with peak number of 23 on 4/9 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, KT). A flock of Bonaparte's Gulls 4/16 (LC, MH, RH, KT) at YC included one adult **Franklin's Gull**, the sixth county record. The largest flock of **Ring-billed Gulls** contained 109 individuals 3/24 (LC). Single **Herring Gulls** were noted only at YC on 3/30 (MH, RH, FOP) and 4/16 (LC, MH, RH, KT). **Caspian Terns** put in three appearances this spring—3 on 4/12 (LC), 13 on 5/11 (GL, GS), and 10 on 5/28 (DC, EC, SD, TG, MH, RH, JK, MS). Single **Black Tern** and **Common Tern** were seen from the pontoon 5/28 (TG, MH, RH, MS); 5 Commons were also seen 5/11 (GL, GS). **Forster's Terns** exhibited a strong presence this spring with multiple sightings including a flock of 44 that circled over Hemlock Lake 5/11 (MH, RH) before veering off to the northwest, and 11 on the 5/28 YC boat ride (TG, MH, RH, MS).

Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** arrived 5/11 (m. ob.), each at three locations. **Great Horned Owls** were noted at three locations this spring; **Barred Owl**, at four. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were surprisingly found at four locations this spring, three where they'd not been heard before; unfortunately, they were all one-time occurrences and probably migrants. **Chimney Swifts** returned 4/18 (MH, RH) near SH. First **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was spotted near LV 4/30 (MC). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were sighted at the Meadow Lane Golf Course 5/2 (DKe) and at YC 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** appeared near Jacksonville 5/16 (EF, MF). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** returned to various parts of Indiana 5/11 (m.ob.). An early **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported on the Ferrence farm 5/11 (GF). An **Alder Flycatcher** was on territory at YC from 5/18 (LC, MH, RH, KT) through the end of the period. **Willow Flycatcher** was first noted 5/16 (MH, RH, JT) at YC and **Acadian Flycatchers** returned 5/11 (m.ob.) to Indiana. BS yielded the first **Least Flycatcher** 5/1 (MH, RH). **Eastern Phoebe** arrived first at YC 3/26 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT). The PAMC 5/11 (m.ob.) produced the first **Great Crested Flycatchers** in various parts of the county. First two **Eastern Kingbirds** appeared at YC 4/23 (TG).

Dates of return for vireos included 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) for **White-eyed Vireo** at YC, 5/1 (MH, RH) for **Yellow-throated Vireo** at BS, 4/16 (MH, RH) for **Blue-headed** near SH, 5/1 (MH, RH) for **Warbling** at BS, and 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) for **Red-eyed Vireo** at YC. **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were first found at YC 4/8 (KT). Two **Purple Martins** were listed 5/11 (MC, SG) at CD. YC

yielded the first 2 **Tree Swallows** 3/11 (SG) and the first 2 **Bank Swallows** 4/23 (MH, RH). Single **Barn Swallows** and **Cliff Swallows** were first sighted respectively 4/12 (MH) near SH and 4/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, ML, KT) at YC. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was last noted 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) at YC. **House Wrens** (TG, MH, RH, MS), both near SH (MH, RH) and at YC (LC, MH, RH, KT). First **Winter Wren** popped up near IN 4/20 (DW). First **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** visited a yard near SH 4/10 (MH, RH) and 4/12 respectively.

Only 2 **Veeries** were noted this spring, one in West Wheatfield Twp. (JT) and the other at CD (MC, SG). Reports of **Swainson's Thrush** included 3 on 5/11 (m.ob.) and one at YC 5/16 (MH, RH, JT). The PAMC yielded 5 **Hermit Thrushes** 5/11 (m.ob.), all but one in the northeastern part of the county. An early **Wood Thrush** was singing 4/20 (DW) near Trim Tree Nursery. By 4/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, ML, KT) at least 3 **Gray Catbirds** had returned to YC, which also yielded the first **Brown Thrasher** 4/9 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, KT). An **American Pipit** was foraging on the mud in Little Yellow Cove 3/26 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT).

First **Ovenbird** was heard singing near SH 4/25 (MH, RH). **Louisiana Waterthrush** returned to a feeder stream along Laurel Run at YC 4/13 (MH, RH). Single **Northern Waterthrushes** heard at YC 5/14 (LC, SD, MH, RH, RN, KT) and 5/16 (MH, RH, JT) were the only ones noted. A **Golden-winged Warbler** along the entrance road to YC was well observed 5/11 (GL, GS). **Blue-winged Warbler** appeared at YC 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT). First dates included 5/1 (MH, RH) at BS for **Black-and-white Warbler**, 5/11 (m.ob.) at various locations for **Tennessee Warbler**, and 5/1 (MH, RH) for **Nashville Warbler** at BS. A **Mourning Warbler** sang and offered great views near Kingbird Point at YC 5/21 (LC, DC, EC, MH, RH, KT), and for three observers was a life bird. The only **Kentucky Warblers** reported were 4 on the PAMC 5/11 (m.ob.). Other first dates included 4/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, ML, KT) for **Common Yellowthroat** at YC and 5/11 (m.ob.) for both **Hooded Warbler**, which usually returns much earlier, and **American Redstart**. CD yielded the first **Cape May Warbler** 5/11 (MC, SG) and YC harbored the last sighted 5/16 (MH, RH, JT). Four **Cerulean Warblers** 5/11 (m.ob.) were the only ones noted. First **Northern Parula** was listed at Getty Heights Park 5/6 (MH, RH) while a yard near SH produced the first **Magnolia Warbler** 5/10 (MH, RH). Only four **Bay-breasted Warbler** reports were received, one at YC 5/11 (GL, GS), one on Reservoir Hill the same day (PJ), one at YC 5/13 (TR) and one 5/18 (EF, MF) at CD. Dates of return included 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) for **Blackburnian Warbler**, 4/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, ML, KT) for **Yellow**, and 5/8 (LC, MH, GL, KT) for **Chestnut-sided**, all at YC. **Blackpoll Warblers** moved through the county between 5/11 (m.ob.) and 5/28 (TG, MH, RH, MS). Single **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were sighted at YC 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) and 5/13 (TR). **Palm Warblers** stopped at YC on four dates between 4/16 (LC, MH, RH, KT) and 5/13 (TR) while the PAMC produced 7 on 5/11 (m.ob.) including one photographed in Rochester Mills (RL). **Pine Warbler** returned to a yard near SH 4/4 (MH, RH). A non-breeder in **Indiana**, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** moved through between 4/13 (MH, RH) and 5/18 (LC, MH, RH, KT). **Yellow-throated Warblers** returned to CD 4/16 (EF, MF); individuals were sighted both at CD (MC, SG) and in West Wheatfield Twp. (JT) 5/11. First **Black-throated Green Warbler** appeared at YC 4/16 (LC, MH, RH, KT). Lone **Wilson's Warbler** at YC 5/16 (MH, RH, JT), **Canada Warbler** at the Ferrence farm 5/11 (GF), and **Yellow-breasted Chat** in White Twp. 5/11 (CG) comprised the entire report for these three species.

A yard near LV hosted the season's first **Eastern Towhee** 4/2 (MC). **Chipping Sparrows** arrived 4/8 (MC), both near LV and at YC (KT). **Field Sparrows** first appeared at YC 4/4 (SG). Both **Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrows** are becoming increasingly harder to find in the county; the only Vesper listed was one near Johnsonburg (MH, RH) and the only Savannah was spotted at West Lebanon (MC, SG), both 5/11. **Grasshopper Sparrows** included one at the Gipsy strips (MH, RH) and 7 near West Lebanon (MC), all 5/11. Twelve was the number of **Henslow's Sparrows** reported at West Lebanon 5/11 (MC). First **Fox Sparrow** popped up near SH 3/11 (MH, RH); 8 were counted at Nolo 3/17-26 (CL, GL); a very late individual lingered at YC 4/16 (LC, MH, RH, KT). A rather late **White-throated Sparrow** was seen at YC 5/16 (MH, RH, JT). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** in IN 4/30 (DK) were first arrivals and 2 lingered through 5/16 (MH, RH, JT) at YC.

**Scarlet Tanager** appeared first at BS 5/1 (MH, RH) and **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** made their season's debut at YC 4/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, ML, KT). By 5/11 (m.ob.), **Indigo Buntings** were numerous and widespread. YC hosted the first **Orchard Oriole** 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) and the first **Baltimore Oriole** had shown up 4/30 (DKe) in IN. Twice this spring a flock of **Red Crossbills** flew over a yard near SH calling; 8 were counted on 4/14 (MH) and 9 on 5/30 (MH, RH). A **Common Redpoll** stopped at a feeder in IN 3/20 (NB); about a dozen lingered through 3/29 (MC) near LV. Ten **Pine Siskins** were counted at CD 5/11

(SG); YC held one 5/14 (LC, SD, MH, RH, RN, KT) and 2 four days later (LC, MH, RH, KT).

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#### Jefferson County

Locations: Clear Creek State Park (CC), Cook Forest (CF), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Power House Rd (PH), Punxsutawney (PX), PA Rte. 380 just off I80 (R83), Reynoldsville (RV), Ringgold (RG), Sandy Ridge Rd (SR), Songer Rd (SG), Summerville (SM).

A high of 50 **Canada Geese** were reported in RV 3/1 (TS). One **Mute Swan** was found off R83 on 4/20 (JK) and 82 **Tundra Swans** were seen over PX 3/24 (KD). Three **Wood Ducks** were the first noted on the MS 3/3 (TG), and a high of 4 **Wood Ducks** were also found on the MS 5/13 (KD). A top count of 34 **Mallards** were seen off R83 4/20 (JK), and 2 **Lesser Scaup** showed up at the same location 4/20 (JK). A lone **Surf Scoter** appeared in SM 3/5 (PM). Two **Buffleheads** were found off R83 4/2 (JK). Two female **Hooded Mergansers** were found swimming in a small pond by the MS 4/17 (TG). An additional 3 **Hooded Mergansers** and 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were also found off R83 4/20 (JK). Rounding out the waterbirds at R83 were 3 **Pied-billed Grebes** 4/20 (JK). Two **Great Blue Heron** were the first seen on the MS 4/17 (TG), and a surprise of 3 **Great Egrets** were also found on the MS 5/16 (KD).

The first **Turkey Vulture** was on the MS 3/20 (KD). Only one **Osprey** was reported for the county, off R83 on 4/20 (JK). The resident pair of nesting **Bald Eagles** of the MS was seen numerous times (m.ob). The female was seen on the nest starting 3/3, and one chick was confirmed 4/23 (TG). One **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at the same location on the MS 4/17 and 5/25 (TG). Similarly, **Broad-winged Hawk** was also noted on the MS three times 4/18, 5/12, and 5/16 (KD). A **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen on nest on the MS 4/17 (TG). Only one **Merlin** was found, in PX 4/18 (KD). The first **American Kestrel** was in PX 3/24 (KD).

First **Killdeer** was on the MS 5/7 (KD), and a lone **Spotted Sandpiper** was found off R83 on 4/20 (JK). A lone **American Woodcock** was on the MS 3/26 (KD). A total of 24 **Ring-billed Gulls** were off R83 on 4/20 (JK).

A number of sightings of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported with the first on the MS 5/7 (KD), but only one **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found, on the MS 5/12 (KD). A **Barred Owl** was heard near RV 5/2 (DR), and a second **Barred Owl** was in CC 5/31 (IG). Three **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard near RV 5/2 (DR). Four **Chimney Swifts** were the first found on the MS 5/7 (KD), and one **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was the first sighted in RG 5/12 (JK). The earliest **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was one on the MS 4/17 (TG).

A singing **Willow Flycatcher** was the first heard for the county located on the MS 5/25 (TG). A number of **Eastern Phoebe**s were reported beginning with 2 birds on the MS 4/10 (KD), and a number of sightings of **Eastern Kingbirds** were also reported with the first also on the MS 5/16 (KD). Seven sightings for **Blue-headed Vireo** began with 2 on the MS 4/18 (KD). The only **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** for the period were 2 in CF 5/19 (DC). An estimated 100 **Tree Swallows** and an estimated 100 **Barn Swallows** were both noted off R83 on 4/20 (JK), and a total of 52 **Cliff Swallows** were in CF 5/19 (DC).

The first of the season **House Wrens** were one on the MS 5/7 (KD), and the last noted **Winter Wren** was also on the MS 4/18 (KD). Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** and 3 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** both on the MS 4/17 (TG). Two **Veery** arrived on the MS 5/12 (KD). A lone **Hermit Thrush** was reported in CC 5/31 (IG), and the first **Wood Thrush** were 4 birds on the MS 5/7 (KD). The arrival of 2 **Gray Catbirds** was recorded on the MS 5/7 (KD), and a **Northern Mockingbird** was sighted off R83 on 4/20 (JK). The first **Brown Thrasher** showed up on MS 4/10 (KD).

With the first 4 heard **Ovenbirds** on the MS 5/7 (KD) the county was alive with these birds, and with the arrival of 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** to the MS 4/7 (TG) the warbler migration was on. One **Worm-eating Warbler** was found on SR 5/19 (DG), and **Blue-winged Warbler** was first noted on the MS 5/13 (KD). A **Black-and-white Warbler** first appeared on the MS



5/13 (KD). Three **Hooded Warblers** led the way in CF 5/11(PR), One **American Redstart** first arrived on the MS 5/7 (KD), and was followed by 2 **Cape May Warblers** also on the MS 5/16 (KD). Two **Northern Parulas** and 2 **Magnolia Warblers** both showed up on the MS 5/12 (KD). Five **Blackburnian Warblers** graced CF 5/11 (PR). Two **Yellow Warblers** were the first to return to the MS 5/13 (KD), and a week before that one **Chestnut-sided Warbler** also returned to the MS 5/7 (KD). The only **Blackpoll Warbler** was in CC 5/25 (SG). The first **Black-throated Blue Warblers** was on the MS 5/12 (KD). The first **Pine Warbler** was found in CF 5/11 (PR), and the first 2 of many **Black-throated Green Warblers** were on the MS 4/18 (KD). Rounding out the warblers were 2 **Canada Warblers** first found in CC 5/25 (SG).

Two **Eastern Towhees** led the way on the MS 4/18 (KD). The last **American Tree Sparrow** was noted in RG 3/9 (JK), and the first **Chipping Sparrow** was counted on the MS 4/18 (KD), along with the first 3 **Field Sparrows** also on the MS 4/18 (KD). Three **Vesper Sparrow** were found on the grasslands of SR 5/19 (DG, GG), and a **Savannah Sparrow** was also discovered on SR 5/19 (DG). The grasslands of SR also produced 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 5/19 (TG) and 4 **Henslow's Sparrows** (TG), and 5 **Henslow's Sparrows** were also noted (DG, GG) on the same date 5/19. Three **Fox Sparrows** were on the MS 3/18, and 2 **Fox Sparrows** were there 3/25. **Swamp Sparrow** was first heard in the wetlands of the MS 4/17 (TG). The last **White-throated Sparrow** departed the MS 5/13 (KD), and the last **White-crowned Sparrow** was seen in RG 5/12 (JK). The last 2 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were noted in the southern part of the county on the MS 4/7 (TG), and in the northern part of the county **Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen on SG through the period 5/31 (IG).

The first 3 of the season's **Scarlet Tanagers** were on the MS 5/7 (KD), and the first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was also on the MS 5/12 (KD) along with the first **Indigo Bunting** again on the MS 5/7 (KD). Three **Bobolinks** were seen and heard on the MS for the first time 5/7 (KD), and the first **Eastern Meadowlark** was noted also on the MS 4/10 (KD). Only 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** were found, at the MS 3/25 (KD). Three **Baltimore Orioles** were heard and seen on the MS 5/8 (TG).

One **Purple Finch** was noted on the MS 5/7 (KD), and 6 were in RG 5/12 (JK). The last two of the season's **Common Redpolls** were found on the MS 3/24 (KD), and the last 6 **Pine Siskins** were in RG 5/12 (JK).

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#### **Juniata County**

No report.

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#### **Lackawanna County**

No report.

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#### **Lancaster County**

Locations: Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands (CRTW), Middle Creek WMA (MCWMA), Octoraro Lake (OL), Safe Harbor (SH), Speedwell Forge Reservoir (SFR), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Long Level (SRLL), Susquehanna River Peach Bottom (SRPB), Wood's Edge Park (WE).

Approximately 40,000 **Snow Geese** were still at MCWMA 3/1 (JiB, RM); by 3/26 the number was 3000 (DK). A **Ross's Goose** was at MCWMA 3/12 (AT *fide* CK). An adult dark morph **Snow Goose x Ross's Goose** hybrid was at MCWMA 3/26 (TJ, JG). The bird had a slight grin patch and a curved base to the bill, which led to this conclusion, rather than a pure Blue Ross's Goose. Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were also there on the same day (AT *fide* CK). A single **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at MCWMA 3/16 (SS). A single **Cackling Goose** was seen 3/1 (RM), 3/12 (AT *via* CK) and 3/19 (RM, JF), all at MCWMA. **Tundra Swans** were at MCWMA 3/1 (JiB). A single bird was seen 4/17 on the SRCF (BS). Two

**Trumpeter Swans** were on the SRCF 4/27 (EW) and one was still there 4/30 (GD).

**Northern Shovelers** were seen 3/1-16 at MCWMA (JiB, SF, BW). **Northern Pintails** were spotted at MCWMA 3/1 (JiB) and 4 were seen at SFR 4/10 (BH). An uncounted number of **American Wigeon** were at MCWMA 3/1 (JiB), 45 were at Prescot Road 3/24 (GD), and a lone individual was at Noel Dorwart Park 4/25 (BH). A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was photographed at WE 3/7 (JBo), and one was on the SRCF 3/9 with about 40 **American Wigeons** (ML). **Green-winged Teal** were at MCWMA 3/9 (DK), 17 on the SRCF 4/17 (BS), and 2 at WE 4/25 (BH). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at SFR 4/8 (SS) and on Prescot Road 4/14 (GD). **American Black Ducks** were also at MCWMA 3/1 (JiB). **Gadwalls** were at MCWMA 3/16 (SF, BW) and 6 were at the SRCF 4/10 (BS). On 3/16, **Wood Ducks** were seen at MCWMA (SF, BW), and 11 were on Prescot Road 3/24 (GD). Four **Canvasbacks** were observed 3/10 on the SRCF (GD) with a flock of scaup. A sizeable mixed scaup raft totaled approximately 500 birds on the SRCF 4/17 (BS). Both species of scaup were seen 3/24 on Prescot Road (GD). An unknown number of **Greater Scaup** were seen 3/16 at MCWMA (SF, BW), and 2 were on Prescot Road 3/24 (GD). Forty-eight **Lesser Scaup** were on the SR at Lake Clarke 3/23 (EW) and 22 were on Prescot Road 3/24 (GD). **Ring-necked Ducks** were at MCWMA 3/1 (JiB) and one was at the SRCF 4/10 (BS). Six **Common Goldeneyes** were on Lake Clarke 3/23 (EW), and two females and one male were on Prescot Road 3/24 (GD). **Buffleheads** were at MCWMA 3/16 (SF, BW), 20 were on the SRPB 3/16 (BS), and 13 on the SRCF 4/17 (BS). A single **Long-tailed Duck** was on the SR at the Lake Clarke Marina 3/23 (ME). Three were in the same area on the same day (EW). **Ruddy Ducks** were at MCWMA 3/16 (SF, BW), and 11 were on the SRCF 4/17 (BS). **Common Mergansers** reports included 3/2 at MCWMA (WH), and 8 on Prescot Road 3/24 (GD), and 3 at Safe Harbor 4/17 (BH). Six **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on the SRPB 3/16 (BS). Over 100 were on the SR 3/23, with one flock consisting of 85 birds (ME). Eleven were seen 4/17 on the SRCF (BS). **Hooded Mergansers** were at MCWMA 3/16 (SF, BW), 5 were seen on Prescot Road 3/24 (GD), and 2 were at the SRCF 4/10 (BS).

Although upland birds are normally present year round, few are reported. **Ring-necked Pheasants** were at MCWMA 3/1 (RM, et al), and another was on Flintstone Road 5/11 (BC). Three **Wild Turkeys** were on Prescot Road 4/14 (GD). A single **Red-throated Loon** was at SRLL 3/17 (DC). A **Common Loon** in breeding plumage was seen 3/23 at the Lake Clarke Marina (ME). Five were present on Lake Clarke on the SR 4/12 (ME). A single bird was seen 5/12 at the SRCF (BS). A probable **Pacific Loon** in transitional plumage was on the SR 4/20 (EW).

Four **Horned Grebes** were seen on the SRPB 3/16 (BS). A raft of ten was had at Lake Clarke on the SR 4/12, and with them was a single **Red-necked Grebe** (ME). A high count of 73 **Horned Grebes** was seen 4/17 on the SRCF (BS). Four breeding plumaged birds were seen 5/15 on the SRCF (BS). A single **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen on Lake Clarke 3/23 (EW). A single bird was again seen 5/8 on the SRCF. **Double-crested Cormorants** showed up at MCWMA 3/16 (SF, BW); 15 were seen on Lake Clarke 3/23 (EW).

A single **Great Egret** was on Prescot Road 3/24 (GD). A **Snowy Egret** was feeding at the SRCF 4/29 (SS), and one in full breeding plumage was there again 5/15 (BS). A **Glossy Ibis** was at the Beechdale Road pond 5/8 (SS). Forty-one **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at the rookery at Ephrata Community Hospital 5/11 (BC).

On 3/23, the male of the resident pair of **Peregrine Falcons** dive bombed a bird on a pier of the Rte. 30 bridge—juvenile female **Peregrine Falcon**. The female of the pair joined in, and the juvenile got the hint and left the area. She was last seen headed west over Wrightsville. A pair was being seen again at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Lancaster 4/7 (ML). There were some territorial displays there this year... dare we hope? Four **Northern Harriers** (2 male and 2 female) were at MCWMA 3/1 (JiB). Two females were seen 5/11 at Flintstone Road (BC). The pair of **Bald Eagles** that reside at MCWMA were seen mating near the nest 3/1. The immature **Golden Eagle** was seen 3/1 at MCWMA (RM, et al.) being chased by an immature **Bald Eagle** repeatedly. A pair of **Osprey** was at Falmouth 3/20 (SH). This pair was observed copulating on their nest. Two **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen at Noel Dorwart Park 4/25 (BH).

Two **American Coots** were at WE 4/25 (BH) and one was 5/8 at the SRCF 5/8 (BS). A **Virginia Rail** was heard 3/10 at WE (GD) and one was heard and seen on Prescot Road 4/14 (GD).

On 4/17, a **Killdeer** was seen on the SRCF on one of the islands on the SR, behaving as if it was nesting; there are apparently only two previous breeding attempts on the islands (BS). They do nest on the mainland quite frequently, but not the islands. **Semipalmated Plovers** were at the Beechdale Road Pond 5/8 (SS) and 21 were on the SRCF 5/21 (BS). On 5/12, seven **Black-bellied Plovers** were on the SRCF (BS). An **American Avocet** was at the CRTW 5/11 (LC *fide* BC). Both **Greater** and **Lesser**

**Yellowlegs** were at SFR 4/8 (SS) and both species were seen into early May in the county. A lone **Ruddy Turnstone** was on the SRCF 5/15 (BS). A **Dunlin** was on the SRCF 4/27 (EW), 4 were there 5/12 (BS), and a single was there 5/15 (BS). A single **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen at the SFR 4/10 (BH); 22 were seen 5/12 at the SRCF (BS). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Stone Quarry Park 4/26 (JSc). Five were seen in Northern Lancaster as part of the PAMC 5/11 (BC). Eleven **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen 5/8 at the SRCF (BS), and 18 were on the SRCF 5/15 (BS). Eighteen **Least Sandpipers** were at the SRCF 5/8 (BS) and 125 were there 5/12 (BS). By 5/15, only 52 were left (BS). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at the CRTV 5/10-11 (GD). **Wilson's Snipe** were at MCWMA 3/16 (SF, BW) and a few were at the CRTV 5/10 (GD). **American Woodcock** were displaying and "peenting" at the HACC campus 3/22 (RS via ML). A male **Red Phalarope** in transitional plumage was on the SRCF 5/15 (BS). This was the first spring since the observer began birding there in 1975.

A second year **Iceland Gull** was on the SR 3/9 (EW, ML, DC, ME). It flew downriver at dusk. A total of 13 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were on the SR 3/10 (GD). Approximately 600 were seen 3/23 on the SR at the Rocks (EW). Last was a single bird on the SRCF 5/15 (BS). On 3/10 an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was observed on the SR (GD). Two were seen 3/23 on the SR at the Rocks (ME). A single adult was seen 3/24 on the SR at the Rocks (GD). Three basic adult **Little Gulls** were on the SR at the Rocks 3/23 (EW, ME). At least two were seen on 3/24 on the SR at the Rocks (GD), and on 3/30 a single basic plumage bird was on the SR (JH, TG). Both **Herring** and eight **Great Black-backed Gulls** were on Lake Clark 3/23 (EW) and both of these species were on the SR at the Rocks 3/24 (GD). A second year **Great Black-backed Gull** was on the SRCF 5/8 (BS). Two **Laughing Gulls** were on the SR 5/31 (ML). Nine **Caspian Terns** were at the SRCF 4/10 (BS), and 2 were there 4/17 (BS) along with a lone **Forster's Tern** (BS). By 5/15, seven Forster's were present on the SRCF (BS). Two **Common Terns** were at the SRCF 5/8 (BS) and 3 were there 5/12 (BS). A single **Black Tern** was floating downriver on a small piece of driftwood at the SRCF 5/15 (BS).

A **White-winged Dove** was seen along Edisonville Road 5/26 (TR). A single **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at Lancaster County Park 5/15 (BH). Three **Short-eared Owls** continued at MCWMA to 3/12 (AT *vide* CK). A **Barred Owl** was heard at Safe Harbor 5/19 (ML). **Common Nighthawks** were at Safe Harbor 5/19 (ML). It appeared as if the birds were coming from the trees on the south side of the park, and the wooded hillside along Warehouse Road. One or 2 were at Safe Harbor 5/22-25 (ML).

An unusual Hummingbird was banded in at a home in Denver 4/22 (SL) and thought to be a possible hybrid. It continued to the next day, feeding approximately every 20-25 minutes (CB, ML, AH). It was later identified as a **Bahama Woodstar**, the first state record and only the fourth North American record! The homeowners, Delmas and Ruth Witmer, were very gracious in allowing visitors to see this rare bird. It was last seen 4/24 (AG). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** returned to a yard in Denver 4/30 (LG).

Three **Pileated Woodpeckers** were coming to a Denver yard, visiting a feeder with a peanut butter/suet mix through 3/26 (LG). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at the SFR 4/10 (BH). Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed in a Fivepointville neighborhood 5/2 (KL).

An **Eastern Phoebe** was near the SR 3/10 (GD). An early **Eastern Kingbird** was seen 4/14 on Prescott Road (GD). An **Alder Flycatcher** was seen and heard 5/10 at Safe Harbor (AW). Four **Least Flycatchers** were seen 5/11 as part of the PAMC in northern Lancaster (BC). Four **Great Crested Flycatchers** were along the Bainbridge Canal Trail at Falmouth 5/8 (BH). Four **Willow Flycatchers** were at MCWMA 5/29 (BH). Two **Warbling Vireos** were at Stone Quarry Park 4/26 (JSc). A **White-eyed Vireo** was at the Ash Basin in Holtwood 5/4 (JS). A single **Yellow-throated Vireo** was along the Bainbridge Canal Trail 5/8 (BH), and 2 were in northern Lancaster during the PAMC 5/11 (BC). Two **Blue-headed Vireos** were on the Bainbridge Canal Trail 5/8 (BH). They were also seen 5/19 at MCWMA (BC). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was photographed in Columbia 4/25 (ML). A **Common Raven** was being chased by an **American Crow** 4/14 at MCWMA (EW). Another was mobbed by a crow along Rte. 283 at the Cloverleaf Road exit 5/3 (JD, *vide* RA). There was one with some Turkey Vultures at SGL 156 on 5/4 (ME).

Several **Tree Swallows** were at the SR 3/10 (GD). One flock of an estimated 800 was seen downstream at SH. On 3/24, two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were seen at the Falmouth Access (GD). Thousands of swallows were migrating up the SR 4/3, most of which were **Tree Swallows**, but there were **Northern Rough-winged** and **Barn Swallows** mixed in (ML). Two **Cliff Swallows** were at Falmouth 4/21 (DM), and **Purple Martins** were at Safe Harbor 5/19 (ML). A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued at feeders in a Denver yard to 4/28 (LG). A **House Wren** was heard singing at SRPB 3/30 (BS). A **Marsh Wren** was heard and seen at Riverfront Park 4/6 (ML). Four **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were

reported 4/3 at OL (BH, MM, et al.). Two **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were at Noel Dorwart Park 4/25 (BH). On 5/15, one was at Lancaster County Park (BH). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was on Prescott Road 4/14 (GD). Two pairs were observed building nests on Pumping Station Road 5/1 (BH, et al.). On 4/27 a **Wood Thrush** was heard in a yard in Denver (LG). A single **Veery** was seen 5/4 on SGL 156 at Pumping Station Road (BH, et al.). Four **Brown Thrashers** were at Noel Dorwart Park 4/25 (BH). **American Pipits** were in a field on Forrey Road 3/27 (ML). A flock of about 100 was at MCWMA 4/6 (SF), and 2 were at Lime Rock Road and Wissler Road in the Ephrata area 5/11 (BC). Three **Lapland Longspurs** were observed 3/19 at the junction of S. Forrey Road and Charlestown Road (SS). Two were seen 3/21 at the same place (ML), and from 3/25-3/29, six were on S. Forrey Road (SS).

The PAMC was conducted 5/11. A group birded the Hammer Creek area, covering Pumping Station Road, SFR, and SFCP. They tallied 16 species of warblers including **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Wilson's**, **Black-throated Green**, **Nashville**, **Blackburnian**, and **Canada Warblers**. The **Orange-crowned Warbler** continued at WE, where it was seen 3/9 (EW) and 3/16 (SS). A "yellow" **Palm Warbler** was seen 3/24 at MCWMA (TJ, JG). One was at Safe Harbor 4/17 (BH). The first **Yellow-throated Warbler** was 4/9 at the Falmouth Access (ME). Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at the SFR 4/10 (BH). Some were still in a yard in Denver 5/18 (LG). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was in the SFR 4/10 (BH). An early **Northern Waterthrush** was seen and heard at Pumping Station Road 4/13 (ME). Another was at MCWMA 5/19 (BC). Five **Northern Parulas** were heard and seen 4/17 at Safe Harbor (BH). Approximately 12 were seen or heard at Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve 4/21 (JFI). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was at Falmouth 4/21 (SH, RK). There were three males all singing near nest boxes 5/12 at the SRCF (BS) and there were 5 on the SRCF 5/15 (BS). A singing **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Noel Dorwart Park 4/25 (BH) and an unknown number were at MCWMA 5/19 (BC). A **Cape May Warbler** was at the Canal Trail at Falmouth 4/29 (GD), and 2 were at Lancaster County Park 5/15 (BH). An **American Redstart**, **Palm Warbler**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** were at Falmouth 4/29 (GD). A **Black-and-white Warbler** and a **Black-throated Green Warbler** were at a home in Denver 4/24 (JSt). **Worm-eating Warbler** was on Pumping Station Road 5/1 (BH et al.). Several **Ovenbirds** were heard on Pumping Station Road 5/1 (BH et al.). On 5/4, 133 **Ovenbirds** were heard and/or seen at SGL 156 at Dead End Road (ME). There were others recorded in another part of the SGL, with a total of 166 that day. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was also on Pumping Station Road 5/1 (BH et al.). A **Nashville Warbler** was seen 5/4 at SGL 156 on Dead End Road (ME), and at least one was at MCWMA 5/19 (BC). A **Prairie Warbler** was also at SGL 156 on Dead End Road, 5/4 (ME). A **Pine Warbler** was seen in a Denver yard 4/10 (LG). On 5/7 a **Cerulean Warbler** was at on the canal trail at Falmouth (GD). Eight **American Redstarts** were recorded on the Bainbridge Canal Trail 5/8 (BH). Only one **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen 5/8 on the Bainbridge Canal Trail (BH). Three **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were seen on the Bainbridge Canal Trail 5/8 (BH). An unknown number were seen at MCWMA 5/19 (BC). A single **Black-throated Green Warbler** was on the Bainbridge Canal Trail 5/8 (BH). There was also one at Lancaster County Park 5/15 (BH) and at MCWMA 5/19 (BC). A **Magnolia Warbler** was at MCWMA 5/19 (BC). A **Mourning Warbler** was on Pumping Station Road 5/18-19 (JF). Glenbrook Area Community Park hosted one 5/19-20 as well (DL), and one was at Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve 5/25 (NP). On 5/18 a **Blackpoll Warbler** was seen in a yard in Denver (LG). They were also seen 5/19 at MCWMA (BC). **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at MCWMA 5/19 (BC). **Canada Warbler** was also reported at MCWMA 5/19 (BC).

Four **Scarlet Tanagers** were on SGL 156 at Dead End Road 5/4 (ME). **Chipping Sparrows** were at MCWMA 3/16 (SF, BW). **American Tree Sparrows** were also seen on that date at MCWMA (SF, BW). Three **White-throated Sparrows** were at Lancaster County Park 5/15, with a **White-crowned Sparrow** (BH). Another White-crowned was at MCWMA 5/19 (BC). **Dark-eyed Junco** was reported 5/1 on Pumping Station Road (BH, et al.). A single **Eastern Towhee** was reported 4/3 at OL (BH, MM, et al.). Also reported that day at OL was a **Fox Sparrow** (BH, MM, et al.). Eight **Swamp Sparrows** were had at OL 4/3 (BH, MM, et al.). Three **Field Sparrows** were at Prescott Road 4/14 (GD). **Savannah Sparrows** were at Forrey Road 4/29 (SS). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was heard in Gap 5/1 (PF). Two **Vesper Sparrows** were at Lime Rock Road and Wissler Road 5/11 (BC).

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at a Denver yard 4/26 (LG). Three **Indigo Buntings** were seen 5/8 on the Bainbridge Canal Trail (BH). A **Blue Grosbeak** was singing at Lancaster County Park 5/15 (BH). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was at MCWMA 3/16 (SF). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at MCWMA 3/15 (BR). Four or five **Rusty Blackbirds** and a **Brewer's Blackbird** were reported at SFR 4/8 (SS). Six **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Prescott Road 4/26 (CB). **Bobolinks** were at MCWMA 5/9 (SS). Twelve



**Baltimore Orioles** were at Lancaster County Park 5/15, as were 10 **Orchard Orioles** (BH).

**Purple Finches** were still present in Denver 4/24 (JSt), and 3 were found 5/11 in northern Lancaster on the PAMC (BC). Approximately 10 **White-winged Crossbills** were at the post office in Greenfield Corporate Center 3/10 (SS).

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#### Lawrence County

No compiler.

#### Lebanon County

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Kreider's Retention Pond (KP), Lion's Lake (LL), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Mt Pleasant Rd (MPR), Quittapahilla Wetlands Preserve (QW), Reistville and Prescott Road Ponds (RPP), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), SGL 145, SGL 211, Shuey Lake (SL), Spring Hill Acres (SHA), Swatara State Park (SSP).

A highlight of the quarter was the 5/11 PAMC. Eighteen participants counted 4634 birds of 168 species. In spite of the rain, it was a great day for all involved. CB reported that after each shower warblers were coming out in groups of twenty or more. New county high counts were established for several species, including **Spotted Sandpiper** (37), **Cape May Warbler** (9), and **Northern Waterthrush** (13). The fallout at MLSP produced rare and uncommon waterfowl, and three species of terns. The bird of the day, perhaps for the entire PAMC statewide, was a **Pacific Loon** that came in with a group of **Common Loons**.

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** and a **Ross's Goose** were found along Chapel Rd, MC 3/12 (AT, et al.). Two **Ross's Geese** were found at MC 3/4 (RCM). A blue phase **Ross's Goose** was a great find among 7000 **Snow Geese** at MC 3/19 (RCM). Both a **Ross's Goose** (JH, EHe) and a **Ross's x Snow Goose** (JH) were seen at MC 3/29. **Cackling Geese** were reported at several county locations into mid-Mar. At MC single **Cackling Geese** were reported 3/7 (BH, et al.); 3/12 (AT, et al.); and 3/19 (RCM, JF). One was found at LL 3/7 (DM), and also from the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail 3/10 (JF). A **Cackling Goose** was seen at KP 3/13 (P&RW) and 3/17 (JH). On a big migration day an estimated 15,000 **Canada Geese** headed north over Mt. Gretna 3/10 (SH), and 10,000 were seen over the Furnace Hills 3/10 (RCM). A **Mute Swan** visited KP 3/17 (DM) and again 3/28-29 (TB, MM). An immature **Trumpeter Swan** off Hopeland Rd at MC 5/10 (SS). Twenty **Tundra Swans** were a nice find at MLSP 4/19 (TB, CBo).

Forty-three **Gadwalls** were at MC 3/19 (RCM). Four **Blue-winged Teal** were at MLSP 3/23 (JHi, NM), and 10 were there 4/12 (TB). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at Marquette Lake 3/25-26 (JD, TB, CBo); three **Blue-winged Teal** were a nice find at MLSP 5/8 (JD, DM). A good count of 135 **Northern Pintails** was made at MC 3/1 (RCM, m.ob.). Accidental in May was a male **Northern Pintail** at KP 5/16 (CB). Possibly injured, and paired at times with a hen **Mallard**, he continued through the period (m.ob.). A female **Canvasback** was found somewhat late at MLSP 4/12 (TB, JD, DM). Accidental in May were two **Canvasbacks** at MLSP 5/8 (RCM). Up to 10 **Redheads** continued from the winter to 3/28 at LL (CBo, TB, m.ob.). **Redhead** numbers built to a high of 22 at MLSP from 3/16-30 (DM, P&RW, m.ob.). Up to four **Redheads** were found at MC 3/29-4/18 for a new late date (JH, AH, RCM). Up to two **Greater Scaup** were at MLSP 3/3-7 (EB, TB). Two were reported at KP 3/17 (DM). Accidental in May was a **Greater Scaup** at MLSP 5/8 (RCM). Scoters of any species are a rare treat in the county. A pair of **Surf Scoters** at MLSP provided a seventh county record 5/8 (DM, JD, KB, TB, RCM, CBo). A male **White-winged Scoter** was at MLSP 4/29-30 (TB, RCM, DM, TJ, MC). Four **White-winged Scoters** were a great PAMC find at MLSP 5/11 (JH, CB, RP, m.ob.). **Hooded Merganser** families were found at two areas of FIG 5/6 (JHo) and 5/7 (JD, DM), providing second and third county breeding records. A male **Red-breasted**

**Merganser** was at MLSP 3/11-16 (TB, DM, JD, RCM, m.ob.). Up to three female **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at MLSP 4/17-19 (TB). A female **Red-breasted Merganser** was at MLSP on a new late date 5/11 (ME, P&RW, CBo, DM, m.ob.).

Two **Ruffed Grouse** were found in the upper section of SSP 3/13 (DM) and 3/19 (TB). **Ruffed Grouse** were also found at FIG 4/10 (TB) and 5/9 (JD, DM). Two **Northern Bobwhite** were found during a BBS route on an Amish farm northwest of Meyerstown 5/27 (VG), and one was heard there 5/30 (TB).

#### S.A.

PAMC participants at MLSP were treated to a spectacular fallout, which included several species of terns and unusual waterfowl. The most exciting arrival was a **Pacific Loon** which came in along with a group of **Common Loons** 5/11 (JH, CB, RP, DM, JD, CBo, m.ob.). The basic plumaged bird remained into the evening, but was gone by the following morning. Photos were obtained (CBo, JD). This provided a first **Lebanon** record for the species.

**Common Loons** were intermittent at MLSP beginning with one 4/1 (TB, JD, DM, RCM). Twenty-two were there (TB), 11 were at Mt. Gretna (SH, RCM, et al.) 4/19. Eleven **Common Loons** were again at MLSP 5/8 (KB, TB). For the PAMC, 15 **Common Loons** were part of the spectacular show at MLSP 5/11 (JH, CB, RP, m.ob.). This included a first summer bird which persisted at MLSP until 5/21 (TB). A single **Common Loon** was observed over 2Mtn 4/8 (JD). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at KP somewhat late 5/23 (TB). A nice fallout of 15 **Horned Grebes** occurred at MLSP 5/8 (KB, TB, JD, DM). **Double-crested Cormorants** were occasional at MLSP beginning 3/26 (TB, CBo). Some better counts there were 13 on 4/2 (CB), 16 on 4/16 (TB), and up to 130 on 5/8 (TB, JD, DM).

**American Bitterns** were found in multiple locations. The first was flushed from a marsh at FIG 4/1 (JD, DM). Another was found at QW 4/2 (TB, CB, CBo). One flushed from the cattails at SL 4/9 (JD, DM), and the Wetlands Trail at MLSP provided sightings 5/6-7 (TB, CKo). A **Great Egret** provided a first March record at QW 3/30 (CBo). Two **Great Egrets** were at MLSP 4/19 (TB). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at a pond near Grantville 4/29 (TB, JD). Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were flying near Prescott Rd during a BBS 5/27 (VG). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was a great find at SL 5/8-9 (DM, JD, TB, KB, RCM). Thirteen **Glossy Ibis** were seen flying over MLSP 5/27 providing both an eighth record and new high count for the county (EB).

Seventeen **Osprey** were counted at 2Mtn 4/19 (MC). An **Osprey** carrying a fish was being harassed by a **Bald Eagle** at MLSP 4/2 (CBo). An adult **Northern Goshawk** was a great find for a group of birders in Mt. Gretna 4/19 (SH, RCM, et al.). The first report of a **Broad-winged Hawk** this spring came from 2Mtn 4/7 (MCo, JR). Forty-seven **Red-tailed Hawks** made for a good count at 2Mtn 3/11 (RCM). A **Golden Eagle** continued at MC from the winter quarter until 3/9 (SH, CH, m.ob.).

A very cooperative **Virginia Rail** was at FIG 4/16 (JD, DM, TB). Two were found at the same marsh 5/11 (JD, CBo, DM). A **Virginia Rail** was reported at MLSP 4/20 (CBo). A **Sora** provided a new early date at SL 4/15-20 (JD, DM, TB, CB). Two **Soras** were at SL 4/21 (JD). Fifty-two **American Coots** were a good count at MLSP 3/24 (DM).

Kreider's Retention Pond along MPR lived up to its reputation as a great shorebird location. The first **Black-bellied Plovers** were six photographed at KP 5/12 (SS), and then four on 5/14 (SS, TB). One was found there again 5/17 (RCM), and 5/28-30 (TJ, DM). Seven **Semipalmated Plovers** were counted at KP 5/20 (JF). During the PAMC, thirty-seven **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen for a new county high 5/11 (m.ob.). **Lebanon's** eighth **Ruddy Turnstone** was at KP 5/12-20 (SS, TB, DM, JH, RCM, JF). A nice PAMC **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at the Union Canal Tunnel Park 5/11 (FH). Another **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found at KP 5/13-19 (TB, CBo, DM). On 4/2 three **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen at RPP and 6 were at Farmer Dr. (TB, CB). Four **Dunlin**, accidental in April, were at KP 4/19 (TB, JD, CBo, DH, DM). **Dunlin** were regular at KP through much of May, with better counts of 6 on 5/12 (SS), 5 on 5/13 (TB), and 4 on 5/20 (JF). A **Stilt Sandpiper** (first spring record) was reported at KP 5/11 (AM, DS). Single **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at KP 5/3-4 (P&RW, TB, CBo, RCM), 5/8 (JD, DM), and 5/15-16 (TB, DM). Three **American Woodcock** were flushed at SSP 3/13 (DM). The county's ninth **Wilson's Phalarope** put down briefly at KP 5/20 (JF), and the county's eighth **Red-necked Phalarope** was at KP 5/19-20 (DM, TB, RCM, GB). Phalaropes have been almost annual at KP in recent years.

**Bonaparte's Gulls** made a good push through the county in mid-Apr. Single birds were at Pine Rd 4/11 and 4/17 (TB). Six **Bonaparte's Gulls**

were at KP 4/12 (JD, DM), and one 4/17 (TB). Nine were at MLSP 4/12 (TB, JD, DM), and a new high count of 85 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was made there 4/14 (TB, JD). A first winter **Thayer's Gull** was reported at LL 3/7 (DM) for a fourth county record. A first winter **Glaucous Gull**, representing a seventh county record, continued at LL from 1/30-3/3 (CBo, m.ob.). **Caspian Terns** were unusually plentiful at MLSP, with eight seen 4/16 (TB), and seven found 5/8 (KB, TB). A single **Caspian Tern** was part of the general fallout at MLSP 5/11 (JH, CB, RP, DM, JD, CBo). **Common Terns** are not very common in *Lebanon*. One was photographed at MLSP for the 10th county record 4/14 (JD). The 11th county record was provided at MLSP 5/11 (JH, CB, RP, DM, JD, CBo, m.ob.). **Black Terns** are also very rare in the county. One found at MLSP provided a seventh county record 5/8 (KB, TB). Two different **Black Terns** at MLSP 5/11 provided eighth (JH, CB, RP, DM, JD, CBo), and ninth (AM, DS) county records. The first **Black Tern** seen on the morning of 5/11 was in full breeding plumage, whereas the one reported later in the day was described as a molting individual.

Early spring sightings of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** were made in the Quentin area 3/3 (JDe) and 4/8-9 (DM, TB). Later sightings were back in the traditional Fontana area 5/1-7 (JH, AK, TB). Two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were on a wire together near Fontana 5/21 (CB). Single birds were seen there 5/23-24 (JH, AK) and 5/31 (CBo). It is entirely possible that there are multiple pairs involved in these sightings along the Rte. 322 corridor.

A **Barn Owl** was seen before dawn near Ono 4/3 (DM). **Great Horned Owl** nests were found in three county locations. A visit to all three nests was made 4/13 (FH, AS). They found one young in the nest at the Union Canal Tunnel Park, two young and an adult at Stoever's Dam Park, and one young and an adult at the Woodlands Retirement Village in Cornwall. A **Barred Owl** was a nice addition to the PAMC at FIG 5/11 (JD, CBo, DM). The evening **Short-eared Owl** show was very popular along Hopeland Rd at MC into Mar. Three were seen on the *Lebanon* side 3/2-3 (CB, JDe). Two **Short-eared Owls** were found at MC 3/12 (AT, et al.), three 3/14 (DM), and one 3/28 (ME). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was at the Goldmine area of SGL 211 on 3/10 (TB). **Common Nighthawks** made a good showing this spring in multiple locations. The first was reported from South Lebanon Township 5/10 (GR). Two were seen at MLSP 5/11 (KB, TB, AM, DS). Eight **Common Nighthawks** made a nice count from SSP 5/20 (DM). A final report came from FIG 5/22 (DM). The Cold Springs Road and Tomstown Road section of FIG was once again home to many **Eastern Whip-poor-wills**. Three were heard along Cold Springs Rd. 4/14 (TB). Ten were found along Tomstown Rd 5/6 (KB, TB, RCM).

#### S.A.

A **Chuck-will's Widow** was heard calling along Tomstown Rd, at FIG, on the evening of 4/30 (TJ). It was heard again early on the morning of 5/1 (TB). This is presumably the same individual (or pair, since the females are largely silent) that has been found in the area each summer since 2010. After the initial discovery in mid-Jun 2010, it has consistently returned to the same area each year on about the first of May. It was also heard 5/6 (KB, RCM) and 5/14 (CBo).

Up to five **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at FIG 5/9-11 (JD, DM). The restricted access training areas of FIG have a good breeding population of this species in both the *Lebanon* and *Dauphin* sections. It was nice to have **Red-headed Woodpeckers** reported from Founderwhite Rd again this year, after a one year absence. Single birds were noted 5/9 (GR) and 5/19 (FH). Two new locations with **Red-headed Woodpecker** were S. Mt Pleasant Rd 5/4 (RCM, SM) and a woodlot in North Cornwall Township 5/14 (TB, MD). Male **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found in both Mt Gretna and nearby Governor Dick Park during a birding walk 4/5 (SH, RCM, et al.).

A **Merlin** flushed the shorebirds at KP 5/13 (TB). Both a **Merlin** and a **Peregrine Falcon** were seen during the amazing PAMC action at MLSP 5/11 (JH). A **Peregrine Falcon**, adult tundra subspecies, was flying north over 2Mtn 3/11 (RCM). **Peregrines** were occasional visitors in the farm country throughout the spring, switching their focus from winter **Horned Lark** flocks to shorebird locations. One was flushing shorebirds at RPP 4/2 (DM). **Peregrines** were also seen at KP 4/24 (RCM) and 5/11 (JD, CBo, DM). One was perched on a powerline tower by Shirksville Rd 5/28 (DM).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a great PAMC find at SGL 145 on 5/11 (RCM). **Alder Flycatchers** were at SL 5/20 (DM), and FIG 5/21 (JD, DM). A **Northern Shrike** was found on a new late date of 3/18 at FIG (JD, DM, TB). Two **Common Ravens** were unusually far south at Hicks Rd, SGL 145 on 3/8 (SH, m.ob.). At nearby Governor Dick Park a **Common Raven** was observed chasing a **Turkey Vulture** 4/11 (AL), and at 2Mtn on the same date a **Common Raven** was also seen harassing a **Turkey Vulture** (RCM, MC).

Six **Purple Martins** were found northwest of Meyerstown, for the first of many observations 4/2 (TB, CB). *Lebanon* is fortunate to have many active **Purple Martin** colonies, and they are a common sight over KP in the spring. The first **Tree Swallows** of the spring were 2 at MC 3/4 (RCM). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was seen fairly early at KP 3/26 (RCM). **Bank Swallows** are uncommon in the spring. The first of several observations came from KP 4/13 (RCM). Reports of **Cliff Swallows**, another difficult spring find, came from KP 4/20 (RCM), Pine Rd 4/29 (TB), and RPP 5/6 (DM). Very rare in March was a **Barn Swallow** at QW 3/30 (CBo). A **House Wren** was found on a new early date at FIG 4/1 (JD, DM).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at a yard in SHA 5/19 (JH). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was in a yard in Grantville 5/25-28, providing a new late date (KB, TB, JD, DM). Two were feeding side-by-side under an apple tree in the same yard 5/27 (KB, TB). A **Wood Thrush** was at SL 4/18 (CBo). An estimated 100 **American Pipits** were swirling over the fields south of Campbelltown 3/14 (TB). **American Pipits** continued fairly late at KP, with one remaining 5/17 (TB, JH).

It was a great spring for warblers, especially during the PAMC. Two **Nashville Warblers** were found at FIG 5/2 (JD, DM, CBo). During the PAMC 5/11 a **Nashville Warbler** was found at both MLSP (JH) and 2Mtn (JD, DM, CBo). Rare in mid-Apr was a **Yellow Warbler** at MC 4/17 (JH). Nine **Cape May Warblers** established a new county high during the PAMC 5/11 (m.ob.). Five **Pine Warblers** were a nice find, along with fifteen **Palm Warblers** which provided a new high count at 2Mtn 4/21 (JD). Nine **Bay-breasted Warblers** made a good count at SGL 145 on 5/17 (JH). **Cerulean Warblers** were found at SSP 5/20 (TB) and Cold Springs, SGL 211 on 5/25 (NM). The eighth county record of **Prothonotary Warbler** was a great PAMC report at Camp Shand 5/11 (SW). At least 80 **Ovenbirds** were found at SGL 145 on 5/17 (JH). Thirteen **Northern Waterthrushes** were tallied during the PAMC for a new high count 5/11 (m.ob.). A pair of **Kentucky Warblers** returned to the same location as last spring in SSP 5/13 (TB, DM, CBo). Two **Mourning Warblers**, both females, were found in the county. The first was seen in a yard in Grantville 5/10 (KB), and the second at SSP 5/20 (TB). Up to four **Wilson's Warblers** were near the dam at MLSP 5/9-15 (DM, JD, CBo, AK, TB). Seven **Canada Warblers** were a nice find at SGL 145 on 5/17 (JH).

A male **Summer Tanager** provided a third county record at a yard in SHA (JH), very close to last year's nesting location. It was seen on a new early date 5/8, but not relocated thereafter. A **Vesper Sparrow** was singing on a new early date at RPP 3/5 (RCM). **Vesper Sparrows** were found at several other county locations, including Light's Church Rd. south of Fredericksburg 4/11-26 (TB, JD, DM); KP 4/11 (TJ) and 4/18 (RCM); and along Farmer Dr. 4/27 (TB). A **Savannah Sparrow** was seen at MC 4/18 (RCM), a reliable location for this species. **Fox Sparrows** were found in multiple locations in mid-Mar. Seven were at SSP and three at FIG 3/13 (DM). Three were in Mt Gretna 3/14 (SH, EH, CB, TB). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at SGL 145 5/17-20 (JH, TB), and also at SL 5/20 (DM).

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at a Mt. Gretna feeder on a new early date 4/15-17 (PB). A **Blue Grosbeak** was reported from MLSP 5/12 (PF). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** was at FIG 5/21-23 (JD, DM, TB). Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at MLSP 3/12 (TB). Other **Rusty Blackbird** sightings included three at MC 3/30 (AH), 3 at FIG 4/1 (JD, DM), and up to 8 at SL 4/15-16 (JD, DM, CBo). A first-summer male **Orchard Oriole**, sharing a blooming cherry tree with a male **Cape May Warbler**, was a pretty sight in Grantville 4/28 (KB, TB). A **Baltimore Oriole** was seen on a new early date at Harpers 4/9 (KB).

**Purple Finches** came through in good numbers during the second week of April, with eleven at 2Mtn 4/11 (MC, RCM), 5 in SHA 4/11 (JH), and four in Grantville 4/13 (KB, TB). A lingering **Purple Finch** was in SHA 5/18 (JH). Two **Pine Siskins** visited a feeder in Mt Gretna 3/9 (EH, SH). One remained 3/14 (CB, TB, SH, EH). Six **Pine Siskins** were found during a birding walk in Mt Gretna 4/5 (SH, RCM, et al.). **Pine Siskins** continued at county feeders in small numbers into May. One was found in SHA 5/16 (JH), and 9 **Pine Siskins** at a feeder were a nice surprise in Grantville 5/12 (KB, TB).

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## Lehigh County

Location: Trexler Nature Preserve (TNP).

A very good cumulative total of 206 species was reported in *Lehigh* this spring. This is certainly a new high for this report, easily surpassing the 199 species reported in Spring 2011. This total comes thanks to a relatively small group that are as dedicated to constant accurate record keeping as they are to constant birding. The local use of eBird continues to grow, and will only increase our knowledge of the Lehigh Valley's bird life. Weather was a lot closer to normal than that of many recent periods. Mean temperature in March was actually 1.3°F cooler than the 30 year norm and a full 12° cooler than the mean temp from March 2012. Some birders felt that migration occurred a bit early, but at least one or two experienced the opposite. Equally anecdotal reports that the bulk of north bound migrants seemed to pass through over just a few days came from several *Lehigh* birders. Very good coverage at Leaser Lake was responsible for more than a few notable birds this period. The lake had been drained for several seasons due to ongoing but recently completed repairs to the dam, but slowly re-filled this spring, providing a nice mix of ample shoreline, a slowly filling lake bed, and transitional marsh-like habitats. Now filled, Leaser is once again *Lehigh's* only significant non riparian body of water.

The local **Snow Goose** spectacle terminated, more or less, with a max Mar count of about 12,000 moving over New Tripoli 3/21 (FD). The bulk of the tens of thousands of these winter visitors disappeared from the region at about this date. Three snow geese lingered on a small pond at the same location through the third week of April, and two remained here into summer. **Cackling Goose** was last noted at two locations 3/3: New Tripoli (FD) and Fogelsville Quarry (CH). The last large **Canada Goose** flock was about 800 birds at Leaser Lake 3/30 (FD). Oddly, a **Tundra Swan** lingered on the same pond as the snow geese, seen daily 3/8-4/1 (FD). Max count for **Wood Duck** (46) came from Leaser Lake 4/13 (FD). **Gadwall** stayed through 3/26 with max count of 4 at North Whitehall 3/3 (BE). **American Wigeon** remained through 4/7 at New Tripoli (FD). Max count for **American Black Duck** was 40 at Haafsville (ES). The **American Black Duck x Mallard** hybrids present for the past several winters at Dorney Pond remained through at least 3/12, with up to 2 this year (BE). **Blue-winged Teal**, **Northern Shoveler** and **Northern Pintail** were all reported in small numbers this spring, and all three species were last found 4/14 (m.ob.). **Green-winged Teal** was reported about 20 times; the last report was 5/12, with a max count of 13 from Haafsville 3/13 (MB). A pair at Leaser Lake 5/12 is a probably a new spring late date for the county and was documented with photos (FD). In contrast to the complete miss of Canvasback this season, **Redhead** was well-represented at Fogelsville Quarry the first half of March, with ten reports through 3/17 and a max count of 8 on 3/13 (MB). In April, **Redhead** were found at Dorney Pond twice, first 4/4 (TW), and again over three weeks later 4/28 (KD). The latter was a drake, documented with photos; this late April record was a great find, and almost certainly a new county late date. Max count for **Ring-necked Duck** was 68 on 3/11 (TB) and the last report was 4/27 (FD). There were six reports of **Greater Scaup** in Mar, and one more in April; max count of 8 was at Fogelsville Quarry 3/1-3 (FD, ES), and the last was 4/13 at Leaser Lake (FD). **Lesser Scaup** stayed one day later at Leaser (FD) with the max count of 18 at Fogelsville Quarry 3/1 (KH). **Long-tailed Duck** was at Fogelsville Quarry 4/5 (FD), and at Leaser Lake 4/17-20. The Leaser birds numbered 5 on 3/17 (DW) and 3 on 3/20 (FD). It seems likely that they were different groups as Long-tails aren't known to be particularly long-staying on Pennsylvania lakes. The last 2 **Buffleheads** were at Salisbury 4/17 (ES). A **Common Goldeneye** was at Leaser Lake 4/13 (FD), and 2 more were on the river at Lehigh Gap 4/16 (EK). Small **Hooded Merganser** numbers (max 3, m.ob.) were reported through the period. The last regular report was 4/18, then again 5/19 when a lone drake was seen flying down Jordan Creek at Jordan Park in Whitehall (BE). The long-staying **Red-breasted Merganser** hen at Lake Muhlenberg was last reported 3/22 (TW). The only **Ruddy Duck** was at Fogelsville Quarry 4/5 (FD).

A **Ruffed Grouse** near Leaser Lake 5/13 provided the only record (AS); hopefully this species was under-reported. **Common Loon** was present in very small numbers 3/10-5/18. Nearly all reports were from Leaser Lake, and most of these were during the typical peak migration period around the third week of April. Daily sightings 5/10-18 were less typical (m.ob.). At Lehigh Canal Park, **Pied-billed Grebe** arrived 3/10 (MB); the max count was 5 at Leaser Lake 4/20 (BE). The only **Horned Grebe** (3) and **Red-necked Grebe** reports were also from Leaser, 4/28 and 4/13, respectively (FD). The earliest **Double-crested Cormorant** showed up at

Fogelsville Quarry 3/10 (ES). **American Bittern** is always a good find for the county; this spring, one took advantage of favorable transitional habitat at Leaser Lake 4/13-14 (FD). The only other report came from Trexler Park in South Whitehall 5/9, a possible late migrant there (KD). **Great Egret** 3/24 at Fogelsville Dam was a probable new early arrival date by a week (DA).

**Bald Eagle** was reported 16 times, and every report was of a lone bird. Half came from TNP (m.ob.). Late migrant (presumably) **Northern Harriers** were reported three times 5/2-12 (m.ob.). There were few reports of this species in Mar and Apr. Two **Northern Goshawks** were at Bake Oven Knob 4/11 (JT), and at Coopersburg 4/21 (JK). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found four times 3/10-5/5. **Broad-winged Hawk** arrived at Bake Oven 4/11 (JT). Rounding out the category, two **Golden Eagles** were seen over the Appalachian Trail 3/9 (FD).

Rails are seldom reported here, but **Virginia Rail** was noted at Leaser Lake 5/11 and 5/12, presumably attracted to temporary marshy habitat as the recently drained, meadow-like lake bed re-filled. **Sora** was a presumed breeder in the county this year. The report was documented with photos of an adult, but the location will not be reported at this time in deference to the birds' best interest and the wishes of the finder. **American Coot** was only reported twice, ultimately 5/12 at Leaser Lake (AS). A **Sandhill Crane** flew over New Tripoli 5/4, well-described with straight neck and dangling legs as it passed (FD). Reports of this species seem to be increasing in the Lehigh Valley in recent years; though certainly not expected it should be looked for more than ever going forward. Thirteen species of shorebirds were reported this season. **Semipalmated Plover** was around 5/11-28 (max 5 at Schantz Rd – MB, CH). Early arrivals were **Wilson's Snipe** 3/16 (BH), **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/5 (FD), and **Pectoral Sandpiper** 4/8 (FD). **Dunlin** was at Leaser Lake 4/20-28, max 2 (FD). **Wilson's Snipe** was last reported there 4/17 (DW). Very few shorebird species were reported in double digits at any time this spring. **Bonaparte's Gull** was a nice find at Lehigh Canal Park 4/14 (MB, CH). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was last seen in the county the final day of Mar at Dorney Pond (EK), but the max count of 60 occurred 3/24 at Lehigh Canal Park (MB). The same observer also had 40 Lessers there 3/7. The highest numbers are typically found here in March, with the birds presumably attracted to the nearby Allentown water treatment plant.

A **Barred Owl** was photographed from the sometimes flooded field area in Haafsville 3/15, a nice find, and a little surprising for the area (DN). More than one **Common Nighthawk** must surely have been present in the county, but the only report was from Leaser Lake 5/11 (FD). The status of this species as both breeder and migrant here is shrouded at this time, with very few reports in recent years, particularly in spring. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was only reported 5/1 from near Leaser Lake, and also from Lehigh Furnace Gap the same date (FD). **Chimney Swift** arrived at several locations 4/12. The month of May brought several reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker**. The first was at South Mountain Preserve 5/3 to at least 5/15 (DE). A pair was at the recent breeding site at Stine's Corner 5/17 (FD), and another bird was found 5/18 at TNP (CH). The last **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was 4/20, also at TNP (CH). A **Merlin** passed by Bake Oven Knob 4/11 (JT), the final report for spring. In Allentown, there were 10 eBird reports and several other non-eBirded reports of **Peregrine Falcons** near the 8th Street Bridge. A pair bred successfully here yet again this year; four chicks (1m, 3f) were banded 5/23 (AM) and seen through the end of May. This marks the fifth consecutive year that Peregrines have nested on this structure, and at least the sixth year they've nested in the neighborhood. By my unofficial tally, at least twenty young Peregrines have fledged from this area since 2008, nearly all of which have been banded.

All ten of the expected flycatchers were reported this season. The rather long, flycatcher-themed run-on sentence that follows is chock full of details for "Flycatcher Sweep 2013" in *Lehigh*: The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a good catch near Leaser Lake 5/20 (FD), **Eastern Wood-Pewee** arrived 5/3 at New Tripoli (FD), the sole **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Lynn 5/20 (FD), **Alder Flycatcher** was at Leaser Lake 5/11 (FD) and at TNP 5/27 (CH), **Least Flycatcher** was reported five times by multiple observers 5/5-18, **Great Crested Flycatcher** arrived on Blue Mountain above Leaser Lake 4/20 (FD), and **Eastern Kingbird** arrived the same day, but down at the south shore of the lake (BE), the latter being a probable new early date for the county as well as a complete surprise that chilly, breezy spring morning. There was no "Vireo Sweep '13", as Philadelphia Vireo was missed. **Blue-headed Vireo** was last reported 5/22 at Franko Farm Park in Salisbury (RO), somewhat late in the season for the area.

There were several reports 5/11 and 5/12 of large flocks of migrant **Blue Jays**. **Common Raven** nested in the lower regions of the county for the third year in a row. Four fledglings were seen in this year's nest by a very credible birder who will remain anonymous for now (as will the 2013 nest site). Ravens are fairly easy to find on the mountain at the north end of the county, but south of the Blue Ridge, they remain notable. That said, there were at least ten low elevation raven reports this spring, far more than usual. Three were from the Sand Island to Walking Purchase Park stretch of the

Lehigh River. Ravens continue to be reported from here with consistency (especially from Sand Island) since 2009. Four reports came from TNP (CH, TW), and a few more came from the Macungie area (ES, PS).

The first appearance of swallows is a sure sign of spring. By this standard, spring began in *Lehigh* 3/12, heralded by four **Tree Swallows** at Leaser Lake (FD). Yet it proved to be a bit of a false alarm—the next report wasn't until 16 days later at Walking Purchase Park (ES). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** arrived 3/22 at Dorney Pond (TW), with a 13 day lapse until the second report. The first **Purple Martin** scout was at the Slatedale colony 3/31, a little earlier than usual (DA). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** has come to be expected in west Allentown and South Whitehall year round; the last report at hand this year was 5/9 (BCM). **Marsh Wren** was a one day wonder at Lynn Township 4/30 (FD). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** in Allentown 5/14 appears to be a new county late date for spring (BCM). The species had been present over the preceding month. There were two reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: 5/16 at New Tripoli (FD) and 5/20 at Lehigh Canal Park (MB). **Swainson's Thrush** was reported five times 5/11-27. A late **Hermit Thrush** was at TNP 5/26 (JF). **Gray Catbird** was absent in the county from December 2012 to 4/14, when one was noted at Lynn Township; **Brown Thrasher's** story is similar, last seen on the Allentown CBC, then arriving again 4/24 (FD). **Cedar Waxwing** was unreported in the county 2/24-4/23. After 4/24, it was seen regularly, with a max count of 54 at TNP 5/21 (CH). There were two **American Pipit** reports in March, then none until 5/13, two birds at Leaser Lake (AS).

There were a total of 33 warbler species in *Lehigh* this spring. None were reported particularly early or late. There were seven reports of **Northern Waterthrush** 5/11-26. **Prothonotary Warbler** was a surprise visitor at New Tripoli 4/27, attracted to marginal habitat along a swale, where it was scoped and heard singing (FD). **Tennessee Warbler** was reported 5/5-23; a nice total of 8 was tallied for the day near Schnecksville 5/18 (CH). **Orange-crowned Warbler** is notable anywhere in the state in spring, but one was well described in good habitat at Leaser Lake 5/11 (FD); this seems to be only the second credible spring record for the county, and the first since 1988. The only **Mourning Warbler** was seen by many birders on a Lehigh Valley Audubon trip to Leaser Lake 5/18 (FB). **Kentucky Warbler** was reported three times 5/3-16, but probably stayed longer and hopefully bred along the ridge somewhere. **American Redstart** arrived 4/23, and was reported to be exceptionally abundant around Bake Oven Knob 5/1 (JH). **Cape May Warbler** was found 5/10-17. **Magnolia Warbler** passed through the county 4/30-5/19, culminating with a report of nine at TNP (CH). The max count for **Yellow Warbler** was 40 at Walking Purchase Park 5/11 (ES); suitable habitat is present and these birds are abundant here in spring. **Yellow-throated Warbler** was along the Lehigh River at Salisbury Twp. 5/6 (MB). Wilson's Warbler was a no-show this spring, but **Yellow-breasted Chat**, often a no-show in these reports, made a welcomed appearance in a west Allentown yard 5/15 along with an assortment of other migrants (BCM).

**American Tree Sparrow** was once again a bit scarce, with just four reports 3/3-26; the max was nine at TNP 3/3 (CH). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported just three times, all on 5/17 and 5/18. No **White-throated Sparrows** were reported after 5/18, when several observers made their final eBird entries for the season (DN, ES, CH, BE). **White-crowned Sparrow** held out one day longer at TNP (CH). **Blue Grosbeak** was reported at the usual locations around Leaser Lake and Springhouse Road five times 5/13-18, but apparently not after (AS, FD, ES, DW). **Rusty Blackbird** was only reported twice, at New Tripoli 3/3 and Bake Oven Knob 3/30; both reports were of single birds (FD, JH). The first large, north-bound mixed blackbird flock was noted at Heidelberg Twp. 3/10, with at least 1000 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 2000 **Common Grackles** (JG). Following a winter with very few reports, **Purple Finch** continued to be scarce in March (three reports), then reappeared in Apr and early May. In Apr there were 19 records, all but one after 4/14. The final observation was 5/11, but the max count was only 8 birds at Haafsville 4/20 (DN). Similarly, **Pine Siskin** was noted just once in Mar, missed entirely in Apr, then found at various locations 5/11-17; max count was 11 birds at Salisbury Twp. 5/13 (ES).

**CORRIGENDA:** The following were omitted from the previous *Lehigh* report (*Pennsylvania Birds* Vol. 27, No. 1): A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was photographed at a feeder in Slatington 12/13, a rare winter record and probable late date for the county. A **Pine Siskin** was seen in Allentown 1/26, one of very few winter reports. The same observer also reported a lone **White-winged Crossbill** from the same area 2/4 (BCM).

Observers: **Bill Etter, 209 E South St., Slatington PA, 18080, (215) 964-3613, billetter01@gmail.com**, Dan Altif, Tim Becker, Mark Boyd, Fritz Brock, Frank Dickman, Kevin Dougherty, Denise Ecker, Jesse Fricker, John Good, Ken Haas, Bob Hoopes, Jeff Hopkins, Chris Hugosson, Jeremy Kleinberg, Ed Komito, Barbara Malt (BCM), Art McMorris, Bernie and Pauline Morris, Dave Neimeyer, Rett Oren, Peter Saenger, Ed Sinkler, Adam Smith, John Traynor, Todd Watkins, Dustin Welch.

## Luzerne County

No report.

Compiler: **David Fisher, 222 North Mountain Road, Sweet Valley, PA 18656, (570) 362-8727, David.Fisher@prudential.com.**

## Lycoming County

Locations: Duck Pond Montoursville (DPond), Lycoming Creek (LC), Old Township (OLT), Picture Rocks (PR), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Susquehanna River (SR).

Several flocks of **Snow Geese** including some well over 100 birds were seen flying past North White Deer ridge 3/9 (JY, GM) and a flock of about 300 was at PR (WE) also 3/9. Others were seen 3/24 at RVL (LC) and 3/30 (GM). Most sightings of **Tundra Swan** came from RVL during Mar, with a flock of 37 there 3/17 (NF), most of which lingered until 3/25 (LC, et al.). Most of the other notable ducks this season came from RVL, although waterfowl reports were paltry compared to the great fallouts during spring of 2012. A pair of **Gadwall** was present at the DPond 3/9 (AS). A pair of **Ring-necked Ducks** continued there to 3/9, and 200+ were at RVL 3/30 (GM). Up to 8 **Greater Scaup** were at RVL 3/30-4/23 (AK, NF, eBird); as many as 75 **Lesser Scaup** were there 3/30 (NF). A **Surf Scoter** was seen at RVL 4/16 (AK, DBrown, eBird). A **White-winged Scoter** was at RVL 4/12 (NF) and 4 were there at the late date of 5/11 following a storm (NF). The only report of **Long-tailed Duck** of the spring, in stark contrast to last spring, was of 4 on 4/12 at RVL (NF, eBird). **Ruddy Duck** was at RVL 4/12-28, with a high count of 35 on 4/12 (NF, eBird). Five **Red-throated Loons** were found on RVL 4/12 (NF), and 2 **Red-necked Grebes** were there 3/30 (NF) and one was on the SR below the dam 4/12 (NF, eBird).

**American Bittern** was on small pond 4/10 (TF), and another 4/20 at RVL (NF). First **Osprey** was reported 4/3 at RVL (NFre). **Bald Eagle** sightings near Maynard St. in March (MH, JY) helped to locate a nest nearby later on, which was one of four conformed nest sites in *Lycoming* this spring (MG). *Lycoming* is on the **Golden Eagle** flyway between wintering in the Appalachians and nesting in Canada. A Golden seen soaring over Williamsport 3/8 (JY) followed a big movement on Tussey Mt. (*Centre*), with 3 at North White Deer Ridge 3/9 (JY, GM).

Both **Sora** and **Virginia Rail** were found in the wetlands of Armstrong Twp. 4/27 (SP). A **Sandhill Crane** was seen 3/25 at RVL, apparently passing through (NF, eBird). With shorebirds scarce in these north-central mountains, a **Lesser Yellowlegs** in Armstrong Twp. 4/28 provided a nice record, up to 5 **Solitary Sandpiper** were at SGL 252 5/13-17, and a **Wilson's Snipe** was noted on Trimble Rd. 4/2 (all NF, eBird). Clearly the rarest bird of this season and most notable was the **Red Phalarope** feeding actively along LC in Williamsport 5/11 (NF). This bird was photographed, but could not be relocated. This is an exceptional spring record anywhere in Pennsylvania, although not unprecedented with two May reports in 2011 and three others reported elsewhere in the state this spring.

A regular migrant in the county, all **Bonaparte's Gull** sightings this year came from RVL, with a high count of 150 4/14 (NF, eBird). The only gull regularly seen year-round in the county, **Ring-billed Gull**, was seen fairly regularly until about 4/20 when it became occasional. A few **Herring Gulls**, less common here, were found at RVL 3/25 (NF). Five **Caspian Tern** were seen on RVL 4/12 (NF), a day of heavy rain and many waterbirds.

**Common Nighthawk** has become very rare in spring, so a few reports 5/29 along Pine Creek in Jersey Shore were nice, and the date suggests nesting (BS, SB, MT, eBird). A **Merlin** was seen in Loyalsock Twp. (along Northway Rd) 4/10 (JY), foreshadowing the subsequent nesting. An immature **Peregrine Falcon** 3/4 in downtown Williamsport also foreshadowed lots of activity this spring, also leading to confirmation of a nest on the Market St. Bridge (JY). A pair also present at Muncy helped document nesting there (WE).

Not often reported and probably overlooked here, **Yellow-throated Vireo** was along LC 5/11 (NF, eBird). Early **Warbling Vireos** were heard 4/27 at Rider Park (ML), several in migration 5/2 (DB), on territory along LC 5/22 (NF), and a nice total of 6 on the PAMC 5/11. **Horned Lark**, hard to find lately, was reported in Limestone Twp. 5/27 and 5/30 (NF). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was along the SR 4/7 (JY). The anticipated annual return of **Purple Martins** to their colony in Loyalsock Twp. was heralded by scouts 4/20 (FS). An early **Tree Swallow** was seen at RVL 3/30 (NF) with a few hundred along SR on 4/7. A nice flock of about 50 **American Pipit** was along SR 447 on 4/12 (NF).

A highlight for birders during May is the arrival of spring warblers. Though difficult to summarize, the migration seemed lackluster, with no more than about a dozen warbler species in eBird reports on any given day. The only date of significant migrant activity was, coincidentally, 5/11, the



date of the migration count, when 20 species were reported, certainly in part due to the extra effort. Highlights include 2 **Cerulean Warbler** at Field Station Bridge over LC 5/11 (DF), and good counts of 56 each of **Black-throated Green** and **Yellow-rumped warblers** from the many PMAC observers that day. The only report of **Blue-winged Warbler** was one along the Pine Creek Trail above Ramsey 5/30 (MS). A **Pine Warbler** visited a feeder in OLT 4/5 (LW), and a rare breeder in the county, **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found 5/29, likely on territory, at Jersey Mills (NF, eBird). **Mourning Warbler**, a rare breeder in the higher elevations, was seen in SGL 252 on 5/17 (MD) and 5/21 (NF, eBird).

Oddly for a bird that appeared to be expanding in recent years, the only **Orchard Oriole** this season was one in the Lime Bluff area 5/18 (AL). Spring is a season of passage, illustrated no better than the sparrow group. **White-throated**, **American Tree** and other sparrow species linger on winter territories into or almost through this quarter, others arrive to nest (**Chipping**, **Field**), some are just passing through (**Fox**), and others are resident (**Song**). The first **Chipping Sparrow** was in Montoursville 4/7 (JY). Increasingly scarce, a **Vesper Sparrow** 5/27 in Jersey Shore (NF, eBird) was the only reported. The first **Fox Sparrows** were 3 at RVL 3/30 (NF, eBird); others included one in OLT 4/1 (LW) and additional observations 4/13-14 (NF, eBird). Several reports of **Rusty Blackbird** came during the week of 4/7, mostly in riverbottom woodlands like Canfield Island 4/7 (DBrown), 15 there 4/8 (NF, eBird), and one at Powes Wetlands 4/14 (NF). Lingering from an interesting winter irruption, 6 **White-winged Crossbills** made a brief visit to a backyard in Montoursville 3/15 (RB).

Observers: **Dan Brauning**, 1920 Inverness Rd, Montoursville, PA 17754, (570) 567-4511, dan@thebraunings.com, Ron Beach, Steve Brenner, David Brown (DBrown), Laurie Cressman, Michael David, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, Tiarnan Ferry, Norwood Frederick (NFre), Nate Fronk, Mario Giazzon, Mary Herzenberg, Carol & Charles Hildebrand, Andy Keister, Ann Leach, Meredith Lombard, Gary Metzger, Steve Pinkerton, Alex Savakinas, Brian Schmoke, Matthew Schenck, Fred Stiner, Melanie Torres, Larry Waltz, Joe Yoder. Others assisted on the PMAC.

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**McKean County**  
No compiler.

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**Mercer County**

Locations: E. Zahnizer Rd. (EZR), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Shenango River Reservoir (SRR), Shenango Wildlife Area (SWA), Williamson Rd. (WR).

**Tundra Swan** first appeared 3/6 when 6 were found at Rattlesnake Swamp (NT) and continued to be seen at SRR until 3/24 (MM). Notable waterfowl species at the SWA ponds included a **Snow Goose** 3/16 (JH, NT, ST), **Ross' Goose** 3/6 (NT), 3 **American Black Duck x Mallard** 3/10 (STh), and **Mercer's first Eurasian Wigeon**, a drake seen for only one day 3/19 (SS, STh). In the SRR the more common waterfowl species were found in exceptional numbers probably due to rising lake levels causing an early ice breakup. The highlights included a high count of 367 **Northern Pintail** 3/10 (STh), 25 **Canvasback** 3/8 (SS), 300+ **Redhead** 3/12 (SS) and 552 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/19 (STh). An early **Blue-winged Teal**, observed 3/17 (SS), and a **Surf Scoter** 3/19-20 (STh), were both found at the Golden Run Area at SRR. Two **Long-tailed Duck**, 2 **White-winged Scoters**, and one **Black Scoter** were at LW 3/22 (JS).

Five **Ruffed Grouse** were heard drumming at SGL130 on the PAMC 5/11, the highest number heard there in recent years (NT, ST). Single **Red-throated Loons** were found 4/3 at SRR (STh) and 4/13 at LW (NT, ST). **Common Loons** were in impressive numbers at SRR 4/11 when 60 were counted (STh). The last was observed at Sandy Lake 5/13 (NT). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at LW 4/13 and a high of 42 **Horned Grebes** were there the same day (NT, ST).

A **Great Egret** was at wetlands along North Cottage Road 4/4-6 (NT), and 2 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were flushed along Coolspring Creek just north of Lake Latonka 4/30 (ST). **Mercer's second Glossy Ibis** was located at SWA 5/9 was seen for only a single day (SS, ph. GM, m.ob.).

A high count of 36 **Bald Eagles** was tallied 3/26 (STh). **Sora** and **Virginia Rail** were heard at Pennsy Swamp 4/24 (NT) and 6 **Common Gallinule** were there 5/26 (SS). **Sandhill Cranes** were first noted 3/11 when 2 flew over the WR and single pairs were found at Rattlesnake Swamp and at Lake Wilhelm in May (NT).

Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were at SRR 3/12 (NT), and the following shorebirds were at the SWA Ponds: **Semipalmated Plover** 5/9-29 (SS), **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/8-5/9 (NT), **Solitary Sandpiper** 4/30-5/13 (NT), **Spotted Sandpiper** 4/11-5/31, 4 **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/29-31 (SS),

**Least Sandpiper** 5/9-13 (SS) and 8 **Dunlin** 5/9-13 (SS, NT). **American Woodcock** was confirmed breeding at Nicklin Lane when 3 recently hatched young were found 5/9 (NT, ST). A single **Forster's** and 13 **Caspian Tern** were at the SWA 4/8 (NT).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were both heard in fair numbers at SGL130 on the PAMC 5/11 (NT, ST). Single **Common Nighthawk** were seen in flight over WR 5/19 and 5/25 (NT). Single **Merlin** were reported at SRR 3/12 and 4/10 (SS).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SGL130 on the PAMC 5/11 (NT, ST) and another (or possibly the same bird) was found at an area approximately 3 miles away on the same game lands 5/15 (SS). A recently fledged **Horned Lark** was at Holmes Road 5/2 (NT). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at Poole Road until 5/18 (NT) and a **Brown Creeper** was still heard at SGL130 at the end of the season (NT). Several **Marsh Wrens** were heard at Pennsy Swamp 5/20 (SS). All 5 **Thrushes** were reported with an early **Veery** at Mahoney Recreation Area 4/21 (SS). **American Pipits** were first noted 3/20 when two were found at SRR (STh). **Lapland Longspur** remained at EZR until 4/7 when 2 were seen. A high of 30 were there 3/10 (NT). The only **Snow Bunting** was one heard at SRR 3/16 (NT).

Thirty species of warblers were reported with most found in lower numbers than last spring. There were no major fallouts and most birds probably flew over the county due to southerly winds and clear skies during peak migration. A **Golden-winged Warbler** at Skunk Run Road 5/14 was the only report received for this species (JH). An **Orange-crowned Warbler**, displaying a very visible orange crown was at Nicklin Lane 5/14 (NT). **Northern Parula** were heard at Poole Road 5/14-16 (NT, ST), and a single **Cape May Warbler** was at Skunk Run Road 5/9 (NT, ST). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were present 4/13-5/16 (NT). Several **Cerulean Warblers** were heard along the Hamburg-Big Bend Trail 4/30 (NT). A lone **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at Poole Road 5/17 (JH, NT, ST), and 2 **Pine Warblers** were reported, one 4/21 at Coolspring Creek and one 4/23 at SGL130 (NT). **Blackpoll Warblers** were reported 5/16-25 (NT). **Prothonotary Warbler** returned to SRR later than usual, with the first heard there 5/13 (SS). **Northern Waterthrush** and **Louisiana Waterthrush** were heard at SGL130 on 4/24 (NT). **Mourning** and **Kentucky Warbler** both returned to their breeding areas at the same game lands 5/11 (NT, ST).

**American Tree Sparrow** remained at a feeder until 4/21 at WR (NT). Five **Vesper Sparrows** were found at EZR 4/7 (NT). Only a few **Lincoln's Sparrow** were reported, including one 4/30 at SGL130 (SS), one at EZR 5/16, and one at Poole Road 5/17 (NT). A **Fox Sparrow** came to a feeder at WR 3/18-25 and 5 were found at EZR 4/7 (NT). **Rusty Blackbirds** were found in small numbers at various locations in the county 3/17-4/23 (NT).

**Common Redpolls** came to a feeder at Transfer until 3/31 (MM) and a high of 20 were at WR 3/7 (NT). Five **Pine Siskin** were at a feeder at Poole Road 5/11 with the last there 5/18 (NT).

Observers: **Neil Troyer**, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137, Joseph Hochsletler, Geoff Malosh, Marty McKay, Steve Sanford, Jerry Stanley, Shannon Thompson (STh), Samuel Troyer, Dave Wilton.

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**Mifflin County**

Locations: Belleville (BE), Big Valley (BV), Juniata River (JR), Kishacaquillas Creek in Big Valley (KC), Lewistown (LT).

Sixty **Tundra Swans** were noted over BE 3/9 (JZ). Among uncommon waterfowl on the JR at LT were 4 **Blue-winged Teal** 3/19 (JZ), 3 **Green-winged Teal** 4/4 (JZ), 4 **Hooded Mergansers** 4/12 (CK), and 3-8 **Horned Grebes** 3/19-4/12 (CK, JZ). Also on the JR were 6 **Double-crested Cormorants** 4/13 (RH). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen near LT 4/24 (RH). Shorebirds are not easy to find in *Mifflin*. Reports this season included 3 **Solitary** and one **Least Sandpiper** in BV 5/7 (JZ), and the more reliable **Wilson's Snipe** in various locations in KC during the early part of the period, with a high count of 5 on 3/3 (m.ob.). Single **Common Nighthawks** were seen at Reedsville 5/9 (JD) and near LT 5/18 (RH).

**Warbling Vireos** were in BV 5/7 (JZ) and LT 5/17 (RH). During the PAMC 5/11, a visit to Licking Creek valley in Tuscarora SF, an area seldom visited by birders, resulted in an excellent species list, including **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Veery**, **Swainson's Thrush**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Golden-winged**, **Cerulean**, **Blackburnian**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Black-throated Blue**, and **Prairie Warblers**, and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (CK). Four **Cerulean Warblers** were found in that location 5/14 (RH). A good count of 25 **Rusty Blackbirds** was made near Burnham 4/10 (RH).

Observers: **Greg Grove**, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, PA 16669, (814) 667-2305, gwg2@psu.edu, Jim Dunn, Robert Hosler, Chad Kauffman, Jay Zook.

## Monroe County

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

The period was characterized for the most part by seasonal weather ending with a somewhat cooler and wetter May. A couple Big Day-type efforts in the county produced impressive totals—134 species were tallied 5/11 (DA, CH, SK, TK), and MCEEC's Century Run field trip 5/19 reached their goal by recording an even 100 species (DS).

A single **Snow Goose** lingering in a Mt. Airy lake near Swiftwater was seen as late as 5/19 (DS). The MCEEC **Hooded Merganser** pair showed up in mid-Mar and nesting occurred in the same box for the sixth consecutive spring (DS, BH, CT). An **American Bittern** was in a Swiftwater wetland 4/15 (*fide* SK), and 2 were heard in a Tobyhanna Marsh and one in a swamp near Cherry Valley 5/11 (DA, CH, SK, TK). A single **Virginia Rail** and 2 **Soras** were reported from a Tobyhanna Marsh 5/11 (DA, CH, SK, TK). A **Ruffed Grouse** at MCEEC 4/19 represented a rare record for this property (BH). Three **Wilson's Snipe** were found in Cherry Valley on a MCEEC field trip 4/5 (BH).

The season's only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Cherry Valley 5/11 (DA, CH, SK, TK). A total of 25 warbler species was tallied 5/11, including a high count of 8 **Golden-winged Warblers** in DSF (DA, CH, SK, TK). Unusual for the county was the **Kentucky Warbler** along the Freeman Tract Road in DWGNRA 5/11 (DS). Two male and two female **Purple Finches** showed up at the MCEEC feeders 4/11 and remained for several days (BH). A flock of 100+ **Common Redpolls** visited a Pocono Pines feeder into the middle of March (PB, DS), and a smaller flock was at Long Pond feeders through March into early April (AP). Single-digit numbers of **Pine Siskins** continued at the MCEEC feeders from March to mid-May with no evidence of nesting (DS, BH).

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## Montgomery County

Locations: Ashbourne Country Club (ACC), Crosswicks Bird Sanctuary (CBS), East Norriton (ENO), Elkins Park (ELK), Evansburg State Park (ESP), Fort Washington State Park (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve (GWP), Haverford College (HC), Norristown Dam (ND), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Perkiomen Trail (PKT), Pottstown River Park (PRP), Prophecy Creek Park (PCP), Riverbend Environmental Education Center (REEC), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Upper Skippack Mennonite Cemetery (USMC), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), White's Mill Preserve (WMP).

The spring of 2013 was a strange one for migration. Prevailing and unfavorable winds seemed to push many of the normal passage migrants around the area on their way north. Despite that handicap, a total of 203 species was reported in *Montgomery* during the season, mostly through the increasingly popular eBird website. eBird usage was particularly high for the PAMC held 5/11, when 24 participants tallied 8303 birds of 133 species across the county.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found in Gilbertsville 3/5 (RK). Another, or perhaps the same individual, was located at GLP 3/9 (KC, GF). A late **Snow Goose** was at GLP 5/2 (GF). A flock of 350 Snow Geese was reported at GLP 3/16 (CH). Single **Cackling Geese** were noted at GLP 3/3 and 3/9 (KC) and on a tiny pond at GWP 3/10 (PD). The season's largest **Canada Goose** flock contained an estimated 6000 birds at GLP 3/9 (GF).

The long-staying Pottstown **Trumpeter Swan** pair, in the neighborhood since at least 11/26, was noted primarily in *Chester* during the early part of the spring season, spending most of their time on some private ponds just south of the Schuylkill. They were spotted on the river 4/7 (LM), however, which likely means they were in *Montgomery* waters for at least a few minutes. **Tundra Swans** were again scarce, with only two reported sightings, both at GLP: 8 on 3/12 (JL) and 11 on 3/25 (KC).

GLP's **Gadwall** numbers were low, with a high count of 9 on 3/22 (GF). Six **American Wigeon** at GLP 4/13 was a decent count of the species for the date (WBH, KR). A late **American Black Duck** was observed at GLP 5/8 (ML). Single **American Black Ducks** were also found during the PAMC 5/11 at NFP (WBH) and just north of GLP (JG, JeG). Pairs of **Blue-**

**winged Teal** were seen at GLP 4/2 (TG) and 4/18 (JG), at NFP 4/2-4 (AU, KG, WBH), and at WMP 4/20-24 (SGo, GF). A **Ring-necked Duck** drake lingered at GLP until at least 5/1 (KC, GF, MA). The seasonal high count of the species, surprisingly, came not from GLP, but from WMP, where 22 ducks were observed 3/11 (AD). A drake **Greater Scaup** was a nice find in Gilbertsville 3/11 (RK). There were scarcely more reports of **Lesser Scaup** than Greater. Lesser is normally the more common of the two scaup in *Montgomery*. A pair observed at GLP 4/17 (GF) represented both the final report for the season and the high count. A late-Apr storm delivered 2 **White-winged Scoters** to GLP 4/29 (KC, GF, ML). A late-season high count of 24 **Buffleheads** was recorded at GLP 4/17 (GF). Single **Hooded Mergansers** were spotted at GLP 5/2 (AM) and 5/11 (BD). They have historically bred in small quantities in the county. **Common Mergansers**, which appear to be getting more common as local breeders, were observed at many locations through the end of May, including 13 at GLP 5/11 (SK) and 16 at ND 5/27 (MR). The latter group included a dozen juveniles. Early season Common Merganser high counts of 90 on 3/1 (KC) and 80 on 3/2 (MD) were noted at GLP. It was a good season for **Red-breasted Merganser**, with birds observed on four different occasions at GLP: a drake on 3/1 (JT), a hen 3/10 (KC), 2 female-types 4/7 (SK) and a single female-type 4/20 (WBH, SK). **Ruddy Duck** numbers were low, with only one report of more than 4 individuals: 26 ducks at GLP 4/17 (GF). A single Ruddy stayed at GLP until 5/15 (GF).

**Ring-necked Pheasant** was noted just once, in farm fields in the area of Palm 3/27 (GF). Twenty-two **Wild Turkeys** at PERT 3/9 represented the seasonal high count for that species (AnM).

Migrating **Common Loons** made a few nice pushes through *Montgomery* in late Apr, with 26 over NFP 4/19 (WBH) and 27 at GLP 4/26 (KC). The following loons were noted in May: one at GLP 5/9 (BB), 3 at HC 5/12 (SJ), and one at Souderton High School 5/20 (ZM). A **Horned Grebe** was at GLP on the late date of 5/27 (SGo). A remarkable 28 **Horned Grebes** were present at the same location 4/17 (GF). High counts of **Double-crested Cormorant** were 191 at GLP 5/9 (GF), 117 at Pennsburg 4/10 (GF), and 105 at NFP 4/19 (WBH).

The county's only report of **American Bittern** for the season must be shared with *Chester*, as the bird was seen flying along the county line (the Schuylkill River) at PRP 4/26 (VS). At least 15 **Great Blue Herons** were present at their small rookery in ESP 4/14 (WBH) and 5/11 (PM). There were only seven reports of **Great Egret**, with only one of those of more than one bird—2 at GLP 5/10 (GF). A **Green Heron** arrived at NFP 4/10 (BHi, WBH), a few days earlier than expected. One **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was spotted at HC 5/11 (SJ), a nice pick-up for the PAMC. Rare in *Montgomery*, 6 **Glossy Ibis** made a surprise flyover appearance at NFP 5/13 (WBH). Unfortunately, they were never located on the ground.

The season's **Black Vulture** high count of 54 was tallied at Souderton High School 5/14 (ZM) near a roost site. Sixty **Turkey Vultures** were seen from a cemetery in Souderton 3/28 (ZM), also near the same roost site. **Osprey** returned to the area right on time, with the first at CBS 3/21 (JG). A possible **Mississippi Kite** was reported near FWSP 4/6. Though this was never confirmed, it was in line with other area reports of the species. Kites pushed northward in greater-than-usual numbers in spring 2013 thanks to the emergence of 17-year-cicada Brood II. (Sadly, said cicadas were concentrated mostly to the north and east of *Montgomery*.) Four observers spotted a **Swallow-tailed Kite** near FWSP 5/11 (LS, HS, HC, BR). A somewhat late **Northern Harrier** was observed at NFP 5/13 (BHi). **Broad-winged Hawk** trickled quietly through the area on their northbound migration, beginning with 2 at ESP 4/11 (AU). There were no reports of greater than 3 individuals. A Broad-wing was noted through the end of the reporting period at GLP (KC), indicating it may be breeding in the area. A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk**, first spotted in Hatfield 1/26, continued through at least 4/21 (MC *fide* AM). One light-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported in early March at VFNHP (SG).

A nocturnal flight call audio recorder (run by PD) captured some interesting nocturnal migrants from ELK during the reporting period. One of these was a probable **King Rail** 5/16; "probable" only because there was a slight chance it could have been a Clapper Rail. Eighty **American Coot** were at GLP 4/15 (KC), a very high count for *Montgomery*.

Though not a great season for shorebirds, there were a few highlights. One of these was habitat: wetland mitigation areas, recently installed at NFP, have proven to be attractive to migrant shorebirds. **Semipalmated Plovers** were noted there 5/13-17 (WBH, BHi, AU), with at least 6 plovers present 5/14 (WBH). As many as 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** were also reported from Upper Gwynedd 5/15 and 5/18 (KR). **Spotted Sandpiper** was widely reported, with a high of five seen on the Schuylkill near Mont Clare 5/17 (CHI). Sixteen **Solitary Sandpipers** were at the NFP mitigation areas for the PAMC 5/11 (WBH). Three **Greater Yellowlegs** were at GLP 4/28 (GF, MA, PK), the high count of the species. A nocturnal flyover at ELK 5/22 (PD) was the only report of the species away from GLP. A single



**Lesser Yellowlegs** at GLP 5/9 (GF) was the only one of its kind noted. At least 30 **Least Sandpipers** were present at NFP 5/14 (WBH). The last **Wilson's Snipe** of the season was noted near FWSP 4/25 (BRE). Good counts of **American Woodcock** were 11 at PERT 3/17 (PD) and 5 at NFP 3/10 (SK). A Woodcock seen at HC 5/25 (SJ) was the only one of its species found in *Montgomery* since early April.

Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at GLP 4/14 (GF). Smaller counts were reported 4/9, 4/11, and 4/12 (all GF). Rare in *Montgomery*, 4 **Laughing Gulls** were found on a Wyncote Audubon Society birdwalk at PERT 5/12 (MS, PK). GLP **Ring-billed Gulls** maxed out at 1500 on 3/2 (MD). Nine hundred were reported a few days later, 3/9 (GF). The high count for **Herring Gull** was 22 on both 3/9 and 3/11 at GLP (both GF). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** numbers were diminished from their winter levels at GLP, but still remained rather high through March, with 38 noted on 3/11 (GF). Five remained until at least 4/7 (SK). Two **Great Black-backed Gulls** at ND 3/7 were the only report of the species (WBH). The only tern species of the season, **Caspian Tern**, was reported on three widely-spaced occasions, all just one bird, and all at GLP: 4/3 (KC), 4/19 (GF) and 5/15 (GF). The 4/3 tern represented a new record early date.

An early **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was detected at PERT 4/27 (DG). Six were recorded at ELK 5/16, during a nocturnal flight count (PD). Similarly, the high count of 3 **Black-billed Cuckoo** was also obtained through flight call recording at ELK, duplicated on both 5/16 and 5/21 (PD). A single bird was recorded there 5/15 (PD). Daytime **Black-billed Cuckoo** were noted at Willow Lake Farm 5/11 (SP), UCV 5/13 and 5/20 (KC) and GWP 5/22 (BHI), though some of these were also heard-only.

Another nighttime gem recorded at ELK was an assumed-migrating **Barn Owl** 5/20 (PD). **Barred Owl** was reported 5/20 and 5/22 near ESP (SF). Two **Long-eared Owls** were found at PERT 3/10 (PD). Another one was discovered there 3/24 (PD). The only reports of **Short-eared Owl** came from VFNHP, with the latest sighting on 3/13 (SG, WBH). Numbers of **Common Nighthawk** were modest. A high count of just 7 was made in Pennsburg 5/20 (GF). A calling **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was reported from Haverford 4/22 (WS), an odd bird for the suburban location, and a county rarity in general. **Chimney Swifts** returned slightly early, with one seen in ENO 4/10 (WBH). An estimated 100 Swifts were noted at ND 4/22 (MR).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** returned to *Montgomery* right on time, with the first seen in ENO 4/28 (WBH). The county's "famous" wintering **Rufous Hummingbirds** nearly stuck around into the spring season. The female in Meadowbrook lingered until 4/13 (BF, WBH, SK). The immature male at ELK was last seen 3/22 (PD). A female Rufous was banded in Harleysville 3/1 (SW); its departure date is unknown.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** briefly visited a home in Jenkintown 5/27 (RR, AR). Five **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at White's Road Park 4/7 (KR). A good count of 18 migrant **Northern Flickers** was reported from FWSP 4/14 (BHI).

**American Kestrel** was fairly widely observed, with several confirmed reports of nesting activity (m.ob.). Five were seen at PERT 4/14 (PD). There were nine reports of **Merlin**, most fairly early in the season. A late **Merlin** was noted from the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, near North Wales, 5/8 (SSo). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were seen at least 10 times, mostly in the vicinity of the Schuylkill (m.ob.). One Peregrine noted at FWSP 5/11 (DB) added a little more supporting evidence to the case for this species nesting somewhere in the county, though the mystery of where has yet to be solved.

**Acadian Flycatcher** was first observed in ENO 5/10 (WBH). They were noted in ones and twos at five other locations during the report period (m.ob). Single **Alder Flycatchers** were reported from two locations on back-to-back days: GLP 5/17 (ML) and SGL 234 (KR). **Willow Flycatchers** returned just in time for the PAMC, with 6 found at NFP 5/11 (WBH, BHI). **Least Flycatchers** were observed at five locations during a very limited date range, 5/11-12 (m.ob), with counts of 3 tallied at PERT 5/11 and ACC 5/12 (both PD). All of the expected breeding vireo species returned during normal migratory windows. Of note were a slightly late **Blue-headed Vireo** at HC 5/12 (SJ), and a very high count of 42 **Warbling Vireos** tallied along a stretch of the PKT 5/11 (SK), a traditional breeding hotspot. Sixty-six **Blue Jays** were seen migrating through NFP 4/26 (WBH). Thirteen reports of **Common Raven** were received; ten of those were of single birds. The other three were reports of a pair: at PRP 5/13 (VS), in apparent courtship flight at UCV 4/17 (KC) and at their likely Montgomeryville quarry nesting/roost site 5/22 (SF). The distances between these observations may indicate that there was more than one pair of ravens in the county.

Sixty **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were observed at ND 4/22 (MR). This location was the site of a likely-snowstorm-related profusion of early-season **Tree Swallows**: 200 were seen, swarming the Schuylkill, 3/16 (MR, WBH). Two hundred **Tree Swallows** were also noted at GLP 5/13 (GF), along with 200 **Barn Swallows**. The first **Purple Martin** arrived at the "Morwood" colony site north of Harleysville 3/31 (unidentified farmer *fide*

AM). By 5/11, at least 35 birds were present (KR). **Bank Swallow** numbers peaked at 12 at GLP 5/14 (GF). Single **Cliff Swallows** were reported at GLP 5/11 (TJ) and 4/20 (GF).

There were thirteen reports of **Black-capped Chickadees**, following an irruptive winter, with the last observed at NFP 4/26 (WBH). The last report of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, a species which also irrupted south over the winter, came from Gladwyne 5/13 (SS). A late and singing **Brown Creeper** was found at ESP 5/11 (WBH). A nearly-late **Winter Wren** was observed at VFNHP 4/27 (WBH). Fourteen **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** on the PKT 5/11 was a high count (SK). There were twelve **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at McKaig Nature Education Center 4/8 (MR). Late **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were noted in three locations on similar dates: Huntingdon Valley 5/10 (CA), HC 5/10 (SJ), and PCP 5/11 (BHI).

Big numbers of several thrush species were tallied via nocturnal flight count recordings in ELK (PD). **Veery** high counts included 82 on 5/18 and 60 on 5/16. Nineteen **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were recorded 5/21, and 8 on 5/22. **Swainson's Thrush** nocturnal high counts peaked with a whopping 247 on 5/18. Other good Swainson's flight count numbers included 123 on 5/21, 42 on 5/16, and 18 on 5/22. In daylight birding, there were seven reports of one to two **Gray-cheeked Thrush** for the period (m.ob.), as well as one possible **Bicknell's Thrush** at WMP 5/25 (KR). A late **Hermit Thrush** was found at Briar Bush Nature Center 5/13 (JS). A **Gray Catbird** was seen at PERT 3/31 (AnM), a couple of weeks early. **American Pipit** reports were light, with 5 at GLP 3/17 (AG, DE), one at NFP 3/27 (WBH), 5 at GLP 4/7 (GF) and one at NFP 4/19 (WBH) the only pipits noted. **Cedar Waxwings** finally started to trickle into the area in small numbers in April, after a largely-absentee winter (m.ob). They did not return to full force until mid-May. Sixty were noted at NFP 5/22 (WBH).

Despite persistent winds that did not favor migration, 30 species of warbler were found in *Montgomery*. A barely-early **Ovenbird** was noted in ENO 4/18 (WBH). **Worm-eating Warbler**, a scarce breeder in the county, was found only on breeding territory in the UCV: 4 on 5/2 (AM) and 2 on 5/11 (JG, JeG, BD). **Louisiana Waterthrush** returned later than in 2012, with the first report not until 4/7 at PERT (AnM). By contrast, **Northern Waterthrush** was slightly early, observed 4/17 at White's Road Park (KR). Also a bit early was a **Black-and-white Warbler** at ESP 4/14 (WBH). **Tennessee Warblers** were seen only at ELP 5/16 (PD) and FWSP 5/19 (WBH)—both single birds. The **Orange-crowned Warbler** that spent the winter in a yard in North Wales remained until 4/8 (KM). **Nashville Warbler** was tough to find, but there were five reports of the species (m.ob.). **Mourning Warblers** were located in three places: Lorimer Park 5/18 (PD), FWSP 5/22 (DB) and ENO 5/23-26 (WBH). High counts of **Common Yellowthroat** were tallied at PCP 5/11, with 22 birds noted (BHI), and via nocturnal flight call recording at ELK, where 20 were heard 5/16 (PD). Three **Hooded Warblers** were found on 5/11: at FWSP (SP), REEC (KW) and CBS (JG). Single **Cape May Warblers** were observed at FWSP 5/11 (SP, DB), ACC 5/12 (PD), and again at ACC 5/15 (PD). Eighteen **Northern Parulas** were reported at FWSP 5/11 (SP), an unusually high number for the area. Two **Bay-breasted Warblers** were found 5/11: one at PERT (PD) and one in a nearby yard in Huntingdon Valley (CA). The high count of **Yellow Warbler** was 24 on the PKT 5/11 (SK). Other PAMC high counts included 10 **Blackpoll Warblers** and 19 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** at FWSP 5/11 (SP). **Palm Warblers** pushed through in large numbers during the first half of the season, with the largest of those numbers the 60 birds at PERT 4/14 (PD). A nearly-late **Palm Warbler** was spotted at NFP 5/13 (WBH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was discovered at GLP 4/11 (TJ). It continued there until at least 4/20 (m.ob). Single **Yellow-throated Warblers** were also found at PERT 4/20 and UCV 5/4 (RW). High counts of 7 **Prairie Warblers** were recorded at GLP 5/4 (JT) and ESP 5/11 (WBH) - both traditional breeding locations. Eight **Canada Warblers** were noted at PERT 5/11 (PD), an unusually high number. Single **Wilson's Warblers** were located at FWSP 5/11 (SP, DB), REEC Center 5/11 (KW) and FWSP 5/19 (WBH). A Wilson's flight call was recorded at ELK 5/16 (PD).

Seventeen **Eastern Towhees** were observed at ESP 4/25 (WBH). **American Tree Sparrows** were abundant at PERT in late March. Counts of 24-30 individuals were reported 3/24-27 (PD, AnM). The last **American Tree Sparrow** was seen 4/14 (AnM). Single **Vesper Sparrows** were found at NFP 4/15 and 4/17 (both WBH). NFP **Savannah Sparrow** numbers peaked around the same time: 62 sparrows were counted 4/19 (WBH). Thirty-five were found at the same location 4/10 (WBH). A singing **Grasshopper Sparrow** made itself known at NFP 4/26 (WBH). Six Grasshoppers were on breeding territory at USMC by the time of the PAMC on 5/11 (SK). The seasonal high count for **Fox Sparrows** was 7 at NFP 3/27 (SK). Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were noted at GLP 5/17 (ML) and Lorimer Park 5/18 (PD). A late **Swamp Sparrow** was found in the UCV 5/20 (KC). **White-throated Sparrows** lingered later than usual throughout the region (m.ob.). Two at ENO 5/20 were the last on record (WBH). There were quite a few May sightings of **White-crowned Sparrow**, all single birds:

Gilbertsville 5/5 (MA), PCP 5/11 (BHi), FWSP 5/11 (SP), PKT 5/11 (SK), Lansdale 5/12-14 (RW), Pennsburg 5/13 (GF) and NFP 5/18 (KR). A late **Dark-eyed Junco** was observed at a feeder in Norristown during the PAMC 5/11 (BHi). Earlier in the season, 95 juncos were counted at NFP 3/28 (WBH).

Nocturnal flight counts from ELK revealed 18 passing **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** 5/16 and 11 on 5/18 (PD). An **Indigo Bunting** returned a few days early on 4/24 at SGL 234 (RB). High counts of **Bobolink** (for *Montgomery*) were reported during the PAMC, 5/11: 21 at NFP (WBH) and 17 at USMC (SK). Six **Eastern Meadowlarks** were seen in Audubon 4/1 (SL). There were seven reports of single **Rusty Blackbirds** 3/15-4/24 (m.ob.). Pairs were the largest groups of this declining species detected during the spring season, with 2 seen at NFP 3/27 and another 2 at ENO 4/17 (both WBH). A high count for **Common Grackle** was 3000 at Souderton 3/16 (ZM). Thirteen **Orchard Orioles** were noted along the PKT 5/11, along with a remarkable 38 **Baltimore Orioles** (both SK). Twenty-five **Baltimore Orioles** were observed at PERT the same day (CA, PD). The Gilbertsville **Bullock's Oriole** remained until at least 3/28 (MA, m.ob.) after successfully making it through its third winter in *Montgomery*.

The winter finch irruption of 2012-13 ended much more quietly than it began. **Purple Finches** were noted at ten locations in the area, with a high count of 6 at Souderton (ZM). The last was a late bird that was kind enough to remain at PCP for the 5/11 PAMC (BHi). A few **White-winged Crossbills** were sighted: 3 at HC 3/23 (SJ), one at NFP 3/28 (WBH), and 4 at HC 4/10 (SJ). **Pine Siskins** were noted in eleven different yards. Their numbers were lower than observed in the fall, with high counts of only 6 at Gladwyne 3/3 (SS) and Wayne 5/9 (EP). One stayed beyond the end of the reporting period at Wayne (EP). There were no spring reports of Red Crossbill, Common Redpoll, or Evening Grosbeak.

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#### **Montour County**

No compiler.

#### **Northampton County**

Location: Albert Rd Ponds (ARP), East Bangor Dam (EBD), Echo Lake (EL), Gremar Rd. Pond (GRP), Jacobsburg State Park (JSP), Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP), Martins Creek Quarry (MCQ), Minsi Lake (ML), Monacacy Nature Center (MNC), National Park Rd-Delaware Water Gap NRA (NPR), Nazareth Quarry (NQ), Smith Gap (SG).

Birders were out in force this spring. There were far more reports on eBird and the PABIRDS listserv than usual. Highlights included **Barnacle Goose, Cattle and Snowy Egret, Mississippi Kite, Sandhill Crane, Willet, and Clay-colored Sparrow**. Participants for the PAMC 5/11 had a very successful day with 144 species.

March was great for waterfowl with multiple reports of **Greater White-fronted Goose** and the second county record of **Barnacle Goose**. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at MCQ 3/3 (BW), ARP 3/7-9 (BW, MSa), and at Seiple's Pond 3/8-9 (BW, m.ob.). Many birders traveled to Northampton Quarry on Rte. 329 to see the **Barnacle Goose** 3/7-11 (BW, m.ob.). Some **Snow Geese** did not want to leave; there were 21 still present 5/11, with 15 at Blossom Hill Rd. continuing into June (MS). A **Ross's Goose** was picked out of 3500 **Snow Geese** 3/1 flying over Beersville (BE). **Cackling Geese** were at several locations with a high of 4 at ARP 3/17 (BW). A group of 3 **Tundra Swans** were at ARP 3/14-17 (BW) with a juvenile **Tundra Swan** remaining to 3/31 (MSa). **Blue-winged Teal** were found at EL, ML, EBD, and the Sunset Dr. marsh, with a high of 5 at ML 4/14 (BW). There was a male **Northern Shoveler** at MCEP 4/13-18 (BW) and at Sunset Dr. marsh 3/31 (MSa). On 3/17, EL held 8 **Green-winged**

**Teal, 9 American Wigeon, 2 Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, 2 Northern Shoveler, and 2 Hooded Mergansers (BW)**. Over 100 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at ARP 3/12-17 (BW) and 122 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at ML 3/12 (BW). MCEP held a **Redhead** 3/3 (MSa) and a female **Greater Scaup** 4/12 (BW). A female **Surf Scoter** at ML 5/10 (BW, MSa) did not stick around for the PAMC. **Red-breasted Merganser** was at ML 4/12-15 and NQ 4/12 with a high count of 17 at ML 3/27 (BW). **Ruddy Ducks** were common at NQ in early spring including a fallout of 15 on PAMC day 5/11 (MS, CCS). A pair of **Ruddy Ducks** continued into June at GRP.

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at the Penn DOT wetlands in U. Mt. Bethel Twp. 5/11 (MSa). The first **Common Loon** was at ML 3/22 (BW). In Portland, 3 **Common Loons** flew up the Delaware R 5/11 (MS, CCS). A lone **Pied-billed Grebe** remained at GRP into June. A **Horned Grebe** was at GRP the last week of Mar and was seen at close range (m.ob.). A high of 10 **Horned Grebes** were at NQ 4/17 (BW). **American Bittern** was on Hillside Rd, Seemsville 4/14 (BM) and at EBD 4/20 (DD). A **Great Egret** was at ML 4/12 (BW) and another was at Seiple's pond 4/19 (EV). A **Snowy Egret** was working the shoreline at NQ 4/19 (MS, CCS) and a **Cattle Egret** was at GRP 5/1-3 (BE, et al.). The tree holding the Portland **Bald Eagle** nest died and the nest site appeared to be in poor condition, but the 3 eaglets seemed healthy 5/11 (MS, CCS). An immature **Mississippi Kite** was seen flying northeast over the treetops in Beersville 5/31 (BE), and another flew over the Koch farm in Williams Twp. 5/25 (AK). A **Sora** was heard 5/20 at GRP (BW). An unexpected **Sandhill Crane** stopped at Green Pond near dusk 4/12 and departed early the next morning (BW, et al.).

Shorebirds were not present in high quantity but there were a few nice surprises. As expected, common shorebirds observed included **Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Least and Semipalmated Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, and American Woodcock**. A **Black-bellied Plover** at ML 5/28 (MSa) was unusual. Rare was a **Willet** at MCEP 5/8 (MSa, m.ob.) that only stayed for a few hours, representing the second record for *Northampton*; the other record was in 1996. Uncommon was a **Dunlin** at Green Pond 4/11-12 (DA). A **Red-necked Phalarope** was at MCEP 5/24 (BW, MSa). A reminder to readers: parts of MCEP are restricted access.

It has been several years since **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** have been reported in high numbers in the county, but a few still appear here. Most reports were from Mar with 10 at Grand Central Landfill 3/7 (MSa), and there were 2 reports of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** from NQ in Apr. Four **Bonaparte's Gull** were at MCEP 4/12 (BW) and 7 were at NQ on 4/13 and 4/19 (BW, MS). Two **Caspian Terns** were resting on a rocky outcrop at ML 4/16 (BW) and another **Caspian Tern** was flying around at MCQ 4/25 (BW).

**Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported on NPR in May (BW, MSa). Two **Black-billed Cuckoos** were at SG 5/22 (BW). A **Barred Owl** was reported from Bear Swamp 5/10 (DA). There was a **Long-eared Owl** calling at MCEP 3/9 (MSa). **Eastern Whip-Poor-will** returned to its known nesting location at Little Gap 5/23 (DW). **Common Nighthawk** was found at Portland (MS, CCS) and Williams Twp. (AK) 5/11. First **Chimney Swift** was reported 4/13 in Bethlehem (BW) and first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at the Koch farm 4/27 (AK). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was photographed in U. Mt. Bethel Twp. 5/27 (MSa).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed at SG 5/16 (MS), JSP 5/19 (BW), and at MNC 5/29 (DG). A likely migrant **Alder Flycatcher** was at JSP 5/19 (BW). **Alder Flycatcher** was also seen along Institute Rd. in U. Mt. Bethel Twp. 5/22-29 (MSa). **White-eyed Vireo** returned to its nesting site at JSP 4/24 (RW) and was at Marshfield Rd. along the Delaware 5/11 (BW). A rare spring sighting was a **Philadelphia Vireo** at SG 5/22 (BW). Away from the ridges, **Common Raven** was at Sand Island 4/17 (ES) and over Nazareth 5/11 (MS, CCS). **Purple Martins** returned to their nesting site on Driftwood Dr., Seemsville 5/11 (BM). Two **Purple Martins** were at ARP 5/12 and 5/27 (BW, MSa). There was a **Carolina Chickadee** at the Koch farm 3/9 (MSa) and at a yard in E. Allen Twp. 5/20-22 (DW). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at Housenick Memorial Park 4/20 (DG). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was on NPR 5/19 (BW). A late migrant **Winter Wren** was at a Beersville home 4/17 (BE). There was a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** in a yard in E. Allen Twp. 5/22 (DW) and at Bear Swamp 5/24 (BW). Up to 5 **American Pipits** were at Green Pond 5/4-8 (m.ob.). There were 10 **American Pipits** at Graver's Hill on PAMC day 5/11 (MS, CCS).

Birders looking for warblers did well finding 30 species. Early arrivals at JSP included a **Yellow Warbler** 4/24 (RW) and **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/13 (AS). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was found at MNC 5/17 (LF, BW). Another **Golden-winged Warbler** was seen along the Bushkill Twp. Trail 5/10 (AS). There was a **Brewster's Warbler** and **Wilson's Warbler** at JSP 5/10 (AS) and maybe the same **Brewster's Warbler** was seen at JSP 5/19 (BW). **Tennessee Warbler** was seen on NPR and Institute Rd 5/20 (BW). **Nashville Warbler** was found at JSP 5/5, 5/14, and 5/20 (MSa, CH), and on NPR 5/3 (MS). **Cape May Warbler** was in Palmer Twp. 5/10 (DD) and on NPR 5/11 (MS, CCS, BW). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was spotted in



Hellertown along the Lehigh River 4/1. An outing to the Bethlehem Boat Club 4/27 produced 2 **Yellow-throated Warblers**, **American Redstart**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, and **Warbling Vireo** (DD). **Bay-breasted Nashville**, and **Blackpoll Warbler** were all in the same Bangor yard 5/8 (MSa). Bear Swamp produced a **Bay-breasted Warbler** (MS, CCS) and a **Mourning Warbler** (BW) 5/11. A **Kentucky Warbler** on NPR 5/10 was likely a migrant (MSa). Another **Mourning Warbler** was heard singing along the Monacacy Creek in Bath 5/19 (MS, CCS).

A surprise visitor at a feeder in Weaversville was a **Clay-colored Sparrow** 4/30 (JF). In Williams Twp. 3/11, 2 **Fox Sparrows** and 30 **American Tree Sparrow** still lingered (AK). **White-crowned Sparrow** was at two locations on PAMC day. There were 54 **White-throated Sparrows** in the county on PAMC which was far higher than the few normally recorded here. **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at JSP 5/10-20 (AS, CH). Late **Dark-eyed Junco** was found in Plainfield Twp. (KS) and at NPR (BW) 5/11. At Grand Central Landfill, a **Blue Grosbeak** was observed 5/10 (DA). Good numbers of **Bobolinks** were found on the PAMC with 28 at Benders Church Rd., Plainfield Twp. (KS), 12 on Totts Gap Rd. (MS, CCS), and 8 on Mt. Pleasant Rd. (MS, CCS). **Rusty Blackbird** was at School Rd., Bangor 4/9 (BW) and in Beersville 4/13 (BE). Other good yard birds in Beersville were **Purple Finch** 4/13 and **Pine Siskin** 5/15 (BE). A late **Pine Siskin** flew over the Koch farm 5/29 (AK).

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#### **Northumberland County**

No compiler.

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#### **Perry County**

No report.

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#### **Philadelphia County**

Locations: Bartram's Garden (BG), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Delaware River (DR), Fairmount Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), Glenn Foerd Mansion (GF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia (TI), Morris Arboretum (MA), Naval Business Center aka Navy Yard (NBC), Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant (NWPCP), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

Where did the birds go? Did they pass us by, take a different route? These questions were common as this late or stalled migration, coupled with erratic weather, frustrated birders. It seemed like the bulk of migrants came in mid-May with not enough to make up for a sparse beginning to the season. On a rainy 5/11 PAMC, five parties of birders reported 130 species, an excellent total especially when only 20 species of warbler were found and participation was below normal. Highlights of spring included a **Mississippi Kite**, **King Rail**, lingering **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, and **Northern Shrike**.

From 5/30-6/2 three **Snow Geese**, two with up to 50% blue coloration, came to the TI impoundment, a visit no longer rare but merely uncommon (ABin, m.ob.). A good but not spectacular season for waterfowl ended with most ducks leaving before 4/30. Exceptions were **Blue-winged Teal**, a former breeder at TI, whose high count reached 11 on 4/24 (FW) before departing a week later than usual 5/31 (GA). **Northern Shoveler** and **Green-winged Teal** were also present until the last days of May. Among diving ducks **Ring-necked Duck** was most easily found at FDR with as many as 21 on 3/3 (FW). Always a good Philly bird, a **Greater Scaup** was seen from NBC 4/10 (GA) but dozens of **Lesser Scaup** were on the DR at POD (FW) and at TI until 4/15 (MD, FW). A **White-winged Scoter** and 2 **Red-throated Loon** were great finds from POD 4/9 (ph. MD). A group of up to 7 female **Red-breasted Mergansers** at POD 3/29 and at GF 4/4-27(FW) were a larger flock than usual. Birders from an ABA conference found 95 **Ruddy Duck** at DRT 3/30 (GA, TFI), but the population quickly dwindled to a single bird at POD 4/10 (MD, FW).

Despite the extensive construction projects at NBC, 2 **Ring-necked Pheasant** were seen 4/10-11 (PR, FW) and 5/8 (GA). There is no release program in *Philadelphia* or surrounding counties and eBird does not show pheasants in nearby New Jersey. **Wild Turkey** continue to thrive at TI where dramatic displays were photographed 5/29 (BA). At BGSP **Wild Turkey** were first noted 4/30-5/1 (AZ, DA) with two adults seen 5/16 (AD). On 7/16 AZ walked up on a hen with a flock of 4-6 poults, documenting our second breeding location for the species. FDR is the favored spot for 5 **Pied-billed Grebe** 3/16-31 (m.ob.) and surprisingly sheltered areas among the decaying docks at DRT are second 3/30 (TF, GA), with TI hosting only a grebe or two 5/11. A **Horned Grebe** was on the DR at NBC 4/10 (GA), with two on the SR 4/17 (BW) and a "pale plumage [individual] with red eye" at TI 4/26 (FW). Hundreds of **Double-crested Cormorant** were on the move overhead 4/19-28 (FW) and **Great Cormorant** was last reported 4/22 (FW).

The first **Least Bittern** of the season foraged in plain sight on the Darby Creek mud flats for two days 4/27-28 (DB, m.ob.). An early **Great Egret** arrived 3/3 at TI and **Snowy Egret** was present 5/19-29 (m.ob.). An immature **Little Blue Heron** was found 5/9 (BH). TI refuge management decided not to draw down the impoundment, which greatly reduced heron, egret and shorebird numbers from the hundreds present during past drawdowns. Given the record-breaking rainfall, we wonder if the aging equipment could have kept up with the never ending deluge.

**Osprey** returned 3/17 to their nest at GF and to the new nest in Philly waters of the DR which remained active as the season ended (FW). On 5/25, a windy afternoon in Mt. Airy, two brief sightings of a **Mississippi Kite** working against the strong wind gusts were made (MS). The kite's size, shape and flight pattern led to his identification, but the observer wished he had his binoculars because of the bird's rarity. Two **Bald Eagle** nests were active, producing three young. There continue to be multiple sightings of **Bald Eagle** in the WC area, which suggests an unpublicized nest in nearby *Montgomery*. **Cooper's Hawk** were reported from TI 5/17 and nw. Philly 5/10-6/6, both areas where they are known to breed. Our resident **Peregrine Falcon** population continues to increase including several breeding pairs.

Decades ago **King Rail** bred at TI, so it was an outstanding find 5/27 when a photographer posted photos on the web to ask for an identification of the strange bird (DB, LW, MR, m.ob.). Word went out that a King Rail was present on the shore of the impoundment and hordes of birders were able to see it until 5/29. A report of a **Sora** at TI 5/10 could not be verified.

Shorebirds were limited by the lack of mudflats at TI, but POD, BG, and MA also provide good habitat. At POD 2 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/5 (BB) was the only report of a species we normally see hundreds of. **Solitary Sandpiper** is more adaptable, choosing TI for a stopover 4/30-5/18, Pennypack Meadow 5/11 (FW, MD), BG 5/25 (KA) and MA 5/10 (ph. JS). Up to 10 **Greater Yellowlegs** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present 4/30-5/19 at TI; again many fewer birds. A lone **Dunlin** molting into alternate plumage was at TI 4/19 (FW). **Wilson's Snipe** was frequent at BG 3/10-5/5 (AZ). A handful of **American Woodcock** displayed at TI through Mar and one was found at Cobbs Creek EEC 3/20 (PD). At Temple Law School an **American Woodcock** was found dead 3/10 (DL).

Never abundant in Philly, **Bonaparte's Gull** were noted along the DR 4/8 (FW) and 5/8 (GA). **Laughing Gull** arrived at TI 3/10 and their numbers built steadily through mid-May. Trash dumps at northern and southern points along the DR always make us question the movement of gulls, but the 165 **Ring-billed Gull** 5/8 were high overhead and moving fast to breeding grounds after the rain abated (GA). Fifty **Herring Gull**, an unusually large group, stopped at TI 4/23 (FW) and in addition to the "long staying" **Lesser Black-backed Gull** in ne. Philly, an individual in first summer plumage was at POD 5/26 (GA).

Two **Northern Saw-whet Owls** remained at TI through 3/30 (ABe) and a late bird stayed until 4/10 (MD). Two pair of **Great-horned Owl** each raised two young from nests less than half a mile apart.

**Least Flycatcher** made a fine mid-May showing at BG (AZ, AD), at TI and at FDR (MD). Our **Northern Shrike** was photographed for the last time 4/1 (TC). A late **Blue-headed Vireo** was at CW 5/27 (GA). Eight **Tree Swallow** were at the NWPCP from 2/18 (DMcN) and at POD 3/3, making it difficult to determine an arrival date since they practically overwinter. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was present 5/11-19 with eight sightings being more than usual. **Swainson's Thrush** were present the entire month of May, possibly held back by the weather. Fourteen **Hermit Thrush** 4/20 was a small fallout at NBC (GA). Early morning at NBC produced an exceptional 11 **Brown Thrasher** along with 28 **Field Sparrow** 4/16 (GA). **American Pipit** was at the NE Airport as expected, but 35 was a high count (FW).

Given our erratic, birder-unfriendly weather, any day with 15 warblers was a boon. Nevertheless 32 warbler species were tallied with a few surprises at Center City. **Ovenbird** arrived at Kasky Pond at 38th and Spruce 4/19 and **Worm-eating Warbler** were not only at TI and CW, but in Center City 5/1 (AZ) and at Kasky Pond 5/10 (KA). Twelve **Northern**

**Waterthrush** at TI 5/19 was a high count (FW). A **Prothonotary Warbler** seemed to consider nesting at the FDR "lagoons" 5/12-25 (ND). Three **Tennessee Warblers** were at BG 5/16 (AZ). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at Cobbs Creek 3/16 and again 4/17 (AZ), possibly the same bird. Another **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at NBC (GA), possibly overwintering. The **Nashville Warbler** foraging in a Manayunk backyard 2/23 was last seen 3/16 (KJ, JS). A handful of **Cape May Warbler** sightings were clustered around 5/15. A **Blackburnian Warbler** male was a great early find in the WC 4/21 (KJ). **Pine Warblers** were singing at Hermit Lane in the WC suggesting they might again be the county's only breeding pair. **Yellow-throated Warbler**, all singing, were along the SR at BG 4/15 (AZ) and in East Fairmount Park on the Boxer's Trail (BW). On 5/4 a third singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at TI (LR, SP). Yellow-breasted Chat went unreported.

A single **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at NBC 4/10 (ph. GA). Birders thought **White-throated Sparrow** would never leave, so many lingered for so long, but the last group was reported 5/20 (AZ). **White-crowned Sparrow** were relatively plentiful 5/8-15 at Gray's Ferry Crescent Trail (a wonderful new birding area), Woodland Cemetery, and, of course, at TI (ABir, GA, MD, LW, AZ).

**Eastern Meadowlark**, never more than one at a time, was at NE Airport 3/16-5/11 (FW). Twenty **Rusty Blackbirds** was the high count and none were reported from FDR where several years ago counts of 75 were normal.

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#### **Pike County**

No report.

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#### **Schuylkill County**

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Kelayres Reclaimed Minelands (KRM), Landingville Dam (LVD), Lebanon Reservoir (LR), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Owl Creek Reservoir (OCR), Still Creek Reservoir (SCR), Swatara State Park (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tamaqua High School (THS), Tumbling Run Reservoir (TRR), Tuscarora State Park (TSP).

Weather through reporting period was generally seasonal, with cooler weather persisting through May, but a dry April. The county PAMC 5/11 recorded a nice total of 147 species, identical to last year. We all thank Mike Ward for his able handling of the organization and compilation of the count.

The county does not have any large water bodies that attract good numbers of ducks. The lakes range from farm ponds to medium size municipal reservoirs, which are generally in steep valleys so they lack an extensive shallow zone that supports aquatic vegetation. Therefore, what waterfowl do appear here, aside from **Wood Duck** and **Mallard**, range from rare to uncommon. This spring there were low numbers of 16 species of waterfowl reported including some that stayed into May. Those that stayed late included **Bufflehead** at KRM (JoD, JD), **Common Merganser** at LR (DR), **Ruddy Duck** in the northwest part of the county (MW), **Common Loon** at SAL (DD), and **Horned Grebe** at LLSP (TB). Some other notable waterfowl included a **Gadwall** 4/3 at APWS (JD), 2 **American Wigeon** 3/17 at LVD (DK), an **American Black Duck** at APWS 4/16 (JoD), a **Northern Pintail** 4/3 at APWS (JD), 6 **Redheads** 4/5 at SSP (BR), and 6 **Lesser Scaup** in Friedenborg 3/17 (DK). **Ring-necked Ducks** appeared in the county 3/10 at APWS (JoD) and were seen through 3/29 at various locations (m.ob.). A flock of 35 was at SSP 3/16 (BR).

An **American Bittern** spent a day at LVD 5/4 (BJ). Several **Great Egrets** were reported this year including single birds at APWS (JD), SAL (DD), LVD (DR), and SSP (BR). Four were at LVD (DK).

**Bald Eagles** continued their presence in the county this spring and were reported at most of the larger reservoirs including a total of 10 on the PAMC (m.ob.). Of special note, there were confirmed reports of two eagle

nests in *Schuylkill* this year. In addition to the eagles, seven **Osprey**, two **Northern Harriers**, two **Merlins**, and a **Peregrine Falcon** were also reported on the PAMC. **Ospreys** were reported numerous times throughout the season around the various reservoirs (m.ob.). Although most were of single birds, there were three reports of 2 birds (DK, DR, JoD, JD) and one of 3 (BR).

Like waterfowl, shorebirds are also very uncommon the *Schuylkill* due to a general lack of mud flats. Due to a water level change at LVD, however, there were more extensive flats than in previous years which attracted some shorebirds. Three **Semipalmated Plovers** were spotted at LVD 5/17. This species has not been reported in the county for several years. A single **Greater Yellowlegs** was found between 4/25 and 5/11 at APWS (JoD, JD) and 8 were at LVD on 5/7 (DR). Individual **Lesser Yellowlegs** were reported at LVD (DK, DR) and APWS (JD, JoD). **Least Sandpipers** passed through the county in early May and were reported at APWS (JD) and LVD (DR). Six **Wilson's Snipe** were at LVD 4/9 (DR). Although **American Woodcock** were reported numerous times through the season, the earliest was prior to this reporting period and occurred 2/28 (SS). **Ring-billed Gulls** moved through the county in short order, found 3/10-11 at three locations (BR, DR, FD).

Twenty **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported during the PAMC, more than all other years except 2012 when 49 were reported. A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** (KG) was located on the north slope of Blue Mountain. A pair nested there last year and they could be the same birds. After the seasonal cutoff, a second pair was observed near LVD but it has not been confirmed as of this writing whether they established a nest.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, very elusive in the county, was seen 5/24 in South Manheim Twp. (DR). The *Empidonax* flycatchers arrived in the county in mid- to late May. Two reports of both **Alder** and **Willow Flycatcher** came from opposite sides of the county (FD, VG). **Least Flycatchers** were seen for a week from 5/11-18 (DK, FD). **Acadian Flycatchers** were the earliest to arrive on 4/30 at SAL (DD) and will stay to breed at several locations in the county. **Swainson's Thrushes**, notable here, were seen several times (DK, DR, KG, TB). Even more uncommon, **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were seen three times in the northern part of the county in mid- to late May (DK, FD, JD). Three **Winter Wrens** have been reported since mid-May including one 6/8 (DK, DR). All three appeared to be territorial and may attempt to breed, which hasn't occurred here for several years.

There were a total of 32 warbler species found. The earliest warbler sighting in 2013 was 4/7 compared to 3/13 in 2012. It is very unusual for no warblers to be reported in Mar. **Palm Warbler** was the earliest with individuals arriving 4/7 (DK, JoD) followed by **Pine Warbler** 4/9 (DR), **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 4/10 (BR), and **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/10 (DR). These were followed by **Black-and-white Warbler** 4/17 (BR), and **Black-throated Green Warbler** 4/21 (DK). Other late Apr arrivals included **Yellow Warbler** 4/26 (BJ), **Ovenbird** (DR), **American Redstart** (DK), and **Northern Parula** (DK, DH) 4/27, **Hooded Warbler** 4/29 (FD), and **Blue-winged Warbler** (DR), **Common Yellowthroat** (BR, DR, JoD, DD), **Blackburnian Warbler** (DD), **Black-throated Blue Warbler** (JS, BR) and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** (FD) 4/30. A rare migrant in *Schuylkill*, the **Prothonotary Warbler**, was reported 5/9 at LVD (BJ).

A single **Bobolink** was found in the northern part of the county for the PAMC (JoD, JD). **Rusty Blackbirds** were present 3/3-4/17 at three locations: SSP (BR, DK), LVD (DK), and APWS (JD).

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#### **Snyder County**

Locations : Walker Lake (WL), Faylor Lake (FL), Tall Timbers (TT), and other various locations.

Two **Greater Scaup** were observed at FL 4/12 (TJ). Three **Long-tailed Ducks** were at FL 3/17 (KC) and 4/12 (TJ), and 2 were at WL 4/12 (TJ) and 4/13 (RD). Nine **Red-breasted Mergansers** were found 3/17 (KC) at FL. Three were located 4/12 (TJ) on FL. A single **Common Loon** was found 3/28 (JW) at FL and 2 were seen 4/12 (TJ) at WL. A single **Northern**



**Harrier** was located 3/28 (JW) at FL. **Bald Eagles** were seen throughout the reporting period at FL, WL, outside of Kreamer, and along Penns Creek (m.ob.). A single **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found 3/17 (KC) at FL. A **Rough-legged Hawk** appeared briefly 3/28 (JW) at FL. A single **Virginia Rail** was observed 5/25 (KC) at FL. A **Caspian Tern** was located 4/12 (TJ) at FL. A **Barn Owl** flew across Rte. 522 outside of Beaversprings 3/28 (JW).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was observed 5/25 (KC) at TT. A single **Philadelphia Vireo** was found 5/11 (JW) at TT. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited a feeder 3/24 and 3/27 (JW) just outside of Selinsgrove. A single **Winter Wren** was found 5/12 (TJ) at FL, 2 were found 4/23 (DB) along Penns Creek, 3 were observed 5/11 (JW) at TT, and 2 were there 5/25 (KC). A **Northern Parula** was found 5/25 (KC) on Snapper Road. A **Magnolia Warbler** was seen 5/25 (KC) at FL. A **Palm Warbler** was seen 4/12 (TJ) at FL. A **Savannah Sparrow** was observed 4/12 (TJ) at FL. Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen 3/27 (JW) at FL, and 2 more were observed flying over a yard 4/10 (JW) just outside of Selinsgrove. A single **Pine Siskin** visited a bird bath 4/21 (JW) just outside of Selinsgrove.

Observers: Dan Brauning, Kay Cramer, Rob Dickerson, Tom Johnson, Jason Weller.

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### Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Confluence Area (CA), Garrett Mud Flats (GMF), Kimberly Run Natural Area (KRNA), Lanzone Property (LP), Payne Property (PP), Somerset Lake (SL), Summit Mills (SM), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

Spring was slow arriving with frozen lakes persisting into mid-March when partial thawing finally started. Early waterfowl migration often overflies the higher altitudes of *Somerset* in these conditions; however, there was a reasonable variety of waterfowl nonetheless, albeit with less impressive fallouts than the past year. The cool temperatures persisted into April and even May, slowing the leafing of trees and the insects that come with it, which made for somewhat reduced passerine numbers. Somerset Lake is enduring yet another draw down which temporarily produces good mud for migrating shorebirds and may attract breeding ducks and rails.

An interesting observation came from SM where a family of **Canada Geese** was harassed by a **Bald Eagle**. The adult birds were actively vocalizing and the goslings continually diving until the threat passed (EB). A diminutive **Cackling Goose** with Canadas was observed flying over SL 3/5 (ML, JP, JM) while the observers were dragging ladders across the ice to install a predator guard on the **Osprey** nesting tower. The first **Wood Duck** was at QR 3/12 (LG). **Gadwall** was first found at SL 3/16 and a pair was still present in late May. Numbers of this duck in recent years has been much higher compared to the past 20 years. Two **Blue-winged Teal** were also present until 5/28 at SL (ML) and both species may be breeding. Many ducks put in their first appearance 3/16 including **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail**, **Greater Scaup**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Long-tailed Duck**, and **Red-breasted Merganser** at SL (AM, ML), and **Canvasback** and **Ruddy Duck** at QR (LG). A late fallout of **Ruddy Ducks** 4/28 at SL had 593 birds (AP, JP). A **Surf Scoter** visited SL 5/13 (ML).

One **Red-throated Loon** was at SL 4/11 (ML). The most **Common Loons** reported at once were 9 at SL 4/4 (BC). **Horned Grebes** first appeared at QR 3/16 (LG) and maxed out at 25-30 at SL by early Apr (JP). **Double-crested Cormorants** reached 110 at SL 4/17 (JP) and 57 were counted there 5/9 (AM). **American Bittern** was first spotted at SL 4/14 (CL, JP) and later a bird was in the same area 5/15 (ML). The SM area had a newly established small rookery of **Great Blue Herons** (EB). **Great Egret** was first spied at SL 4/17 and two late birds were still seen 5/28 (BC). **Green Heron** was found at QR 4/15 (LG).

**Black Vulture** was seen weekly in the SM area but is still uncommon in the county. After gallant efforts by the Somerset County Conservancy, Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, Pennsylvania Game Commission, and the PA Fish Commission to straighten and install a predator guard on the **Osprey** tower at SL, the birds did not stay to nest. Although birds were perching on the tower—which is now on dry land due to the lake drawdown—they left during an unfortunately timed water rescue practice which involved military helicopters hovering close to the tower for over 5 hours in early April. A pair of these state listed birds had successfully nested for over 20 years until the last two years when human decisions have hampered their efforts. **Bald Eagles** have become fairly common and may be nesting in the central and southwestern parts of the county. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported from near SGL 82 on 3/20 (MD).

**Virginia Rail** was first found at SL 4/16 (ML) and 4 were calling at BC 4/24 (AP, JP). A **Sora** was also present at BC the same day. A single **Sandhill Crane** was first found at BC 3/24 (CL, JP) after JP received a

report of a bird 3/15 in a field near Sandpatch which flew in the direction of Berlin. The bird remained but no mate was present so there has been no breeding since the success in 2010 and probable success in 2011.

Eighteen species of shorebirds were found this spring, many on the temporary mud at SL. Four **Black-bellied Plovers** were at SL 5/12 (AMc) with a single as late as 5/28 (ML). Many **Semipalmated Plovers** were present with the highest count of 150 on 5/24 (ML). **Willetts** were present at SL providing the third or fourth county record. An excellent count of 5 birds were present 5/11 (ML, m.ob.) with at least one persisting through 5/12. **Ruddy Turnstones** were present 5/7 (ML) and 4 were there briefly 5/16 (TA). Large flocks of peeps passed through with 100s of **Least**, slightly fewer **Semipalmated**, and a smattering of **White-rumped Sandpipers**. A high of 41 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 4/14 (ML) was good as were the 15 **Dunlin** 5/24 (ML). **Short-billed Dowitcher** was seen a few times including 5/22 (ML). **Wilson's Snipe** was not found until 3/19 in BA (JP) and **American Woodcock** not reported before 4/14 at KRNA (JM, MM) due to the frozen ground. The shorebird of the season was a **Red-necked Phalarope** at SL 5/7 (ML).

A **Great Black-backed Gull** flew over LP 3/16 (ML). **Caspian Terns** passed through from 4/11 (ML) to 9 birds 5/28 at SL (JP). Unsettled weather 5/11 brought hundreds of terns to SL, along with the most numerous **Forster's** was a brief appearance of a large flock of **Commons**. Amidst the swirling masses, these calls of one or two **Arctic Terns** were heard (ML). A photograph was managed and details will be sent to PORC. This was the first *Somerset* record. Up to 6 **Black Terns** were at SL 5/10 (AMc, ML).

A **Northern Saw Whet Owl** was at Indian Lake 3/22 (AMc). Both **Red-headed** and **Pileated Woodpeckers** visited feeders (JM, MM). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were found on Laurel Mountain 5/24 where they breed (CP, JP). An **Eastern Kingbird** was a bit early 4/26 in BA (AP, JP). **White-eyed Vireo** and **Warbling Vireo** were found in CA 5/24 (CP, JP) and **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found there 4/26 (AP, JP). The first **swallows** showed up in early Apr with **Tree** 4/5, **Northern Rough-winged** and **Barn** 4/7 (ML), and **Cliff** 4/8 (EB). **Marsh Wrens** were heard at SL 4/25 and 2 were there 5/11 (ML). A **Brown Thrasher** was first at PP 4/9. **American Pipits** were in BA 3/19 (JP) and SM 3/25 (EB).

About 27 species of warbler were found this period. Noteworthy were **Blue-winged Warbler** and **Yellow-breasted Chat** 5/24 and several **Yellow-throated Warblers** in CA 4/26 and 5/24 (AP, CP, JP). **Prairie Warbler** can be hard to find in the county so the bird 5/11 near Holsopple was nice (LG). The warbler of the season was a singing **Prothonotary Warbler** at SL for a few days beginning 4/10 (ML). A good sparrow fallout at occurred at LP 3/7 (ML) with **American Tree**, **Chipping**, **Field**, **Savannah**, **Swamp**, and **White-throated Sparrow** represented.

**Rusty Blackbirds** were present in BA 3/19 to at least early Apr (JP). An early **Bobolink** was in SM 4/16 (EB). **Common Redpolls** from last winter's incursion were still present at Indian Lake 3/26 (AMc) and at PP until 4/9. A flock of **Pine Siskins** was present at LP 4/24, at SM until 5/1, and a pair was at PP through period. A nice flock of 18 **Evening Grosbeaks** put in an appearance at LP 3/16.

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### Sullivan County

Locations: Dutch Mountain (DM), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), Hunter's Lake (HL), Splashdam Pond (SP).

All observations were by the author except where noted.

**Common Redpolls** were in Nordmont 3/3 (R&PP). The month of Mar closed with a trip to the county 3/27 that found cold weather and snow squalls. Many skeins of **Canada Goose** were moving north. **Hooded Mergansers** were already paired on the Loyalsock Creek. **Wood Duck** and **Common Merganser** had returned in good numbers as water was open regardless of the temperature. Five **Sandhill Cranes** were observed in two separate locations in Cherry Twp. **American Woodcock** were displaying at McCarroll's Corner on DM. A **Northern Shrike** was found at the Old Home Place area at Shady Nook in SGL 66 on DM. This was the second year in a row that the species has been observed there.

A trip 4/13 saw mostly cloudy and damp day and a 35°F start. It was an excellent day for waterfowl. EML was the hotspot of the day with some waterfowl also at HL, SP, and on a small pond in a marshy area in SGL 13. EML held a pair of **Ring-necked Duck**, **Scaup sp.** (Greater was identified but several were left undetermined), and 6 **Ruddy Ducks**. Sixty

**Buffleheads** were found across several locations. All three merganser species were on EML as well as **Common Loon**, **Pied-billed Grebe** and no fewer than twenty **Horned Grebes**, **Wood Duck** and 4 **Green-winged Teal** were at SGL 13. A pair of **Northern Harriers** was at the same location where they nested in 2012. Returning nesters included **Northern Flicker**, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Tree Swallow**, **Hermit Thrush**, and **Chipping Sparrow**. Fifteen **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were counted. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was heard along Ogdonia Road near Kettle Creek Gorge. The lone pass-through migrant was **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**.

The weekend of 4/27-28 saw morning temperatures in the low thirties but the days were warm and sunny. EML was again a hotspot. All three mergansers were again present on the lake, as was a pair of **Surf Scoters**. A **Double-crested Cormorant** was actively diving. Two **Ospreys** were seen around the lake but disappeared after two immature **Bald Eagles** arrived. There was also an adult **Bald Eagle** at Shady Nook Lake in SGL 66. A **Black Vulture** was soaring above downtown Dushore. The female **Northern Harrier** was seen carrying nesting material and landing on the ground very close to where the nest had been the prior year; however, neither bird has been observed in the area since. A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen nest building in the Kettle Creek Gorge area of Loyalsock State Forest. A **Greater Yellowlegs** was found at SP. Three species of owl were heard on DM the evening of 4/27: a pair of **Great Horned Owls**, a **Barred Owl**, and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl**. Returning nesters included **Chimney Swift**, **Northern Rough-winged** and **Barn Swallow**, **Brown Thrasher**, four warbler species and five sparrow species. A **Northern Mockingbird** was seen at McCarroll's corner on DM; an uncommon species in the county.

A twelve hour day covering over 100 miles resulted in 849 individuals from 96 species for the PAMC 5/11. Returning breeders included **Green Heron** and **Spotted Sandpiper** in Cherry Township. Eight species of raptor were counted. **Acadian**, **Alder**, **Least** and **Eastern Kingbird** were the returning flycatchers. **Warbling Vireo** was heard along Muncy Creek near Sonestown. **Carolina Wren** and **Northern Parula** were both found at lower elevations. Sixteen different warbler species were spread across the county with **Ovenbird** and **Black-throated Green Warbler** the most common. **Scarlet Tanager**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Bobolink** and **Baltimore Oriole** were all back as well. The day finished with **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** calling in SGL 13 near SP. Two **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** at higher elevations in SGL 13 and 66 were noteworthy. Five **White-crowned Sparrows** were observed in four separate locations. The highlight of the day was the two **American Pipits** calling softly and making short flights at close range at the Old Home Place at Shady Nook in SGL 66.

An immature **Bald Eagle** was at EML 5/19 (WE). There have been numerous sightings of young eagles at this location recently. A new nesting location was reported off the mountain near Muncy Valley (DG).

Five birders converged on the county 5/17 (RM, GB, SC, MB, DE). Over one hundred species were recorded during the three days. **Canada Geese** and **Wood Ducks** already had young on local ponds and lakes. Two **Sandhill Cranes** were accompanied by a single chick in Cherry Twp. where they have nested now for over ten years. There were still two **Common Loons** present in the county. Kosta Pond in Dushore has become one of the best spots in the county for shorebirds. The pond held **Spotted** and **Solitary Sandpiper**. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was calling in the High Knob area of Loyalsock State Forest. Six different woodpecker species were identified. Sixteen species of warblers were found including a **Blue-winged Warbler** at the bottom of Briskey Mountain. This is an uncommon bird for **Sullivan**. **Savannah** and **Grasshopper Sparrows** were located in an expansive grass field along Airport Road in Cherry Township.

Memorial Day weekend 5/25-27 proved frustratingly windy and cold. The species count for the three days was a relatively low 91. There were four first of season birds for the county including **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, **Willow Flycatcher**, **Great Crested Flycatcher** and **Cedar Waxwing**. The warbler species count was up to 17 with **Chestnut-sided Warbler** the most prominent by a large margin. The **Blue-winged Warbler** remained singing in the same location at the bottom of Briskey Mountain.

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#### **Susquehanna County**

Locations: Big Elk Lake (BEL), Camp Susquehannock (CS), Florence Shelley Preserve (FSP), State Game Lands Number 035 (SGL 035), State Game Lands Number 236 (SGL 236), Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Preserve (WFWP).

A good variety of migrant waterfowl was reported from *Susquehanna* this spring. A flock of 4 **Blue-winged Teal** was at L. Montrose 4/9 (JSK) and a pair was at the dump pond s. of Montrose 4/17 (JSK). The dump pond attracted a flock of 5 **Northern Shovelers** 4/13 (JSK), and this species also appeared at BEL, where there were 4 on 4/17 (BM). A flock of 6 **Redhead** was on Dunn Pond near Thompson 4/17 (DS). BEL hosted 2 **Greater Scaup** 4/14 (AD, JD) and a female **Surf Scoter** 4/22 (JSK). **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported from L. Walter, where there were 2 on 4/10 (JSK), L. Chrisann, where there were 4 on 4/12 (JSK), and Quaker L., where there were 2 on 4/17 (EM). Two **Common Goldeneye** were on Lakeside Pond near Hop Bottom 3/18 (JSK). **Red-breasted Mergansers** appeared on Lakeside Pond 3/20-21 (JSK) and on Heart L. 4/12-13 (JSK). A **Red-necked Grebe** was an excellent find on BEL 4/16 (BM).

*Susquehanna* birders detected several elusive wetland species this period. A county big day produced a **Least Bittern** at an undisclosed location 5/12 (JSK); listed as Endangered in Pennsylvania, this species has undergone severe declines in the northeast region of the state. A **Virginia Rail** was at Noble Farm 5/6 (EM), and others reported from Elbow Pond 5/19 (JSK) and Mack Rd. 5/26 (JSK) were well within the species' safe dates; these early reports seem to indicate that the county remains a regional stronghold for this species, which has been designated High Level Concern by Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan. Two **Soras** were at Noble Farm 5/8 (JSK).

Mudflats on the Susquehanna R. near Hallstead held a nice selection of shorebirds 5/11, including a **Solitary Sandpiper**, a **Greater Yellowlegs**, and a trio of **Pectoral Sandpipers** (JSK, LT). The single most thrilling find of the period was that of *Susquehanna*'s first **Red Phalarope**, which appeared briefly at SGL 236 on 5/5 (SS). Fortunately, this stunning bird was well documented at close range by its discoverer.

**Fish Crows** were at Hallstead 5/5 (EM, JM) and 5/19 (JSK) and WFWP 5/17 (JSK) provided evidence of the species' recent expansion into the county.

No fewer than 27 warbler species were tallied in *Susquehanna* this period, including several noteworthy potential breeders. Single **Mourning Warblers** were at FSP 5/18 (EM) and WFWP 5/27 (JSK) and 5/29 (JSK, LT). SGL 35 played host to a **Kentucky Warbler** 5/25 (EM, m.ob.), remarkable at the northern limit of its range here, as well as 2 countersinging **Hooded Warblers** 5/16 (JM) and 5/25 (m.ob.). The latter species has enjoyed a significant range expansion and concurrent population boom throughout the state, and reports in the county are few but increasing.

An adult **Lincoln's Sparrow** was banded at WFWP 5/17 (JSK). A single **Rusty Blackbird** turned up at Williams Pond outside Montrose 3/30 (JSK). A returning pair of **Orchard Orioles** was at a farm in Dimock Twp. 5/7 (NB). Winter finches visited county feeders en route to their boreal breeding grounds. The latest **Common Redpolls** were reported from Bridgewater Twp. 4/19 (BM). **Pine Siskins** appeared in May after having gone unreported since late Jan: a flock of 25 was observed in Silver Lake Twp. 5/10 (EM), and 4 continued to 5/19 (EM).

Observers: **Amy Davis**, 129 **W. Lancaster Ave. #2**, **Downingtown, PA 19335**, (484) 753-5154, [argdavis@gmail.com](mailto:argdavis@gmail.com), Dave Andre, Rob Blye, Nick Bolgiano, Edmund Burdick, Jeff Davis, Rich Fritsky, Evan Mann, Justin Mann, Bruce McNaught, Win Schafer, Douglas Sheldon, Jerry Skinner (JSK), Joyce Stone (JSt), Sherry Sparks, Linda Tucker, Nancy Wottrich.

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#### **Tioga County**

No compiler.

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#### **Union County**

No compiler.

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#### **Venango County**

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Barkeyville Strips (BS), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), County Line Road (CLR), Kahle Lake (KL).

There were few unusual sightings during the season. A total of 182 species were recorded compared to last year's total of 187. Reports were submitted by 18 eBird participants, a record number for a season and a pleasant surprise.

Waterfowl were relatively scarce as four of last year's visitors failed to make an appearance. A **White-winged Scoter**, not reported last year, was on the AR below the Oil City S.T.P. 3/7-4/9 (GE, JW). A small group of **Long-tailed Ducks**, always a nice find, was at KL 4/11 (KG, JS).

A **Merlin** was spotted at the BS 5/9 (ST). The only **Rough-legged**



**Hawk** was in Oakland Twp. 3/27 (GE, JW). Though **Rough-legged Hawk** sightings were minimal, overall the number of raptor sightings was about average with a few more **Red-shouldered Hawk** and **American Kestrel** than normal balancing the books.

Shorebird numbers were once again low as the mudflats at KL, the primary migratory layover site, have been taken over by weeds. Conspicuous by their absence were of Semipalmated Plover and Lesser Yellowlegs. Six **Upland Sandpipers** were seen and heard at the BS 5/11 (GE, ML). Gulls and terns were confined to the AR and KL. Though all three expected gull species and four tern species made appearances, numbers were low.

Both **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were well above normal, presumably due to the plethora of tent caterpillars throughout the area. The first **Common Nighthawk** of the year was in Franklin 5/7 (JH). Early indications provided some hope for a slight increase in the nighthawk population in Oil City but time and the weather will tell. At least six **Eastern Whip-poor-Wills** were calling the evening of 4/30 in SGL 45 near Van (GE) and they were also heard 5/17 in the Meadville Road area (WD).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported at BHNS 5/27 (KG, JS) and migrating **Philadelphia Vireos** were seen there 5/17-5/18 (KG, JS). The only confirmed **Purple Martin** colony in the county was doing well at an Amish lumberyard along CLR in the BS (CB, RN, ST). A **Swainson's Thrush** made a brief appearance at a backyard water feature in Oil City 5/12 (MK) and a single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** visited the same water feature 5/27 (MK). A **Lapland Longspur** was present at Rhoades Farm near KL 4/10 (KG, JS), providing a new late date for *Venango*.

Twenty-seven warbler species were reported. Four species usually seen, Kentucky Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Pine Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler, were not reported. The highlight was a **Golden-winged Warbler** in Oil Creek SP 5/20 (RS). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at the BS 5/9 (ST) and 5/20 (CB, CK, JD, JR). **Henslow's Sparrows** were present at that location 5/9 (ST). **Common Redpolls** continued to appear at BHNS feeders thru 4/18 (KG, JS). Five **Red Crossbills** spent just long enough at a backyard water feature in Oil City 5/18 to be confirmed with a photograph (MK). These set a new late date for the species in *Venango*. **Pine Siskins** lingered through 5/18 (KG, JS).

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**Warren County**  
No compiler.

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### **Washington County**

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Bavington (BAV), Bentleyville (BENT), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Lake Joann (LJ), Mingo Creek County Park (MC), Peters Township (PET), Robinson Township (RBT), Timber Lake (TL), Washington Park (WP).

Four **Tundra Swans** were over PET 3/7 (GG). **Gadwall** were well reported from four locations 3/1-28, with a peak of 11 at CL 3/23 (MV) and 7 at BENT 3/24 (AB). Seven **American Wigeon** at BENT 3/24 (AB) led three reports 3/18-28. Peak count of **Mallard** at AMD was 65 on 3/4 (MV). Two **Blue-winged Teal** shuttled back and forth between TL and LJ 3/20-28 (GG, et al.); peak at TL later in the season was 6 on 4/13 (GG, LGK), and up to 6 were at CL 4/1-23 (MV, et al.). **Green-winged Teal** were not as frequent, but 6 at RBT 3/23 (JM) was a decent count. A pair of green-wings at TL continued from the winter season to at least 4/13 (GG, m.ob.).

An excellent find for late Mar was a single **Canvasback** at AMD 3/20 (ST), which was also the only report of the season. A large flock of **Redhead** also continued from the late winter season at AMD. Daily counts of exactly 28 Redheads were steadily made there from the beginning of the season through 3/28 (MV, ST, GG, et al.), with the number spiking to 31 from 3/6-7. Numbers dwindled gradually thereafter, with the last two seen 4/15 (MV). A superb flock of 65 Redhead at BENT 3/18 (AB) rounded out an outstanding spring migration for the species in *Washington* and throughout sw. Pennsylvania. **Ring-necked Ducks** surprisingly were not well reported at all, with just three reports from three locations 3/6-18, headed by a meager

14 at Washington Reservoir #4 on 3/7 (GG). Three **Greater Scaup** in RBT 3/23 (JM) were a nice find. **Lesser Scaup** were well reported from BENT 3/18-24 (AB), otherwise reports were limited to 6 at AMD 3/4-6 (MV) and up to 8 at LJ 3/16-4/3 (GG). Five **Bufflehead** at BENT 3/21 (AB) and 2 at LJ 4/3 (GG) comprised all reports. When present in the extreme southwestern counties, the Bufflehead seems to greatly prefer the three major rivers over the various small lakes and ponds here, and *Washington's* portion of the Monongahela unfortunately does not receive much coverage. **Hooded Merganser** migration got started at BENT with 17 on 3/18 (AB); by 5/8, migrants were well past but a female with 6 ducklings was observed at Greencove Wetlands (RT), where the species probably breeds most years. Four **Common Mergansers** at Boone Res. 3/18 (GG) were a good find for *Washington*, as were 9 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at LJ 3/16 (GG) and 3 at BENT 3/24 (AB). **Ruddy Ducks** moved through quickly with 2 at CL 3/23-25 (MV) and 5 at BENT 3/24 (AB).

Two **Common Loons** were seen flying low over the California University campus 4/11 (MC), a rare sighting in *Washington* but one that fit very nicely with the peak of their migration through the region. **Pied-billed Grebes** were surprisingly few, found only at LJ 3/25-28 and 4/21 (GG, LGK). **Horned Grebes** in contrast were reported much better than usual, headed by 7 at BENT 3/24 (AB) and 9 at CL 4/1 (MV). One **Double-crested Cormorant** was at LJ 4/21 (GG) and up to 3 were at Boone Res. throughout May (GG, MV). This species is often seen in good numbers at Boone earlier in Apr but they were either absent this year or there was no coverage. The **Great Blue Heron** rookery on Chartiers Creek in North Strabane Twp. was active again this year, with 58 occupied nests as of 4/17 (PB, LC). The long-standing rookery on Raccoon Creek near BAV also still held a few active nests this year 4/27 (MF), but not nearly in the numbers of years past. Several **Great Egrets** were spotted: one at LJ 3/28-31 (GG), one at the heron rookery in North Strabane Twp. 4/9 (PB, LC), one at CL 4/23 (MV), one at LJ again 5/16 (GG), and one at Boone Res. 5/28 (MV).

**Ospreys** were represented only by one at CL 3/23 (MV) and one at LJ 4/3 (GG), leaving the county waiting still for its first nesting record. A second-year **Bald Eagle** was photographed at CL 4/19 (DB). A **Northern Harrier** was found crossing over Rte. 519 in South Strabane Twp. 3/11 (GG). A few were occasionally found spilling over from the *Allegheny* section of the Imperial Grasslands at RBT in Mar (m.ob.), along with a dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** 3/31-4/2 (GM, et al.). First **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Hillman S.P. 4/20 (PK).

**Sora** was heard at Greencove Wetlands 5/2 and 5/13 (RT). An injured **American Coot** continued from the winter season at TL throughout the season to at least 6/10 (MV, GG, et al.) and was periodically joined by one or more additional coots through 5/6. A group of 4 coots called AMD home from winter to 4/1, with 3 remaining there to 4/15 (m.ob.). The famous coot that made a permanent home at AMD for a number of years has apparently either died or discovered a sense of adventure, because it has not been present at the pond for several months now.

A **Semipalmated Plover** was at RBT 5/6 (JM). One **Greater Yellowlegs** was at CL 5/6-8 (MV) and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at AMD 3/20 (MV) and CL 4/29 (MV). As usual decent numbers of **Solitary Sandpipers** used CL on migration, beginning this year on 4/8 and peaking at 12 birds on 5/13 (MV, et al.). Five were also seen near Taylorstown 5/13 (RT). A flock of 17 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** in RBT 5/23 (ST, DW) adjacent to *Allegheny's* Imperial Grasslands saw to it that *Washington* shared in the excellent season for this species that its neighboring county enjoyed. Reports of **Least Sandpiper** were of 5 on 5/8 and 17 on 5/13, both at CL (MV). Two reports of **Pectoral Sandpiper** were widely spaced, one at RBT 4/7 (MB) and 2 at CL 5/2 (MV). Up to 10 **Wilson's Snipe** frequented CL 3/25-4/15 (MV), and 5 were at RBT 4/7 (MV). **American Woodcock** was noted at four locations through mid-May, including one at AMD 3/18-20 (ST) where the species is not normally reported. Flocks of **Ring-billed Gulls** on a pond in BENT peaked at 35 on 3/24 (AB).

A pair of **Great Horned Owls** nested again among the hordes of herons at the Chartiers Creek rookery (PB). Two owlets were still on the nest 4/6, and one was there 4/9. Both apparently fledged successfully, and the herons quickly took over the vacated premises. A **Short-eared Owl** from *Allegheny's* Imperial Grasslands group was at RBT 3/12 (GG) but they were not reported from their usual RBT wintering location farther south from the county line after the end of Feb. At least 5 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were seen and heard at Hillman S.P. 5/9 (FI, AdB). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at North Strabane Twp. 3/21-4/9 (PB, LC) and at WP 4/17 (LC).

The only **Least Flycatchers** were singles in PET 5/1-3 (GG), and even more surprisingly, the only **Great Crested Flycatcher** was one at MC 4/28 (ST). The dearth of these two species was likely a product of relatively low coverage by birders, yet some species, like **Yellow-throated Vireo**, were frequently reported despite coverage levels. **Blue-headed Vireo** was spotted at East Findlay Twp. 4/14 (PH), Washington Park School Pond 4/27 (LC), and WP 5/1 (PB). First **Warbling Vireo** was a bit early at Enlow Fork

4/21 (KSJ). **Common Ravens** were widely reported again, with birds in and near MC 3/4 (SK) and 5/2 (PK), one in Washington 4/1 (MH), and one at RBT 4/6 (PK), the latter certainly one of the pair that nested nearby in *Allegheny*. There was no report as to the status of the nest in Avella. The only **Horned Lark** was one at RBT 4/7 (MV). An early **Tree Swallow** was at PET 3/11 (GG). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were frequently found though 4/30, particularly around Hillman S.P. Best count was 8 at BAV 4/14 (MV). That same day, 4 **Brown Creepers** and 10 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were also at BAV (MV). The only report of **Winter Wren** came from MC 4/14 (DB). First and last **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were both at Washington Park School Pond 4/13 and 5/5, respectively (LC). Reports of spot-breasted thrushes (other than **Wood Thrush**) were few, as usual in spring. One **Swainson's Thrush** was in Cecil Twp. 5/25 (PB) and **Hermit Thrush** was found at BAV 4/14-20 (MV) and at WP 4/17 (LC). The first **Wood Thrush** was a few days early at MC 4/20 (ST). An **American Pipit** was at CL 3/25 (MV).

Warblers were not well-reported, probably owing to sparse coverage. Just one **Black-and-white Warbler** was found, at PET 4/30 (GG). **Nashville Warbler** was at WP 5/1 (LC), as was a **Kentucky Warbler** 5/5 (LC). Another Kentucky was at Coal Center 5/22 (AT). First **American Redstart** was at Enlow Fork 4/21 (KSJ), like Wood Thrush a few days early. **Cerulean Warblers** were found to be numerous at SGL 232 on 5/2 (RT), and were reported from a few other locations in May as well, mainly in the general area of the Buffalo Creek IBA. A slightly early **Northern Parula** was superbly photographed in an undisclosed backyard location 4/13 (DWe). They were also found at Enlow Fork (KSJ) and MC (ST) by the end of Apr, both known breeding locations for the species. **Palm Warblers** were limited to singles at East Findlay Twp. 4/27 (PH) and 2 at CL 4/29 (MV). Three **Pine Warblers** were singing at BAV by 4/1 (MV). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at PET 3/10 (GG) was probably overwintering, with first migrants returning to CL by 4/8 (MV). One was still at CL 5/13 (MV). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was back at West Pike Run Twp. by 4/10 (AT). BAV and Hillman S.P. still house the densest population of **Prairie Warblers** in *Washington*, which were back on territory in those areas by 4/27 (JM). A **Wilson's Warbler** was reported in RBT 5/17 (JH). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Greencove Wetlands 5/13 (RT) where they breed in good numbers.

A **Chipping Sparrow** at West Pike Run Twp. 3/28 was more or less on time. **Savannah, Grasshopper, and Henslow's Sparrows** were all found in traditional areas around RBT and BAV, but only Grasshopper was reported elsewhere, and that only at Coal Center 5/22 (AT). A **Fox Sparrow** was in full song at Washington Park School Pond 4/6 (AT). **Swamp Sparrow** was found on breeding territory at BAV 4/27 (MF) and in RBT 5/17 (JH). The last **White-throated Sparrow** stayed to 5/1 at WP (LC). **White-crowned Sparrows** moved though on time, with singles found at CL 5/3 (DB) and East Findlay Twp. 5/5 (PH). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at East Findlay Twp. 4/20 (PH) was a bit early. Eight **Eastern Meadowlarks** were back at RBT by 3/25 (JM). **Purple Finches** were well reported, particularly at a PET feeder where 2 were seen 4/11 and singles again 5/12 and 5/25 (GG). A great total of 10 was at Hillman S.P. 4/20 (PK), the same day one was also seen in East Findlay Twp. (PH). A **Pine Siskin** was at PET 5/12 (GG) and 7 were at a Houston feeder 5/15 (CH), which together coincided with a distinct pulse of siskins that moved though this region in mid-May. Three siskins were seen again at PET 5/25 (GG, ph. LGK).

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### Wayne County

Locations: Dyberry Township (DT), Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count (PAMC).

Unless otherwise noted, the observations were of the author. In stark contrast to last year, this spring was cool and wet. Twenty-one **Snow Geese** were flying with a flock of **Canada Geese** about a mile south of Lakewood 3/30 (TG). No unusual waterfowl were reported. Species noted this season included **Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, and Wood Duck**. Four **Black Vultures**, uncommon this far north, were observed in DT 3/1. A **Golden Eagle** was reported near Beach Lake 4/7 (AC). A dark-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** present through the winter was last seen hovering over a field near the

intersection of Rte. 652 and Buckingham Rd. 3/1. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found on Stockport Rd. 5/21 (RK). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** made a brief appearance at a feeder in Sterling Twp. 5/16 (MG). Twenty-six species of warblers were reported including **Worm-eating, Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Mourning, Northern Parula, Blackburnian, Magnolia, Cerulean, Prairie, and Canada**. Of particular note, a **Golden-winged Warbler** was located on Dillontown Rd. 5/22 (RK). Two **American Tree Sparrows** were found lingering off Burns Rd. during the PAMC 5/11. A **Rusty Blackbird** was observed feeding along the edge of a pond in DT 4/19. After being absent much of the winter, **Pine Siskins** showed up at multiple locations 4/26-5/13 (m.ob.). Good numbers of **Common Redpolls** were present throughout *Wayne* through 4/21 (m.ob.). A male **Hoary Redpoll** was sighted amongst a flock at a feeder in southern *Wayne* 4/21 (MG).

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### Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Cedar Creek County Park (CCCP), Delmont (DEL), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Lake (EL), Kuehl Property (KP), Keystone State Park (KSP), Latrobe Reservoir (LR), Linn Run State Park (LRSP), Little Sewickley Creek Wetland (LSCW), Loyalhanna Dam (LD), Mammoth Park (MP), Murrysville Wetland (MW), New Stanton (NS), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), Pleasant Valley Park (PVP), Tree's Mill (TM), Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT).

In a stark reversal from the winter of 2012, winter weather in 2013 hung on well past the spring equinox. As a result some species returned much later than they did in 2012. For example, **Yellow-throated Warbler** was recorded at heavily-birded CCCP 4/1/2012, but was not reported until 4/14 in 2013 (TK, JK, KSG).

Due to unfavorable conditions waterfowl reports were few, and lacking in species and numbers. Reports of note were 4 pairs of **American Wigeon** at LSCW on a WBNC outing 3/24, 2 **Blue-winged Teal** and 4 **Green-winged Teal** at the Hamilton Road pond 4/13 (KB), 6 **Redheads** and 42 **Ring-necked Ducks** at LR 3/23 (TA), and over 200 **Common Mergansers** at LD 3/2 (TV). Three **Great Blue Heron**, including two on rookery nests, were observed at LSCW on the WBNC outing 3/24. An adult **Little Blue Heron** was at MP on the PAMC 5/11 (DM, GS).

One **Northern Harrier** was observed in appropriate habitat on Kemmerer Hollow Road in Murrysville 3/27 (JK), and single birds were seen in Delmont 4/11 and 4/15 (KB). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Northmoreland Park 4/10 (MVT). Ken Byerly reported single **Rough-legged Hawks** on the WHT 4/5 and a late migrant in Murrysville 5/28. A high count **Bald Eagle** at LD was 8 on 3/2—2 adults and 6 immature (TV). Two immature birds were observed talon grappling. Beginning 3/20, one or two **Osprey** were reported at DL, a long time nesting site (TA, LH, DB).

With limited appropriate habitat, as usual there were no substantial reports of rails or shorebirds. One **Virginia Rail** was heard at LSCW 3/24 (WBNC). As in 2012, **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Laurel Bog for the PAMC, with 3 on 5/11 (TK, JK) and a single bird was there again 5/17 (KB). Four **Greater Yellowlegs** were in the Conemaugh Dam area 5/17 (KB) and a single **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at Laurel Bog 5/17 (KB). **American Woodcock** displays were heard in reclaimed strip mine areas near the KP 3/30 (JK, TK). Gull and tern observations were minimal, although counts of 7 **Bonaparte's Gull** and 4 **Caspian Terns** were made at DL 4/17 (TA, LH). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was photographed at a feeder in Laurelville (DY).

A single **Great Horned Owl** was observed during the LSCW outing 3/24 (WBNC). The long-distance hoots of a **Great Horned Owl** were heard at the KP 3/30 (JK, TK). Three **Barred Owls** were recorded for the PAMC at the Hess Property (LH). Single **Merlins** were reported near Donegal 3/20 and at DL 4/2 (TA, LH). One **Peregrine Falcon** was observed at the Tarentum Bridge, a nesting location since 2010, on 3/5 (MVT) and 2 were reported at the same location 3/10 (GN).

**Common Ravens** continued to be reported in lower elevation areas of the county. One of several reports included a **Common Raven** being harassed by a **Common Grackle** in New Stanton 5/13 (MF). A **Common Raven** family group was observed near the traditional nest site in LRST 5/11 (TK, JK). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was a miss for the PAMC, however 4 were recorded on Laurel Bog/Wolf Rocks Trail/Laurel Ridge area as were **Swainson's Thrush** and **Hermit Thrush** 5/17 (KB). On the 5/11 PAMC



there were 29 warbler species reported, including a **Mourning Warbler** and a **Golden-winged Warbler**. Missed for the PAMC, a **Worm-eating Warbler** was reported at LRSP 5/6 (TA, LH).

**American Tree, Savannah, Grasshopper, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows** were recorded on the 5/11 PAMC, as were 2 **Rusty Blackbirds**, 2 **Purple Finches**, and 8 **Pine Siskin**. One **Vesper Sparrow** was at the in Bell Twp. 4/19 (KD). A **Lark Sparrow** was spotted the Rte. 981 strips near New Alexandria 4/12 (KB, LHU). A single **Fox Sparrow** was photographed at feeders at the KP 3/24 (JK). One singing **Rusty Blackbird** was heard at the Coal and Coke Trail in Scottsdale 4/29 (MF). One **Common Redpoll** was photographed at feeders in Stahlstown 4/7 (DB), and also near Stahlstown on the same day there were 3 **Common Redpolls** at the Hess property. Four **White-winged Crossbills** were in Delmont 4/13 (KB).

Thanks to Dick Byers for his compilation of the county's participation in the PAMC. Thirty nine participants reported 157 species (10-year average is 148) and 9403 individuals. Two new species were Common Merganser and Little Blue Heron.

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### Wyoming County

Locations: Beaumont (BM), Davis Crossing (DC), Lake Carey (LC), Lake Winola (LW), Little Rocky Glen (LG), Mulligan's Pond (MP), Oxbow Lake (OL), Russell Hill (RH), Scottsville Road (SR), Sordoni's Farm (SF), State Gamelands 57 (SGL), Vosburg Neck (VN).

It was a normal spring migration for *Wyoming*. Most of this report focuses on the 2013 PAMC which was held 5/11.

A **Redhead** at SF 3/23 (JD) represented the first report in *Wyoming* since Mar 1992. A **Black Vulture** over Meshoppen 3/6 (LH) was the first report since the 2011 PAMC. **Sandhill Crane** was recorded at Sharp's Lake, the usual location, a number of times during the period. **Chimney Swift** continues to be observed in only very small numbers in *Wyoming*.

On the 2013 PAMC, participants recorded 107 species compared to an average of 113 over the previous 15 years. There were 2815 individuals, 3.5% above the average of the last 15 counts. Observers totaled 29 **Wood Duck**, the third highest in 16 counts and well above the 15 year average of 17. Other than that, there was nothing unusual about the waterfowl count during the PAMC. Eight **Bald Eagles** was the highest number recorded in the past 16 counts. Bald Eagle made its first appearance in the count in 2000 and has been more and more common since then. Seven **American Kestrel** tied for the highest count total in the past 16 counts and more than twice the average of 3. Seventeen **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** was the highest count ever and continuing a recent trend, as 13 were recorded in the 2012 PAMC, compared to a 14 year average of 4. Two **Willow Flycatchers** (the first since 2002) were recorded for just the third time in 16 years of the *Wyoming* PAMC. Similarly, **Alder Flycatcher** has appeared only once in that time. These two species are rarely reported in *Wyoming*. The total of 13 **Red-eyed Vireos** was down from a average of 37 and the third lowest count overall. **Wood Thrush** was observed 54 times, the second highest count, and compares to an average of 33.

There were some interesting results among warblers, including the following. **Yellow Warbler** was observed at about half the average, at 38, the third lowest count overall. Conversely, **Black-throated Green Warbler** at 38 was twice the average and the highest in 16 counts. No **Prairie Warbler** was observed, the first time in 16 counts. Counters recorded 105 **Ovenbird**, the highest ever and well above the average of 60.

Thirty-five **Eastern Towhees** was the highest ever for this count. The average is 14. Henslow's Sparrow was not reported; the reliable spot for Henslow's, near Jenningsville, was mowed flat, including all the small shrubs that seemed to provide singing roosts for the species. **Lincoln's Sparrow** was a count first, at SGL (JD). The highest number ever for **White-crowned Sparrow**, 25, far exceeded the average of 6. Just 2 **Indigo Buntings** compared poorly with the average of 19, and was the lowest figure since 1997. The total of 10 **Eastern Meadowlark** was just half the average.

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### York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd Landfill (ALT), Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), Fairview Township (FRVW), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), High Point Scenic Vista and Recreation Area (HIGH), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP), Springettsbury Township (SPTP), Si Rode Lane Pond (SRLP), Ski Roundtop (SRTP), Spring Grove (SG), Spring Valley County Park (SVCP).

This appeared to be a fairly typical spring. Total species count was 185 with decent waterfowl and warblers, but shorebirds were sparse. The PAMC, coordinated and compiled by AP and RP, found 133 species, slightly above average.

Six blue morph **Snow Geese** were at a Stewartstown pond 3/28 (DC) and 85 flew over SRTP 3/10 (CH). **Mute Swans** continue reside at SG, but 5 at GPSP 5/15-16 (DC, DN) were a surprise. **Tundra Swan** passed through 3/10-4/14 (m.ob.) with a high count of 300+ at LW 3/17 (RP). Some nice **American Wigeon** counts of 30 and 60 came from SRLP 3/24 (PK) and CSP 3/29 (AW), respectively. There were seven reports of **Blue-winged Teal** spanning 3/15-5/11 (m.ob.) from five locations. Notable as the only reports of either species was 30 **Northern Shovelers** 4/23 (DC) and 10 **Northern Pintails** 3/2 (RP) at CSP. CSP held **Redhead** from 3/2-29 (m.ob.) with extremely high counts for *York* of 45 and 50, 3/10 (RP) and 3/13 (DC). Although regularly reported, there were no triple-digit counts of **Ring-necked Duck**. **Lesser Scaup** were limited, with a high count of 14 at GPSP 3/20 (DN). **American Black Duck** was only reported once, 6 birds at SG 3/13-29 (PK). LAR held a single hybrid **American Black Duck x Mallard** 3/9 (CFT). Good for the county, a **Long-tailed Duck** was at LW 4/9 (CK) and **Common Goldeneye** were at LR/LW 3/12-28 (DC, DN, RP) with 2 on 3/12. **Hooded Merganser** were common and confirmed breeding was observed at BI 4/20 (DC) and SG 5/3 (PK). BI has been an established nesting site in the county but SG is new. A nice count of 28 **Red-breasted Merganser** came from CSP 3/29 (AW). **Common Loon** was found up until 5/31 (NZ) with 2 birds at GPSP. A good count of 12 **Pied-billed Grebe** came from CSP 3/2 (RP) and 15 **Horned Grebe** were at CSP 3/10 (RP). Decent rafts of **American Coot** were at CSP from 3/20-4/16 with the 300+ high count 3/20 (DN).

The previously documented **Great Blue Heron** rookery at SG and the mixed **Great Egret** and **Black-crowned Night-Heron** rookery at Kiwanis Lake remain active. There is some evidence of expansion at the SG rookery and at the egret portion of the Kiwanis Lake rookery, but the night-heron nesting was steady compared to prior years. **Osprey** and **Bald Eagle** continue to be widespread. Reports of nesting **Osprey** were impressive: one at CSP (KL), 3 at BI (DK), and one at York Haven (DK, SH) with more detail to follow in the next reporting period. Reports of **Northern Harrier** carried into May with one at ALT 5/3 (RS) and one on the 5/11 PAMC.

Marsh Run provided a **Virginia Rail** vocalization 5/8 (DC). Best of the very limited shorebird reporting was 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at LR 5/14 (CK, DN). There were 3 **Wilson's Snipe** reports with a nice count of 14 coming from Wolfe Rd. 4/13 (RP). The sole report of **American Woodcock** was of 3 birds from HIGH 3/12 (DC). There were 3 reports of **Bonaparte's Gull** including 13 and 19 from GPSP 4/14 (RK) and Goldsboro 4/19 (BS). **Herring Gull** and **Caspian Tern** were each reported five times with high counts of 7 and 8 Caspians coming from LAR 4/14 and LR 4/16 (DC, DN). Infrequently reported, a **Forster's Tern** was found on the PAMC.

A single report of **Black-billed Cuckoo** came from LR 5/12 (DA), and there were four reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** from three locations. A trio of **Eastern Screech-Owls** were at SVCP 3/9 (DC). A **Short-eared Owl** was at ALT 3/1 (DC), a reliable winter haunt. The 3 **Common Nighthawk** reports were confined to 5/10-15 (DC, GK). Three calling **Eastern Whip-poor-will** provided a 5/20 (DC) chorus at Camp Tuckahoe. Nine reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker**, six reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, and 14 reports each of **Hairy** and **Pileated Woodpecker** continue the strong trends for these species. A **Merlin** was at CSP 3/15 (EE) and a **Peregrine Falcon** was an unexpected sight perched atop a utility pole along Green Valley Rd. 3/9 (DC).

**Yellow-throated Vireo** were at SVCP 4/27 (DC), GPSP 4/27-5/8 (RK, DN), and BI 5/18-26 (DA, MT). There were five reports of **Blue-headed Vireo** but the only **Philadelphia Vireo** was at RRCP 5/15 (DC). A 4/17 (DC) report of a **Common Raven** at SPTP was followed by an interesting report 5/15 (DW) from the nearby Mt. Wolf area of 6 birds heard croaking. Since the quarry in this area was previously suspected as a nesting site, this

observation gives further evidence of likely breeding there. CSP held nice counts of **Purple Martin** with 5/30 (DN) observations of 18 at Hoff Rd and 30 at the marina. The first **Bank Swallow** was seen 4/12 (DC) at LR and a small colony continued at SG with 4 birds there 5/11 (PK). CSP's **Cliff Swallow** colony remained active with a first sighting 4/21 (DC) and 10 found 5/30 (DN). Reports for **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Brown Creeper**, and **Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets** were all above typical reporting frequency for this period. The more noteworthy observations were somewhat tardy **Winter Wrens** at CSP 5/5 (JF) and at LR 5/14 (CK). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at GPSP 5/27 (MT) was definitely on late. **Veery** were found throughout May at four locations. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found on the PAMC and at RRCP 5/15 (DC). **Hermit Thrush** was found at three locations with a good count of 6 at CSP 4/15 (JF). The two reports of **American Pipit** totaled 10 birds along Old Commons Rd 3/26 (DC) and 6 birds at Sunnyside Rd 5/11 (PK).

The 31 warbler species for the period and 25 species on the PAMC were fairly representative of recent trends. Better finds were **Cape May Warbler** at RRCP 5/8 (DC) and CSP 5/18 (JF), **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Lock 12 4/12-13 (DC, NP) and BI 4/20 (DC), and **Bay-breasted Warbler** at RRCP 5/16 (DC) and CSP 5/18 (JF). **Cerulean Warblers** were found at GPSP 5/3 (RK) and a trio were at Lock 12 on 5/12 (DC). As many as 3 singing male **Prothonotary Warblers** were at BI (an established nesting site) 4/30-5/21 (m.ob.). **Wilson's Warbler** was at RRCP 5/17 (DWe) and BI 5/29 (DN). Four reports each of **Canada Warbler** and **Yellow-breasted Chat** were above the norm for this period.

A flock of **American Tree Sparrow** descended on a feeder at Merriweather Meadows 3/14 (DP). **Savannah Sparrows** were found throughout the period (DC) at ALT and a pair of **Grasshopper Sparrows** were there 5/18 (DC). **Fox Sparrow** were seen from the start of the period with the latest report 4/12 (PJR) at Hanover. The only report of **Swamp**

**Sparrow** was of 6 birds at SG 3/3 (PK). Both **White-throated** and **White-crowned Sparrows** appeared to vacate the county the week of 5/15. Two **Blue Grosbeaks** were at BI 5/2-19 (DC). A single **Bobolink** was at HIGH 5/22 (DC). There were 5 **Eastern Meadowlark** reports with a high count of 9 coming from ALT 5/14 (RS). Six **Rusty Blackbirds** were at LR 4/12-19 (DC) and a single at Green Lane Farms 4/19 (RK). **Purple Finch** extended their stay to 5/12 (DN) at FRVW. **Pine Siskins** were widely reported and pushed late dates with birds still seen at FRVW 5/27 (DN). High count was 13 at Green Lane Farms 5/11 (RK).

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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

**SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR PUBLICATION:** We welcome submission of feature articles, artwork, or photographs focusing on any aspect of Pennsylvania birds or birding. We strongly encourage that submissions be sent in electronic format by email but will accept handwritten or typewritten material if necessary.

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.

Hard copies of any material must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope if the author desires to have the material returned. **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** assumes no liability or responsibility for any unsolicited materials.

**REPRINTS:** Request reprints of articles from: PSO, 2469 Hammertown Rd., Narvon, PA 17555, or fchaas@pabirds.org.

**ADVERTISING:** Current rates for classified ads are \$0.75 per word with a minimum of 20 words. A copy-ready block of approximately 2" by 2" would be \$50.00 per issue. Rates for other sizes or types of advertising are negotiable. Copy deadline is as noted above. Payment should be sent with copy. **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** and PSO are not responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised herein.

Send all photos to **Amy Davis, 129 W. Lancaster Ave. #2, Downingtown, PA 19335, argdavis@gmail.com.**

Send all other materials (articles, artwork, advertising, etc.) to: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, pomarine@earthlink.net.**



## IN FOCUS



*Mississippi Kite, Bucktoe Creek Preserve, Chester County. See p. 114.  
(Photo by Hank Davis)*



*Glossy Ibis, Shenango River Reservoir, Mercer County. See p. 131.  
(Photo by Geoff Malosh)*



*King Rail, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Philadelphia County.  
See p. 135. (Photo by Todd Fellenbaum)*



*Say's Phoebe, Presque Isle State Park, Erie County. See p. 119.  
(Photo by Michelle Franz)*