

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 28, No. 2  
Mar - May 2014  
Issued October 2014





# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 28 Number 2 Mar 2014 - May 2014

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Cover Photo: **Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*)**. Painted turtles are quite common in Pennsylvania, but the bird with them in this image most decidedly is not: Cumberland's first Purple Gallinule. Present at the Tichy Park ponds in Mt. Holly 10 to 22 May (here 13 May), its confiding nature made it an instant celebrity with birders, dozens of whom took the opportunity to see it. (Photo by Dave Kerr)

## Remembering Ralph Bell

*(Editor's note: the following was written by Greene County compiler Marjorie Howard and it is my honor to include it here. Ralph was already a fixture of western Pennsylvania birding before I was even born, and he now leaves countless new birders as just one part of his legacy to our community... people who he helped find that first "spark" that invariably clicks in a new birder's mind. He will indeed be greatly missed.)*

On May 20th of this year, Ralph K. Bell, at age 99, passed away on the same farm where he was born. Ralph was a good man who was a teacher, mentor, conservationist, citizen scientist, local ornithologist, and a dear friend to many, not just those of us that live in Greene County.

Ralph had many accomplishments in his lifetime, almost too many to count. He was a bird bander who banded 142,255 birds. In 2006, the Pennsylvania Game Commission gave him a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of unparalleled service. In 1983, he received the Norah Lane Award for "Outstanding Contribution to Bluebird Conservation by an Individual" from the North American Bluebird Society. He had at that time over 250 bluebird boxes in Greene County. In 2003, he received the US Department of Forest Service Volunteer of the Year award for 46 years of outstanding dedication and service. He received the Earl Poole award in 1998 from the Pennsylvania Society of Ornithology. He was recipient of the Purple Martin Preservation Alliance Award "For a Lifetime of Dedication to Purple Martin Conservation in Western Pennsylvania", which was presented to him in 2006. And he had many more recognitions. He founded the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (AFMO) located near Davis, West Virginia on September 18, 1958. AFMO is the oldest continuously running bird banding station in North America.

Ralph enjoyed teaching others about nature and especially about the birds. He lectured over the course of 65 years to schools, clubs, and other organizations. Ralph published over 200 articles on birds and nature for the Eastern Bird Banding Association, *Nature Society*

*News, The Redstart and The Mailbag* for Brooks Bird Club, as well authoring the Greene County summaries for *Pennsylvania Birds* for many years. He kept records since the age of 12 and loved to share them with visitors.

I had never met Ralph until a fall evening in 1995 when a friend invited me to attend a talk given by him. When he spoke of a Red-eyed Vireo, which at that time I had never heard of, I had to introduce myself and ask him about the bird. He explained how common it was and that made me start taking a better look at birds. He invited my friend and I to go along on his Christmas Bird Count that year and I have been hooked ever since. He often would comment, "You have the fire."

I had the pleasure of birding with Ralph many times including at Enlow Fork, at his annual farm walk, and at Dolly Sods. He had a way of making the walk interesting by telling stories, anecdotes, and jokes. Our last bird trip was December 20th when someone reported a Bald Eagle not far from his home. We had only planned to be gone a few minutes, but that turned into two hours. We didn't find the Bald Eagle so he thought we should try looking for Snowy Owls. We didn't find any of those either but he had a good time anyway. As we rode along he would tell me, "I used to have a bird house here", or "I'd always get mockingbirds there on the Breeding Bird Survey", and so on.

Knowing that I was a birder, I was asked by the Greene County Soil Conservation office if there was something we as a group could do to honor him when he retired from 30 years on their board. I had always felt Greene County should have a bird club and thought this would be a perfect way to honor him. After consulting with a few other birders the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club of Greene County was established in October 2006. Ralph was very humble and insisted it be called merely the Greene County Bird Club, but we told him it was aptly named.

I want to believe that he is now flying with the birds he loved and telling to me to "cut the stuff". This was his response if you tried to give him a compliment. He will be greatly missed.

—Marjorie Howard

## County Compiler News

**Matt Wlasniewski** is new co-compiler for *Berks*, sharing duties with Rudy Keller, who has compiled for *Berks* since 1988—beginning all the way back with Volume 2 No. 2. Matt and Rudy will share the compiling for the time being, with Matt compiling for spring and fall and Rudy for summer and winter. It will be a bit strange to see a name other than Rudy's on the *Berks* report, but certainly after two and a half decades of dedicated, unwavering support for this journal, he's earned a break! Thanks very much to both Matt and Rudy for keeping up the tradition of this storied county in these pages.

**Jonathan DeBalko** is the new compiler for *Luzerne*, replacing David Fisher. Jonathan's first report is in this issue—as is Matt Wlasniewski's—and I encourage you to read them both. Many thanks are owed to both Jonathan and David for their efforts.

Other familiar faces in new places: **Michael Schall** is now compiler for *Pike* in addition to keeping on with *Northampton*. And the new *Lawrence* compiler is yours truly.

Counties with no compiler are: *Butler, Cameron, Carbon, Columbia, Elk, Lackawanna, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Union, Tioga, Susquehanna, and Warren*.

## Photo Submissions

A new email address has been set up for photo submissions. Please send photos you would like to submit to the journal to **photos@pabirds.org** and not directly to me. If you have any questions about the types of photos we are looking for, contact me either at the above address or at my personal address, pomarine@earthlink.net.

*Geoff Malosh*  
Editor-in-Chief

**PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** (ISSN 0898-8501) is published four times per year by The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. Editorial and business offices are located at 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9730. Subscriptions, all in US\$: One year U.S.A \$30, Canada \$48, Foreign \$60. Library rate \$33. Single copies: \$9. Checks and money orders in U.S. dollars only should be made payable to PSO. Copyright © 2014 by the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. **PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NARVON, PA 17555 and additional entry offices.**  
**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to PSO, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555-9730.

# Pennsylvania Rough-legged Hawk observations within a regional context: Christmas Bird Count and Winter Raptor Survey data

Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove

Fewer Rough-legged Hawks (*Buteo lagopus*) have been observed in Pennsylvania since about 1990 than during the previous three decades, a pattern consistent with observations from southern New England, southeastern New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. Compared to those other regions, the numbers of Rough-legged Hawks found in Pennsylvania during the winter are often higher, due to our state's proximity to some of the raptor's core wintering areas near Lakes Ontario and Erie, and to a migration corridor south from Lake Ontario. In this article, we discuss Rough-legged Hawk observations in Pennsylvania during the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) and how they fit into a regional pattern.

Rough-legged Hawks are circumpolar breeders of the arctic and high subarctic. In eastern North America, they are most common as breeders in Nunavut, Québec, Labrador, and Newfoundland. Except for a small wintering population in southern Newfoundland, the entire eastern population withdraws to southern Canada and the northern United States in late fall and early winter, arriving in the southern part of their wintering range, which includes Pennsylvania, during December and later. Further movement may occur during the winter depending upon snow depth and food supply. They are usually seen during winter over large open fields or marshes. Rough-legged Hawks are among the earliest of spring migrants, with adults often moving north with the first spring-like weather (Wheeler 2003).

The North American population of Rough-legged Hawk is thought to be stable, but it fluctuates, with summer prey abundance a common determining factor (Wheeler 2003). They breed too far north to be sampled by the Breeding Bird Survey; the long-term data sources for monitoring Rough-legged Hawks are the CBC and hawk watches.

Eastern hawk watches located along the eastern Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, as well as some of the better-known sites to the south, are depicted in Figure 1, with symbols representing the average number of Rough-legged Hawks tallied annually. In the fall, the highest numbers of Rough-legged Hawks are observed at Tadoussac, Québec, and Hawk Cliff, Ontario. In the spring, the highest numbers are observed at Braddock Bay and Derby Hill, New York, Grimsby, Ontario, and Eagle Crossing, Québec (data from Hawkcount 2013, except Tadoussac data from Inzunza 2008).

Although there are more hawk

watches in the southern part of the region depicted in Figure 1 than are shown, none report many Rough-legged Hawks. At some of these watch sites, more Rough-legged Hawks were seen in the past, but at levels far below what is observed at the above-noted Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River sites. For example, at Hawk Mountain, the average over the past 10 years is 3; in comparison, the 1960-1990 average was 13, with a high of 31 in 1961 (Hawkcount 2013).

There is evidence that the winter distribution of Rough-legged Hawks in North America is changing. Using CBC data, a northward shift over a 40-year period has been detected in the wintering ranges of 177 of 305 North American bird species, including the Rough-legged Hawk, thought in large part to be caused by warmer winters (Niven and Butcher 2009; Niven et al. 2009).

A second reason for Rough-legged Hawks wintering farther north may be to avoid competition with Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), which also appear to be wintering farther north (Bolgiano 2013). Pandolfino and Wells (2009), using CBC data, found that northward shifts in Rough-legged Hawk densities were apparently related to higher populations of both humans and Red-tailed Hawks, while a change in snow cover appeared to cause more Rough-legged Hawks to winter in the northern plains. It has been noted that the highest winter densities of Rough-legged Hawks tend to be separate from and mostly north of areas of high Red-tailed Hawk densities (Palmer 1988). When together in the same area, Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks tend to partition the habitat, with Rough-legged Hawks preferring more open areas and lower perches (Schnell 1968). Red-tailed Hawks tend to be more aggressive and have been observed pirating food from Rough-legged Hawks and chasing them from their perches (Bildstein 1987, 2006). In this article, we show trends for both Rough-legged Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks at four Pennsylvania CBC sites.

## Christmas Bird Count

CBC data were obtained from NAS (2012), and Rough-legged Hawk counts were standardized as the count per 10 party-hours. Twenty-five records were omitted because of apparently-missing raptor counts. The year referred to is the year in which Christmas occurs.

Decadal maps of the northeastern states and parts of Ontario and Quebec show effort-adjusted Rough-legged Hawk counts and the migration corridors

inferred from their patterns. The three primary corridors are: 1) down the St. Lawrence Valley, along the north shores of Lakes Ontario and Lake Erie, and southeast into Ohio; 2) around the eastern end of Lake Ontario south into central New York and central Pennsylvania; and 3) down the Lake Champlain Valley along the New York-Vermont border, and down the Hudson River Valley. New York's Mohawk River Valley, between the Adirondacks and Catskills, connects the central New York corridor to the Hudson River Valley corridor (Figure 2). These are the same corridors identified as being used by Red-tailed Hawks, inferred from viewing CBC and band-return data (Bolgiano 2013).

During the 1990s and 2000s, the Rough-legged Hawk retracted from the lower portions of the central New York and central Pennsylvania and the Lake Champlain-Hudson River migration corridors. This included Pennsylvania's Susquehanna and Lehigh Valleys, New York's Hudson Valley, and coastal sites in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Delaware (Figure 2). It has become typical for many CBC sites in these areas to report only one Rough-legged Hawk per year, or even one every several years.

Trends were examined from nine regions: each of the states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New Jersey; the combined area of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island; the combined area of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia; New York both north and south of 42 degrees of latitude (Pennsylvania's northern boundary); and both Ontario and Québec south of 46 degrees of latitude (approximately the upper end of Lake Huron). For each annual site report of 20 or more party-hours, observations of Rough-legged Hawks were standardized as the count per 10 party-hours and these standardized site values were averaged regionally, thus equally weighting the sites (Figure 3). Regression analysis was used to assess trends, with polynomials of up to order three used after a square root transformation. There was significant statistical evidence for a trend in all regions except northern New York; Figure 3 shows the untransformed annual averages with back-transformed regression results.

Corroborating Figure 2, the highest CBC counts of Rough-legged Hawks were in southern Ontario, southern Québec, and northern New York; the y-scale in the Figure 3 plots from those regions is higher than in plots from the other regions. Rough-legged Hawk numbers appear to be

stable in southern Ontario and northern New York or increasing in southern Québec (Figure 3), which are the core wintering regions for Rough-legged Hawks in eastern North America.

South of Pennsylvania's northern border, the trend in Rough-legged Hawk counts is declining. In Ohio, the highest counts of Rough-legged Hawks occurred during 1970-1991; after 1991, the spikes were not as high, but counts did not decline as steeply as they did farther east. The trends in Pennsylvania, southeastern New York, and New Jersey were very similar to each other, with overall peaks in the 1960s and 1970s, punctuated by much higher counts in some years, and gradual declines that began in the 1980s (Figure 3). The high counts in Pennsylvania during 1960-1989 were a three-decade pulse of more Rough-legged Hawks moving farther south than normal, punctuated by much higher numbers in some years. By comparison, during the preceding 20 years, 1940-1959, the mean annual count per 10-party hours in Pennsylvania was 0.12, which is equivalent to the highest counts during the last decade.

In comparison, Rough-legged Hawk numbers in Massachusetts-Connecticut-Rhode Island and Delaware-Maryland-Virginia steadily declined throughout the period, although in Massachusetts-Connecticut-Rhode Island there were some years with higher counts (Figure 3).

### Trends at Four Pennsylvania CBC Sites

Over half of all Rough-legged Hawks counted during all years of the Pennsylvania CBC have been tallied at eight sites, which in highest-to-lowest order are: Lewisburg, State College, Bethlehem-Easton, Mansfield-Wellsboro, Lititz, Lock Haven-Jersey Shore, Linesville, and Bloomsburg. The table below shows the Pennsylvania's top 10 individual site counts of Rough-legged Hawks.

**Top 10 Pennsylvania Site Counts**

Site	Year	Rough-legs
Lewisburg	1981	43
Lewisburg	1977	42
Lewisburg	1978	40
Lewisburg	1975	39
State College	1977	37
Bethlehem-Easton	1970	31
Bloomsburg	1989	30
State College	1980	29
Bernville	1986	28
State College	1969	25

Trends at the top four historical sites are microcosms of the larger-scale changes. Figure 4 shows effort-adjusted counts, beginning in 1950, of both Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks at Mansfield-Wellsboro in the north,

Lewisburg and State College in the central valleys, and Bethlehem-Easton in the east. At each site, there was a period of years during which Rough-legged Hawks were fairly common: at Bethlehem-Easton during 1960-66; at Lewisburg and State College during 1974-81; and for most of the period at Mansfield-Wellsboro, though the last high count there was in 1994. Few Rough-legged Hawks were found after Red-tailed Hawks became more abundant (Figure 4).

### Winter Raptor Survey

Since 2001, vehicle-based Winter Raptor Surveys (WRS) have been conducted in Pennsylvania. Most routes are 20-80 miles long, each contained within a single county, and designed to pass primarily through open country. Compared to the CBC, Pennsylvania's WRS routes are more evenly distributed across the state and, taking place during mid-January to mid-February, are more likely to occur within the state's peak period of Rough-legged Hawk abundance (Grove and Bolgiano 2012). Figure 5 shows the county-based distribution of Rough-legged Hawks from the 2002-2013 WRS. The northern tier counties have been the most consistent region for observing Rough-legged Hawks during the WRS, followed by the central Susquehanna Valley and the northwest.

In some years, particularly 2004 and 2005, Rough-legged Hawks were reported from most counties; in other years, Rough-legged Hawks were reported from less than half of all counties. The annual numbers of Rough-legged Hawks counted at the Derby Hill, New York hawk watch, primarily during March and April, have followed the same yearly pattern as in the WRS (Figure 6, correlation = 0.81).

### Discussion

During 1960-1989, more Rough-legged Hawks moved south into Pennsylvania than normal, punctuated by much higher numbers in some years. While such multi-decade pulses may have occurred in the past after the forest was cleared, this is the one time it was recorded, and in such a way that we can decipher how it happened.

During this period, Rough-legged Hawks moved south into Pennsylvania and neighboring regions within three distinct corridors: the St. Lawrence River-north shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie; central New York-central Pennsylvania; and Lake Champlain-Hudson River. The central New York-central Pennsylvania corridor was a direct route for many of the Rough-legged Hawks that visited our state. Some probably reached eastern Pennsylvania via the Lake Champlain-Hudson River corridor. The data are less

clear about the predominant routes that Rough-legged Hawks took into northwestern Pennsylvania; during fall and winter, they can fly from around either end of Lake Ontario; in the spring, they can follow the Lake Erie shoreline northeast from Ohio.

In addition to being located within a migration corridor, three other factors were common to the sites that recorded high numbers of Rough-legged Hawk during 1960-1989: they contained a relatively large and un-fragmented agricultural land area; the period was one of colder winter temperatures (PSU Climatologist 2014) and higher snowfall, particularly the winters of 1960-61, 1963-64, 1966-67, 1969-70, 1970-71, and 1977-78 (*Climatological Data, Pennsylvania*); and there were fewer wintering Red-tailed Hawks than today (Bolgiano 2013).

The withdrawal of Rough-legged Hawks from Pennsylvania after 1989 was part of a regional range retraction previously noted for Delaware and New Jersey (Hess et al. 2000; Boyle 2011). After 1989, fewer Rough-legged Hawks flew south in the central New York-central Pennsylvania and the Lake Champlain-Hudson River corridors than during 1960-1989. In recent decades, changes in land cover and use have produced habitat more favorable toward the more adaptable Red-tailed Hawk than the more specialized Rough-legged Hawk. These trends include forest re-growth, loss of farmland, and development in agricultural valleys. Red-tailed Hawks are better able to thrive in the habitat mosaics produced by modern land use than are Rough-legged Hawks, which require expanses of open land (Palmer 1988; Bechard and Swem 2002; Preston and Beane 2009).

Pennsylvania's WRS indicates that Rough-legged Hawks continue to move south into Pennsylvania throughout the winter, as many more are found during Pennsylvania's mid-winter raptor survey than during the CBC (Grove and Bolgiano 2012). Many of those Rough-legged Hawks are found in the central Susquehanna Valley, likely having arrived via the central New York-central Pennsylvania corridor. Rough-legged Hawks tolerate deeper snow than do Red-tailed Hawks (Schnell 1968), and the data suggests that most migrate only as far south as necessary to avoid the most severe winter conditions (Grove and Bolgiano 2012). The relationship between Rough-legged Hawk numbers seen during the WRS and at the Derby Hill hawk watch indicates that the highest numbers of Rough-legged Hawks are seen in Pennsylvania when they are driven south of Lake Ontario by severe weather. During such events, Pennsylvania serves as a refuge and in these times we may glimpse what is like during 1960-1989, when many Rough-legged Hawks moved south.

## Acknowledgements

We thank the many CBC and WRS volunteers, and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, National Audubon Society, and Onondaga Audubon Society/Derby Hill Hawk Watch for use of data.

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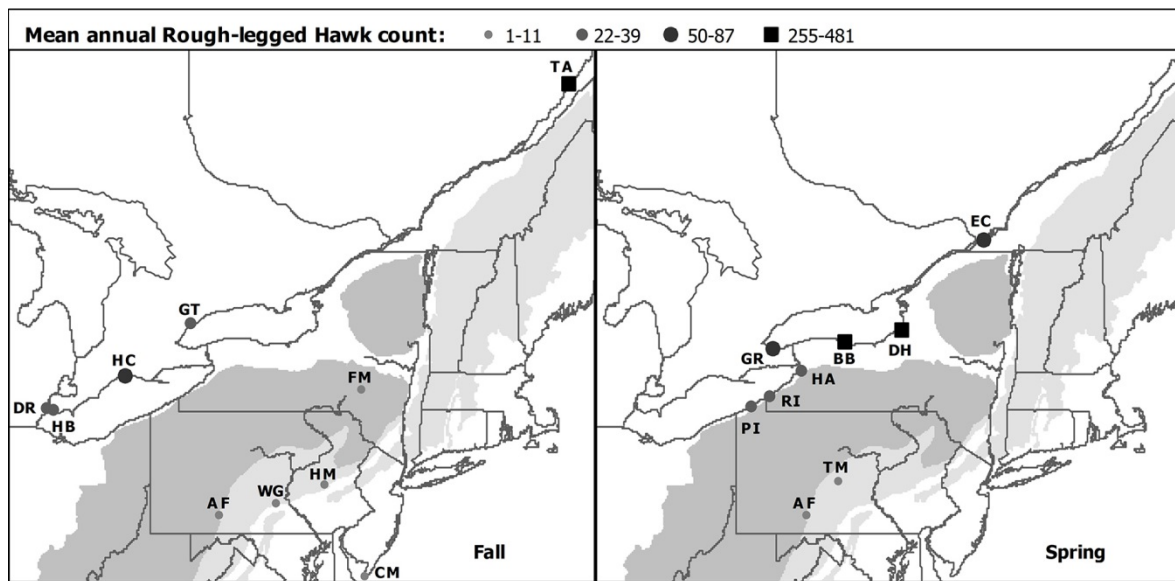


Figure 1. Map of eastern hawk watches located around the eastern Great Lakes and some of the more prominent ones to the south. Shaded areas represent mountainous or upland physiological provinces. Data are 2004-2013 averages, except that Eagle Crossing data are from 1980-2013 and Tadoussec data are from 1995-2004. Sites are Michigan: DR=Detroit River; New Jersey: CM=Cape May; New York: BB=Braddock Bay, DH=Derby Hill, FM=Franklin Mt, HA=Hamburg, RI=Ripley; Ontario: GR=Grimsby, GT=Greater Toronto (combined Cranberry Marsh, High Park, and Iroquois Shoreline watches), HB=Holiday Beach, HC=Hawk Cliff; Pennsylvania: AF=Allegheny Front, HM=Hawk Mt, PI=Presque Isle, TM=Tussey Mountain, WG=Waggoner's Gap; Québec: EC=Eagle Crossing, TA=Tadoussec.

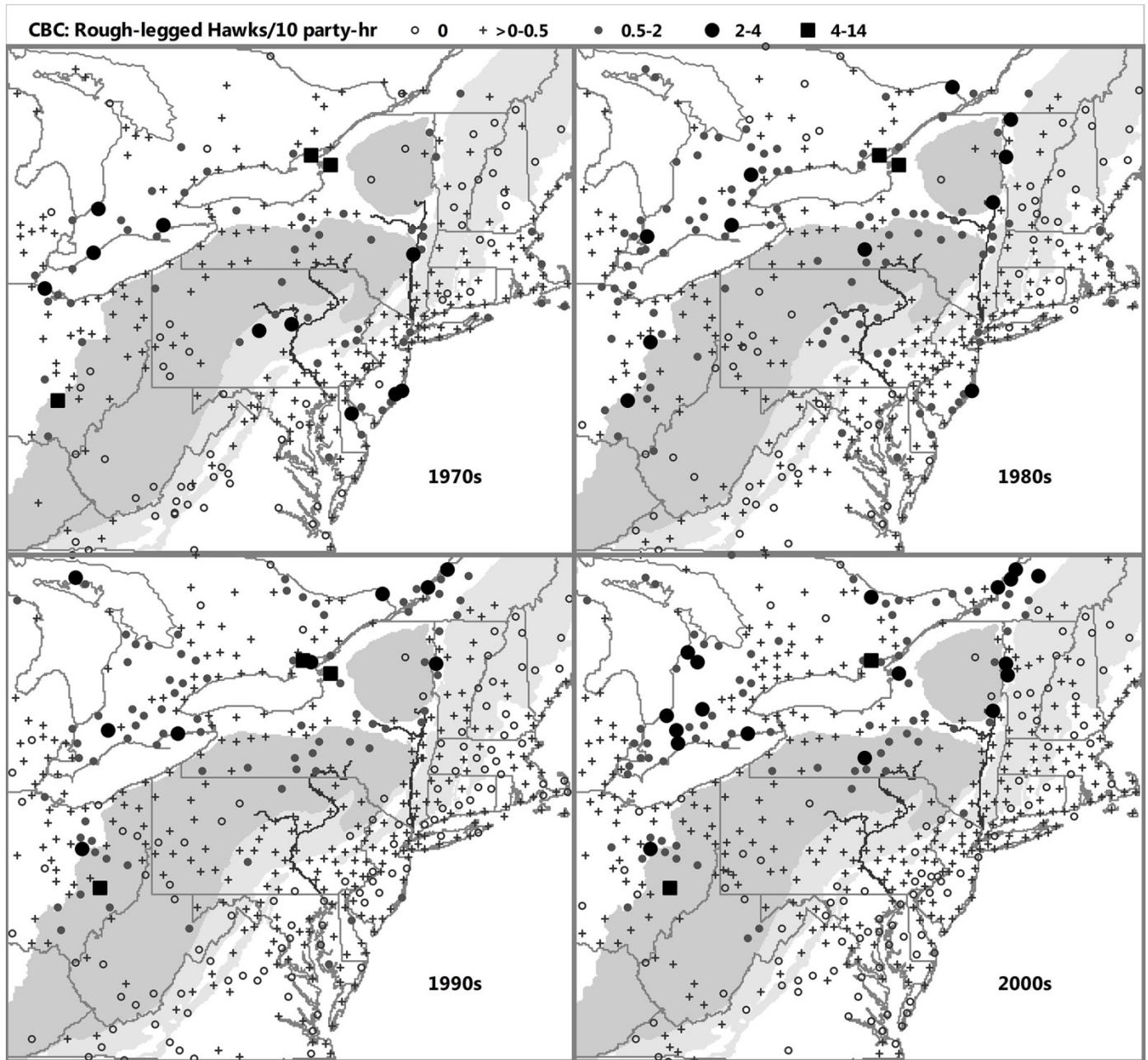


Figure 2. Maps of mean counts of Rough-legged Hawks per 10 party-hours by CBC site, during each of four decades, 1970-2009. Included are sites with four or more reports in that decade and averaging at least 20 party-hours annually.

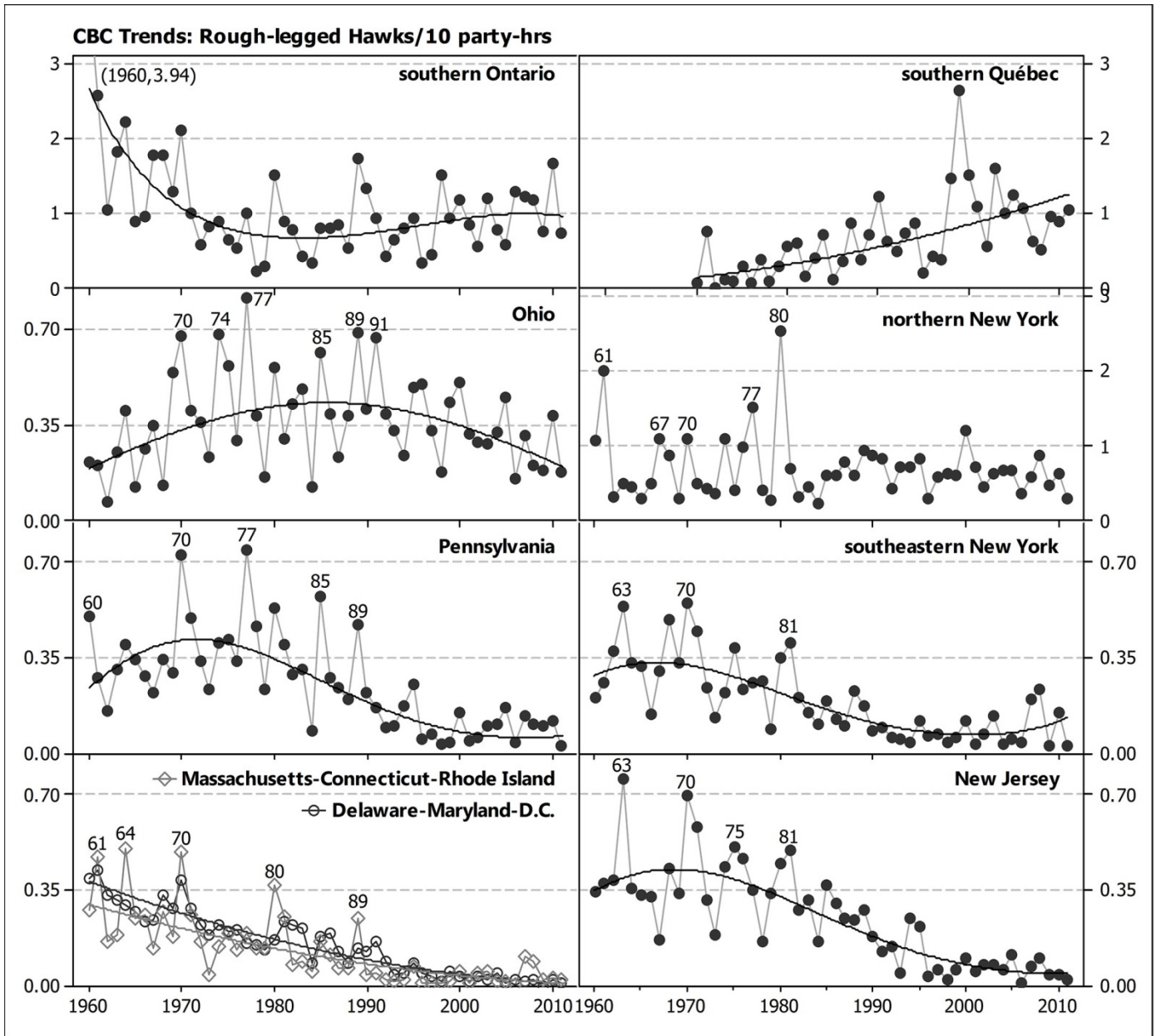


Figure 3. Mean CBC counts of Rough-legged Hawks per 10 party-hours, from nine regions, 1960-2011, for sites with 20 or more party-hours. Dark lines are regression fits for which there was significant statistical evidence.



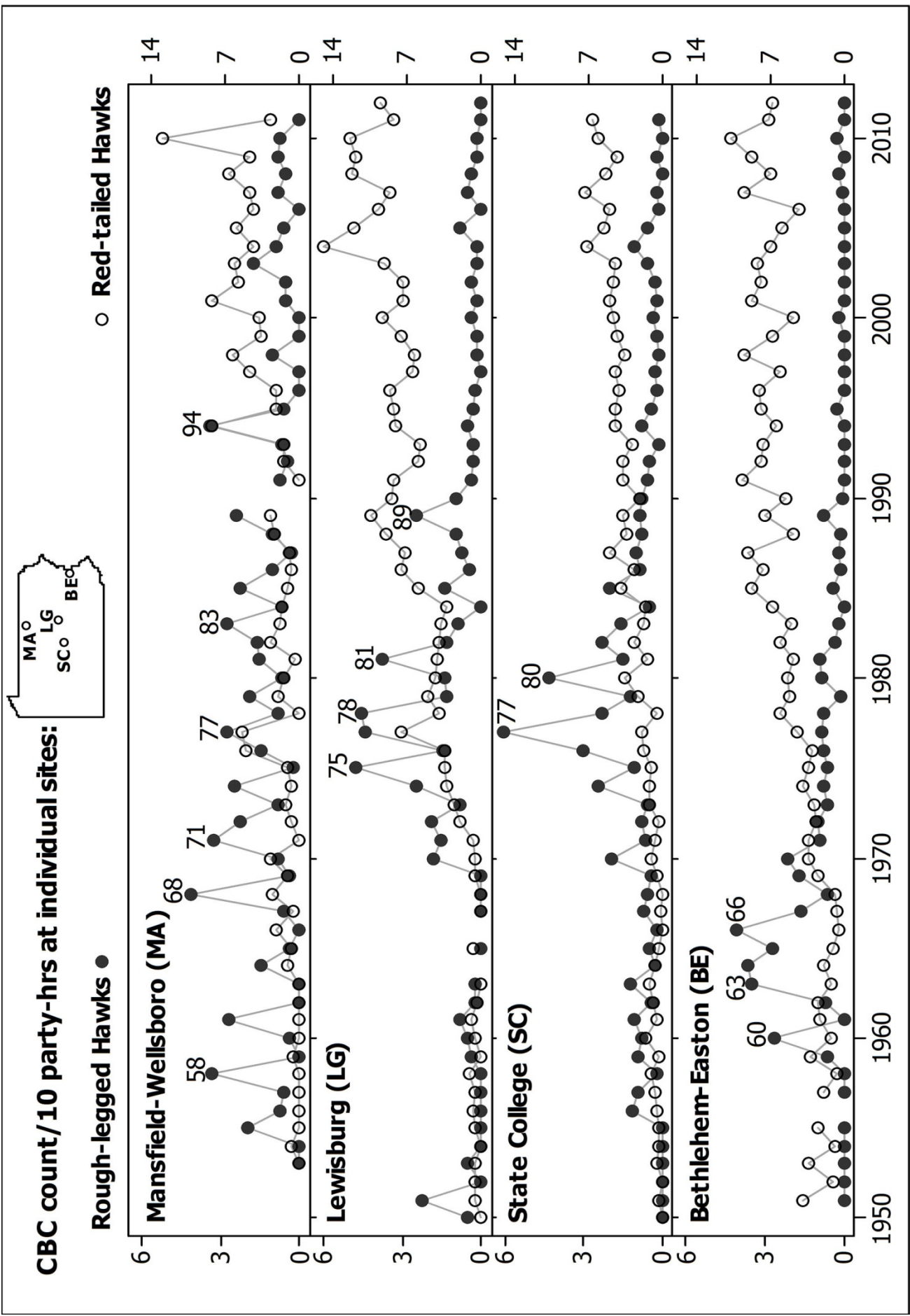


Figure 4. Count per 10 party-hours of Rough-legged Hawks (left y-scale) and Red-tailed Hawks (right y-scale), from four Pennsylvania CBC sites, 1950-2012. Site locations are shown on the inset map.

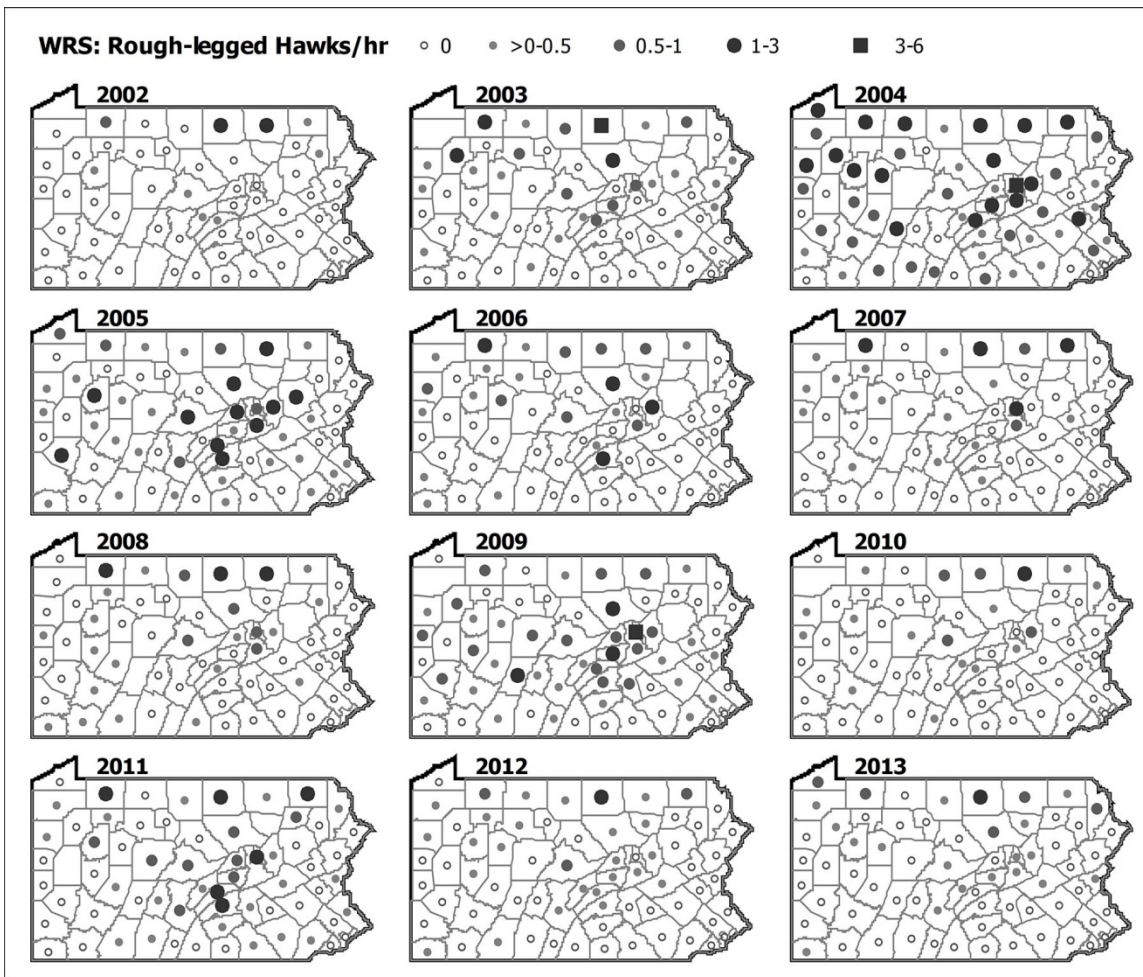


Figure 5. Maps of WRS counts/hour of Rough-legged Hawks/hour, by county, 2002-2013.

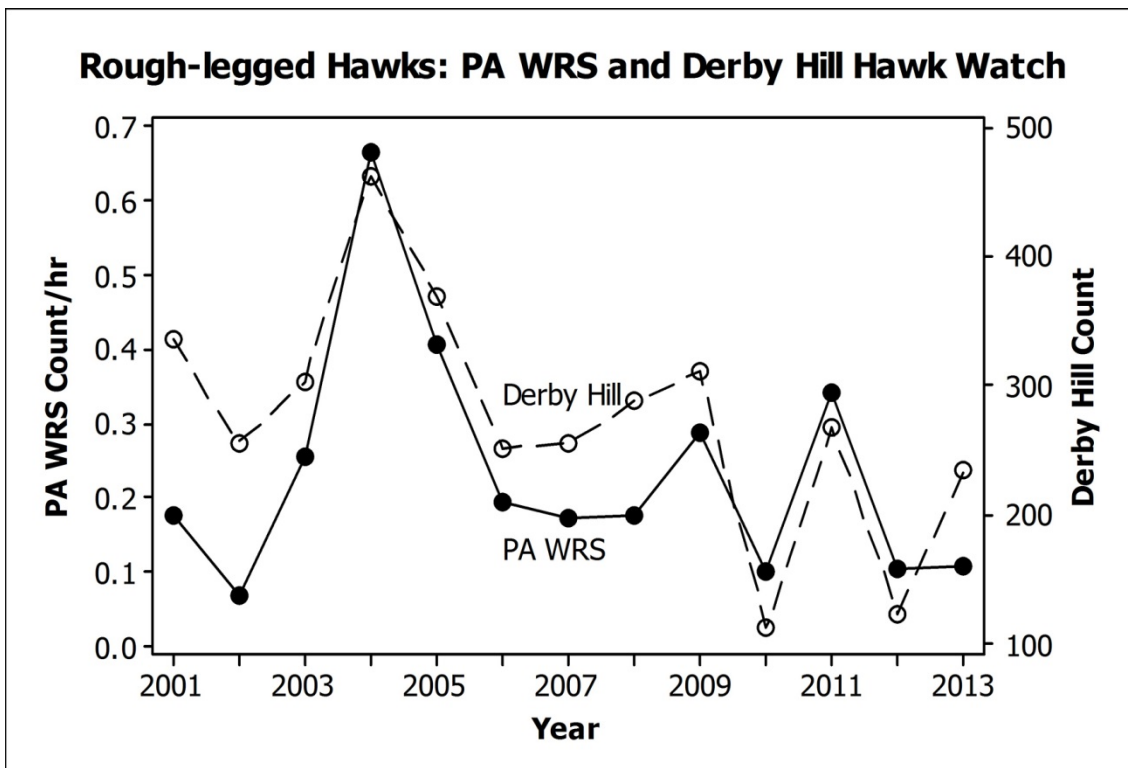


Figure 6. Trends of Rough-legged Hawks in the WRS (count/hour) and at the Derby Hill, New York, hawk watch (annual count), 2001-2013.

Winter retreated slowly in 2014. Regular blasts of north wind and frequent storms dispersed raptors away from the Lake Erie shoreline and its noted spring site, Presque Isle. Weather may have suppressed count numbers at Allegheny Front and Hawk Mountain, which both tallied below average counts (Table 3). An exception was Tussey Mountain, which showed above average numbers compared to recent years, perhaps benefiting from their north-facing view. A new spring watchsite in the southeast region showed considerable promise despite the often challenging weather.

**Migration Summary**

Six Pennsylvania watchsites tallied 20,851 migrating raptors in 1279.3 hours and 233 days of counting from 22 February to 26 May, a statewide rate of 16.3 hawks per hour (Table 1). Okehocking Preserve, a new site in Chester County, recorded the second highest hawks per hour rate for Pennsylvania spring sites with 7.3. Hours of effort were average compared to the prior 10 years but increased by 100 hours compared to 2013. Hawks per hour dipped compared to the most recent three years (Table 1, 3). Statewide, the total of spring migrating raptors was up 27% compared to the 10-year average, partly due high numbers of Turkey Vultures. No rare species were recorded, and Black Vultures showed the lowest number in many years.

**Table 1: Pennsylvania watch-sites reporting for spring 2014**

Site	Hrs.	Total	per hr
Allegheny Fr.	328.5	1142	3.5
Hawk Mtn.	238.5	752	3.2
Militia Hill	6	36	6.0
Okehocking	121.3	888	7.3
Presque Isle	175.8	15640	89.0
Tussey Mtn.	409.3	2393	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1279.3</b>	<b>20851</b>	<b>16.3</b>

The spring unfolded slowly across the state with winter’s cold and ice keeping a strong grip into mid-March. April and May brought warmer temperatures but hawk concentrations appeared lower than average for most sites. Lake Erie watchers noted that consistent northerly winds affected their totals, particularly in April. Southern sites observed cool night temperatures in April and early May that might have produced stronger than normal daytime thermals during Broad-winged Hawk migration, diminishing numbers seen. One exception was Tussey Mountain which recorded higher than average Broadwing totals in April.

In 2014, Bald Eagles continued their upswing in the northeast with 250 migrants gliding past the six watchsites, one eagle shy of the spring record set in 2013 and 47% above the 10-year spring average. Turkey Vultures were 69% above average with 12,692 counted compared to a statewide 10-year average of 7,474, and the 16 Peregrine Falcons were 21.2% above the state-wide average.

Below-average statewide totals were widespread among common migrants, with statewide counts of 9 Black Vultures (91% below average), 113 Northern Harriers (down 3.9%), 792 Sharp-shinned (down 30.7), 251 Cooper’s (down 7.6%), 4 Northern Goshawks (down 60%), 1238 Red-tailed Hawks (down 12.3), and 230 American Kestrel (down 25.4%). Comparing only the sites with several years of data, Osprey also would have shown below-average counts for the season (Table 3). The peak day for Broad-winged Hawks was 25 April (Table 2) and Golden Eagles peaked in early to mid-March at the Allegheny Front and Tussey Mountain (Table 2). Peaks of other species varied by site, with early April showing highest diversity of migrants.

**Site Highlights**

**Allegheny Front (Somerset/Bedford)** – Allegheny Front watchers tallied 1142 hawks in 328.5 hours and 51 days between 28 February and 1 May, a below-average total compared to the 10-year site average of 1712 with a rate of 3.5 raptors per hour (Table 2). Most species showed below-average counts, but Red-shouldered Hawk counts dipped to the lowest since 1998 with only 13 sighted, and zero Black Vultures compared to an average of 13.8. The highest count days were 6 April, with 105 hawks of 12 species led by 29 Turkey Vultures and 26 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 25 April with 104 hawks including 77 Broad-winged Hawks, a season high count, and 12 Osprey. Southeast winds on 6 March ushered 15 adult Golden Eagles past the watchsite, the highest one-day eagle count of the season (Table 2). One of the most unusual sightings occurred 5 April when Tom Dick observed a Snowy Owl pursuing a Ruffed Grouse across the parking lot and summit. The ending to that story is unknown.

**Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (Berks/Schuylkill)** – Hawk Mountain recorded a below-average 752 hawks in 238.5 hours and 38 days from 1 April to 15 May, a 20% dip (Table 1, 3). Above-average totals of 25 Bald Eagles and 398 Broad-winged Hawks were recorded, but most other species showed in below-

average numbers (Table 1, 3). The highest Bald Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk one-day count, 4 and 10 respectively, was recorded 5 April, along with 9 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 7 Osprey. Southeast winds 25 April brought the highest total one-day count including 2 Bald Eagles, 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Cooper’s Hawks, 70 Broad-winged Hawks, 3 Red-tailed Hawks, and 2 American Kestrels. Two days later on 27 April, the highest one-day count of 9 Osprey soared north. A southwest wind 1 May yielded the best late-season counts including 15 Broad-winged Hawks, 8 Osprey, 4 Sharpshins, and one American kestrel along with a late push of 36 Common Loons. Numbers diminished through the month and concluded with a lone Osprey gliding north 14 May.

**Militia Hill (Montgomery)** – Militia Hill counters collecting data for the “Big Sit” watched for one day in April and tallied 36 migrants including 15 Broad-winged, 10 Sharp-shinned, 2 Bald Eagles, 2 Osprey, 2 Northern Harrier, one American Kestrel, and four unidentified raptors.

**Presque Isle (Erie)** – For the seventh consecutive spring, Presque Isle led the way with 15,640 raptors counted, 15% below their 10-year average of 18,308 and 10,000 hawks less than the 2013 record high of 26,425. The total of 176 hours was down from recent years due to schedule conflicts and inclement weather. Despite the weather, birds were still counted at an amazing rate of 89 per hour, the highest in the state and rivaling New York’s Lake Ontario sites. Despite persistent north winds, Bald Eagles were above-average at 147, and Turkey Vultures were only slightly below-average at 11,968 (Table 3). Many other species showed below-average counts compared to past seven years.

1 April brought the highest count of the season and a new one-day record for Turkey Vulture 2,847. Jerry McWilliams reported 3,215 hawks headed north along the shore including 118 Red-tailed Hawks, 70 Red-shouldered Hawks, 62 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 47 American Kestrels, 8 Bald Eagles, 8 Osprey, and 19 Northern Harriers among the many vultures. The highest Broadwing count occurred on April, with 1131 swirling north (Table 2). Other highlights of the day included three Golden Eagles including two immature flying in tandem only 100 meters above the ground. In 2014, this busy watchsite was manned primarily by Jerry McWilliams and Roger Donn but this year saw a welcome increase in visitors. Hawk flights are usually accompanied by flights of waterfowl and songbirds as well.

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

Site	Golden Eagle		Br-winged Hawk	
	Count	Date	Count	Date
<b>Allegheny Front</b>	15	3/6	77	4/25
<b>Hawk Mountain</b>	-	-	70	4/25
<b>Militia Hill</b>	-	-	15	4/19
<b>Okehocking Prs.</b>	-	-	207	4/25
<b>Presque Isle</b>	2	4/20	1131	4/25
<b>Tussey Mtn.</b>	32	3/14	248	4/25

**Okehocking Preserve (Chester)** – Rose Tree Hawkwatch watchers launched a new spring site at Okehocking Preserve in 2014. The site is located on a hilltop owned by Willstown Township in Newtown Square. In the first year of counts, Okehocking Preserve spring watchers tallied 888 hawks in 121 hours and 28 days of counts resulting in 7.3 raptors per hour, the second highest spring rate. Although the total of 421 Broad-winged Hawks was below expectations, the overall total suggests this site has great potential. The highest one-day total was made 25 April, when John Mercer recorded 207 Broadwings, 11 Osprey, 6 Sharpshins, 2 Cooper’s Hawks, 1 Northern Harriers, one Bald Eagle and 3 unidentified. Other migrants recorded at the site included skeins of Snow Geese and hundreds of Tree Swallows in early April and a rare sighting of a Sandhill Crane 12 April.

**Tussey Mountain (Centre)** – Tussey Mountain broke the trend for spring 2014, recording above-average numbers, 2393, compared to 10-year average of 1906. Hours and birds per hour were slightly up compared to average: 409 hours at 5.8 birds per hour compared to a site average of 397 and 4.8 (Table 2). Observers reported above-average counts for most raptors including notable upswings in Osprey with 147 and Broad-winged Hawk with 938. A surprising dearth of Black Vulture resulted in only 2 migrants compared to an annual average of 29, the lowest count ever recorded at the site.

Golden Eagles were spotted nearly every day in March. The season total was 201, 7% above the ten-year average (Table 3). On 8 March, north winds kept eagles gliding at eye level along the north slope. Jon Kaufmann and others recorded 26 Golden Eagles for the day, for the second highest one-day eagle count for the spring. A lone Bald Eagle joined the golden parade northward. The highest one-day count for Golden Eagles arrived 14 March, when 32 Golden Eagles sailed past (Table 2). Strong southeast winds ushered a banner

Broad-winged Hawk push 25 April along with a season peak count of 35 Osprey and 331 total raptors. Watchers recorded 248 Broad-winged Hawks, 35 Osprey, 23 Sharpshinned Hawks, 7 Red-tailed and 4 Cooper’s hawks, 4 American Kestrels, 4

Bald Eagles, 3 Golden Eagles, 2 harriers and a lone Peregrine Falcon before rain arrived.

**Conclusion**

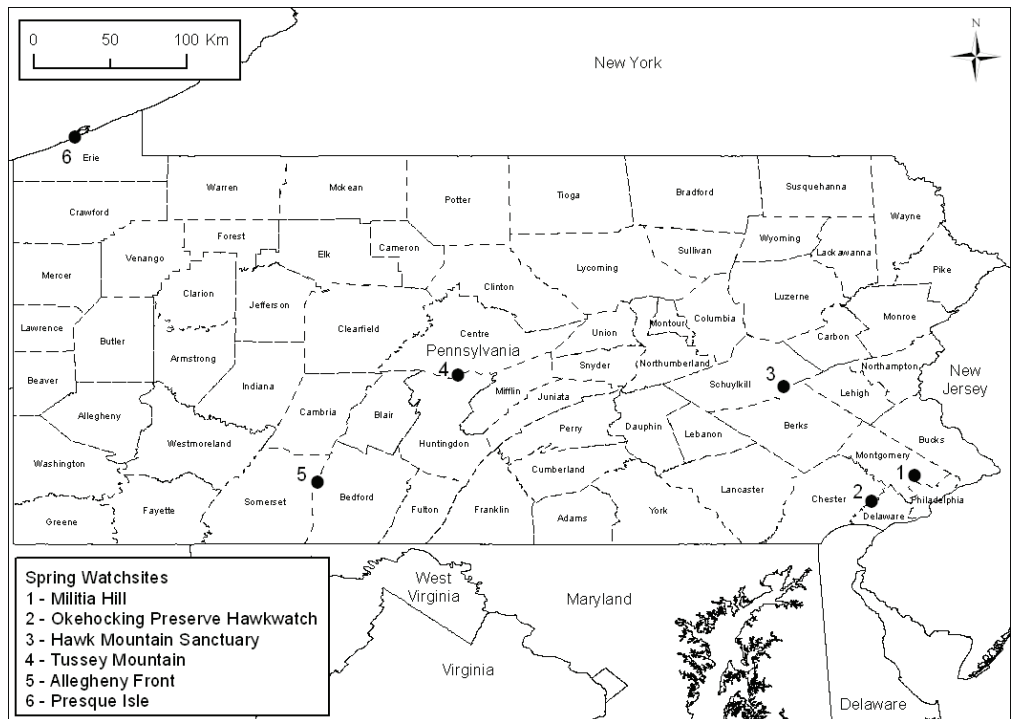
Spring 2014 raptor flights brought few records yet quite a few highlights were enjoyed by hawkwatchers statewide. Golden Eagles continued to pour through the western ridges and Turkey Vultures paraded along the Lake Erie shoreline. Across Pennsylvania, birders have increasing opportunities to enjoy spring hawk flights with most areas in the state within two hours of one of the regularly-manned spring sites (Figure 1). With 20,000 to 30,000 hawks recorded each spring along with thousands of other migrants, and the impressive closeness as some raptors pass overhead, there are many reasons to visit one of these sites in spring 2015.

**Acknowledgements**

I thank site compilers Rich Conroy, Andy Fayer, Holly Merker, Jerry McWilliams, Dan Ombalski, Chris Pugliese, Candace Stenzel, and Bob

Stewart, as well as the HawkCount.org database manager, Jason Sodergren, and the HawkCount.org sponsoring organization, Hawk Migration Association of North America. I also thank all the spring hawk counters for their hours manning Pennsylvania lookouts to collect these important data. Counters are named in the site reports at hawkcount.org. David Barber provided the map of watchsites and Candace Stenzel, HMS trainee, helped compile spring data tables. This is Hawk Mountain contribution number 243.

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# Summary of the Season – Spring 2014

Mike Fialkovich

Although the season was in fact spring, at the onset it was still very much like winter. Cold temperatures, snow, and ice persisted into April in many locations. Ice cover on the Great Lakes reached 91% by March, the second largest amount of ice cover on the lakes ever recorded ([www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/2014/2](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/2014/2)) and the lakes were still two thirds frozen into early April. The late ice-melt and below average temperatures resulted in cold north winds coming off the lakes into May. A warm front in early May was just what migrants were waiting for, and a push of warm southerly air helped moved migrants into and through Pennsylvania. The ice drove species like **White-winged Scoters** and **Red-necked Grebes** that winter on the lakes south in search of open water. They remained on Pennsylvania's rivers and lakes into April, locked in place waiting for the ice to melt. **Red-necked Grebes** were mentioned in the majority of county reports this season. The last **Red-necked Grebe** invasion occurred in 2003. **White-winged Scoters** began to appear across the state in late January with numbers building into the spring. **White-winged Scoters** were reported in 21 counties and **Red-necked Grebes** in 38.

*Centre* hosted two rare geese, a **Brant** at Coyler Lake the last day of March and a pair of **Pink-footed Geese** that spent a day at Bald Eagle State Park in late March. **Brant** are more common during fall migration but there are a number of spring records in the state. A tardy flock of 39 were in *Philadelphia* in May. The majority of **Pink-footed Goose** records (15) in the state are of single birds; this was the third record of two together. **Greater White-fronted Goose** appeared as usual in the southeastern counties with a few outliers in *Bedford*, *Mercer*, *Luzerne*, *Somerset*, and *Washington*. Ten in *Somerset* were notable. **Ross's Goose** was reported in seven counties including single birds in *Allegheny* and *Lawrence*. A blue morph was in *Northampton*. **Cackling Geese** were reported from 17 counties.

**Mute Swans** were in six counties and are now breeding regularly in some locations. *Lebanon* recorded a new county max but *Berks* tallied the high count for the state. **Trumpeter Swans** are appearing with greater regularity across the state in recent years. Six counties hosted them this spring including non-wing-tagged birds in *Bedford* and *Luzerne*. Two were in *Bucks* and one in *Centre* provided a first county record.

There were interesting totals of various waterfowl this spring. Observers noted higher than normal numbers of **Canvasbacks** and **Redheads**, numbers likely supplemented as birds migrated

north only to find stopover sites encased in ice. Amazing numbers of **Redheads** staged at Presque Isle and there were unusual totals of **Long-tailed Ducks** with much higher than normal numbers in *Allegheny* and *Blair*. **Northern Pintails** in impressive numbers in *Bedford*, *Lancaster*, *Luzerne*, and *Somerset*. A count of over 2500 **Common Mergansers** in *Lancaster* was amazing. **Eurasian Wigeon** were good with four reports from *Lancaster*, one in *Lebanon*, a first county record in *Lycoming*, and a second county record in *Venango*. Pennsylvania's fifth **Cinnamon Teal** in *Dauphin* eluded observers for nearly two weeks before it was relocated. Almost annual, a **Common (Eurasian) Teal** was in *Montgomery* and a **Common x Green-winged Teal** was in *Northampton*, firsts for both counties. This represented the fifth record of this hybrid in the state. A **Gadwall x Mallard** (Brewer's Duck) was an interesting find in *Philadelphia*. *Juniata* hosted a **Harlequin Duck** that remained for a week much to the enjoyment of local birders. The White-winged Scoters stole the show this spring, but the other two species were also present. **Surf Scoters** were reported in 10 counties but the only **Black Scoter** was in *Snyder*.

**Northern Bobwhites** were reported only in *Bedford*, *Cumberland*, and *Lebanon*. Hopefully someday we can report on restored populations in the state.

**Red-throated Loons** were found in 19 counties. Observers in *Berks* tallied 42 birds on a stormy day in early April. The first days of April produced fallouts of **Common Loons** in *Bucks*, *Lycoming*, and *Mercer* with impressive totals of 86, 132 and 225 respectively. The other notable grebe news was two reports of **Eared Grebes** from *Bucks* and *Mercer*.

A **frigatebird sp.** was spotted in flight at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in *Lebanon* in late March. Overwintering **Great Cormorants** stayed into the spring season in *Bucks*, *Delaware*, *Northampton*, and *Philadelphia*. A **Brown Pelican** was at Lake Raystown in *Huntington*, first found by a non-birder. Large charismatic birds like this grab the attention of just about anybody. It was relocated and seen by several observers but did not stay for more than two days after the birding community was made aware of its presence. This provided the eighth state record, the second for *Huntington*, and only the second spring occurrence in the state. Most records are from fall.

There was a good diversity of egrets and herons this spring. Elusive **Least Bitterns** were found in six counties

including the first in *Allegheny* since 1924. Three counties hosted **Snowy Egrets** and **Little Blue Herons** were reported from five counties and set early county dates in *Dauphin* and *Lebanon*. There were only two reports of **Cattle Egret**, two birds in *Luzerne* that provided a third county record, and one in *Philadelphia*. All were present for just a single day. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were reported from six counties including a first record in *Allegheny*. Breeders returned to *Dauphin*. **Glossy Ibis** appeared in eight counties and set new max counts in *Chester* and *Lebanon*. A flock of 15 in *Lancaster* and a total of 35 in *Philadelphia* were notable. A **White-faced Ibis** was well photographed with a flock of Glossy Ibis in *Chester*, a pending third record for the state. A dark ibis was observed in *Erie*, but was not seen well enough to identify.

**Black Vultures** continue to be reported in southwestern counties annually. This spring they were in *Greene*, *Somerset*, and *Westmoreland*. Two were in *Erie* with one staying for most of May, an unusually long stay. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was found starving in *Lehigh* in March, quite early for this species to stray into the state. It was taken to a rehabilitator. See the *Lehigh* report for a link to a youtube video of this bird. **Mississippi Kites** were reported in seven counties; all flyovers. A watch at the Bucktoe Creek Preserve in *Chester* resulted in a subadult seen on three different days; a satisfying reward for those who persistently cover this location. Single birds were observed flying over in two locations in *Montgomery*, and one in *Lycoming* provided the first county record. The only **Northern Goshawk** report came from *Lebanon*. **Rough-legged Hawks** in four counties were probably a mix of wintering birds and migrants. **Golden Eagles** were noted in nine counties, some away from hawkwatches. There were two reports in *Crawford*. A gray morph **Gyrfalcon** was seen flying over in *Northampton*.

There were two reports of **King Rail**. A bird was photographed and recorded in *Bucks* and one was heard calling from the extensive Conneaut Marsh in *Crawford*. An adult **Purple Gallinule** was a first for *Cumberland* and a cooperative guest, allowing numerous observers the opportunity to see this striking visitor. The parade of human visitors to the gallinule led to the discovery of a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at the same location. **Common Gallinules** were in *Bedford*, *Centre*, *Chester*, *Crawford*, *Cumberland*, *Lawrence*, *Lebanon*, *Luzerne*, and *Schuylkill*. **Sandhill Cranes** continue to be reported in

numerous counties statewide. This spring they were found in thirteen including a nest with an egg in *Bradford*.

While we think of shorebird season in the fall, there were notable highlights this spring. **Willetts** appeared across the state with reports from ten counties with a high count of at least 65 in *Somerset*. Normally **Willetts** are concentrated in the last few days of April into the first few days of May but this year there were two pulses—late April/early May and mid-May. **Upland Sandpipers** were only found in three counties: *Chester* (where they are rare migrants), *Crawford*, and *Venango* (where they continue to breed). A **Marbled Godwit** was newsworthy in *Centre* in May. There are only six spring records in the state since 1992. There were four reports of **Ruddy Turnstones**, away from the expected Erie Lakeshore. Rare, but most easily found along Lake Erie, a **Red Knot** was present the last day of May at Gull Point. Away from *Erie*, **Sanderlings** were in *Bedford* and *Somerset*. Peep reports included the expected **White-rumped Sandpiper** present in eight counties. Spring rarities, **Western Sandpiper** was in two counties each and a **Stilt Sandpiper** was in *Crawford*. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were in seven counties including a good count of 38 in *Berks*. Two phalarope visited the state: **Wilson's Phalarope** was in three counties and **Red-necked Phalarope** in five.

**Black-headed Gulls** made their annual appearance on the Susquehanna River in *Dauphin* and *Lancaster*, and one in *Mercer* provided a first county record. **Little Gulls** followed suit in *Dauphin* and *Lancaster* as well as *Erie* where they are annual. Two in *Lycoming* were first records and two were in *Centre*. **Laughing Gulls** were in *Bucks* and *Delaware* where they are annual, and wayward birds showed up in *Crawford*, *Cumberland*, and *Huntington*. Two in *Huntington* were discovered by birders searching for the Brown Pelican. A **Franklin's Gull** provided a welcomed second county record in *Centre* where it remained for a few days, something this species does not often do. **Iceland Gulls** remained from the winter season in nine counties. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported in thirteen counties. Highest counts were in *Berks*. Birds lingered in *Allegheny* where county highs were made this year, two in *Centre* provided the first and second records and *Wyoming* had its first record. **Glaucous Gulls** were in eight counties, most of those lingering birds from the winter. **Great Black-backed Gulls** are virtually resident in *Erie* and were also found in *Allegheny* (continuing from the winter), *Adams* (first county record), *Lancaster*, *Lebanon*, and *Northampton*. A tagged **Ring-billed Gull** was in *Philadelphia*;

read the report to discover its origins. Finally some oddities: a **Herring x Glaucous Gull** was in *Erie* and a leucistic **Ring-billed Gull** was in *Bucks*.

It was a good spring for terns in some parts of the state. An early spring total of 200 **Common Terns** were tallied in *Erie*. An impressive gathering of 109 **Common Terns** occurred April 29 at Bald Eagle State Park in *Centre* and another gathering of 175 mixed **Common** and **Forster's Terns** occurred at Prince Gallitzin State Park in *Cambria* April 30. Striking **Black Terns** were found in eight counties. **Caspian Terns** were widely reported across the state.

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** were in *Berks*, *Centre*, *Chester*, *Cumberland*, and *Lancaster*. **Barn Owls** were in five counties, all at breeding sites. The **Snowy Owl** show continued into the spring as birds lingered in twelve counties (*Bedford*, *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Crawford*, *Dauphin*, *Erie*, *Lancaster*, *Lehigh*, *Luzerne*, *Lycoming*, *Somerset*, and *Philadelphia*). There was a late report of one in *Huntington* from the winter season. **Long-eared Owls** were only reported from five counties and **Short-eared Owls** from six. **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were found in five.

An interesting piebald **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was photographed in *Lycoming* in May and remained through the season. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported in 23 counties at many locations where they are uncommon or rare, though this species is not common anywhere.

**Northern Shrikes** were in seven counties; four birds were in *Erie*. **Fish Crow** were noteworthy in six counties away from the southeast. One in *Sullivan* was a rare find. **Common Ravens** continued their expansion with first breeding records in *Bucks* and *Chester*. **Marsh Wrens** were reported in 13 counties and a **Sedge Wren** was in *Lebanon* for at least six days. Another Sedge Wren was found in *Crawford*. A **Bicknell's Thrush** was seen and heard in *Northampton*. Migrant **Lapland Longspurs** were found in *Lancaster* and *Mercer*. A *Somerset* report represented overwintering birds. **Snow Buntings** were in *Crawford* and *Northampton*.

Many compilers noted a good warbler migration. Some mentioned the late leaf-out provided good viewing conditions. Many observers noted good numbers of **Tennessee Warblers**, **Cape May Warblers** and **Bay-breasted Warblers**, apparently benefiting from the latest spruce budworm outbreak in Canada. The most notable species was a **Kirtland's Warbler** in *Lehigh* for two days. **Golden-winged Warblers** were found in 15 counties, **Prothonotary Warblers** in 13. One in *Centre* was the first in a decade and several migrants in *Chester* were exciting for this county where they

formally bred. A **Swainson's Warbler** spent two days in *Northampton* providing a third county record. **Orange-crowned Warblers** were in eight counties but only two counties produced **Connecticut Warblers** this spring; one listed as possible. Both hybrids were found in multiple counties: **Lawrence's Warbler** was in *Adams*, *Bucks*, *Chester*, and *Northampton* and **Brewster's Warbler** was in *Allegheny*, *Centre*, *Erie*, and *Perry*.

**Clay-colored Sparrows** returned to one of the breeding sites in *Clarion*. Rare but regular in spring, one or two were in *Erie* and the bird that wintered in *Berks* remained into the spring. **Henslow's Sparrows** were in the expected breeding areas in *Allegheny*, *Clarion* *Lawrence* and *Washington*. Several were in fields in *Centre* and *Somerset* and single birds were found in *Bedford*, *Crawford* and *York*. A possible singing **Nelson's Sparrow** was in *Montgomery*. A **Harris's Sparrow** was photographed in *Carbon*.

It was a great spring for overshoot **Summer Tanagers** with reports from six counties including four birds in *Erie*. Not found in the state since 2009, a **Western Tanager** visited a feeder in *Somerset* for a few days in early May, furnishing the ninth record for the state. Fortunately it was photographed but unfortunately the birding community was not made aware of it until it was gone. A **Black-headed Grosbeak** visited a feeder in *Armstrong*. It was well described as a male, but not photographed. **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported in 11 counties. **Dickcissels** returned to several counties where they were last year. Singing males and females were seen and one was recorded on nocturnal migration in *Montgomery*.

Two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were exciting finds in *Chester*, one with a flock of other blackbirds and one visiting a feeder in March. A male visited a feeder in *Westmoreland* for at least a week before it was reported. The male **Baltimore Oriole** that wintered in *Allegheny* for the second year was last seen 4/24 and the male and female that wintered in *Bucks* were last reported 4/28. The female is believed to have been the same bird that wintered last year. The male **Bullock's Oriole** that wintered in *Montgomery* for the fourth year was last seen in mid-April.

We were back to a lull of northern finches, so three species this spring were newsworthy. A few **Red Crossbills** were in *Luzerne* in March. **Pine Siskins** visited feeders in *Beaver*, *Cumberland*, *Erie*, and *Mercer* and one was heard flying over in *Centre*. Four in *Bradford* was the highest count and all sightings were just single days. There was one report of an **Evening** which was in *Bedford*.

Reports were received from 49 counties. Thanks to the hardworking county compilers for preparing and submitting reports.

## Birds of Note – March through May 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Pink-footed Goose*\* – *Centre*: two at Bald Eagle State Park 3/21 (Matthew Sabatine, et al., *doc submitted*), first county record.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – *Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Cumberland, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Mercer, Montgomery, Northampton, Somerset, Washington*.

**Ross’s Goose** – *Allegheny*: one in Findlay Twp. 4/4 (ph. Geoff Malosh); *Berks*: single birds at Lake Ontelaunee and Kernsville Dam Recreation Area 3/22 (Rudy Keller, Kerry Grim); *Dauphin*: one at Haldeman Island (Margaret Brittingham, Ian Gardner, Alex Lamoreaux); *Lancaster*: one at Greenfield Estates Pond 3/6 (Tom Johnson), two there 3/8 (Chad Kauffman), and one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/12 (Rudy Keller); *Lawrence*: one on Vosler Road 4/5 (Barb Dean, Robert Walczak); *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/17 (Timothy Becker); *Lehigh*: two near New Tripoli 3/30 (Todd Deininger); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 3/15 (Stephen Kacir); *Northampton*: a blue morph at Seiple’s Farm Pond 3/10 (Michael Schall), a white morph in East Allen Township 3/19 (Dustin Welch).

**Brant** – *Centre*: one at Colyer Lake 3/30 (Aaron Lapp, Joe Verica); *Philadelphia*: 31 at the Philadelphia Navy Yard 5/21 (ph. George Armistead).

**Cackling Goose** – *Allegheny, Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Centre, Chester, Cumberland, Erie, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Pike, Somerset, Washington*.

**Trumpeter Swan** – *Bedford*: one at Dunning’s Creek Wetlands 3/15-22 (Tom Dick); *Berks*: 2 at Breneman’s Quarry 3/1-8 (Matt Spence) and one at Blue Marsh Lake 4/29 (Joan Silagy); *Centre*: one at Curtin Wetlands 5/10-25 (Bob Snyder, et al.); *Chester*: a wing tagged bird remained from the winter season in Chadds Ford up to 4/17 (m.ob.); *Dauphin*: one at Hershey IBA #45 on 4/6 (Patricia and Richard Williams); *Lebanon*: two at a pond on Spangler Road 3/22 (Tom Johnson), two at Millardsville Quarry 3/28-29 (Randy Miller, Timothy Becker, Kathy Becker, Dave McNaughton, Chris Bortz, Tom Johnson) and south of Millbach 3/31 (Randy Miller); *Luzerne*: one at Plymouth Flats 3/23-25 (Jonathan DeBalko, Jim Hoyson, Kevin Ripka, Bruce Johnson); *Mercer*: one at Tieline Road 4/26-5/1 (Mark Vass).

**Eurasian Wigeon** – *Lancaster*: one at Riverfront Park 3/20 (Mike Epler) and 2 at the Conejohela Flats 3/22 (Mike Epler, Justin Bosler, Meredith Lombard); *Butler/Lawrence*: one at the Glacial Sand and Gravel Company pond 4/12-13 (Mark Vass, Michael David, et al.); *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake State Park 3/21-4/5 (Timothy Becker, Kathy Becker, Jarrod Derr, Dave McNaughton, Joan Renninger, et al.); *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 4/4

(Nate Fronk, Dan Brauning), first county record; *Venango*: one at Wyattville Pond 3/10 (Jerry Stanley), second county record.

*Cinnamon Teal*\* – *Dauphin*: a male on the Susquehanna River at West Fairview 3/19 (Barbara and Bill Neff) was relocated 3/20 (Steve Dale) but not seen again until 4/1 after which it was seen frequently to 4/13 (m.ob., *doc submitted*), first county record.

**Common (Green-winged) Teal**\* – *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 3/12-16 (August Mirabella, et al., *doc submitted*).

*Common x Green-winged Teal* – *Northampton*: one in a flooded field along Route 91 near Newburg 4/5 (Michael Schall, Connie Campbell-Schall).

**Harlequin Duck**\* – *Juniata*: a male on the Juniata River 3/4-11 (Chad Kauffman, *no doc*).

**Black Scoter** – *Snyder*: one at Faylor Lake 5/10 (Kay Cramer, Jason Weller).

**Northern Bobwhite** – *Bedford*: present below the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch (Tom Dick); *Lebanon*: heard calling along the Pinch Road powerline 5/10 (Randy Miller), along S. Forge Road 5/12 (Tom Johnson), and along Prescott Road 5/31 (Vern Gauthier).

**Eared Grebe**\* – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 4/6-8 (ph. Paul Cooper, *doc submitted*) and possibly the same bird there again 4/16-19 (Phillip Stollsteimer, Barbara Stollsteimer, Devich Farbotnik); *Mercer*: two at Shenango River Reservoir 4/6 (Marty McKay, *no doc*).

*Frigatebird sp.*\* – *Lebanon*: one in flight over Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/26 (Al Keith, *no doc*).

**Great Cormorant** – *Bucks*: high count of 35 at Bristol 3/15 (Paul Cooper), last were 6 at Mud Island 4/4 (Devich Farbotnik); *Delaware*: 5 at the Delaware River 3/28 (Al Guarante); *Northampton*: one at the Portland Pedestrian Bridge 3/11-14 (Matt Sabatine, et al.); *Philadelphia*: last seen from the winter season 4/13 (George Armistead).

*Brown Pelican*\* – *Huntingdon*: one at Lake Raystown 5/19-26 (Molly Spangenberg, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Debra Grim, Greg Grove, Jon Kauffman, *no doc*).

**Least Bittern** – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 5/31 (ph. Geoff Malosh, Michael David); *Berks*: one at Kernsville Dam Recreation Area 4/27-5/7 (Kerry Grim); *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 on 5/30 (Vern Gauthier); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/18 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lebanon*: one at Fort Indiantown Gap 5/15 (Dave McNaughton) and 5/21 (Jarrod Derr, Dave McNaughton, Chris Bortz, Timothy Becker); *Philadelphia*: first noted for the season at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 5/17 (Kay Meng, Gary Jarvis).

**Snowy Egret** – *Bucks*: two at Oxford Valley Park 5/9 (Dan Pevear), two at Quaker Penn Park 5/16 (Devich Farbotnik), one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/16 (Rick Mellon, Phil



- Getty); *Dauphin*: one at Harrisburg 4/14 (Kathy Becker), and one at Wildwood Lake 5/5 (Ed Bernot); *Lebanon*: one at Sherks Church Road 4/11-12 (Timothy Becker, Jarrod Derr, Kathy Becker, Chris Bortz, Tom Johnson) and one at Pine Road 5/19-23 (Randy Miller, Mike Epler, Timothy Becker, Roscoe Van Muylwyk).
- Little Blue Heron** – *Berks*: one at Turrabee Pond 4/25 (Brian Henderson, Frank Hass); *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 4/15 (Ray Hendrick); *Chester*: one in the Northbrook area 5/21 (Holly Merker); *Dauphin*: one at the Hershey Important Bird Area #45 on 4/4 (Patricia and Richard Williams); *Lebanon*: one at Pine Road 4/5 (Timothy Becker).
- Cattle Egret** – *Luzerne*: two at Plymouth Flats 5/9 (Stan Galenty, Rick Koval); *Philadelphia*: one in a parking lot at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 4/27 (Martin Dellwo, Frank Windfelder).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Allegheny*: one at North Park 4/26 (Brad Peroney), first county record; *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 5/29 (Joan Silagy); *Chester*: one in East Marlborough Township 4/7-12 (Janet Burkhardt); *Cumberland*: one at the Tichy Park Ponds in Mount Holly 5/17-23 (Andy Keister, *et al.*); *Dauphin*: seven in Midtown Harrisburg 4/13 (Tom Johnson) through the season; *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 5/4 (Annie Bird, Rob McGraw).
- Glossy Ibis** – *Berks*: one in Fleetwood 4/6 (Rudy Keller); *Bucks*: 11 at Blooming Glen 5/11 (August Mirabella, Rob Fergus); *Chester*: 43 at Doe Run 5/20 (Ian Gereg, Kevin Fryberger, Al Guarente, Andrew Leidig, Patrick Millar) represented a record high count; *Cumberland*: 6 off Rte. 997 on Lakeview Drive 4/26 (Gideon Fisher); *Delaware*: flyovers at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 4/12-13 (Al Guarente, Damon Orsetti); *Lancaster*: 15 in flight near the Mt. Hope Winery 5/25 (Randy Miller); *Lebanon*: a flock of 34 at Pine Road 5/17 (Timothy Becker, Kathy Becker, Jarrod Derr, Dave McNaughton) provided a record high for the county, with one remaining to 5/22, and one at Reistville and Prescott Roads 5/24 (Timothy Becker, Kathy Becker, Randy Miller, Ted Keen); *Philadelphia*: 2 at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 3/22 (George Armistead), one at Morris Arboretum 4/27 (Ken Januski) and a total of 27 passed Pennypack on the Delaware 5/3 (George Armistead, Todd Fellenbaum).
- Ibis sp.** – *Erie*: one over Gull Point at Presque Isle State Park 5/28 (Roger Donn).
- White-faced Ibis\*** – *Chester*: one at Doe Run 4/20 (Patrick Millar, *doc submitted*), first county record and third state record if accepted.
- Swallow-tailed Kite\*** – *Lehigh*: one found incapacitated in Macungie 3/14 and taken to a wildlife rehabilitator (*fide* Bill Etter, *doc submitted*), second county record.
- Mississippi Kite\*** – *Chester*: single subadults at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/16, 5/17, and 5/26 (Larry Lewis, *et al.*, *no doc*); *Cumberland*: one over a private residence in Lower Frankford Twp. 4/1 (Ron Freed, *no doc*); *Delaware*: one over John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 5/22 (Tim Andiric, *no doc*); *Lehigh*: one at Trexler Nature Preserve 5/13 (Paul Heveran, *no doc*); *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 5/10 (Joe Yoder, Meredith Lombard, *et al.*, *doc submitted*), first county record; *Montgomery*: one at Norristown Farm Park 5/10 (W. Brian Henderson, *no doc*) and one at the Perkiomen Trail 5/10 (Stephen Kacir, *no doc*).
- Northern Goshawk** – *Lebanon*: one at Spring Hill Acres 4/13 (Jonathan Heller) and the adjacent Camp Shand Powerline 4/25 (Timothy Becker, Randy Miller).
- Rough-legged Hawk** – *Bucks*: one from the winter season at Bedminster Twp. to 3/8 (August Mirabella) and one over Peace Valley Park 3/11 (ph. Damien Fallon); *Crawford*: present up to 4/6 at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area, Conneaut Lake, and Sugar Lake (m. ob.); *Lancaster*: one in the Voganville Road Area 3/1 (Brent Musser) and one at Octoraro Reservoir 3/9 (Tom Raub); *Lebanon*: one along Meadow Lane 3/14 (Mike Dale).
- Golden Eagle** – *Centre*, *Crawford*, *Erie*, *Huntingdon*, *Lancaster*, *Lebanon*, *Lycoming*, *Westmoreland*.
- King Rail\*** – *Bucks*: one at Quakertown Swamp 5/19 (ph. Devich Farbotnik, *doc submitted*); *Crawford*: one at Conneaut Marsh 4/19 (Dave Inman, *no doc*).
- Purple Gallinule\*** – *Cumberland*: an adult at the Tichy Park Ponds in Mount Holly 5/10-22 (Mark Markiewicz, Paul Banks, *et al.*, *doc submitted*), first county record.
- Willet** – *Bedford*: 2 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/13 (Tom Dick); *Beaver*: six along the Ohio River at the outflow of Elkhorn Run near Monaca 5/6 (ph. Jim Skal); *Centre*: 17 at Bald Eagle State Park 4/29-5/1 (Jim Dunn, *et al.*); *Cumberland*: one in Carlisle 5/15-16 (Mike Kotz, Paul Banks, Vern Gauthier); *Erie*: a total of 3 from 5/1-17 at Presque Isle State Park (Roger Donn, Mary Birdsong); *Indiana*: 30 at Yellow Creek State Park 4/29 (Lee Carnahan, Tom Glover, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Gloria Lamer, Wendy Leuenberger); *Lawrence*: 9 on Mason Road 5/3 (Suzanne Butcher, ph. Geoff Malosh); *Mercer*: 4 in a wet field on Tieline Road 5/17 (Jeff Brinker); *Somerset*: at least 65 flying over Somerset Lake 4/30 (Mike Lanzzone), 27 of which landed at the lake.
- Upland Sandpiper** – *Chester*: one at Doe Run 5/4 (Andrew Leidig); *Crawford*: up to 2 at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 4/23-5/18 (m.ob.); *Venango*: 2 at the Barkeyville Strips from 5/1 (Nancy Baker, Russ States, m.ob.).
- Marbled Godwit** – *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle State Park 4/30 (Susan Braun, *et al.*), first county record.
- Ruddy Turnstone** – *Berks*: one in a rain pool in Topton following a storm (Ryan Fick, Ken Lebo); *Chester*: 7 flying over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/22 (Larry Lewis); *Erie*: recorded at Gull Point several days from 5/11-25 (m.ob., eBird); *Lebanon*: one at Kreider's Retention Pond 5/11 (Tom Johnson, Kathy Becker, Timothy Becker).
- Red Knot** – *Erie*: one at Gull Point 5/31 (Roger Donn).
- Sanderling** – *Bedford*: 3 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 5/8 (Tom Dick); *Erie*: present at Gull Point in the second half of May (m.ob., eBird); *Somerset*: 2 at Somerset Lake 5/27 (Mike Lanzzone).
- Western Sandpiper** – *Dauphin*: 5 at Haldeman Island 5/10 (Scott Bills).
- Stilt Sandpiper** – *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 5/24 (Mark Vass).
- Long-billed Dowitcher** – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 4/30 (ph. Geoff Malosh), third county record; *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/13 (Roger Donn).
- Wilson's Phalarope** – *Bedford*: one at Dunnings Creek Wetlands in May (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: one at Uhlerstown 5/22 (Paul Cooper); *Cumberland*: one at Horner's Road 5/16-17 (Paul Banks, Vern Gauthier, Susan Strassner, Martin Wilson).
- Red-necked Phalarope** – *Centre*: one at Coyler Lake 5/19 (Wayne Laubscher, Carl Engstrom, Joe Verica); *Clinton*: one near Lock Haven 5/25 (Lisette and Mark Smith); *Crawford*: 2 at the Pymatuning Goose Management Area 5/16-18 (Mark Vass); *Franklin*: one in Chambersburg 5/24 (Joan Bowen, *fide* Bill Oyler); *Lebanon*: one at Kreider's Retention Pond 5/16 (Jarrod Derr, Timothy Becker, Tom Johnson, Randy Miller, Kathy Becker, Mike Epler).
- Black-headed Gull\*** – *Dauphin*: at Marysville 3/17 (Ramsay Koury) to 4/7 (m.ob., *no doc*), and one at West Fairview 4/2 (Vern Gauthier, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna River 4/2 (Mike Epler, Lisa Black, *no doc*) and one at Wissler Run Park 3/15 (Tom Raub, *no doc*); *Mercer*: one at Shenango Wildlife Area 4/19 (Jeff Brinker, *no doc*).

**Little Gull** – *Centre*: two at Bald Eagle State Park 4/29 (Alex Lamoreaux, et al.); *Dauphin*: 2 at West Fairview 3/30 (Tom Johnson, Mike Lanzone) with sightings to 4/9 from West Fairview to Marysville (m.ob.); *Erie*: 4 at Presque Isle State Park 3/30-4/14 (Jerry McWilliams, Katie Andersen); *Lancaster*: one at the Pequea Boat Ramp 3/16 (Tom Raub), 4 along the Susquehanna River 3/29 (Mike Epler, Meredith Lombard, Jonathan Heller), one along the Susquehanna 4/6 (Ramsay Koury, Annette Mathes), 5 at Lake Clark 4/6 (Eric Witmer), and one at Peach Bottom 5/8 (Bob Schutsky); *Lycoming*: 2 at Rose Valley Lake 4/4 (Dan Brauning, Nate Fronk) and 2 at Williamsport 4/5 (Joe Yoder).

**Laughing Gull** – *Bucks*: first spring report of approximately 200 at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/10 (Devich Farbotnik), one at Peace Valley Park 5/1 (August Mirabella); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Causeway near Espyville 5/31 (Ronald Leberman, Isaac Field); *Cumberland*: one at Mud Level Road 5/16 (Vern Gauthier, Andrew Markel); *Delaware*: present at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge and along the Delaware River, and 15 in Chester 5/11 (m.ob.); *Huntingdon*: 2 at Lake Raystown 5/26 (David Kyler, Trudy Kyler), second county record.

**Franklin's Gull** – *Centre*: one at Curtin Wetlands 5/3-5 (Alex Lamoreaux, et al.), likely the same bird at Bald Eagle State Park 5/3-4 (Carl Engstrom, et al.), second county record.

**Thayer's Gull\*** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 3/8 (Mike Weible, no doc) and one at the Lakeview Landfill 3/16 (Jerry McWilliams, no doc).

**Glaucous Gull** – *Allegheny*: an adult continued from the winter season to 3/5 at Pittsburgh (Shannon Thompson, Geoff Malosh, et al.) and a first winter bird was last reported 3/7 (Andy Keister); *Berks*: one at Breneman's Quarry 3/11 (Matt Wlansniewski); *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 3/13 (Tom Johnson) and 4/15 (Devich Farbotnik); *Dauphin*: one at Marysville 3/30 (Alex Lamoreaux, et al.); *Erie*: up to 14 during the season at Presque Isle State Park and the Lakeview Landfill (Ed Kwater, Mike Weible, Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna River below Safe Harbor Dam 3/8 (Tom Raub); *Philadelphia*: one seen in flight at the Naval Business Center 5/8 (George Armistead).

**Great Black-backed Gull** – *Adams*: one at Lake Meade 3/18 (Andy Wilson), and an adult and immature at Lake Meade 4/20 (Alex Lamoreaux) together provided the first and second county records; *Allegheny*: 2 at Pittsburgh 3/3 (Geoff Malosh); *Erie*: present; *Lancaster*: four on the Susquehanna River 3/7 (Mike Epler), nine there 3/26 (Chuck Chalfant), and 4 there 3/29 (Jonathan Heller); *Lebanon*: 5 at Memorial Lake State Park 3/15 (Randy Miller, Elvin Stauffer); *Northampton*: one at the Forks of the Delaware in Easton 3/10 (Michael Schall, Connie-Campbell Schall).

**Herring x Glaucous Gull** – *Erie*: one probable bird at the Lakeview Landfill 3/26-27 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Eurasian Collared Dove** – *Berks*: four in Shartlesville 5/30 (Matt Wlansniewski); *Centre*: one along S. Nixon Road south of State College 3/3 (Joe Verica); *Chester*: one in the Doe Run area 5/21 (Ian Gereg, Kevin Fryberger); *Cumberland*: 4 at the intersection of Rte. 997 and Center and Meadow Roads 5/10-27 (Annette Mathes, Susan Strassner, Kathy Kuchwara, Vern Gauthier, Paul Banks); *Lancaster*: one at the Rock Springs Preserve 5/11 (Tom Raub) and one at the Conejohela Flats 5/25 (Eric Witmer, Bruce Carl, Tom Garner).

**Barn Owl** – *Bedford*: nested successfully (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: a pair present (Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland*: one at State Game Lands 169 on 3/28 (Vern Gauthier); *Dauphin*: four active nests at the Milton S. Hershey School Campus (Nate McKelvie); *Lycoming*: nested near Elimsport and produced five young (Mario Giazzon).

**Long-eared Owl** – *Bucks*: last report of the season from Peace Valley Park 3/8 (August Mirabella); *Centre*: one heard at Scotia Barrens 4/14-18 (Matt Sabatine, Carl Engstrom), one at the Rusnak Hill reclaimed strip mine 5/2 (Ian Garner, Matt Sabatine); *Erie*: single birds at Presque Isle State Park 3/8-29 (Roger Donn) and 5/4 (Roger Donn); *Montgomery*: 2 at Valley Forge National Historic Park through 3/12 (Joshua Clapper); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 3/14 (Christian Hunold).

**Short-eared Owl** – *Centre*: one at Woodward Gap 3/1-13 (Joe Verica, Carl Engstrom, Jim Dunn) and one on Cemetery Road 3/2 (Alex Lamoreaux, Ben Vizzachero, Elora Grahame, Joseph Bellehumeur, Jill Koren); *Erie*: an injured bird was brought to the Tom Ridge Environmental Center 3/3 (Richard Kreider) and one was at Gull Point 5/3 (Roger Donn, Geoff Malosh); *Laurence*: present at the Volant Strips 3/11 (Shannon Thompson); *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/21 (Timothy Becker), two there 3/31 (Jarrod Derr), and one there 4/6 (Rebekah Bollinger, Justin Bollinger); *Mercer*: two at East Zahnizer Road 3/6-9 (Joseph Hochstetler, Neil Troyer, Samuel Troyer); *Northampton*: one in Seemsville 3/3 (Bill Etter).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** – *Centre*: one at Black Moshannon State Park 5/2 (Alex Lamoreaux, Ian Gardner, Matt Sabatine); *Dauphin*: one heard calling in East Hanover Township in mid-March and again 4/7 (Nancy Cladel); *Erie*: a total of three for the season at Presque Isle State Park 3/9, 3/29, and 5/2 (Roger Donn); *Mifflin*: one heard at Reed's Gap State Park 4/19 (Rob Dickerson); *Sullivan*: one calling at Splashdam Pond 4/28 (Doug Gross) and at Dutch Mountain in May (Rob Megraw).

**Gyr Falcon\*** – *Northampton*: a gray morph seen in flight in East Allen Township at Hanoverville Road and again over Arrowhead Road 3/26 (Brad Silfies, no doc).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher\*** – *Susquehanna*: one seen and photographed at a private residence 5/12 (Bruce McNaught, listerv, doc submitted).

**Northern Shrike** – *Clearfield*: one in the Dubois area 4/11 (Dan Richards); *Crawford*: one at Springboro 3/2 (Thomas Clare Nicolls) and one near Mt. Hope 3/8 (Ronald Leberman); *Delaware*: one continued from winter at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 3/22 (Damon Orsetti); *Erie*: at least four seen in various locations up to 3/18 (m.ob.); *Huntingdon*: one at Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch 3/20 (Jon Kauffman); *Mercer*: one at State Game Lands 130 on 4/2 (Neil Troyer); *Philadelphia*: last seen from the winter at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 3/23 (Annie Bird).

**Marsh Wren** – *Allegheny, Bedford, Centre, Chester, Clearfield, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Erie, Lebanon, Lehigh, Mercer, Somerset, Washington*.

**Sedge Wren** – *Crawford*: one south of Geneva on private property 5/14 (Matt Sabatine, eBird); *Lebanon*: one at Fort Indiantown Gap 5/15 (Dave McNaughton) and again 5/20-21 (Dave McNaughton, Jarod Derr, Chris Bortz, Timothy Becker).

**Bicknell's Thrush\*** – *Northampton*: one seen and heard at Bear Swamp 5/26 (Rick Wiltraut, no doc).

**Lapland Longspur** – *Lancaster*: one on Musser School Road 3/25 (Justin Bosler); *Mercer*: present on East Zahnizer Road 3/19-23 with a high count of 45 on 3/22 (Joseph Hochstetler, Neil Troyer, Samuel Troyer); *Somerset*: continued from the winter and last reported 3/4 (Jeff Payne).

**Snow Bunting** – *Crawford*: up to 5 present at the Pymatuning Causeway up to 3/23 (Thomas Clare Nicolls, Ronald Leberman, Isaac Field, Bonnie Ginader, Janice Grindle).

**Golden-winged Warbler** – *Allegheny, Armstrong, Bedford, Blair, Bradford, Centre, Cumberland, Erie, Forest,*

Lebanon, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mercer, Monroe, Somerset, Westmoreland.

**Prothonotary Warbler** – *Berks, Bucks, Centre, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mercer, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Westmoreland, York.*

**Swainson's Warbler\*** – *Northampton*: one at Bear Swamp 5/18-19 (Rick Wiltraut, Dave DeReamus, Kathy Sieminski, *no doc*), third county record.

**Orange-crowned Warbler** – *Allegheny*: single birds at Frick Park 4/26 (Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon), Pleasant Hills 5/3-4 (Jim Hausman, Bob Mulvihill), Boyce-Mayview Park 5/6 (Shannon Thompson) and Schenley Park 5/8 (Kate St. John); *Centre*: one at Curtin Wetland 4/29 (Alex Lamoreaux); *Cumberland*: single birds at West Fairview 4/26 (Ramsay Koury) and Pine Grove Furnace State Park 5/10 (Vern Gauthier); *Erie*: one in Harborcreek Township 5/7 (Mike Weible); *Mercer*: one along the Hamburg-Big Bend Trail 5/10 (Jeff Brinker); *Northampton*: one at Housnick Memorial Park 5/8 (Jon Mularczyk), one at Bear Swamp 5/9 (Michael Schall); *Philadelphia*: one at Valley Green 4/4-6 (Ken Januski) and one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum 4/13 (Gary Jarvis, Charles Muntean, Damon Orsetti); *Washington*: single birds at Washington Park 5/5 (Lauren Conkle) and Hillman State Park 5/19 (Roy Ickes).

**Connecticut Warbler** – *Bucks*: possible birds reported at Bowman's Hill 5/9 and Warwick Township 5/10; *Wyoming*: reported on the PAMC 5/10.

**Kirtland's Warbler\*** – *Lehigh*: one at Jordan Creek Parkway 5/9 (Alan Jennings) and again 5/10 (Adam Smith, Scott Burnet, *doc submitted*), first county record and thirteenth for the state.

**Lawrence's Warbler** – *Adams*: one at Gettysburg National Military Park 5/29 (Kathryn Riley); *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon State Park 5/17 (Rick Mellon, Phil Getty); *Chester*: one at Westtown Lake 5/1 (Mike Defina); *Northampton*: one at Bear Swamp 5/15 (Michael Schall).

**Brewster's Warbler** – *Allegheny*: one in Shaler Township 5/5 (Joyce Hoffmann); *Centre*: one at West Gatesburg Road 5/3 (Carl Engstrom) and one at the Scotia Barrens 5/9-30 (Matt Rockmore, Susan Braun, Jack Cochran); *Perry*: one at Miller's Gap 5/11 and 5/18 (Ramsay Koury, Annette Mathes).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** – *Berks*: the bird that wintered in Hamburg was last seen 3/24 (Matt Wlasniewski); *Clarion*: present at the Curlsville Strips 5/24 (Dick Nugent, Carole Winslow); *Crawford*: 2 at Woodcock Lake 5/19 (Shawn Collins, *et al.*); *Erie*: one or two at Presque Isle State Park 5/6 and 5/8 (m.ob.).

**Henslow's Sparrow** – *Allegheny*: first detected at Imperial 4/17 (Geoff Malosh); *Bedford*: one at Dunning's Creek Wetlands 5/3 (Tom Dick); *Centre*: up to 5 at State Game Lands 100 from 5/2-30 (Alex Lamoreaux, *et al.*); *Clarion*: present in Sligo 5/11 (Carole Winslow); *Crawford*: 2 south of Geneva on private property 5/14 (Matt Sabatine, eBird); *Jefferson*: 3 on Sandy Ridge Rd. 5/24 (Thomas Glover); *Lawrence*: present at the Volant Strips for the season (Richard Nugent, *et al.*); *Somerset*: several in the Fairhope area 4/21 (Alan Peterson, Jeff Payne); *Washington*: present at the breeding sites at Hillman State Park, Bavington, and Robinson Township (Jeff McDonald, *et al.*); *York*: one at Hawk Lake Golf Course 5/26 (Dan Heathcote).

**Nelson's Sparrow** – *Montgomery*: one heard singing at SGL 234 on 5/10 was listed as possible (Stephen Kacir).

**Harris' Sparrow\*** – *Carbon*: one at a private residence near Beltzville State Park 5/6 (Dave Hawk) and relocated there 5/7 (Rich Rehrig, Barbara Rehrig, *doc submitted*).

**Summer Tanager\*** – *Allegheny*: one singing in Forest Hills 4/29 (Tony Bledsoe, Meg Bledsoe, *no doc*); *Bucks*: one in Bristol Twp. 5/10 (Doug Filler, *no doc*); *Chester*: one at

Rushton Farm 5/3 (Andrew Leidig, *no doc*); *Crawford*: one visiting a feeder in Rundell 5/18 (Aden Troyer, *vide* Thomas Clare Nicolls, *no doc*); *Erie*: up to three at Presque Isle State Park 5/5-11 (Shawn Collins, *et al.*, *no doc*), and one in Harborcreek Township 5/18 (Mike Weible, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one singing in Martic Township Park 5/27 (Tom Raub, *no doc*); *Montgomery*: one at Alverthorpe Park 5/8 (ph. Alexander Zorach).

**Western Tanager\*** – *Somerset*: a male visiting a feeder 5/1-5 was photographed (*vide* Mike Lanzzone, *no doc*) but it was not known to the birding community until after it moved on.

**Black-headed Grosbeak\*** – *Armstrong*: a male visiting a feeder near Leechburg 4/29 (Lingling Morgan, Matt Morgan, *no doc*).

**Blue Grosbeak** – *Adams, Bucks, Centre, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Montgomery, Philadelphia.*

**Dickcissel** – *Berks*: one on Topton Road 5/30 (Rudy Keller); *Chester*: one at Doe Run 5/24 (Kevin Fryberger) and 4 in the same area 5/30 (Andrew Leidig, Brian Quindlen); *Cumberland*: a female and two males on Center Road 5/27 (Vern Gauthier) and a singing male at that location 5/30 (Paul Banks, Chris Markiewicz, Mark Markiewicz); *Lancaster*: one singing in Gap 5/12 (Pamela Fisher); *Montgomery*: one recorded on nocturnal migration over Elkins Park 5/27 (Paul Driver).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird\*** – *Chester*: a male in a mixed blackbird flock in Cochranville 3/19 and one at a feeder in the same area 3/26 (Michael Gardner, *no doc*); *Westmoreland*: a male visited a feeder in Lower Burrel for one or two weeks before it was reported (*vide* Brian Shema), last seen 4/17 (Malcolm Harter, Mike Fialkovich, *doc submitted*).

**Bullock's Oriole\*** – *Montgomery*: the male that wintered at Gilbertsville for the fourth year was last seen 4/16 (Mary Ache *vide* Howard Eskin, *doc previously submitted*).

**Red Crossbill** – *Luzerne*: a few at State Game Lands 57 on 3/11 (Rick Koval).

**Pine Siskin** – *Beaver*: one visited a feeder in Economy Borough 4/28 (Becky Smith); *Bradford*: 4 in the Canton area 5/10 (Lewis Frederick, Norwood Frederick); *Centre*: one in State College 5/30 (Carl Engstrom); *Cumberland*: two in Middlesex Township 3/8 (Herb Weigl); *Erie*: one in Union City 5/2 (Donna Peters); *Mercer*: one along East Zahnizer Road 4/15 (Marty McKay).

**Evening Grosbeak** – *Bedford*: one seen during the PAMC 5/10 (Sally Dick).

## Photographic Highlights



**Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*).** This Ross's Goose, *Allegheny's* fifth (all since 1999), put down briefly on a small pond in Findlay Twp. during a strong weather system 4 April 2014 that grounded waterbirds throughout the region. (Geoff Malosh)



**Brant (*Branta bernicla*).** This flock of 41 Brant passed over the Philadelphia Navy Yard on the late date of 21 May 2014. Brant are uncommon enough in spring in Pennsylvania, let alone in such a large number. Together with the late date, these birds represented an unusual record indeed. (George Armistead)



**Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*).** One bird initially found 2 March 2014 at Franklin D. Roosevelt Park, *Philadelphia* attracted several birders and eventually led to the discovery of a second Cackler at the same location. Both birds are shown here 5 March (George Armistead)



**Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*).** This beautiful portrait of a male and female Blue-winged Teal in flight was made at Lake Somerset, *Somerset* 18 April 2014. (Josh Jones)



**Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*).** Cacklers have been found increasingly frequently in recent years, even in comparatively goose-deprived western Pennsylvania. This bird was at Wingfield Pines, *Allegheny* 2 to (here) 3 March 2014. (Jeff McDonald)



**Redhead (*Aythya americana*).** The relentless winter ice persisted well into March in most areas, which served to concentrate migrant waterfowl on any available patch of open water. Western Pennsylvania saw a remarkable influx of stalled Redheads in many counties. This bird was at Wingfield Pines, *Allegheny* 5 March 2014. (Jeff McDonald)



**Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*).** As March wore on, waterfowl were often concentrated on small open bodies of water while larger and deeper lakes remained iced over, providing birders with some nice close encounters and photo opportunities. This male Hooded Merganser was in Harmar Twp., *Allegheny* 19 March 2014. (Jeff McDonald)



**Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*).** One effect of the grebe invasion was the rare opportunity to view *flocks* of this species in Pennsylvania, a state in which they normally occur only as singles or pairs. These seven put down briefly at Dashields Dam, *Allegheny* 23 March 2014. All told, the species was recorded in 38 counties during the invasion. (Geoff Malosh)



**Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*).** Pennsylvania's elusive and declining state bird is exceedingly difficult to photograph well. This excellent image was captured in Bald Eagle State Forest, *Centre* 16 March 2014. (Alex Lamoreaux)



**Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*).** Some grebes tarried quite late into May, by which time they were completely decked out in fine breeding plumage. This bird was photographed at Opossum Lake, *Cumberland* 17 May 2014. (Dave Kerr)



**Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*).** The near-complete icing of the Great Lakes resulted in the best Red-necked Grebe invasion in Pennsylvania since 2003, and the first of age of digital photography. Many outstanding images of this species were made all around the state, such as this image taken at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, *Philadelphia* 6 March 2014. (George Armistead)



**Great Egret (*Ardea alba*).** Despite the extremely harsh March, some birds still made record early appearances in a few counties. This Great Egret at McKees Rocks, *Allegheny* 22 March 2014 set a new earliest *Allegheny* date for the species by a few days. (Geoff Malosh)



**Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*).** It was a good spring for Little Blue Heron, reported in five counties including this adult at the Turnpike Pond, *Berks* 25 April 2014. (*Frank Haas*)



**Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*).** Rare and less than annual in most western Pennsylvania counties, this Black-crowned Night-Heron at Boyce-Mayview Park 6 April 2014 was one of two for the season in *Allegheny*. (*Jeff McDonald*)



**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*).** The Patagonia Picnic Table effect was in evidence at Mt. Holly, *Cumberland*, where birders searching for a staked out Purple Gallinule (which see on the cover of this issue) found this rare wader also present 17 to 23 (here 18) May 2014. (*Dave Kerr*)



**Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*).** Another species that had a great flight this spring, Glossy Ibis was noted in eight counties and in impressive numbers in some. This single was photographed at John Heinz N.W.R., *Philadelphia* 22 March 2013 and provided an exceptionally early record. (*George Armistead*)



**Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*).** Not long ago, the sight of a flock of Sandhill Cranes in Pennsylvania could only be expected at their original stronghold near the three-way corner of *Lawrence*, *Mercer*, and *Butler*, but Sandhills have been steadily increasing in other areas of the state as both breeders and over-winterers in the past decade. These five remained at Fairbrook Marsh and nearby in *Center* from the winter to at least 25 March 2014 (here 1 March). (*Alex Lamoreaux*)



**Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*).** Springtime Black-bellied Plovers away from Lake Erie are always a rare treat. This molting adult was photographed nicely at Bald Eagle State Park, *Centre* 30 April 2014. (Wayne Laubscher)



**Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*).** Snipe do not often pose out in the open, but when they do it is generally in early spring. Such was the case with this cooperative, preening bird at Bald Knob, *Allegheny* 23 March 2014. (Geoff Malosh)



**Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*).** This eager bird at Bald Knob, *Allegheny* 2 April 2014 was very early even by this species' standards, yet it was not even the earliest of the season for Pennsylvania. That distinction this year went to one in *Bucks* 29 March. (Jeff McDonald)



**Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*).** Although Presque Isle State Park and the lower Susquehanna River continue to be the most reliable spots, Little Gulls are increasingly found away from those traditional areas in spring. This bird was one of 2 at Bald Eagle State Park, *Centre* 29 April 2014. (Alex Lamoreaux)



**Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*).** Very rare anywhere in spring in Pennsylvania, this Long-billed Dowitcher (second from top) with Lesser Yellowlegs at Bald Knob, *Allegheny* 30 April 2014 was not only the second spring Long-billed for *Allegheny* in three years, but it appeared just one day shy of exactly two years to the day after the previous spring record, 1 May 2012. (Geoff Malosh)



**Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*).** Very exciting was *Centre's* second Franklin's Gull, this adult in full breeding plumage (top, second from right) at Curtin Wetlands 3 to 5 (here 4) May 2014; one was also spotted at Bald Eagle State Park on the same dates that was probably this same bird. The previous *Centre* record was in 1983 at Bald Eagle State Park. (Alex Lamoreaux)



**Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*).** Another record-setting early bird in *Allegheny* was this Common Tern at Bald Knob 4 April 2014 during the same rain event that grounded the Ross's Goose nearby, shown earlier. This bird set a new early date for *Allegheny* by eight days, and was the third record overall for the famous Bald Knob pond and the first there since 1997. (Geoff Malosh)



**Barred Owl (*Strix varia*).** Always a highlight of any fieldtrip on which it is found by day, this Barred Owl near Nebraska was a welcome addition to the *Forest* PAMC checklist 10 May 2014. (Flo McGuire)



**Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*).** Not as unusual for *Allegheny* in general as Common is, but equally as unusual at Bald Knob, this still-molting bird was photographed at the pond 15 April 2014 and represented just the second Forster's for Bald Knob. The previous Forster's there was also in 1997. (Geoff Malosh)



**Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*).** The words "amazingly cooperative" hardly begin to describe this memorable and handsome woodpecker that entertained dozens of birders at Thompson Circle on Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* for a few days in early May, shown here 3 May 2014. (Geoff Malosh)



**Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*).** A more typical location for Forster's Tern in *Allegheny* in spring is Dashields Dam, where this obliging bird in full breeding plumage was photographed in the afternoon of 27 April 2014. (Geoff Malosh)





**Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*).** This interesting leucistic male attended a feeder in Barbour, Lycoming where it was photographed 23 May 2014. (Wayne Laubscher)



**Common Raven (*Corvus corax*).** Once relegated to the remote high-elevation forests of Pennsylvania following the extensive clearing of the state's forests in the 1800s and early 1900s, Common Ravens have since completely rebounded in the state. The sight of a raven like this one, at a dumpster behind an Old Country Buffet in Chester 5 May 2014, would have been unthinkable just 20 years ago. (Holly Merker)



**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*).** Spring records of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in Pennsylvania usually involve one-day (or even one-hour) wonders, usually in mid-May. This bird at New Milford, Susquehanna 12 May 2014 fit nicely into that pattern. (Nancy Wottrich)



**Common Raven (*Corvus corax*).** Ravens are now even making forays into areas vastly different than their former montane haunts. This nest at Hanson Quarry in Downingtown in far southeastern Chester contained two chicks 21 May 2014, the first breeding record for the county. (Holly Merker)



**Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*).** Red-breasted Nuthatches reached the lowest of lows in their cyclic migrations into Pennsylvania during the winter of 2013-14, yet there still a few to be found. Nottingham County Park, Chester hosted 2 through early April, including this one seen here 1 April 2014. (Nick Pulcinella)



**Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*).** This hungry migrant was found feeding along the Struble Trail, Chester 9 May 2014 often within just a few feet of passersby. (Holly Merker)



**Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).** Very few Snow Buntings were reported after 1 March, but Graver's Hill in *Northampton* is usually a reliable place for them in most years. This fine image was made there 11 March 2014. (*Dustin Welch*)



**Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*).** Another warbler not given to allowing leisurely eye-level views is Yellow-throated. This bird at Wingfield Pines, *Allegheny* 23 April 2014 also proved to be an exception to the "warbler neck" rule. (*Jeff McDonald*)



**Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*).** The drastic and ongoing decline of Golden-winged Warbler in Pennsylvania and throughout its range is well known and documented. The species' last strongholds in Pennsylvania are early successional shrublands in the central part of the state; this male was photographed near Cassville, *Huntingdon* 31 May 2014. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



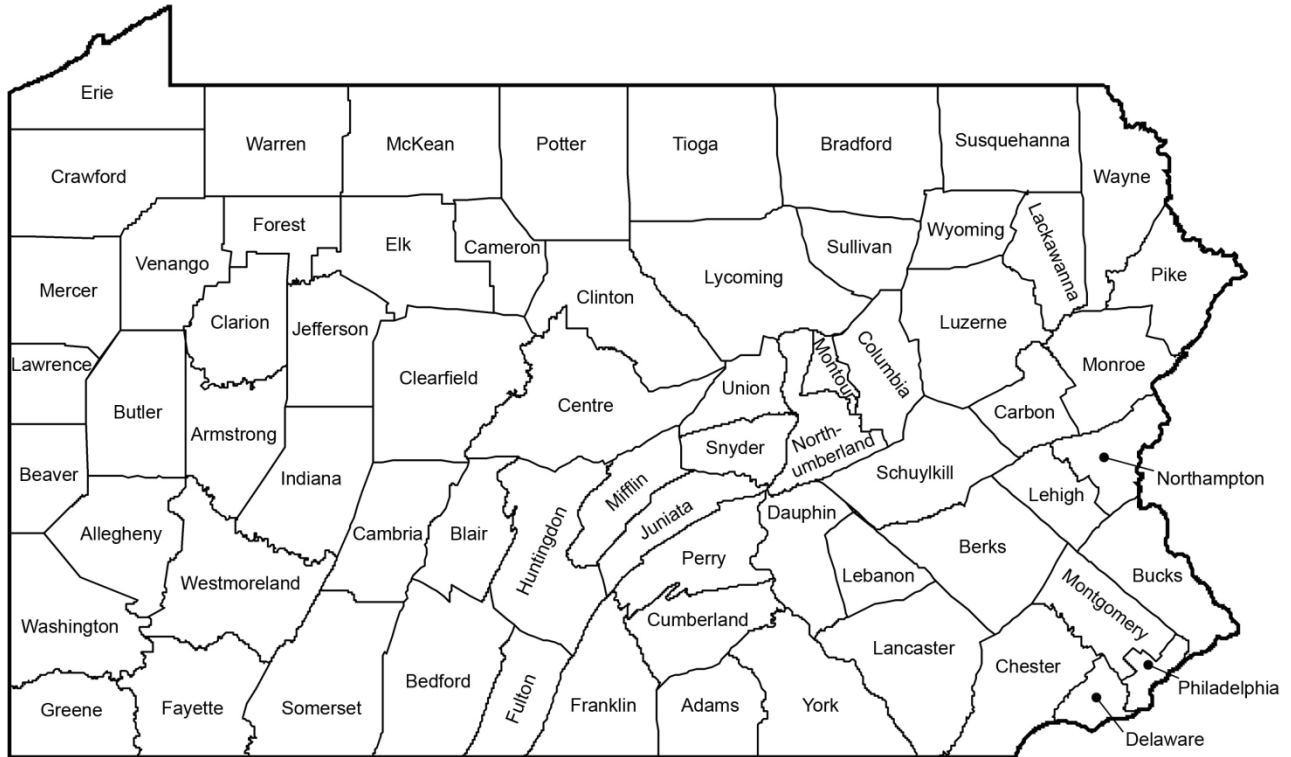
**Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*).** This uncommon migrant was nicely photographed at Nescopeck State Park, *Luzerne* 13 May 2014. (*Jonathan DeBalko*)



**Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*).** Most warblers are known for straining birders' necks and Northern Parula is normally one of the worst offenders. Not so for this nicely cooperative individual at Harmony Hill, *Chester* 11 May 2014. (*Holly Merker*)



**Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*).** This fine adult was at Beltzville State Park, *Carbon* 7 May 2014, just a few miles from where *Carbon's* first Harris's Sparrow overwintered in 2012-13, raising the possibility (probability?) that this was the same bird. (*Rich Rehrig*)



**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 2014)

**Adams County**

Locations: Buttonwood Road Farm Pond (BRFP), Gettysburg College (GBC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Kay (LK), Lake May (LMAE), Lake Meade (LM), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Mountain Road (MTN), Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count (PAMC), Shippensburg Road (SHIP), State Game Lands #249 (SGL), Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve (SHNP).

The 175 species reported was a new spring high for Adams. Highlights included a remarkable count of 20 waterfowl species at private Lake Meade 3/18 (AW), a county first **Great Black-backed Gull**, a number of early arrivals along with some lingerers, and a **Lawrence's Warbler**. This year's PAMC compiled by Mike O'Brien reported 90 species.

Adams is not known for waterfowl, so the 27 species reported was the biggest surprise of the period. **Snow Goose** was at LM 3/2-11 (JV) with a high of about 100 on 3/11. **Tundra Swans** were at LM 3/11-18 (JV, AW) and the traditional Germany Rd stopover produced a high count of about

450 on 3/15 (PK). The highlighted 3/18 (AW) visit to LM produced the sole reports of **Gadwall**, **American Black Duck**, **American Wigeon**, **Redhead**, **Greater Scaup**, and **Red-throated Loon**. A trio of **Northern Shoveler** was at LK 3/21-25 (SJD, JOM, AW) and 6 were found at BRFP 3/18 (AW). A mind-boggling 550 **Northern Pintail** were part of the 3/18 (AW) extravaganza at LM. **Canvasbacks** were at LM 3/11-18 (JV, AW) and at Littlestown 3/13 (SB). LM produced a **Long-tailed Duck** 3/18 (AW) that lingered until at least 4/20 (AL). **Common Loon** also extended beyond their typical stay with birds at LPRR 5/22 (MB, AW) and at LMAE 5/28 (AW). **Red-necked Grebe** was first seen at LM 3/18 (AW) but a single at LMAE was still present 5/28 (AW) after spending 70 days at that site.

Three reports of **Ring-necked Pheasant** and eight reports of **Wild Turkey** were fairly typical for the period. Notable among the turkey observations were 12 at MTN 4/6 (RDS) and a displaying tom with 5 hens at SGL 4/30 (PK). A pair of **Great Egret** was at GNMP 4/11 (BL). It was a good season for raptors. Highlights included 3 **Osprey** at LM 4/20 (AL), 5 **Bald Eagle** at LM 3/18 (AW) and a female **Merlin** chasing **Purple Martins** at GBC 5/2 (AW). Shorebird sightings included a **White-rumped Sandpiper**

at LPRR 5/22 (MB), **Wilson Snipe** at GBC 3/17-4/2 (AW) with a 3/17 high count of 7, and three reports of **American Woodcock** including 7 birds at Ridge Rd 5/22 (ED) and 6 at MTN 4/1 (RDS). Gulls are typically limited to **Ring-billed Gull** and **Herring Gull**, but this spring also produced reports of **Bonaparte's Gull** at GBC 4/9 (AW) and 12 at LM 4/20 (AL). An **Adams** first, a **Great Black-backed Gull** was at LM 3/18 (AW) and an adult and immature bird were at the same locale 4/20 (AL). **Caspian Tern** were at LM 4/19-20 (JV, AL) and a **Forster's Tern**, uncommon for **Adams**, was at private Lake Heritage 5/10 (JV).

**Black-billed Cuckoo** remained elusive and was not reported; two reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** came from GNMP 5/9 (EB) and Camp Gettysburg Rd 5/17 (LK). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was at SHIP 5/13 (MB). With only four reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** it is hoped that this was not an early sign of one of the state's strongholds suffering reduced numbers. A 4/3 (AW) trip to SHNP produced 3 **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, 3 **Hairy Woodpecker**, and 4 **Pileated Woodpecker**. A flock of 24 **Northern Flickers** at MTN 4/11 (RDS) was the highest total ever reported.

Flycatchers were a positive for the period. Six reports of **Acadian Flycatcher** 5/7-21 (m.ob.), five reports of **Willow Flycatcher** 5/11-29 (m.ob.) and four reports of **Least Flycatcher** 4/30-5/26 (m.ob.) were all above average. Highlights among vireos were early arrivals; a **Yellow-throated Vireo** 4/18 (PK) at SGL and 2 **Red-eyed Vireo** at Carbaugh Reservoir 4/13 (LL). **Common Raven** continues to be regularly reported from all areas of the county except the extreme southeastern corner. The initial **Purple Martin** scout was at GBC 3/18 (AW); the high count of 22 birds at was made at that location 4/21-22 (AW). GBC also produced an early **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** 3/25 and 3/28 (AW). **Bank Swallow** reports came from Lake Heritage with 5 birds 5/10 (JV), one at GNMP 5/15 (LK), and 2 at LPRR 5/16-21 (LK,AW). The 5/16 (LK) visit to LPRR produced 5 **Cliff Swallow**. The four reports of **Black-capped Chickadee** spanned 3/3-5/16 (MB, JAF, LK, AW) with all locations at elevations of 950 feet or higher. The peak migration for **Brown Creeper**, **Winter Wren**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** appeared to be 3/28-4/5, and the **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** migration peaked about two weeks later.

Reports of **Veery** came from GNMP 5/3 and 5/18 (BH, BD) and Ridge Rd 5/12-16 (ED). The four **Hermit Thrush** sightings included extremes of 3/5 (AW) at Bullfrog Rd and one at LPRR 5/21 (AW); these suggested a possible overwintering bird and possible breeding bird. LPRR, at over 1400 elevation, provided possible breeding observations during both atlas efforts. An apparent overwintering **Gray Catbird** was at Ridge Rd 3/12 (ED). **American Pipit** was at GBC 3/17-23 (AW). The 24 warbler species reported represented a decent spring. Of note were a **Tennessee Warbler** at GNMP 5/16 (LK), **Nashville Warbler** at MTN 5/8 (RDS), three reports of **Cape May Warbler** 5/6-16 (JH, LK, RDS), **Prairie Warbler** and **Lawrence's Warbler** at GNMP 5/29 (KR), four reports of **Wilson's Warbler** 5/11-22 (EB, LK, PAMC), and **Canada Warbler** at SGL 5/11 (DJG).

Ten species of sparrow were found but they were not frequently reported. **American Tree Sparrow** was found 3/20 and 3/22 (JS, JOM) at GNMP and Freedom Twp. **Savannah Sparrow** was only found at GNMP 5/4-29 (EB, BH, KR) as was **Grasshopper Sparrow** 5/3-17 (BH, SW). A pair of **Fox Sparrow** was at Fairfield 3/3 (TWS), a quartet was at SHNP 3/20 (AW), and a single was at SHIP 3/22 (MB). **Swamp Sparrow** were found at GNMP 4/4-5/3 (BH, AW), at SGL 4/27 (DJG) and at MTN 5/1 (RDS). **White-throated Sparrow** carried into June and 4 **White-crowned Sparrow** lingered at Irish Drive through 5/13 (VH) with another 2 staying to 5/22 (PK) at East Berlin.

A **Blue Grosbeak** was at Ridge Rd 5/12 (ED). Three reports of **Bobolink** were of a single bird at GNMP 5/4 (BH), 5 birds at Freedom Twp. 5/17 (LK), and 4 birds along Pumping Station Rd 5/29 (AW). Reports of **Eastern Meadowlark** numbered 10 but no large flocks were noted. However, a nice flock of 27 mostly male **Rusty Blackbird** was found feeding in a flooded field along Emmitsburg Rd 3/17 (AW). The five reports of **Orchard Oriole** spanning 5/6-24 (m.ob.) were higher than normal. **Purple Finch** reports came from Gettysburg 4/4 (NL), Thomas Drive 5/10 (JV), and Ridge Rd 5/24 (ED).

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## Allegheny County

Locations: Boyce-Mayview Park (BMP), Dashields Dam (DASH), Imperial (IMP), Wingfield Pines (WP).

Snow and cold continued in March. Finally by the end of the month, milder temperatures arrived.

A weather system moving through 3/12 dropped **Tundra Swans** into the area. A flock of 73 landed on the Ohio R. at DASH (JM). Flocks flew over Natrona Heights (DH) and WP (ST), but were unable to be counted. A flock of 77 landed on a frozen pond on Moody Road in Findlay Twp. (GM). Two days later on 3/14, a flock of 23 were on the main pond at IMP (MV). A flock of 83 flew over Findlay Twp. 3/15 (GM).

A blue morph **Snow Goose** was a surprise at North Park 3/18 (BM, ph. GM). A **Ross's Goose** was discovered during a rainy day at a pond on Moody Road in Findlay Twp. 4/4 (ph. GM). This provided the fifth county record, but unfortunately it only stayed for an hour or so. A **Cackling Goose** was at WP 3/2-3 (ST, et al.) providing the fourth county record. A leucistic **Canada Goose** was at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 3/23 and 4/13 (MV). This is the same bird that was at IMP in March of 2011 and 2013.

Waterfowl continued from the winter season in good numbers. Surprisingly, **American Wigeon** are not that common here compared to other waterfowl. Three were at WP 3/1-2 (DW, ST), two were at DASH 3/7 (GM) and 12 were in Findlay Twp. 3/15 (MV). A female lingered in Findlay Twp. through the season (MV). An **American Black Duck** was at WP 3/2 (ST), two were at Janoski's Farm 3/15 (MV) and 6 were at the Moody Road Ponds that day (MV), both in Findlay Twp. **Blue-winged Teal** and **Green-winged Teal** arrived in early March. Four **Gadwall** were at Moody Road in Findlay Twp. 4/13 (MV), one was in Harmar Twp. 3/15-23 (AH, PM, TB), one was at IMP 3/17-21 (GM, MV) and four migrated past DASH 3/22 (GM). Two **Northern Shovelers** continued at WP from last season up to 3/16 (DW, ST, GG). Three were at Duck Hollow 3/12 (TM, NM) and four 4/4 (JS, SS). Six migrated past DASH 3/22 (GM) and 5 were at Moody Road in Findlay Twp. 4/4 (GM). Two **Northern Pintail** continued at WP from last season up to 3/2 (DW, ST). One was sitting on the frozen pond on Moody Road in Findlay Twp. 3/12 (GM), 2 were at Duck Hollow 3/14 (BMA, TM, NM), 9 were at IMP 3/14 (MV) and 2 were there 3/17 (GM). **Ring-necked Ducks** were present into April with a high count of 25 at IMP 3/17 (GM). **Canvasback** and **Redhead** remained from the last season to early April. A flock of 30 **Redhead** were at DASH 3/12 (GM, JM), the high count for the season. Both **Greater Scaup** and **Lesser Scaup** continued into March. The high count of **Greater Scaup** was 32 near Sycamore Island on the Allegheny R. 3/11 (PB). A flock of 130 **Lesser Scaup** were at DASH 3/12 (JM). A flock of 59 **Scaup sp.** flew past DASH 4/2 (GM) that were impossible to identify to species due to pouring rain. **Bufflehead** were reported to 4/10. A flock of 56 were at Duck Hollow 4/2 (TM, NM) and 130 were tallied on the Allegheny River from Oakmont to Harmar Twp. 4/6 (AH, PM). The last **Common Goldeneye** report was five at Wood's Run on the Ohio River 3/29 (MV). A nice count of 19 **Hooded Mergansers** were in Harmar Twp. 3/16 (AH, PM). A female was at IMP 5/31 (MV); a location where they nested in the past. **Common Mergansers** were present in one's and two's during March and April. A female was at Duck Hollow 5/26 (MV, MF). **Red-breasted Merganser** numbers were good for the season with a high of 47 at DASH 4/4 (GM). Five **Ruddy Ducks** at DASH 3/11 (GM) were the max for the season. A male spent the second half of March at Duck Hollow (m.ob.). There was a push of late birds in April and May. Two were at IMP 4/2 (GM) with one up to 4/5 (MV), two were at DASH 4/2 (GM), four were at Duck Hollow 4/20-22 (BB, JS, SS) and 4 were at Harmar Twp. 5/3 (AH, PM). May 4 seemed to be the day when late birds were present with one at Duck Hollow (TM, NM, MJ), 2 at DASH (MV) and 20 at Sewickley (MV). Seven lingered at IMP 5/13 (GM). A few **Surf Scoters** were reported including two at DASH 3/7 (GM), one at Lock and Dam #3 in Harmar Twp. 3/8 (DY) and two at North Park 4/4 (BM). The **White-winged Scoter** show continued through March with a max of 6 at McKees Rocks 3/8 (MV). Great numbers of **Long-tailed Ducks** continued into March at various locations. A raft of 28 were on the Allegheny R. at Lock and Dam #4 in Natrona 3/2 (DY) which borders *Westmoreland* and probably the same group (this time 29 birds) were just downriver at Lock and Dam #3 in Harmar Twp. 3/3 (JV).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was at IMP 3/19 and 5/6 (GM), the first reported there since 2009. A flock of 57 **Wild Turkey** was at South Park 3/28 (JHa).

**Common Loon** reports include single birds at Tarentum 4/13 (RP), North Park 4/25 (JH), Duck Hollow 5/7-10 (MJ, RM) and DASH 5/12 (MV). **Red-necked Grebes** were widespread, the first time since 2003. After a single bird in Feb, many more arrived in March. Most reports were from various locations on the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers, with a few on the Monongahela R., which receives less coverage than the other two. Max counts included 8 on the Allegheny R. at Ohara Twp. 3/15 (TM, m.ob.) and 8 at DASH on the Ohio R. 3/23 (GM).

An **American Bittern** was at BMP 4/6-7 (ST, FK) and one was seen in flight at dusk at nearby WP 5/1 (ST); the third or fourth record for that location. A male **Least Bittern** was found and photographed at IMP 5/31 (ph. GM, MD). Given the time of year this could have been a breeding individual, or at least a male on territory. The sighting provided the fourth county record. Todd's *Birds of Western Pennsylvania* lists three historic records; the most recent was from 1924. A **Great Egret** was at the McKees Rocks Boat Dock 3/22 (MV), by a few days the earliest spring date that I am aware of. One flew past DASH 4/4 (GM), two were along the Allegheny R. at Aspinwall 4/5 (DY) and two were at BMP 5/6 (FK). An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at BMP 4/6 (FK), the sixth record for the Boyce-Mayview Park/Wingfield Pines wetland area, followed by an immature 5/25 (FK). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at North Park briefly 4/26 (BP); a first county record.

The first **Osprey** report was from Ohara Twp. 3/24 (PB). A pair was at a nest in Leetsdale again this year (GM, et al.) and the pair that nested at Neville Island last year were back at the nest 4/11 (PB). All three **Bald Eagle** nests in the county were active this spring. The pair in the Hays section of Pittsburgh received the most attention because a camera was placed near the nest and streamed online. Three young continued to do well at that nest as the season ended. After an unsuccessful season last year which consisted of battling to take over a Red-tailed Hawk nest, the eagles in Harmar Twp. "owned" the nest this year. The pair at Crescent Twp. had two young this season. An adult was seen flying over Shaler Twp. 3/14 (JH); an unexpected location. The pair of **Peregrine Falcons** that moved from the Gulf Tower in Pittsburgh last year returned to the original nest site this year and hatched four young (KSJ). Unfortunately, the pair at the Cathedral of Learning in Oakland laid an infertile egg that never hatched. A search for a nest on the McKees Rocks Bridge by the Game Commission in May was unsuccessful although two adults were present (DB). A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen flying over Bald Knob at IMP 4/27 (AP). This could have been the same bird that has been in nearby Clinton. Another leucistic bird was seen on the North Side of Pittsburgh 5/20 (AMB). There have been reports of one at that location for at least three years.

A **Sora** was at BMP 4/16 (ST). A **Sora** and **Virginia Rail** were at IMP 4/17 (GM) and **Virginia Rail** was still present 5/31 (GM, MD). A **Sandhill Crane** was reported flying over Mount Lebanon 4/11 (ebird, *fide* GM) and two were spotted flying over Bald Knob at IMP 4/18 (AP).

A **Semipalmated Plover** was at IMP 5/4 (GM); one or two were there 5/9 (GM). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were in Findlay Twp. 4/5 (AP), a single bird was at IMP 4/11-17 (GM) and one was at Duck Hollow 4/27 (RM). A few **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present at IMP 4/20-5/6 (MV, GM, AP) with a high count of 15 on 4/30 (GM). One was at Duck Hollow 5/2 (ST, AP). **Solitary Sandpipers** were reported 4/10-5/15 at seven locations (m.ob.). A flock of 17 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at IMP 5/17 (GM); 18 were there 5/30 (GM, MV) marking the third highest count at that location. Up to 3 **Least Sandpipers** were at IMP 4/25-5/15 (GM). **Pectoral Sandpiper** reports from that location included 3 on 4/5 (MV) and single birds 4/30 (GM) and 5/2 (AH, PM). **Wilson's Snipe** were numerous at IMP this spring. Three were first noted 3/7 (GM) and by mid-March numbers increased. Ten were there 3/30 (GM, MV), 28 on 4/3 (CB) and 18 on 4/4 (GM). March 15 must have been the unofficial **American Woodcock** search because there were reports from several locations. Four were found at the Penn Dot Wetlands in Upper St. Clair (JM), 3 at IMP (MV), 2 at WP (ST) and one in Franklin Park (OM). Seven were in Jefferson Hills 3/21 (BMu, JHa) and one or two were heard displaying at the wetlands in Frick Park 3/29 (KW). **Allegheny's** third **Long-billed Dowitcher** was seen briefly at IMP 4/30 (GM), nearly two years to the day of the previous record. All three have been at IMP. A **Dunlin** was at IMP 4/2 (JM) followed by one 4/30-5/1 (GM).

The gull invasion at the Point in Pittsburgh continued into early March but quickly came to a close. Three first winter **Iceland Gulls** were there 3/5 (ST) and a second winter bird was there 3/3 and 3/6 (GM). The last report was 3/7 (AK). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** numbers remained high (by *Allegheny* standards) with five present 3/5; four adults and one first winter (ST). A second winter bird was there with two adults 3/3 (GM). The last report was 4 adults 3/6 (GM). An adult and first winter **Glaucous Gull** continued into early March (m.ob.). The last report of an adult was 3/5 (ST) and the last report of this species was a first winter bird 3/7 (AK). Two first winter **Great Black-backed Gulls** were present 3/3 (GM). **Ring-billed Gull** numbers continued to be impressive in the early part of the season maxing at 12,000 birds gathered at the Point in Pittsburgh 3/5 (ST). The first **Bonaparte's Gull** reports included 2 at the Point in Pittsburgh 3/12 (GM) and five at DASH 3/22 (GM). Three were at Duck Hollow 3/23 (JHa). The **Bonaparte's Gull** migration at DASH did not result in large numbers of birds while observers were monitoring the site. Birds were counted off and on 3/12-4/27 (GM, et al.) with a high count of 27 on 4/4 (GM). Interestingly, reports of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were fairly widespread across the county this spring which was unusual. Two were at Tarentum on the Allegheny R. 3/28

(SG). During a rainy day 4/2, a flock of 70 were resting on the Monongahela R. at Duck Hollow (TM, NM) and 20 were spotted flying over IMP (GM). Seven were at the Bald Knob Pond at IMP 4/4 (GM) and 20 were on the Allegheny R. at Sharpsburg 4/5 (AH). Two were just upriver at Fox Chapel 4/5 (AH) and 20 were at Duck Hollow 4/22 (BB).

An early **Common Tern** was flying around the Bald Knob Pond at IMP during rainy weather 4/4 (GM); just the third report from that location. A **Forster's Tern** there 4/15 (MV) was only the second record for that location. A **Forster's Tern** was at DASH 4/4-5 (GM, AP), two passed by 4/27 and single birds 4/28 (GM) and 5/12 (MV). A nice count of six was made at Duck Hollow 5/4 (TM, NM). A few **Caspian Terns** passed by Dashields 4/4-5/10 (GM, et al.). Five flew past 5/4 (MV).

A **Barred Owl** was at Sewickley Heights Park 5/4 (GM) and one was at BMP 4/26 into May (FK). Rare here, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was in Harmar Twp. 5/13 (JV).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was at IMP 5/12 (GM), the third record for that location. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at North Park 5/13 (DN), one was at Hartwood Acres 5/14 (DN), one was at Frick Park 5/22 (JS, SS), one was at IMP 5/23 (GM) and one was at Frick Park 5/30 (TH). There were three **Philadelphia Vireo** reports 5/10; single birds were at Frick Park (RM), Emmerling Park (DYe) and BMP (ST). One was in Upper St. Clair 5/11 (ST) and one was in Sewickley Heights Park 5/13 (SK). One was photographed at Duck Hollow 5/17 (BR). The pair of **Common Ravens** that nested in Findlay Twp. last year nested there again this spring (GM). A pair was observed feeding two juveniles on Brunots Island 5/26 (MV); an area where they bred in past years. **Fish Crows** were regularly reported in the Squirrel Hill area the entire season (m.ob.).

Two **Purple Martins** were at North Park 4/26 (MF, JH, GM, MV) and 4 were at a nesting colony at Nevillewood Golf Course in Collier Twp. 5/30 (MV). **Bank Swallow** reports were good with single birds at DASH 4/18 (MD, MF), near Clariton 4/23 (JHa), Duck Hollow 4/27 (RM) and DASH 5/10 (GM, JM). **Cliff Swallow** reports were also good. Single birds were reported at DASH 4/18 (MD, MF), Duck Hollow 4/27 (RM) and IMP 5/17 (AP). **Cliff Swallows** were seen at nests in North Park in April (*fide* JH); a rare breeder here. There were two reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: one in Natrona Heights 3/5 (PH, DH) and one in Schenley Park 5/8 (KSJ). Up to two **Winter Wrens** were at Frick Park from 3/23-5/4 (SS, et al.). One was in Harmar Twp. 4/6 (AH, PM), one in Homewood Cemetery 4/19 (MF) and one at BMP 5/7 (ST). A **Marsh Wren** was found at WP 5/1 (DW), a location with several records of this rarity in recent years. It was a good spring for **Swainson's Thrush** with widespread reports from various locations. A total of 47 nocturnal flight calls of this species were heard over Moon Twp. at dawn 5/9 (GM). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Frick Park 5/17 (JC) and five calls were heard after dark flying over Moon Twp. 5/21 (GM). The only report for the season for **American Pipit** was at IMP 3/30 (MV, GM). After a single report of **Cedar Waxwing** in January, none were reported until late April, when they were then regularly reported at various locations.

We had a great total of 34 species of warblers for the season. Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were at Harrison Hills Park 5/10 through the month (SG, MAT, m.ob.) where they breed. **Northern Waterthrush** reports were good with birds reported in nine locations (m.ob.). Now rare, **Golden-winged Warbler** is noteworthy. Amazingly there were two reports 5/7: one at Frick Park (AP) and one at BMP (ST). A **Brewster's Warbler** was in Shaler Twp. 5/5 (JH). It was a good year for **Tennessee Warblers** and **Bay-breasted Warblers** which were more numerous than they have been in recent years. Rare in spring, **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported from Frick Park 4/26 (JS, SS), Pleasant Hills 5/3-4 (JHa, BMu), BMP 5/6 (ST) and Schenley Park 5/8 (KSJ). Single **Mourning Warblers** were reported at Harrison Hills Park 5/10 (SG, MAT), Frick Park 5/20-21 (JC, AP, JS, SS) and Schenley Park 5/22 (KSJ). A **Cape May Warbler** was at WP 5/2 (GM), two were in Moon Twp. 5/11 (GM) and one was at Harrison Hills Park 5/18 (PH). **Cerulean Warblers** returned to their traditional breeding sites at Harrison Hills Park and Sewickley Heights Park (m.ob.). **Pine Warbler** is an uncommon migrant here. Single birds were at Frick Park 4/16 and 4/19 (JS, SS), two were at WP 5/2 (GM), single birds were there 4/26 and 5/3 (TJ), North Park 4/26 (JH) and BMP 5/6 (ST). A **Canada Warbler** was at BMP 5/7-13 (FK, ST). Single birds were at Pine Twp. 5/12-13 (PL, SL), Knob Hill Park 5/14 (KD), Frick Park 5/22 (JS, SS) and Sewickley Heights Park 5/23 (GM). **Wilson's Warblers** were reported at BMP 5/6-8 (ST, FK), Frick Park 5/21 (JS, SS), Schenley Park 5/22 (KSJ), Moon Twp. 5/24-25 (GM), and North Park 5/25 (AH, PM).

A **Summer Tanager** was heard singing in Forest Hills 4/29 (TBI, MBI).

A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was in Pine Twp. 5/6 (PL, SL) and one was at BMP 5/8-13 (ST, FK). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found at Harrison Hills 5/10 (SG, MAT); a first for the park. **Grasshopper Sparrows** returned to IMP by 4/25 (GM). **Savannah Sparrows** were first detected there 4/5 (JV) and **Henslow's Sparrows** 4/17 (GM). **Vesper Sparrows** also returned this spring to dwindling habitat due to continued development. There were only a

few **Fox Sparrow** reports, single birds from Frick Park 3/27-4/1 (JS, SS) and one at BMP 4/10 (FK). A **White-throated Sparrow** with white central tail feathers visited a yard in McCandless Twp. 4/22 (MKe). **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported from 4/28-5/11 from eight locations.

The male **Baltimore Oriole** that visited a feeder in Aspinwall all winter continued to at least 4/24 (CH). A few **Bobolinks** returned to IMP this spring (AP, GM), however the area they frequented last spring and summer is being developed. Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were in Hampton Twp. 3/13 (DN) and one was in Findlay Twp. 3/22 (GM). Nine were in Schenley Park 3/30 followed by 19 there 4/11 and four 4/18 (KSJ); one was in Frick Park 4/11 (JC) and two were at IMP 4/25 (GM).

**Purple Finch** reports were numerous. Two were in Pine Twp. the entire season (PL, SL). One was in Ross Twp. 3/28 (BVN), one in Frick Park 4/1 (JS, SS) and one was singing in Penn Hills 4/5 (MF). Three visited a feeder in Natrona Heights 4/13 (PH) and three were in Sewickley Heights Park 4/11 (GM). One visited a feeder in Pleasant Hills 4/14 (MH), one was at Harrison Hills Park 4/19 (JC), one was in Hampton Twp. 5/4 (DN), single birds were seen at Sewickley Heights Park 4/24 (GM) and 4/28 (RM) and one was at Frick Park 5/17 (JC).

EXOTICS: A **Chukar** was in West Mifflin 5/17 (JFe).

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### Armstrong County

Allegheny River (AR), Armstrong Trail (AT), Creek Road (CR), Crooked Creek (CC), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Manorville (MV), Margaret Treatment Pond (MTP), Mosgrove (MG), Polka Hollow (PH), Rosston (RT).

With the freezing of the Great Lakes and large portions of our rivers, waterfowl were concentrated near the dams, providing great opportunities in winter and early spring. Additionally, mine drainage treatment ponds remained unfrozen and yielded flocks of waterfowl.

A **Mute Swan** was sighted along Redbank Creek near New Bethlehem 3/22 (JK); another was at RT 3/29 (TR). First **Tundra Swans** were two near LB 3/13 (MVT); a major movement occurred the following day with counts of 155 at CC (MVT), 36 at KT (MH, RH), and 4 at KR (MH, RH). Eighteen **Wood Ducks** arrived 3/14 (MH, RH) at KT and RT hosted 3 the next day (TR). First **Gadwalls** included 3 at KR and 5 at KT 3/14 (MH, RH); last sighted were 18 along the AT n. of MG 5/2 (TR). Two **American Wigeons** at KT 3/1 (TR) and 2 near LB 3/11 (MVT) were first arrivals; 6 appeared at RT 3/14 (MH, RH). KT's first 3 **American Black Ducks** were counted 3/9 (TM). Four early **Blue-winged Teal** were listed at CC 3/22 (TR); a singleton at KR 4/30 (MH, RH) was the last noted. Three **Northern Shovelers** on the MTP on 3/12 (MH, RH) were the only ones reported. The only **Northern Pintails** listed were a single bird at KT 3/4 (MH, RH) and 6 at RT 3/17 (SK). **Green-winged Teal** reports were limited to 2 at MTP 3/12 (MH, RH) and 10 at KT 3/23 (TR). **Canvasbacks** continued to move through *Armstrong* until 3/28 (LG) when the tally was 7; best count was 14 at RT 3/12 (MVT). **Redheads** continued to appear in *Armstrong* in the highest numbers since 2003 with counts of 60 at KT on 3/1 (TR), 121 at MTP 3/4 (MH, RH), and 143 at the latter location 3/11 (ML). Top **Ring-necked Duck** tally was 41 at MTP 3/12 (MH, RH); a singleton was last found and photographed 5/21 (MVT) near LB. **Greater Scaup** remained in high numbers at KT with counts of 27 on 3/8 (TR) and 23 on 3/28 (LG); last

reported was one at CC 3/31 (MH, RH). Two **Lesser Scaup** 4/11 (MH, RH) at KR were last. After a good late winter presence, 6 **White-winged Scoters** lingered at KT through 3/15 (TR). Largest **Long-tailed Duck** flock included 18 individuals at KT 3/8 (TR); by 3/28 (LG), 5 still remained on the river. KR hosted 32 **Buffleheads** 4/11 (MH, RH), which were also the last reported. Thirty-one **Common Goldeneyes** at KT 3/8 (TR) was the high count; 8 at CC 4/17 (MVT) were last. RT yielded the top count of 12 **Hooded Mergansers** 3/17 (SK). With their continuing range expansion, **Common Merganser** reports were widespread; maxima were 33 at RT 3/14 (MVT), 40 at CC 3/22 (TR), and 10 at Schenley 3/6 (TR), as well as sightings from eight other locations. KR harbored 43 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 4/11 (MH, RH); one lingered there through 4/23 (MH, RH), the last reported.

First **Common Loon** was found on the AR near KT 3/31 (MH, RH); KR yielded the best count of 24 on 4/11 (MH, RH); last sighted occurred 5/18 (TR, MVT) at CC. Two **Pied-billed Grebes** at RT 3/14 (MVT) were amazingly the only ones reported. First **Horned Grebe** arrived 3/14 (MVT) at RT; 39 were counted at KR 4/11 (MH, RH), and one still lingered north of MG 5/2 (TR). **Red-necked Grebes** showed up across the county with first noted 3/4 (MH, RH), both at KT and at MTP, where the latter remained through 3/22 (ML); another was at KR 4/11 (MH, RH) and a third along the AT n. of Templeton 4/18 (MH, RH). Small numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** were numerous with most reports in April with top count of 14 at CC 4/18 (MVT). A **Great Egret** was a nice find at CC 4/5 (MVT). First **Green Heron** arrived at Grantz Hollow 4/21 (MVT).

After one rather early February sighting, the next returning **Turkey Vulture** occurred near LB 3/11 (MVT). First migrant **Osprey** arrived 4/5 (MVT) at CC. Both **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were noted at only two locations this spring. **Bald Eagles** continued along the AR at various points and at CC (m.ob.) throughout the period. First **Broad-winged Hawk** appeared at CC 4/20 (TR). Light morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were sighted near Blanco 3/4 (MH, RH) and at Elders Ridge 3/8 (PF).

**American Coots** continued passage through *Armstrong* between 3/9 (MM) when one appeared at RT and 5/10 (TR) when 2 were noted along the AT n. of MG. First **Spotted Sandpiper** was spotted at KR 4/30 (MH, RH); 6 was a nice count at CC 5/12 (SG). One **Solitary Sandpiper** at CC 5/9 (MVT) was the only one listed. Single **Greater Yellowlegs** were observed 4/12 (JB) at CC and 4/23 (MH, RH) at KR, which hosted the only reported **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/30 (MH, RH). A single **Dunlin** was photographed at CC 5/17 (MVT). CC also hosted one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/12 (SG). The only **American Woodcock** was found west of SGL 247 on 3/28 (TR).

Top **Ring-billed Gull** counts included 20 on 3/1 (TR) at RT, 13 on 3/18 (MMc) at CC and 13 along the AT n. of KT 5/12 (MH, RH). Up to 8 **Herring Gulls** were found on the AR at RT 3/8 (MVT) and at CC 3/12 (MMc); 2 lingered at CC 5/24 (SG). A **Forster's Tern** visited KR 4/11 (MH, RH).

Cuckoo arrival dates were 5/17 (MVT) for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at CC and 5/12 (MH, RH) for **Black-billed Cuckoo** near Whitesburg. Yellow-billed seemed far more abundant in *Armstrong* this spring than Black-billed. The only **Eastern Screech-Owls** listed were 2 along the Roaring Run Trail 5/25 (JB). **Great Horned Owl** was found only at Polka Hollow 5/4 (MVT); **Barred Owl**, only at CC 5/17 (JB) through 5/22 (MVT). First **Chimney Swifts** were 40 at N. Vandergriff 4/22 (JB) and first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** returned 5/4 (MVT) near LB. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were great finds near LB 4/19 (MVT) and w. of McVile 5/7 (SB). The only **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** noted was seen along the AT n. of MV 4/16 (MH, RH). A migrant **Peregrine Falcon** was sighted at KT 3/26 (MH, RH).

**Eastern Wood-Pewees** were first noted 5/10 (MVT), both along CR and at CC. Polka Hollow harbored the first **Acadian Flycatcher** 5/9 (MVT). **Willow Flycatcher** did not appear in the county until 5/25 (TR) when one was found at SGL 247. First **Least Flycatcher** was singing at PH 5/1 (MVT). **Eastern Phoebe** had returned to CC by 3/22 (TR). **Great Crested Flycatcher** was not found until 5/22 (MVT) at Cochran's Mill. **Eastern Kingbird** was first seen at RT 5/10 (TR). CC yielded the first **White-eyed Vireos** 5/9 (MVT) while CR was the site of the first arrival **Yellow-throated Vireo** 5/3 (JB). **Blue-headed Vireo** appeared first at PH 5/1 (MVT) and **Warbling Vireo**, first at Nicholson Run 5/3 (TR). May 9 (MVT) was the arrival date for **Red-eyed Vireo** at various places in the county. Swallow dates of return included 4/13 (MVT) for **Northern Rough-winged** at CR, 4/23 (MH, RH) for **Purple Martin** near Elderton, 4/10 (MVT) for **Tree Swallow** at CC, and 4/16 (MH, RH) for **Bank, Cliff, and Barn Swallows** along the AT n. of MV.

A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** near LB 3/9 (MVT) comprised the entire report for this species. **House Wrens** were not reported in *Armstrong* until 5/12 (very late) when one was found at CC (SG) and another along the AT n. of KT (MH, RH). SGL 247 yielded a **Winter Wren** 4/27 (TR). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** arrived at CC 4/14 (MVT). Three **Golden-crowned Kinglets** lingered through 5/3 (TR) at Nicholson Run. **Ruby-crowned**

**Kinglets** sneaked through *Armstrong* between 4/17 (MVT) and 5/10 (TR) with no large flocks noted.

**Veery** sightings included 4 along the AT n. of KT 5/12 (MH, RH) and one at CC 5/22 (MVT). One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 5/22 (SG) and one **Swainson's Thrush** 5/18 (TR), both at CC, and a **Hermit Thrush** 5/18 (TR) at SGL 247 were the only ones noted. First **Wood Thrush** arrived at SGL 247 on 4/27 (TR). Earliest **Gray Catbird** appeared at CR 4/28 (MVT). SGL 247 hosted the first **Brown Thrasher** 4/27 (TR).

First **Ovenbirds** were found both at CC and at CR 4/28 (MVT). The only **Worm-eating Warbler** listed was found along the AT n. of MG 5/2 (TR). **Louisiana Waterthrush** sightings were widespread with first observed at PH 4/10 (MVT). The AT n. of MG produced the first **Blue-winged Warbler**. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a great find at SGL 247 on 5/7 (TR) as this species has mostly disappeared from our area in recent years. A **Black-and-white Warbler** along the AT n. of Templeton 4/18 (MH, RH) was rather early. **Tennessee Warblers** moved through *Armstrong* between 5/10 (SG) and 5/25 (JK, TK) and **Nashville Warblers** were listed between 5/2 (TR) and 5/18 (MVT). **Kentucky Warblers** have become more difficult to find in recent years; the only reports detailed one to 2 along CR 5/24 (SG) through 5/27 (MVT) and one on the *Armstrong* section of the Shelocta BBS 5/28 (MH, RH). Dates of return included 5/4 (SG) for **Common Yellowthroat** at CC, 5/1 (MVT) for **Hooded Warbler** at Cochran's Mill, and 5/1 (MVT) for both **American Redstart** and **Cerulean Warbler** along CR. **Northern Parula** was first listed 4/28 (MVT) at both CC and CR. CC also yielded the first **Magnolia Warbler** 5/4 (SG). Five **Bay-breasted Warblers** was a nice count at CC 5/10 (SG). **Blackburnian Warblers** were in low numbers with the first at PH 5/1 (MVT). Other first dates included 4/27 (TR) for **Yellow Warbler** at SGL 247 and 5/4 (MVT) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at both PH and CR. Two **Blackpoll Warblers** n. of KT 5/12 (MH, RH) were the only ones reported. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were found between 5/3 (JB) and 5/22 (MVT). **Palm Warbler** sightings included singletons at SGL 247 on 4/27 (TR) and at CC 5/9 (MVT). Last **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were 3 at Nicholson Run 5/10 (TR). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was photographed along CR 4/13 (MVT). **Black-throated Green Warblers** appeared in good numbers across the county with the first sighting 4/27 (TR) at SGL 247. Three **Canada Warbler** reports were received with the first 5/10 (TR) n. of MG; one at CC 5/30 (JF) was a rather late migrant. The Shelocta BBS yielded the county's only **Yellow-breasted Chat** 5/28 (MH, RH).

The first returning **Eastern Towhee** was spotted along the Roaring Run Trail 3/28 (MH, RH). Two **American Tree Sparrows** lingered at SGL 249 through 4/1 (TR). **Chipping Sparrows** appeared to be late in arriving with first report of 11 at CC 4/14 (MVT). Two **Savannah Sparrows** near Elderton 4/30 (MH, RH) were first. Single **Fox Sparrows** were listed only near LB 3/13 (MVT) and at SGL 247 4/1 (TR). One **White-throated Sparrow** remained at Nicholson Run through 5/3 (TR). **White-crowned Sparrows** sneaked through *Armstrong* with the only reports of 2 birds near LB 5/4 and 5/7 (MVT).

**Scarlet Tanager** arrived at PH 5/4 (MVT), the first report. Five **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** visited a feeder near LB 4/30 (MH, RH); the previous day, the LB home owners (LM, MMo) reported a well described but unphotographed, male **Black-headed Grosbeak**. First **Indigo Bunting** appeared near LB 5/1 (MVT). **Bobolinks** arrived 4/30 (MH, RH) near Elderton. An **Eastern Meadowlark** at RT 3/15 (TR) was the earliest migrant. The first returning **Orchard Oriole** visited a yard west of McVile 5/7 (SB) and the first 3 **Baltimore Orioles** were spotted at Cochran's Mill 5/1 (MVT). A yard near LB attracted 9 **Purple Finches** 4/30 (MH, RH).

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### Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Brady's Run Pak (BRP), Dashields Dam area (*Allegheny/Beaver* line) (DASH), Economy Borough (ECON), Independence Marsh (IND), New Brighton (NB), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH).

The winter waterfowl show at RCH continued into early Mar, with large numbers of pent-up migrants continuing to gather there through the first two weeks of the period. Also notable among waterbirds was a significant fallout from the Ohio R. during a weather system 4/4 that also grounded many birds

in nearby *Allegheny*. Highlights from this 4/4 event at RCH (MV) included one **American Wigeon**, 2 **Blue-winged Teal**, 4 **Northern Shovelers**, 4 **Redhead**, 5 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 63 **scap sp.**, 4 **White-winged Scoters**, 10 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, 4 **Ruddy Ducks**, 13 **Horned Grebes**, 14 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, and 5 **Caspian Terns**. A short way down the Ohio R. at Vanport (GR), notable sightings included 7 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 80 **Bufflehead**, 15 **Ruddy Ducks**, and 45 **Horned Grebes**. Lastly at DASH that morning (GM), the following were observed migrating along the Ohio into *Beaver*: one **Blue-winged Teal**, 18 **Lesser Scaup**, 18 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 3 **Bufflehead**, 47 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, one **Great Egret**, 34 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 2 **Caspian Terns**, and one **Forster's Tern**. Certainly some individual birds listed here may have been counted at multiple locations, but regardless it was an impressive showing on the mighty Ohio nonetheless, particularly for Long-tailed Duck.

A pair of **Canada Geese** at RCH already had young out of the egg by 4/25 (MV). The only report of **Tundra Swan** was 12 at Vanport 3/12 (GR). Great counts of **Gadwall** preceded the 4/4 storm by a few days; 22 were at Vanport 4/2 (GR, DR) and 31 were at IND that same day (BB, RM). The first **American Wigeons** were 2 at RCH 3/2 (MV); up to 4 were at IND 3/18-27 (m.ob.). Numbers of **American Black Duck** were very low, with no more than 4 reported infrequently on the Ohio and *Beaver* rivers 3/2-4/11 (m.ob.). First **Blue-winged Teal** appeared at RCH 3/30 (MV); last were 3 at IND 4/18-27 (CD, et al.). A **Northern Shoveler** was at NB 3/2 (ER). They were reported four other times there and at RCH through 4/13 (m.ob.). Notable was a flock of 6 shovelers passing DASH 3/22 (GM). Up to 4 **Northern Pintails** at RCH 3/2-13 (ER, GR, Ake) were the only pintails reported, a poor showing. Also less than stellar were just two reports of **Green-winged Teal**: 2 on 3/21 and 7 on 4/4 at IND (both MV).

Good numbers of **Canvasback** persisted at RCH into early Mar, with a top count of 25-30 from 3/7-8 (MV, et al.). At least 20 remained to 3/13 but they abruptly departed and none were seen for the remainder of the season after that date. Numbers of **Redhead** at RCH were really outstanding. After peaking at 54 in mid-Feb, the flock spiked to 113 birds 3/2 (MV), likely a *Beaver* record. Large numbers remained to 3/13, with other notable daily counts including 43 on 3/8, 73 on 3/9, and 60 on 3/13 (m.ob.). This large flock also departed after last being seen 3/13, but a few more Redheads (up to 4 at a time) were reported periodically until the last 4/6 (RM). Counts of **Ring-necked Duck** were perhaps slightly below average, with the top count provided by a flock at IND 3/21-4/8 that peaked at 25 (m.ob.). Up to 14 **Greater Scaup** and 12 **Lesser Scaup** were present with the large flock of **Canvasback** and **Redhead** at RCH in early Mar, with single digits reported thereafter through 3/21 for **Greater** and 4/13 for **Lesser** (m.ob.). A total of 69 **Lesser Scaup** passed DASH 4/2 (GM). A **Surf Scoter** was at RCH 3/7-11 (MV), and 4 were at Vanport 4/11 (GR, DR). **White-winged Scoters** spilled over from the winter season at RCH. Varying numbers up to a max of 8 were seen just about daily at RCH through 4/4, and a last and late bird was present there 5/4-11 (MV). Certainly the flight of **White-winged Scoters** from mid-Jan through the end of Mar was the most impressive showing of this species in *Beaver* history. Aside from the large fallout on 4/4 already mentioned, sightings of **Long-tailed Ducks** were limited to a few (up to 3) reported occasionally at RCH from the winter through 3/11 (ER, MV, KD). Small numbers of **Bufflehead** were noted at NB (ER), DASH (GM), and AR (DR, GR, BW) through Mar, but curiously not at RCH or elsewhere on the Ohio until the 4/4 storm. Following that event, good counts included 13 at RCSP 4/6 (KD, KM), 26 at IND 4/6 (KD, KM), and 17 at RCH 4/11 (MV). The only reports of **Common Goldeneye** after Feb were up to 4 at RCH 3/7-22 (MV, et al.). Up to 10 **Hooded Mergansers** frequented IND 3/11-4/9 (m.ob.), and up to 4 **Common Mergansers** were at IND 3/31-4/9. A male **Common Merganser** was seen on Raccoon Creek at the Wildflower Reserve at RCSP 4/17 (RN, DK), and was seen there again 5/13 (GR), raising the interesting possibility of a breeding pair in the area. Single-digit numbers of **Red-breasted Merganser** were at RCH and NB though 3/9 (ER, MV) but the species was not seen again until they were detected migrating past DASH beginning 3/22 (GM). Last seen from there were 2 on 4/13 (GM). A flock of 11 was at Vanport 4/11 (GR). Unusual were two sightings of **Red-breasted Mergansers** away from the rivers: 5 at IND and 3 at RCSP, both on 4/6 (KD, KM). One **Ruddy Duck** at RCH 3/2 (MV) and 9 at RCH 4/13 (MV) were the only ones reported aside from the 4/4 birds.

**Common Loons** were limited to one at RCH 3/15 (MV), which was a bit early, one at RCSP 4/6 (KD, KM), and one passing DASH 4/13 (GM). **Pied-billed Grebes** were noted sporadically at IND 3/21-5/9 (MV, et al.), but the first was one at RCH 3/11 (MV). Aside from the 4/4 fallout, small numbers of **Horned Grebes** were noted at RCH through 4/11. Notable away from the rivers were 3 **Horned Grebes** at IND 4/4, with one remaining to 4/13. Single **Red-necked Grebes** (possibly the same bird each time) were spotted occasionally at RCH 3/7-21 (MV), and 3 were at NB 3/9 (MV). A flock of 7 passed DASH 3/23 (GM), and one was back at RCH 3/30-31 (MV). The last record during this year's remarkable invasion was provided

by 4 birds at Vanport 4/11 (GR). **Double-crested Cormorant** migration at DASH was lackluster, with the top count just 74 on 4/5 (GM). Single **Great Egrets** passed DASH 3/28 and 4/4 (GM), and one was at RCH 4/11 (GR).

**Ospreys** were back at the Aliquippa nest site by 3/14 (DR). They were also back at the nest established last year on the Beaver River on the south end of Beaver Falls 5/4 (SG). The long-standing nest in Potter Twp. blew down over the winter, but the birds returned to the area this year anyway and quickly built a new nest nearby, this time also much closer to the river and easier to observe from the Industry side. Two adults were present on the new nest as of 5/4 (SG). There was no mention (positive or negative) of the fourth nest site in Midland. One new nest was established in 2014, the fifth for *Beaver*, on the east side of the Beaver River just north of Rochester near the new Veterans Memorial Bridge. Birds were at this nest 5/4 as well (SG). As usual migrant Ospreys, or perhaps birds from the nearest nest, were seen occasionally away from the river, this year at IND 4/4-5 (MV), at RCSP 4/6 (KD, KM) and 4/16-21 (MD, et al.), and Brady's Run Park 4/20 (TJ). At long last, *Beaver* also saw the establishment of its first and long-awaited **Bald Eagle** nest in modern times, at Montgomery Lock and Dam. Birds were observed at the nest there on 5/4 (SG). A **Northern Harrier** was reported to eBird at Hereford Manor Lake 5/9. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was in Aliquippa 3/25 (BW) and another was at Brady's Run Park 5/6. **Broad-winged Hawks** had returned to RCSP by 4/13 (KSJ).

Reports of shorebirds were almost zero, but the highlight among this family was also the top rarity of the season for *Beaver*: 6 **Willetts** on the Ohio R. at the outflow of Elkhorn Run, about a mile upstream (southeast) from Monaca 5/6 (ph. JSk). These birds represented just the sixth record for *Beaver*. Previous records were 5 at Monaca 4/27/2007, one at Little Blue Lake 8/17/2006 and 8/20/2006 (believed to be two different birds), one near Racine (presumably on the Beaver River though an exact location is not known) on or about 4/10/1908, and 3 at the mouth of the Beaver River 8/19-22/1899. Incidentally, the 1899 birds were described by W.E.C. Todd as appearing on the "river beach" at the mouth of the Beaver, a reminder of how drastically things changed in the 20th century, as nothing even remotely resembling a beach or mudflat exists at RCH today. Todd also mentioned that two of those three birds were collected, which itself is also a reminder that not all changes of the 20th century were for the worse. Up to 3 **Wilson's Snipe** continued from the winter season through at least 3/16 at a seep on Bocktown Road in Independence Twp. (MV). **American Woodcock** was found displaying at IND 3/28 (MJ) and in again early April. They are not often reported at IND in spring. One was also heard peenting 4/7 at Vanport (DR) in a developed area along the Ohio River and obviously out of breeding habitat, a rare glimpse at this species' habits on migration.

Most reports of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were those recorded migrating past DASH in late Mar and early Apr (GM). It was a lackluster season for them there, with the top one-day count a meager 34 during the 4/4 storm (GM). Best of all totals was 66 at RCH 4/11 (MV), and 3 at IND 4/6 (KD, KM) were very unusual for that location. The early spring migration of **Ring-billed Gulls** at DASH was closer to normal, with top counts of 159 on 3/22 and 391 at 3/28 (GM). A late season push produced 36 passing DASH 5/5 (GM). Six reports of **Caspian Tern** were of 2 at DASH (GM) and 5 at RCH (MV) 4/4, 3 at DASH 4/9 (GM), one at Vanport 4/11 (GR), and one at DASH 5/5 and 5/10 (GM). Five reports of **Forster's Tern** included one at DASH 4/4 and another 4/5 (GM), one at RCH 4/11 (MV), and one at DASH 4/27 and another 4/28 (GM).

**Black-bellied Cuckoo** seems to be getting harder to find. They were not reported at all this season, not even to eBird. An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was a regular fixture at a roost hole at IND 3/7-4/4 (m.ob.). A **Barred Owl** was discovered at Brady's Run Park 4/20 (TJ). The only reports of **Common Nighthawk** were from three separate dates 5/21-30 at Monaca (m.ob.). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was much harder to find this year than last, reported this year only at the Wildflower Reserve at RCSP 4/13-21.

After possibly nesting (and probably unsuccessfully if an attempt was even made) atop the P&LE railroad bridge over the Ohio R. last year, the pair of **Peregrine Falcons** returned this year to the underside of the East Rochester Bridge, the location where the Monaca-area nest was first established in 2007. Four chicks (one male and 3 females) were banded there 5/21 (DB) and were estimated to be 18 days old at the time. The female nesting at this site is "75/Y", which fledged from the Rachel Carson building in Harrisburg in 2006 and has been described, this year and in past banding attempts, as remarkably aggressive even by Peregrine standards. The original female at this site in 2007 was a bird nicknamed "Kelly" which hatched in 2003 in Chicago, but in 2008 she was replaced by Harrisburg's 75/Y, which has ruled the Monaca area ever since.

There wasn't much to report among flycatchers or vireos. The only **Least Flycatcher** was one at RCSP 5/4 (GM). **Great Crested Flycatcher** was reported at RCSP 5/5-22 (KSJ, et al.). **Blue-headed Vireo** was at RCSP 5/1-5/5 (KJ, et al.). The first **Tree Swallows** appeared at IND 3/21 (MV). A **Winter Wren** was at Sahli Nature Park 4/5 (DR, GR). **Veery** was

recorded at RCSP 5/4-5 (GM, et al.), **Swainson's Thrush** was there 5/10-22 (LC, et al.), and **Hermit Thrush** was at Sahli Nature Park 4/5 (DR, GR).

A **Worm-eating Warbler** was found on the Montgomery Dam access road 5/17-18 (BS, KS). This is a former breeding location for this species but it hasn't been seen there for several years. First **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at RCSP 4/12, as was the first **Yellow-throated Warbler** (JS, SS). Three reports of **Northern Waterthrush** were above average: one at IND 4/26 (BS), one at RCSP 5/5 (KSJ), and 2 at IND 5/19 (ph. GR). **Black-and-white Warbler** was not reported after 5/5 at RCSP (GG, LGK), surely owing to a lack of coverage at woodlots this spring. The only **Tennessee Warbler** was reported at Aliquippa 5/8 (BW). **Kentucky Warbler** was noted at RCSP 5/4 (GM) and Brady's Run Park 5/26 (TJ); both are breeding areas. **Cerulean Warbler** was first noted at RCSP 5/2 (KJ) and bred in the park again this year. **Northern Parula** returned to RCSP 4/20 (GG, LGK). Common migrants **Magnolia Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** were each poorly reported this season, again likely due to a lack of coverage. **Palm Warbler** was at IND 4/26 and in Economy Borough 4/28 (both BS). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at IND 3/31 (GR), right on the line between winter and spring, making it indistinguishable as either a wintering bird or an early migrant, though it was probably an early migrant. A **Pine Warbler** was found at RCSP 5/4 (GG, LGK). **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at RCSP and a few other locations 4/28-5/9 (m.ob.) but was not reported thereafter until the middle of the summer. The species has summered at RCSP for the past few years so the lack of sightings in May after 5/9 was yet another indicator of a poorly birded spring migration for most of May.

There were about 15 observations of **Rusty Blackbird** at IND 3/14-4/13. Top count was 33 on 3/23 (MV). Two were at RCSP 5/2 (KJ). **Purple Finches** were at a feeder in Economy Borough 4/28-5/19 (BS), and with them was one **Pine Siskin** 4/28 (BS).

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## Bedford County

Locations: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Allegheny Front (AF), Crum Bog (CB), Dunnings Creek Wetlands (DCW), Lambert Mt. Rd. (LR), Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC), Shaffer Mt. Rd. (SMR), Shawnee State Park (SSP), and Whitetail Wetlands (WTW).

Some of the more interesting birds this season were Greater White-fronted Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Snowy Owl, Cackling Goose (new) and Wilson's Phalarope. The season started with a turbulent mix of snow, ice and sleet mid- to late March with scarce open water. Migrating waterfowl did stop, however, standing on the ice. Over 800 waterfowl were walking on ice at Teal Lake at DCW 3/14, and 212 waterfowl were on ice at SSP. According to *Bedford* records, climate change is having an impact on arrival and departure dates for some species. Winter finches were sparse or not present. Despite the ice, dabbling duck counts were well above normal.

The following singletons were seen at DCW: One **Greater White-fronted Goose** 3/20, one **Snow Goose** 3/22, and one **Cackling Goose** 3/13. The Cackling Goose, a bird mostly of western North America, was a surprise and a first for DCW. The peak for **Canada Geese** was 4500 on 3/15. A **Trumpeter Swan** landed on an ice covered Teal Lake at DCW 3/15 and lingered for eight days. This Trumpeter had no neck or leg bands like previous birds. Eighteen hundred **Tundra Swans** arrived 3/14 and lingered at 4/15 at DCW. The following high numbers of dabbling ducks were seen at DCW: 650 **Wood Duck** 4/28, 85 **Gadwall** 3/24, 211 **American Wigeon** 4/29, 322 **Black Duck** 3/26, 640 **Mallard** 3/31, 243 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/29, 30 **Northern Shovelers** 3/15, 636 **Northern Pintail** 3/20, and 145 **Green-winged Teal** 3/31. Almost all the above numbers were above average and a few were new high counts for DCW. With some exceptions most of the diving ducks recorded were from SSP: 4 **Redhead** 3/16 (SSP), 210 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/24 (DCW), 23 **Greater Scaup** 4/6 (SSP), 15 **Lesser Scaup** 4/6 (SSP), 34 **Long-tailed Duck** 4/6 (SSP), 85 **Bufflehead** 4/6 (DCW), 14 **Common Goldeneye** 4/6 (DCW), 43 **Hooded Merganser** 4/6 (DCW), 175 **Common Merganser** 4/6 (SSP), 175 **Red-breasted Merganser** 4/6 (SSP), and 10 **Ruddy Duck** 4/6 at SSP.

It's rare for the PGC to stock **Ring-necked pheasant** hens, but this



year hens were stocked, and when combined with overwintering males, natural reproduction may occur. **Ruffed Grouse** seemed scarce this year, but **Northern Bobwhite** held steady especially below AFHW.

Snow and ice kept the AFHW hours of effort low, but despite this harsh weather the counters still managed 328 hours. The results are as follows: 286 **Turkey Vultures**, 52 **Osprey**, 13 **Bald Eagle**, 10 **Northern Harriers**, 88 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 312 **Broad-winged hawks**, 222 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 56 **Golden Eagles**, 18 **American Kestrels**, 2 **accipiter sp.**, 10 **buteo sp.**, and 24 unidentified raptors for a total of 1142.

One **Virginia Rail** and 2 **Soras** were flushed at Teal Lake marsh at DCW 5/2. Two **Common Moorhens** settled into DCW 5/19. A single **Sandhill Crane** appeared 5/15 and lingered for eight days.

Despite all the rain Bittern Pool was drained down slowly over a period of two weeks for shorebirds and those results are as follows for DCW: one **Black-bellied Plover** 5/13, one **Semipalmated Plover** 5/14, 2 **Killdeer** 5/4, 35 **Greater Yellowlegs** 5/13, 24 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/13, 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** 5/10, 2 **Willetts** 5/13, 11 **Spotted Sandpipers** 4/28, 2 **Ruddy Turnstone** 4/13, 3 **Sanderlings** 5/8, 6 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/13, 2 **Western Sandpipers** 5/13, 13 **Least Sandpipers** 5/13, 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 5/13, 3 **Baird's Sandpipers** 5/15, 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 5/10, 42 **Dunlin** 5/19, 14 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/19, 3 **Wilson's Snipe** 5/10, 2 **American Woodcock** 5/10 and one **Wilson's Phalarope**.

The gulls and terns seen were all at SSP: 3 **Bonaparte's Gull** 5/4, 240 **Ringed-billed Gull**, 2 **Herring Gull**, 2 **Forster's Terns**, and 8 **Black Terns**.

A **Barn Owl** was killed last year at Whitetail wetlands supposedly by a Great Horned Owl. It was thought that was the end of the Barn Owls, but this year two arrived, nested, and had fledglings. **Eastern Screech-Owls** were heard at DCW 5/5, one **Great Horned Owl** on the AF 5/2, **Barred Owls** on the AF 5/15, and **Short-eared Owls** were seen at DCW hunting fields 3/18. The **Snowy Owl** invasion persisted in *Bedford* into the spring. On 4/4, a quiet day at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch, a grouse was seen being pursued by a **Snowy Owl**.

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** have been regular for years at DCW in the forested area of DCW, this year seen 5/20. The following flycatchers were found at DCW: 2 **Eastern Wood-Pewee** 5/20, 2 **Acadian Flycatcher** 5/10, 2 **Alder Flycatcher** 5/10, 3 **Willow Flycatchers** 5/11, 2 **Least Flycatchers** 5/2, one **Great Crested Flycatcher** 5/19, and 4 **Eastern Kingbirds** 5/10. The following vireos were seen at DCW on the PAMC: one **White-eyed Vireo**, 2 **Blue-headed Vireo**, 2 **Warbling Vireo** and 4 **Red-eyed Vireo**.

Swallows were low this year probably due to the cold weather for the lack of insects. Nest counts at WTW were much fewer for **Cliff** and **Barn Swallows** in particular. A **Brown Creeper**, **Carolina Wren** and two **Marsh Wrens** were observed at DCW 5/10. Two **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, one **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, and 2 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were seen on the PAMC. Among thrushes: 2 **Veery**, 3 **Hermit Thrush** and 4 **Wood Thrush** were observed at DCW 5/3. Four **Gray Catbirds**, 3 **Northern Mockingbirds** and 7 **Brown Thrashers** were good numbers at WTW 5/15.

The following warblers were from WTW and DCW on the 5/10 PAMC: one **Golden-winged Warbler**, one **Tennessee Warbler**, one **Northern Parula**, 8 **Yellow Warbler**, 2 **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, 2 **Magnolia Warbler**, 2 **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, 4 **Black-throated Green Warbler**, 3 **Blackburnian Warbler**, 2 **Pine Warbler**, 2 **Prairie Warbler**, one **Bay-breasted Warbler**, one **Cerulean Warbler**, 7 **Black-and-white Warbler**, 3 **American Redstart**, 4 **Worm-Eating Warbler**, 23 **Ovenbird**, one **Northern Waterthrush**, one **Louisiana Waterthrush**, 6 **Common Yellowthroats**, 2 **Hooded Warblers** and one **Yellow-breasted Chat**.

Two **Scarlet Tanagers** were at DCW 5/10. The following were counted at WTW and DCW: 7 **Rufous-sided Towhee** 5/4, 2 **American Tree Sparrow** 5/4, 2 **Chipping Sparrow** 5/5, 3 **Field Sparrow** 5/2, 2 **Savannah Sparrow** 5/6, 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 5/5, one **Henslow's Sparrow** 5/3, 2 **Fox Sparrow** 5/10, 7 **Song Sparrows** 5/10, 3 **Lincoln's Sparrow** 4/4, 6 **Swamp Sparrow** at DCW, 21 **White-throated Sparrow** 4/28, and 2 **White-crowned Sparrow** 5/4. Three **Scarlet Tanagers** and 4 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were seen at DCW 5/4.

Five **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were seen 5/4 at DCW. Seven **Indigo Buntings** were seen on the PAMC at DCW. Two **Bobolinks** were seen at WTW 5/10, and 4 **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen at DCW 5/10. Five **Orchard Orioles** and one **Baltimore Oriole** were counted at WTW and DCW 5/10. Five **Purple Finch** were seen 5/4 at WTW. One **Evening Grosbeak** was seen on the PAMC 5/10 (SD).

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## Berks County

Locations: Angelica Park (AP), Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Breneman's Quarry (BQ), Hamburg Reservoir (HR), Kernsville Dam Recreation Area (KDRA), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), State Game Lands #52 (SGL52), State Game Lands #106 (SGL106), State Game Lands #110 (SLG110).

The 2014 spring season was a mixture of the usual birds arriving on schedule at the usual sites and unusual birds appearing at sites that have become new hot spots for *Berks* birders. Two rain events resulted in good numbers of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. The ice thaw this year was delayed into March and prior to that waterfowl were sparse. However, once the lakes and ponds began to open, waterfowl found their usual spots. Highest numbers were found between 3/16 and 3/23.

Seven **Greater White-fronted Geese** found open water at BQ 3/1-3/3 (MSI, et al.), and singles spent one day in Shartlesville 3/19 (MW) and Big Spring Farm 4/18 (KL). **Snow Geese** numbers at LO peaked at 8000 on 3/22 (RK). A **Ross's Goose** was found at both LO and KDRA 3/22 (RK, KG). Four **Cackling Geese** were among 18,635 **Canada Geese** as they flew over KDRA 3/22 (KG). The **Mute Swan** flock at LO had grown to about 30 birds. Surprisingly, USDA personnel were using motor boats in a culling procedure (RK). At least 5 swans were observed being taken. **Trumpeter Swans** are usually found during spring migration and this year 2 were at BQ 3/1-8 (MS, m.ob.) and one was at BML 4/29 (JS). **Tundra Swans** began to stop instead of flying over and 250 were seen at LO 3/22 (MSI).

LO and BQ were the main waterfowl stopovers and these were the highest reported counts from those two sites: 7 **Wood Duck** 3/14 LO, 125 **American Wigeon** 4/3 LO, 125 **Black Duck** 3/18 LO, 200 **Mallard** 3/18 LO, 7 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/3 LO, 15 **Northern Shoveler** 3/3 BQ, 752 **Northern Pintail** 3/16 LO, 25 **Green-winged Teal** 3/16 BQ, 11 **Canvasback** 3/23 LO, 21 **Redhead** 3/2 BQ, 367 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/16 LO. High counts of less common ducks were: 15 **Greater Scaup** 4/6 LO, 12 **Lesser Scaup** 3/2 BQ, one **White-winged Scoter** 4/4 BML, 20 **Long-tailed Duck** 4/3 LO, 71 **Bufflehead** 4/3 LO, 6 **Common Goldeneye** 3/23/ LO. **Hooded Merganser** numbers peaked at 90 3/16 LO. **Common Merganser** flocks were less than in prior years with 1500 on 4/1 at LO the highest count. **Red-breasted Merganser** numbers were less—22 on 4/3 LO. BQ remains the best place to find **Ruddy Duck**, with a high count this year of 100 on 3/1 (DR).

A two-day storm 4/3-4 forced some waterfowl to take refuge at LO and BML. Storm chasers found these birds: 14 **Red-throated Loon** at LO 4/3 (RK) and 28 at BML 4/4 (MSI), 26 **Common Loon** at LO 4/3 (RK), 59 **Horned Grebe** at LO 4/3 (RK), and 3 **Red-necked Grebe** at BML 4/4 (MSI). **Double-crested Cormorant** numbers peaked at 500 on 4/8 at LO.

KDRA and AP are two areas not known for waders other than **Green Heron** and **Great Blue Heron**. This spring, those two areas were the places to expect rare waders to appear. At KDRA, **American Bittern** was present 4/26-5/6 with a high count of 3 on 4/27, and **Least Bittern** was there 4/27-5/7 (all KG). **American Bitterns** were also found at Virgenville 4/2 (RF), and 2 were at Mosquito Dike 4/5 (JE). Although Kaercher Creek Park in Hamburg has been officially closed, 3 **Great Egrets** were still there fishing along with the local citizens (MW). A single **Little Blue Heron** was present at Turrilee Pond 4/25 (BH, FH). The first **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported at LO 5/4 (MSI). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at BML 5/29 (JS). A rain pool on School Rd in Fleetwood was a one-day stop over for a **Glossy Ibis** 4/6 (RK).

Highlights of the spring migration at Hawk Mountain included 64 **Osprey**, 26 **Bald Eagle**, and 292 **Broad-winged Hawks**. The **Peregrine Falcon** nesting site in Reading had a new female this year, band number 54/AR. This tagged falcon was determined to have fledged in 2011 from the Columbia-Wrightsville Bridge between *Lancaster* and *York*. Its mate fledged in 2005 from the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg.

**Virginia Rails** were found at Peter's Creek and KDRA 5/3 (KG, KL). The rail at KDRA became food for a **Red-tailed Hawk** which pounced on the rail not more than 20 feet from the observer, who was able to photograph this exceptional encounter (KG). A **Sora** was seen at AP 5/3 (PW, et al.) and heard at KDRA 5/4-5 (KG). A **Sandhill Crane** was feeding with cattle at Gotwal's Pond 3/23 (RK).

Rain pools have replaced the local ponds as reliable sites for finding migrating shorebirds. Birders found 13 of the more common species, usually after a storm. Three **Black-bellied Plovers** and a **Ruddy Turnstone** found just such a pool in Topton 5/3 following a storm (RF, KL). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were in another rain pool in Fleetwood 5/20 (KL). A total of 38 **Short-billed Dowitchers** were counted at the farmer's pond in Shartlesville (SH). The high count for this species in *Berks* is 44 at Water Street 7/23/1994 during a drought that exposed extensive mudflats at LO (*Uhrich, A Century of Bird Life in Berks County, Pennsylvania*).

**Bonaparte Gull** numbers reached 30 at LO 4/5 (MSI). Late **Iceland (KL)** and **Glaucous Gulls (MW)** were found at BQ 3/8 and 3/11

respectively. Storms brought 3 **Caspian Terns** 4/9 and 17 **Common Terns** 4/30 to BML. Earl Poole counted 30 **Common Terns** at LO on 9/5/1935. The annual **Black Terns** (2) arrived at LO 5/11 (KL), right on time. The **Eurasian Collared-Dove** count in Shartlesville reached 4 on 5/30 (MW).

The latest sightings for this winter's **Snowy Owls** were 3/10 in Lyons (RK) and 3/18 on Hottenstein Rd in Kutztown (LW). A cooperative **Common Nighthawk** at SGL 106 gave several birders excellent views as it roosted on a branch along the trail 5/9 (MW, m.ob.). It was still in place two hours after its discovery. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** sang 4/16 on Buck Hollow Rd at 8:00PM (HL), but birders who sped to the location later found the bird had gone silent. Another Whip-poor-will was heard at SGL 110 on 5/18 (PM).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found 5/7 at SGL 106, which is within its expected time. An unexpected find was the **Alder Flycatcher** at SGL 52 near Maple Grove 5/24 (MS). It was found only on the following day by other birders. A **Least Flycatcher** was seen 4/28 on SGL 110 (MSI).

**Common Ravens** continued to expand their range and move into the outskirts of Hamburg. On 6/5, two adult **Common Ravens** were being harassed by 4 begging fledglings at KDRA (KG). **Common Ravens** were seen frequently at that area throughout the quarter. The **Bank Swallow** colony at the Haines and Kibblehouse Quarry grew to 30 cavities 5/17 (KL, et al.). This site remains the only consistent nesting area for this swallow.

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** overwintered in Bechtelsville—last seen 4/16 (JK). Singles were found at LO 4/21 (SB) and BML 5/18 (PM). On 4/22, 10 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were heard over Hamburg (KG), two weeks earlier than the bird Earl Poole recorded on 5/6/1954 (*Uhrich, A Century of Bird Life in Berks County, Pennsylvania*). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found feeding in a driveway in Green Hills 5/10 (KL, MSI).

Birders reported 34 warbler species, essentially all of the species that are possible here in spring. The greatest concentration of birds followed the ridges at HR, SGL110, SGL106 and Mount Penn. As an exception, on the morning of 5/9, a total of 15 warbler species were counted from a backyard deck in the village of Kutztown (SS). Unusual species there were **Tennessee**, **Cape May**, **Prairie**, and **Prothonotary**. The following day 5/10, during the PAMC, warblers were counted for almost two hours at one HR location. Highlights were 7 **Tennessee**, 3 **Nashville**, 17 **Northern Parula**, one **Cape May**, 21 **Black-throated Blue**, 5 **Bay-breasted**, one **Mourning**, and one **Canada**. Three **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found and photographed along the Exeter River Trail 4/14 (RH). **Cerulean Warblers** were on territory at KDRA along the Bartrum Trail 5/7 (KG). A single bird was found at SGL 52 on 5/24 (MSI). After not being found in 2012 or 2013 after 7 straight years of sightings, a **Prothonotary Warbler** was found once again this year along the Maiden Creek 5/31 (MW).

The wintering **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Hamburg was last seen 3/24 (MW). It made daily appearances to feed beginning 1/18. Field birds arrived right on time as **Vesper Sparrow**, **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Bobolinks** were found in fields along Monument Rd in Hamburg 5/7 (MW, KL). A **Blue Grosbeak** was seen along Sell Road 5/11 (AZ). A **Dickcissel** on Topton Road 5/30 (RK) arrived earlier than the birds found on Monument Road 6/21/2012 (KG) and Haas Road 6/26/2013 (MSI). Reports of **Rusty Blackbirds** included mostly one or two birds, with the exception of a flock of 10 at KDRA 5/14 (MW). Scattered reports of **Purple Finch** were of one or two birds at feeders until 5/11. No other winter finches were reported.

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## Blair County

Locations: Canoe Creek State Park (CCSP), Monastery Rd. impoundment (MRI).

Information for this report was obtained primarily from 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 reported in five or more locations and will not be discussed further: **Bald Eagle**, **Great Crested Flycatcher**, and **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**.

A dozen uncommon duck species were observed during migration, with most observations coming from CCSP and MRI. Up to 10 **Gadwall**

were present 4/2-4 at CCSP and 2 were at MRI 4/7-14, where as many as 6 **Blue-winged Teal** were present 4/3-5. Two **Blue-winged Teal** were also spotted 5/5 at CCSP. **Northern Shovelers** were seen 3/28 at CCSP and 4/8 at MRI (all MD). Three **Northern Pintails** were photographed 3/20 at CCSP (LP), and 2 were at MRI 3/28 (MD). A **Canvasback** photographed at CCSP 4/2-5/7 attracted a number of area birders (MD, et al.). **Redheads** were also present, with one or 2 observed 3/28-31 at MRI (MD), up to 6 at CCSP 4/4-10 (MD, CS), and a male 4/4-17 at the Penn State Altoona campus duck pond (LP). One or 2 **Greater Scaup** were noted 3/28-4/4 at CCSP (MD). **Lesser Scaup** were also seen at CCSP 4/2-5/23, with up to 20 reported at one time (MD, et al.). A single bird was also spotted 3/29 at Moorhen Marsh (MD). **Surf Scoters** are considered uncommon, although they are not present every year. This year one was photographed 5/10 at CCSP, where 4-6 **White-winged Scoters** were observed 4/30-5/1. Bad weather forced a flock of 40 **Long-tailed Ducks** to land at CCSP 4/4 (all MD). A male **Common Goldeneye** was also present at CCSP 4/10 (CS).

Up to 36 **Horned Grebes** were present 3/28-5/1 at CCSP (MD, LP, CS), 4 were photographed at the duck pond at the Penn State Altoona campus (LP), and another was spotted 4/8 at MRI (MD). Two to three rare **Red-necked Grebes** were seen 4/4-10 at CCSP (MD, CS), and one was photographed 5/1 at MRI (MD). This species is not present every year. One **American Bittern** was at CCSP 4/26 (LP, MD). A rare **Great Egret** flew over the pond at Lakemont Park 3/27 (MD), and another was ph. 3/28-4/10 at CCSP (MD, LP, CS). One to two were present 5/8-10 at MRI (MD). One to two **Green Herons** were noted 5/2-30 at CCSP (MD, LP, RS), and one each 5/10 in Altoona and 4/14-5/13 at MRI (both MD).

Five **Black Vultures** were at Dunning Mtn. 3/31 (MD), and 3 were spotted 5/24 in Williamsburg (DMc). Up to three **Osprey** were ph. 3/28-5/15 at CCSP (MD, et al.), and one was present 4/2-8 at MRI (MD). Two were seen in Hollidaysburg 4/5 (TS). Two **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were observed 3/31 at Dunning Mtn. and a **Cooper's Hawk** was seen 4/15 at MRI. A single **Virginia Rail** was identified at Moorhen Marsh 5/10 (all MD).

Several shorebird species were present during migration. Two **Semipalmated Plovers** were spotted 5/15 at CCSP (LP, MD). A high of 28 **Spotted Sandpipers** were ph. at CCSP 4/15-5/23 (MD, RS). One to three were seen 5/1-13 at MRI (MD), and one was ph. 5/19 at the Penn State Altoona campus (LP). Up to 5 **Solitary Sandpipers** were spotted 4/29-5/13 at MRI, and one was present 5/10 at Moorhen Marsh (both MD). As many as 4 were at CCSP 5/13 (LP, MD). One to 8 **Greater Yellowlegs** were ph. at MRI 4/8-5/4, and up to 24 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen at the same location 4/7-5/10. Three were also observed 4/26 at CCSP. A rare migrating **Dunlin** graced MRI from 4/30-5/1. **Least Sandpipers** were also identified in the county, with up to 15 located 5/1-13 at MRI, and 2 were spotted 5/15 at CCSP. A single **Pectoral Sandpiper** was present at MRI 5/10. A single **Wilson's Snipe** was noted 3/29 and again 5/9 at CCSP, and a high of 48 were at MRI 4/7. Smaller numbers were noted there 3/29-5/5 (all MD).

As many as 40 **Bonaparte's Gulls** passed through CCSP 3/28-4/29. During that same time period, 3 **Herring Gulls** were seen there 3/28. Also, a mixed flock of **Common Terns** and **Forster's Terns** were noted at CCSP 4/29. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen 5/10-12 at CCSP and another 5/14 on the Lower Trail (all MD). A **Barred Owl** was heard 4/10 at Plummer's Hollow (MB). A few **Common Nighthawks** graced the evening skies, with one observed 5/11 in Altoona and 3 at MRI 5/13 (all MD). A single **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was noted 5/13 at Plummer's Hollow (MB). **Belted Kingfishers** were seen and heard at four locations: one or 2 at CCSP 3/28-5/7 (MD, CS, LP), one at MRI 4/7-5/10 and one to two on the Lower Trail 5/3-10 (both MD), and one in Duncansville 5/17 (MaB). Some uncommon migrating **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at Plummer's Hollow 4/1 (MB).

**Acadian Flycatchers** were also present. Two to three were noted 5/8-12 at CCSP (MD), and one each was seen 5/10 at Plummer's Hollow (MB) and 5/11 at Frosty Hollow (LB). Two were observed 5/15 at the Rollers Tract (GW). **Least Flycatcher** was present at CCSP 5/1-9, where up to 4 were identified (LP, MD). One each encountered birders at Frosty Hollow 5/3 (LB), Plummer's Hollow 5/8 (MB), and the Lower Trail 5/10 (MD). One to two **Eastern Kingbirds** were ph. 4/26-5/22 at CCSP (MD, et al.). Up to three were present 5/5-10 at MRI (MD). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was the most frequently encountered uncommon vireo, with one or 2 observed 5/4-14 on the Lower Trail and one 5/10 at Highland Park (both MD). Another single bird was spotted 5/10-11 at CCSP (MD, GW), and 3 were present 5/12 near Williamsburg (GW). **Warbling Vireos** were also noted. One or 2 were ph. 5/3-12 at CCSP (LP, MD, GW), and as many as 3 were found 5/4-10 on the Lower Trail (MD). A rare migrating **Philadelphia Vireo** was present 5/11 at CCSP (LP). Single **Fish Crows** were observed 4/15 at MRI and 5/5-13 at Highland Park (both MD). Two **Common Ravens** were seen 3/27 off I-99 northeast of Tyrone (IG), and a single bird was observed 4/13 on the Lower Trail (JD). Other single birds were reported 5/11 at CCSP and 5/12 near Williamsburg (both GW).

As many as 3 **Bank Swallows** were noted 5/1-15 at CCSP, and a

single bird was seen 5/10 at MRI (both MD). Up to 30 **Cliff Swallows** were present at CCSP 4/30-5/15 (MD, AL, MS, MM, IG), and 2-3 were noted 5/5-13 at MRI (MD). Six were seen 5/20 in Hollidaysburg (TS). **Brown Creepers** were represented by a single bird found 4/8 at Plummer's Hollow (MB). Only one **Veery** was noted during the migration, at CCSP 5/8. A single **Swainson's Thrush** was identified 5/5-13 at Highland Park, and 11 **American Pipits** were present 3/31 at MRI (all MD).

Twenty-nine warbler species were observed in *Blair* during the spring migration. Of these, eight were common to abundant; nineteen are considered uncommon, of which two, **Black-and-white Warbler** and **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, were reported in five or more locations and will not be discussed further. **Worm-eating Warblers** were observed in three locations. One or two were spotted 5/3-10 on the Lower Trail (MD), and one was seen 5/6 in Plummer's Hollow (MB). Another was present 5/8-12 at CCSP (MD). Both waterthrushes were observed, with a single **Louisiana Waterthrush** reported 4/4 in Plummer's Hollow (MB). There were two reports from the Lower Trail, both of single birds. The first was 4/13 (JD), and the second was 5/10 (MD). One or two were spotted 5/2-10 at CCSP (MD). The only **Northern Waterthrush** observed was at CCSP 5/4-12 (LP, MD). CCSP also had the only reported **Blue-winged Warblers** and **Golden-winged Warblers**, with up to 3 of the former species noted 5/3-9 and an individual of the later species identified 5/8 (both MD). A **Tennessee Warbler** was present 5/9 at CCSP, and 2 were spotted 5/13 at Highland Park. On 5/14 another one was observed on the Lower Trail. Birding on the Lower Trail also yielded a rare **Mourning Warbler** 5/10 (all MD). A **Hooded Warbler** was noted 5/4-9 at CCSP (LP, MD), and another was seen 5/4-11 at Frosty Hollow (LB). A third was observed 5/15 at the Rollers Tract (GW). Two to 3 **Cerulean Warblers** were noted 5/4-10 on the Lower Trail (MD). One each were reported 5/9 in Plummer's Hollow (MB) and 5/10-12 at CCSP (MD). A single **Northern Parula** was also identified 5/10 on the Lower Trail (MD). **Magnolia Warblers** moved through CCSP 5/3-12 with a high of 16 noted 5/11 (MD, LP, GW). One was seen 5/13 at Highland Park (MD). Four **Bay-breasted Warblers** crossed paths with birders during the migration, with 2 reported 5/12 at CCSP and two others 5/13 at Highland Park. Single, gorgeous **Blackburnian Warblers** were present 5/3-9 at CCSP (LP, MD) and 5/13 at Highland Park (MD). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were observed at four locations. One or two were seen 5/4-10 at CCSP (MD), and single birds were present 5/4-11 at Frosty Hollow (LB), 5/5 at Plummer's Hollow (MB), and 5/10 at Chimney Rocks Park (MD). A few **Palm Warblers** were photographed 4/26-5/10 at CCSP (LP, MD), and one was noted 5/5 at Highland Park (MD). According to B&G, 2010, **Yellow-throated Warblers** are rarely reported as a migrant; however, one was discovered on the Lower Trail 5/13-14 (JD, MD). A single **Prairie Warbler** was noted 5/5 at CCSP (MD). Three **Canada Warblers** were reported – one 5/7-12 at CCSP (MD) and 2 at Frosty Hollow (LB). A **Wilson's Warbler** was photographed 5/8-10 at CCSP (LP, MD), and another was spotted 5/10 on the Lower Trail (MD).

A few uncommon sparrows were identified, including a **Vesper Sparrow** 5/17 in Blair. Up to 4 **Savannah Sparrows** were noted 4/7-5/10 at MRI, and 2 **Fox Sparrows** were present 3/24 in Altoona. CCSP hosted a **Lincoln's Sparrow** 5/8-9 and a **Swamp Sparrow** 4/26-5/12. Another **Swamp Sparrow** was noted at Moorhen Marsh 5/10 (all MD). **White-crowned Sparrows** were present 5/9 at Plummer's Hollow (MB) and 5/10-12 at CCSP (MD, GW).

One to 3 **Bobolinks** were reported 5/10-13 at MRI. The same location also hosted up to 4 **Eastern Meadowlarks** 3/28-5/13 (both MD). One or two meadowlarks were also noted at CCSP 4/8-5/3 (MD, AL, MS, MM, IG). A mixed flock of **American Robins** and three common Icterid species was spotted 4/7 at MRI also included 40 **Rusty Blackbirds**. The **Rusty Blackbirds** continued in much smaller numbers through 4/14 (MD). **Orchard Orioles** were identified at two locations: 1-2 were present 5/4-10 on the Lower Trail (MD), and up to 3 were seen 5/9-11 at CCSP (MD, GW). The only finch to make the report was **Purple Finch**. Two were spotted 5/10 at CCSP (MD).

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### Bradford County

Locations: Browning Family Farm, Spring Hill (BFF), Browning Pond, Spring Hill (BRP), Echo Beach Rd. on the south side of the Susquehanna River downriver from Wysox (EBR), Minersville Rd, south of Laquin, Barclay Mts.

vicinity (MVR), Mt. Pisgah State Park (MPSP), Peck Hill (PEH), Sunfish Pond (SFP), PA State Gamelands (SGL), State Gamelands 239, north of E. Smithfield (SGL 239), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Tioga Point Cemetery, Athens (TPC), Taylor Rd. Marsh just south of Grover (TRM), Ulster Boat Access (UBA), Wildwood Dr., Sayre (WWD).

This spring report was one of the best ever, especially in terms of warblers, in part because of a bird friendly season, but also due to the growing number of excellent observers who bird in the county, and also to the greater number who post their sightings to eBird.

Many observers reported great numbers of **Snow Geese** during the second week of Mar. On 3/12 hundreds were over the SUR at Sugar Run, trying to find a place to land on the frozen river after a cold front had come in earlier in the day taking the temperature from 60F to 7F. A flock of **Snow Geese** were on a frozen pond on Marsh Rd. close to the county boundary (both sightings by DB, MBu). On 3/13, 100 were in a field behind Hess's Farm Equipment just east of Canton on Rte. 414 (LFr); on 3/13 there were 1000s on the Ulster flats, including at least 3 Blue Geese (DA, NA). From 3/11-16 amongst the 1000s of Canada Geese on the SUR at EBR there were large numbers of **Snow Geese** and **Tundra Swans** on water, land, and ice, practically covering the island and producing an amazing sound (AD, TD). On 3/11 and continuing for about a week there were 1000s of **Snow Geese** also on the SUR at Ulster (DA, NA). There were plenty of other **Tundra Swans**: on 3/14 there were 30 in a field behind Hess's Farm Equipment just east of Canton on Rte. 414 (LFr), on 3/20, 70 were on the SUR below Ulster (a smaller group was still there on 3/28) (DA) and on 3/20 some were on the flats by Rte 220 above Towanda (RYo). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were on BRP 4/6 (SR). A pair of **Northern Shovelers** were on Canton Lake 4/10 (LFr). A **Northern Pintail** was at the small marsh along Rte. 414 east of Canton next to Hess's Farm Equipment 3/24 (LFr); and one was at BRP 4/6 (SR). Three **Redheads** were at BRP 4/6 (SR). On 3/20 on the SUR n. of the Athens bridge there was a **Canvasback**, a **Ring-necked Duck**, a **Bufflehead** and a **Hooded Merganser** (RYo). There were 23 Ring-necked Ducks on 4/1 at Leisure Drive, Wysox 4/1 (SR), and 6 Hooded Mergansers on French Asylum Rd. 4/1 (SR).

On 4/29 a **Ruffed Grouse**, aggressive to humans, was in the Ulster area (DA). On 5/10 on the PAMC a **Common Loon** was on the SUR between Hornbrook and French Asylum (DB, MBu). On 3/20 a **Horned Grebe** was on the SUR n. of the Athens bridge (RYo), on 4/6 four were at BRP (SR), and one was at PEH from 4/9-16 (AV, GV). The **Double-crested Cormorant** population continues to grow in *Bradford*: 6 were on the SUR at EBR 4/2 (AD, TD); one was at BRP 4/6 (SR); 11 were at the TPC 4/28 (BH); 40 (the largest group ever observed) were at EBR 4/28 (DN); 7 were at s. Foster Lake MPSP 4/29 (JF); five on 5/8 were at the Mill Creek Reservoir (Spring Hill vicinity) (KR); and 6 on 5/10 on the PAMC countywide. On 4/28 a **Great Blue Heron** carrying sticks was flying over the TPC heading west northwest (BH); in the Moxie area 5/22 two were flying over, one carrying a stick, subsequently a new colony was discovered in the vicinity (TG). There were 12 **Green Herons** 5/10 on the 5/10 PAMC countywide.

There were a number of **Osprey** observations: one was near Leroy 4/26 (DA); one was at a beaver pond at TNE 4/29 (TG); one 4/29 and 4/30 at PEH (AV, GV); one at Stevensville Mt. Road/Clapper Hill intersection 5/1 (KR); one at MPSP 5/7 (RYo); 4 during the PAMC 5/10; and one at MPSP 5/25 (DH). There were also about 10 sightings of **Bald Eagle** from 3/24 through the season (m.ob.) including 7 on the PAMC 5/10. A male **Northern Harrier** was at Allis Hollow 4/1 (KR) and one was at Minersville Rd. 5/6 (JC). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was calling 4/2 on Wyalusing New Albany Rd. near New Era. One was calling with episodes of courtship call 4/28 at TNE (TG) and was seen periodically through 5/6. Lastly 2 were at the BFF 5/24 (BG). An early **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen 3/20 flying into the woods near New Era (TG). On 3/26 and continuing, one or a pair of **American Kestrels** were observed in the same location at Pine Valley Rd. where they have nested previously (LFI, SF). On 4/30 a male **Merlin** was at the TPC and again 5/10 on the PAMC (both IW). Merlins have nested in the cemetery in at least one previous year.

Single **Virginia Rails** were at Canton Marsh 4/8 (LFr) and 4/27 (NF). Two were at TRM 5/25 (DH). A **Sora** was at TRM 5/25 (DH). There were numerous sightings of **Sandhill Cranes**: two on Oak Hill 3/16 (RW); bugling from Swamp Poodle (New Era vicinity) from 3/24 to 4/6, 4/18-5/1 at TNE, 2-3 were heard in a meadow adjacent to Murphy's Pond south of Overton 5/7 (SW); two near New Era 5/10 (TG, SW); and 3 were in a wetland on South Rd. (Evergreen vicinity) 5/31 (CH). A nest with one egg was located in the New Era vicinity 5/8 (TG, DA); incubation continued until 6/2 but was unsuccessful for unknown reasons (TG).

Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were found in Gillett 4/18 (LS). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were observed on the PAMC 5/10 in nw. *Bradford* (MBo, JP, MP) and one was at WWD 5/25 (DH). Four **Least Sandpipers** were at

WWD 5/25 (DH). Twenty-eight **Spotted Sandpipers** were found during the PAMC countywide 5/10. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at the Canton Marsh 4/17 (NF). One was at Sandor Rd. and 2 were at Stevensville Mt. Rd. 5/1 (KR), 3 were at Gillette 5/1 (LS), one was found on Stagecoach Rd., Wyalusing 5/2 (KR), 5 were on the PAMC countywide 5/10 and one was at the UBA 5/25 (DH). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were feeding along the edge of small pond on Ward Hill Rd. in Canton Township 3/24 (LFr). Earliest displays of **American Woodcock** included three at TNE 3/27 (TG) and 3 at Quick's Bend 4/1 (DB, MBu).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at TRM and one was at SGL 239, both 5/25 (DH). Two **Black-billed Cuckoos** were at TRM and two were at SFP 5/25 (DH). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was observed 4/8 at PEH (AV, GV). Very rarely heard in recent years in the county, two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were on Wheelerville Mt. Rd. 5/25 (DH).

A **Willow Flycatcher** was observed on the PAMC 5/10 in the Sayre vicinity. On 5/23 one was at Taylor Rd., Canton (NF) and two were at SGL 239 on 5/25 (DH). There was a **White-eyed Vireo** 5/3 at Taylor Marsh (LFr) and one on MVR 5/6 (JC). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found 5/6 at MVR (JC); there were 4 on 5/10 on the PAMC: on the SUR and the Sayre vicinity; on 5/25 at the UBA (DH). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was observed 5/6 at MVR (JC); five were found on the PAMC countywide 5/10; on 5/25 one was at the BFF (BG); two were at SFP 5/25 (DH).

On 4/28 many calls were coming from four **Fish Crows** at TPC (BH). There were five **Horned Larks** 5/10 on the PAMC in the Canton vicinity (LFr, NW); on 5/25 two were at WWD (DH). There were 20 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** on the PAMC countywide 5/10. Twenty-seven **Bank Swallows** were observed on the PAMC countywide 5/10; six were at WWD 5/25 (DH). There were twelve **Cliff Swallows** on the PAMC 5/10 (MBo, JP, MP); and 18 on 5/25 at the UBA (DH). Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at SFP 5/25 (DH). A **Winter Wren** was observed during the PAMC 5/10 in the Troy area (LH, RYo); one was at SFP 5/25 (DH). First **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at TRM 4/19 (NF). There was a **Swainson's Thrush** on the PAMC in the Stevensville area 5/10, one 5/17 on Stevensville Mountain Road 5/17 (KR) and one was observed 5/25 at SFP (DH). Four **Northern Mockingbirds** were seen on the PAMC countywide.

It was a fantastic spring for warblers, with as many species reported here as I can recall. **Blue-winged Warbler** sightings were on 5/8 at Stevensville Mt. Rd. (KR); 6 on 5/10 on the PAMC countywide; one on 5/25 at MPSP and 4 at SGL 239 (DH). **Golden-winged Warbler** sightings came from PEH 5/8 (GV) and SGL 239 5/25 (DH). There was a **Tennessee Warbler** at the UBA 5/25 and one at WWD (DH). A **Nashville Warbler** was at East Smithfield 5/4 (CG); and 5/25 at SFP (DH). On 5/25 a **Northern Parula** was at TRM and one was at the UBA (DH). There were numerous **Magnolia Warbler** sightings including 5/6 at East Smithfield (CG), 5/8 at Graham Rd., Canton, (LFr); 8 on the PAMC countywide 5/10; one 5/19 on Patten Hill Rd., Stevensville (KR) and 4 on 5/25 at SFP (DH). Ten **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were observed 5/6 at MVR (JC); ten on 5/10 on the PAMC countywide and three 5/25 at SFP (DH). Six **Blackburnian Warblers** were seen 5/6 at MVR (JC); there were three on the PAMC countywide and five 5/25 at SFP (DH). **Pine Warbler** sightings included one on 4/3 at a feeder with goldfinches at PEH (AV, GV); one 5/8 at Graham Rd., Canton (LFr); one 5/7 at PEH (AV, GV) and two 5/10 on the PAMC in the Sayre area (IW). Six **Prairie Warblers** were observed on the PAMC countywide 5/10 and 5 were at SGL 239 on 5/25 (DH). A **Palm Warbler** was found 4/27 at Graham Rd., Canton (NF), 7 were at MPSP 5/7 (RYo), 2 on the PAMC at Woods Rd (CM) and the Sayre Area (MBo, JP, MP). There were three **Bay-breasted Warblers** on the PAMC at PEH (AV, GV) and the Sayre area (IW) and one 5/25 at SFP (DH). On 5/25 two **Blackpoll Warblers** were at TRM, two at MPSP and one at WWD (DH). On 5/6 eight **Black-and-white Warblers** were at MVR (JC); one was at Graham Rd., Canton 5/8 (LFr); seven were tallied during the PAMC countywide: two 5/25 at MPSP (DH); two 5/26 in the Franklindale vicinity (DN). Four **Northern Waterthrushes** were observed on the PAMC countywide and one was at SFP 5/25 (DH). On 4/30 a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was singing in the Hollenback vicinity (NB); three were heard on the PAMC near South Branch (TG) and one was singing in the Hollenback vicinity 5/20 (TG). A **Mourning Warbler** was at TRM 5/25 (NF), and one was at SGL 239 on 5/25 (DH). A **Hooded Warbler** was observed 5/10 on the PAMC at Upper Mt. Rd. Canton (LFr); one on 5/25 at SGL 239 and two at SFP (DH). An amazing six **Wilson's Warblers** were observed during the PAMC countywide and one 5/25 at MPSP (DH). Three **Canada Warblers** were found 5/10 on the PAMC at Graham Rd., Canton (LFr) and Mud Pond, Barclay Mt (TG). One was at SFP 5/25 (DH).

Two uncommon sparrows were reported: a **Vesper Sparrow** during the PAMC 5/10 on Canton Rd. (LFr) and one 5/25 at SGL 239 (DH). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was discovered 5/25 at SGL 239 (DH). Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Beer's Nature Center, Wysox 4/1 (SR). An **Orchard Oriole** was present 5/4 at Edwards Rd, Stevensville (KR), one on

the PAMC in the Stevensville area (SA) and one 5/24 at the BFF (BG). A male non-breeding **Indigo Bunting** (first seen very early in Feb) continued to 3/16 at Wilawana Rd, Sayre (MZ). A female **Purple Finch** was seen 3/5 and a pair 4/8 at PEH (AV, GV). Eight were observed 5/5 at E. Smithfield (CG). There were 16 on the PAMC countywide and one was at SGL 239 on 5/25 (DH). Four **Pine Siskins** were found 5/10 on the PAMC in the Canton area (LFr, NF).

**EXOTICS:** four **Helmeted Guineafowl** were at PEH 5/19 (AV, GV).

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## **Bucks County**

Locations: Bowman's Hill (BHP), Bradford Dam (BRD), Churchville Park (CVP), Maple Knoll Farms (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Quakertown Swamp (QTS), State Game Land #56 (SGL#56), State Game Land #157 (SGL#157), Tinicum Twp. (TNT).

The average temperature for March was 4.8°F below normal. April and May were 0.1°F and 1.5°F above average respectively. March and May had below normal precipitation, with 0.8 inches below and 1.2 inches below respectively. April had an excess of 2.7 inches. However, unusual storms this spring caused some large fluctuations from place to place. The late thaw starting in mid-March at most area lakes continued the higher than normal winter reports of several water bird species on the Delaware River. High water levels were not conducive to finding shorebirds. The usual staging of gulls at area lakes was much smaller this year presumably again due to the late ice, but Tullytown had the usual mobs. As last year, the largest numbers of long distance migrants arrived later than in recent very mild springs. The later leafing of trees helped greatly in detecting the birds. The first two weeks of May provided good numbers and diversity with many warbler species peaking about the time of the PAMC 5/10. Reports indicate most thrushes and flycatchers peaked after warblers. A total of 227 species plus two hybrids were reported for the three-month period compared to 235 for the previous five-year average. Two species were recorded earlier than any previous spring, and three were later.

This year marked the twenty-second time for our participation in the PAMC. PAMC averages referenced throughout this report are for the previous 10 years only, since birder coverage was generally higher than in earlier years. On 5/10, 71 participants in 27 parties tallied 13,711 individuals of 167 species. This year's species count was equal to 2003 and second only to 172 in 2008. The total of individuals counted was 13th highest and lower than the average of 14,660. The primary PAMC standouts this year were warblers. The tally of 2290 warblers was twice as many compared to last year, second only to 2957 in 1999, and far exceeded the average of 1412. The 32 warbler species matched the previous high. **Yellow Warbler**, **Ovenbird**, and **Common Yellowthroat**, all common local breeders, provided 621 or 27% of those individuals, with 220, 123, and 278 respectively. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** contributed 487, four times last year's 129. Thus, four species accounted for 48% 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 observations have been reviewed for this report.

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at CVP 3/11 (HD) for the only report. Unusual numbers of migrant **Snow Geese** were tallied at 14 sites, with most of the higher counts in the low hundreds. The higher exceptions were approximately 1600 at Hilltown Twp. 3/8 (AM) and 2000 at Honey Hollow 3/22 (DSm, LT). After 3/22, one was at PVP 4/3-5, and possibly the same bird ended up at NSP starting 4/13 and stayed through the period (m.ob.). A late report of a female hatched in 2012 or earlier and banded at Bylot Island, Nunavut, Canada on 8/9/13, was seen near Riegelsville 1/12/14 (PC). The only **Cackling Goose** reported was at CVP 3/11 (HD), which is in the normal range for the last spring date. **Tundra Swan** was reported more frequently in higher numbers from 10 sites, with at

least 160 individuals (m.ob.). The last report was 25 from NSP 4/2 (TD). Dabbling duck counts were generally not noteworthy. A good local high count of 70 **American Wigeon** was at PWT 3/28, and one there 5/16 established a new spring late date (DFa). A count of 48 **American Black Ducks** 3/21 at SGL#56-Wildcat Lake, and the 35 **Northern Pintails** at PVP 3/20 (both AM) were modest reported high counts. A **Northern Shoveler** at PWT 5/10 (DFa) was a month later than others of its kind this year and only the second occurrence for PAMC. As usual, BRD produced the high count of 55 **Green-winged Teal** 3/12 (GJ). Two 5/10 at PWT (DFa) provided the last report for the season and the fourth appearance for PAMC.

The unusually high wintering quantities of diving ducks continued into the period. A total of at least 32 **Canvasbacks** were reported from eight sites (m.ob.), with the high count 23 at Franklin Cove, Tullytown 3/13 (TJ). The last report was one at Aquetong Lake 3/22 (AM). **Redhead** reports came from at least 12 sites, with about 50 birds (m.ob.). The high single site count was 18 to 20 from 3/2-7 at the PWT-Warner Lake (DFa, KKo), and the last report was two 4/9 near NSP (AM, JH). The highest single site counts for **Ring-necked Duck** were 260 at PWT 3/7 (KKo), 143 at Aquetong Lake 3/10 (AM), and 110 at CVP 3/11 (BK). **Greater Scaup** apparently mostly departed before the period, with only four sites reporting (m.ob.). The only site with more than one bird was Franklin Cove with 24 on 3/13 (TJ). The last report was one near NSP 4/3 (AM). The only significant **Lesser Scaup** report was 190 at Franklin Cove 3/13 (TJ). Some of the unusual Delaware River wintering **White-winged Scoters** lingered into Mar, with at least 11 birds reported from five sites 3/2-15 (DFa, MG). The last report was a migrant at PVP 4/5 (AM ph.). **Long-tailed Duck** reports came from seven sites, with a conservative total of at least 34 individuals. One at PVP 4/5 (AM) and 12 at NSP 4/5 (KR) provided the last reports. **Bufflehead** high counts were 55 at PWT 3/7 (KKo) and, 56 at New Hope 3/10 (AM). **Common Goldeneye** numbers remained high into Mar, with the site high reports of 70 at New Hope 3/7 (BH) and about 140 at Morrisville tallied 3/15 (AM, JMi). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were at QTS 5/19 where they are suspected of nesting (DFa). High numbers of **Common Merganser** lingered later this year, with the high estimates being about 500 at Churchville 3/11 (HD) and 1255 at PVP 3/27 (AM). There were no counts over 100 after 4/7. **Red-breasted Merganser** continued the winter's unusual high numbers, with most counts in the low to middle single digits (m.ob.). The high single site counts were 8 at Biles Island 3/2 (DFa), 9 at Mud Island 3/8-15 (DFa, AM), 9 at Delaware River Access-Bensalem Twp. 3/15 (AM), 11 at PVP 4/5 (AM), and 9 at NSP 4/9 (AM). The last report was one at PVP 5/1 (AM). **Ruddy Duck** was reported in lower numbers this spring, with the high site counts only 19 at New Hope 3/10 (AM), and 16 at Franklin Cove 4/6 (MG).

The large flock of **Wild Turkeys** in TNT reported last spring was still there this year on 4/2 but reduced from 92 to 65 birds (DL, KT). **Common Loon** was regular through the period starting with one 3/18 at Giving Pond (EB). From 4/1-9 there were double digit counts daily at NSP (m.ob.). The biggest fallout there had 86 **Common Loons** 4/4 (DFa). The number declined to 52 on 4/5 (PC) and to 22 by 4/9 (AM). After that counts were mostly in low to mid-single digits, with all but two reports from PVP, NSP, and PWT (m.ob.). Migrant reports of **Pied-billed Grebe** were all in the low single digits (m.ob.), with the high 6 at NSP 4/6 (BK). At least one **Pied-billed Grebe** was again at our only recently reported breeding site at the former US Steel, Falls Twp. 5/17 (DFa). About a dozen **Horned Grebes** lingered at NSP 4/4-4/17 (AM, BK), with the high of 13 on 4/4 (DFa). They were reported at 10 other sites between 3/13 and 5/10 but in low single digit counts (m.ob.), with the exception of 8 at PVP 3/23 (JF, RFr). Surprising was a late one in breeding plumage at CVP 5/31 (VDe, HD) that surpassed our previous late date by 10 days. The **Red-necked Grebe** show that started last season continued, with outstanding counts likely not unprecedented but probably never documented as well as this year. The highest report was a total of 67 tallied at six sites along a 20 mile stretch of the Delaware River between Biles Island and Mud Island 3/8 (DFa, HM). Surprising, one site alone near Biles Island had 26 from 3/12-15 (DFa). Once the ice on lakes began to melt, good numbers lasting several days were also tallied at some regularly birded spots, with peak counts being 6 at PWT 3/28 (DFa), 5 at NSP 4/6 (AM), and 9 at PVP 4/7-9 (AM). By 4/17, both PVP and NSP had only one bird each (m.ob.). The next reports were in May, with one at PWT 5/10 (DFa) and one to 2 at NSP 5/18-24 (PC, Dfa, AM, JMi). A briefly seen basic plumaged **Eared Grebe** at NSP 4/6 (PC doc., ph.) and there 4/8 again (HD) provided the second county record. It or another was found close to the original spot 4/16 (doc., ph. PS, BSt, Dfa) and stayed until 4/19 (m.ob.). **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported regularly through the period starting 3/15 (m.ob.). Monthly high counts were 25 at PVP 3/31 (KP), 211 at NSP 4/17 (AM), and 93 at PVP 5/7-9 (AM). The last report of **Great Cormorant** was 6 at Mud Island 4/4 (DFa), and the high count was 35 at Bristol 3/15 (PC).

**American Bittern** was reported at QTS 4/2-5/12. Despite intermittent

coverage of the site this year, 10 were seen migrating out (Dfa). Unusual were individuals at four other sites. One each was at PVP 4/12 (RH, m.ob.), Silver Lake Park 4/29 (RFe), near Doylestown's Central Park 5/4 (LW), and at Giving Pond 5/9 (PC). A **Great Egret** at NSP 4/13 (CH) was the first report for the year. Three at PVP 4/15 (RH) provided the highest single site report. In general, reports were low, with eight sites reporting an estimated total of only 13 to 15 birds (m.ob.). Two **Snowy Egrets** were at Oxford Valley Park 5/9 (DPv), and 2 flew by Quaker Penn Park 5/16 (DFa). One seen later that day at adjacent PWT (RM, PG) may have been one of those birds. An adult **Little Blue Heron** flew by PVP 4/15 for the only report (RH). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was also scarce this spring, with the only reliable site being Silver Lake Park (RFe, DFi, Dfa, MG), where the high report was 3 on 4/9 (RFe). CVP reports occurred 4/3-13 (DM, KKo, KG, AU), with the high count 2 on 4/13 (KG, AU). One was at Warminster Community Park 5/10 (GJ). **Glossy Ibis** is expected but rare in the lower county and sometimes occurs in groups. There were none reported there this year. Away from the lower county, they are much rarer and only one is the norm, so a flock of 11 at Blooming Glen 5/11 at man-made wetlands was surprising (ph. AM, RfG). **Osprey** provided a new high PAMC count of 30, which compares to the previous high of 22 in 2005 and an average of 16. **Osprey** was back at the Mud Island area nest 3/12 (DFa) and Riegelsville nest 3/19 (EB). A new nest was found at Marshall Island 5/10 (DA). **Northern Harrier** was very scarce, with only 6 individuals reported, 3 of which were still at known wintering sites in Mar (PC, KG, PH, AM, AU). Finally after years of searching, a **Bald Eagle** nest was located on private property near NSP (JMo). A **Rough-legged Hawk** continued at Bedminster Twp. until at least 3/8 (AM), and one flew over PVP 3/11 (DFn ph.). The county's eleventh reported **King Rail** and only the second after 1979 was at QTS 5/19 (Dfa ph. vr.). **Virginia Rail** was first reported there 4/19. **Sora** was first detected there 5/10 (DFa). High single site counts of **American Coot** were about 100 at PWT 3/7 and 50 at CVP 3/14 (both KKo).

Fifteen shorebird species were reported. A flock of approximately 25 **Black-bellied Plovers** flew by near Quakertown 5/30 (DFa). **Semipalmated Plover** was reported at BRD on four dates starting 5/12 to the end of the month, with the high count of 3 on 5/12 (AM). One was unusual at NSP 5/22 (PC). The single site high count was 15 at PWT 5/16 (DFa). **Killdeer** migration apparently peaked 3/31, when 96 were tallied at MKF in one flock (RS). **Spotted Sandpiper** was first noted 4/12 at PVP (AM) and PRN (KR). Surprising was an unusually large gathering of lingering migrants of this species at BRD in May, with a peak of 24 there 5/26 (AM). The first **Solitary Sandpipers** were at BRD 4/27 (GJ, KR), and although not a record high, an unusual peak tally of 37 migrants was there 5/12 (AM). **Greater Yellowlegs** was reported between 4/7 and 5/26 (m.ob) in mostly low single digit counts, with the highest site report 8 at PWT 5/10 (DFa). **Lesser Yellowlegs** was also mostly reported in low single digit counts from 4/24 to 5/22 (m.ob.), with the high being 8 at BRD 5/2 (GJ, BK). A **Dunlin** provided a new early arrival date by four days at Pine Run Dam 3/29 (KR ph.), and 6 were at PWT 5/16 (DFa). The high site count of 50 to 75 **Least Sandpipers** came from PWT 5/16 (DFa). The only other site with higher numbers was BRD, where 44 were tallied 5/12 (AM). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at BRD 5/14 (AM ph.) for the only report. An unusual flock of 15 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Willard Markey Park 3/28-29 were our first for the season and also the highest single site report (VM, ph. AM). Eleven remained 3/31 (HE), with 3 or 4 more stopping there between 4/7 and 4/19 (Dfa, SG, AM). Pine Run Dam had one 3/31 (KR). The high single site count of about 100 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** was at PWT 5/16 (DFa). After no reports of **Wilson's Snipe** after 1/12, the presumed first spring arrivals were noted 3/15 at Pine Run Dam (BV) and MKF (RS). After that, reports were regular until 5/12 coming from 13 sites with several higher counts from 9 to 20 (m.ob.). **American Woodcock** was reported between 3/9 and 4/12 from 12 sites (m.ob.). The high counts were 5 in TNT 3/14 (PC) and 4 at a different site there 4/4 (DA). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was at Uhlertown 5/22 (PC ph.), providing our 14th known report.

**Bonaparte's Gull** was reported 3/30-5/10 (m.ob.), with high site counts of 40 at NSP 4/4 (DFa), 41 at PVP 4/7 (KG, AU), about 75 near Newtown 4/15 (DFa), and 20 at PWT 5/10 (DFa). About 200 **Laughing Gulls** at PWT 4/4 provided the first report of the year (DFa). One at PVP 5/1 (AM) was the only report away from their expected lower county sites. A **Ring-billed Gull** hatched in 2008 or earlier as Bristol 3/9 (HM, Dfa) and had been banded 1/5/2010 at Holyoke, Massachusetts. Also there 3/9 was a leucistic **Ring-billed Gull** (ph. HM, Dfa) believed to be a different bird than one there in recent years. **Iceland Gull** was under reported from only five sites, mostly singles. The exceptions were 3 at Tullytown 3/13 (TJ) and 2 at NSP 3/21 (AM). The last report was 4/15 from PWT (DFa). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** high counts were very modest compared to normal. The high site counts were 115 at NSP 3/21 (AM, JMi) and 89 at PVP 3/27 (AM). Two were still at PWT 5/16 (DFa), where usually a few probably stay all summer. The only **Glaucous Gull** reports were one at PWT 3/13 (TJ) and

4/15 (DFa). Terns were under reported. A **Caspian Tern** was at both PVP (SG) and north of Morrisville (MG) 4/6. This was one day earlier than our previous spring arrival date. Another stopped at CVP 4/26 (SH). A **Forster's Tern** was at Giving Pond 4/29 (PC) and PVP 5/1 (AM).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was first noted 5/5 in Solebury Twp. (DSm) and eBird had reports of mostly singles from 18 sites. The high count was 3 at QTS 5/30 (SS) and the PAMC count was 10 versus the average of 18. **Black-billed Cuckoo** eBird reports came from seven sites starting 5/10 (DA, ZM). A high count of 4 was at PVP 5/12 (DFa), and a close to average 6 were tallied for PAMC. A pair of **Barn Owls** was present in May and hopefully indicated the third year in a row for breeding (DFa). We were **Snowy Owl** deprived compared to some other counties. On 3/9 one was reported at Delaware Valley College (KW), and probably the same bird was seen the next morning 3/10 less than four miles to the west near Chalfont (CC). **Barred Owl** reports came from six sites this year (m.ob.), with a record 5 birds on PAMC. The last **Long-eared Owl** was reported at PVP 3/8 (AM). There were no significant counts of **Common Nighthawk**, with 10 at Nockamixon Twp. 5/12 (PC) and 8 at Riegelsville 5/19-20 (EB, EN) being the highest reports. Rarely reported here, an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was in TNT 5/6 (PC). The 30 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** tallied for PAMC was a new high, with the previous average being 20. The two wintering **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at PVP both lingered into the first week of May, with the last reports 5/2 and 5/6 (AM, HD). The pair found last year at SGL#157 was first noted 4/25 (PC). A bird at a different site there 5/17 (DFa) may have been an additional bird. One in Richland Twp. 4/26 was near sites that historically had this species (DFa). Another site in Solebury Twp. with previous reports had one starting in late Apr (DSm). Only 5 **Merlin** were reported (PC, HD, AM, CS, PT). In addition to the resident pair of **Peregrine Falcons** at Bristol, individuals were at Honey Hollow 3/29 (LT), BRD 5/2 (GJ, BK), Giving Pond 5/4 (EB), and Bridgeton Twp. starting 5/18 (AM, JMi, PC).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** was well reported at TNT 5/10 (DA, ZM), PVP 5/14 (HD), SGL#157 from 5/18-24 (m.ob.), NSP 5/20-24 (AM, JMi), near Morrisville 5/23 (JP), and CVP 5/24 (VDe). Always barely reported, a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Neshaminy State Park 5/10 (ML ph.), Tyler State Park 5/10 (WM), and two were at SGL#157 on 5/24 (DFa, JMi, AM). Similarly, **Alder Flycatcher** was at QTS 5/17-22 (DFa, PC, SS) and SGL#157 on 5/24 (DFa, AM, JMi). Two were at NSP 5/20 (DFa, AM). **Least Flycatcher** was noted in eBird more frequently this year and with other reports, at least 18 individuals were reported from 10 sites between 5/2 and 5/25 (m.ob.). **White-eyed Vireo** at QTS 4/17 (SS) matched the record early date set last year. The possible downward trend recorded on PAMC in recent years was reflected in the count of 9 versus the average of 17. The **Blue-headed Vireo** count of 11 was a record high for PAMC compared to the average of just over 2 and indicated delayed migration. Possibly trending down on PAMC, the 6 **Yellow-throated Vireos** were low compared to the average 13. Two **Philadelphia Vireos** tallied for PAMC, one in Solebury Twp. (TE) and one near Core Creek Park (SFu), equaled the previous high established in 1998. Another was at PVP 5/12 (DBI ph.). An East Rockhill Twp. site was suspected of being a breeding location for **Common Raven** since 2009 and confirmed this year 5/29 when 2 adults and 2 juvs. in a nest were found (DFa). Other reports came from 10 sites, but some sites could involve the same birds (m.ob.). MKF had 35 **Horned Larks** 4/6 (RS) for the last report of the season. The site also had the high count of 58 on 3/15 (RS). Six **Purple Martin** scouts were early 4/3 at the Bolton Turkey Farm, Hilltown Twp. (AM). The earliest arrival date in our records is 3/31.

Very scarce, one to 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were at CVP 3/8-19 (VDe, HD, PS, BSt, BK), with one reported there 4/12 (VDe) and 4/26 (SH). One was at SGL#56- Lake Warren 5/1-2 (EB, EN). **Brown Creeper** was reported from only eight sites, half as many as last year (m.ob.), with the last at Honey Hollow 4/19 (ZM). **Winter Wren** was scarce with only 5 reported in eBird (GJ, BK, PH, AM). The last one was late on 5/10 at PVP (PH, AM, et al). **Carolina Wren** is often mentioned as a victim of cold winters like this year. The PAMC count of 89 compares to only one lower count in the previous 10 years and the average of 138. The county's first **Golden-crowned Kinglet** known breeding occurred in 2010 at NSP, and 2 on 5/25 were in appropriate habitat there (DFa). A PAMC total of 21 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** compared to a previous high of 7 and average just above one indicated later migration timing this year for this species. **Eastern Bluebird** was felt to be in lower numbers possibly due to the severe winter. The count of 36 on the PAMC was very low compared to the average of 72. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** again was missed for PAMC as it has been for 15 out of the 21 year history. There were only eight reports 5/12-29 (m.ob.), with five of those at BHP. Depending on how many were seen more than once at Bowman's Hill, there were only 5 to 9 individuals. The high count was 2 there 5/23 (JMi, AM). As usual, **Swainson's Thrush** was reported far more, with 17 on PAMC above the average of 13. There were reports in eBird from 15 sites, with multiple birds from most sites resulting in a minimum of 26

individuals. The high was 5 at BHP 5/19 (AM, JMi). The 152 **Wood Thrushes** tallied for PAMC was the lowest compared to the last 10 years and far below the average of 278. Maybe many had not arrived yet, although the PAMC history suggests a downward trend in recent years. The **American Robin** PAMC total was 50% of the average of 1174 and possibly another indication of winter losses. After an unusually high number of winter **Brown Thrashers** up until 2/17, there were surprisingly no reports in eBird again until one at New Hope 4/11 (DBo) when a steady flow of reports began. The **Northern Mockingbird** PAMC total was also 50% of the average of 99 and could indicate another winter victim. The first **American Pipit** was noted 3/28 at PWT (DFa) and one was at Blooming Glen 4/10 (AM). All other reports through 5/10 were at MKF where a high of 28 was recorded 5/8 (RS). **Cedar Waxwing** was near absent after mid-Jan and did not return until May, with the first being at CVP 5/3 (DM). The PAMC total of 46 compared to an average of 133 indicated a late return or reduced numbers resulting from the harsh winter.

A total of 34 warbler species was reported. Golden-winged Warbler and Orange-crowned Warbler were not reported. Many factors contribute to fluctuations in abundance from one year to another. Normally, weather is likely the major factor for on the ground numbers. Whatever the reasons, interesting high and low counts for PAMC made some species stand out as noteworthy. If PAMC numbers are a good indication, **Ovenbird** may be trending down locally in the last few years, with 123 this year versus an average of 167. A **Northern Waterthrush** at PVP 5/30 (KP) matched our previous late date. **Worm-eating Warbler**, another ground nester, has declined more dramatically the last few years, with 5 this year on PAMC versus an average of 14. Similarly, **Blue-winged Warbler** had a PAMC total of only 7 versus an average of 38. A **Lawrence's Warbler** was detected at NSP 5/17 (RM, PG). **Black-and-white Warbler** had the second highest PAMC total of 158 compared to the previous high of 213 in 1999 and average of 54. **Prothonotary Warbler** returned to PVP for the fourth year in a row, with the male first noted 5/7 and the female 5/8 (AM). Nest building was observed 5/27 in a natural cavity due to previous man-made nesting sites occupied by other birds (DFa). One was at Oxford Valley Park 4/24 (DPv, ph.), and 2 were heard at QTS 5/17 (DFa). **Tennessee Warbler** continues to be scarce, with only one reported for PAMC for the first in five years. Ten were reported in eBird from seven sites 5/3 to 5/22 (m.ob.). Only 2 **Nashville Warblers** were tallied for PAMC, with an average of 4. eBird had reports from 11 sites with 14 individuals (m.ob.). A new late spring date of 5/24 resulted from reports from Springtown Twp. (VDr) and Tyler State Park (LG). There were two reports this period of **Connecticut Warbler**, one from BHP 5/9 and one in Warwick Township 5/10. While some basic supporting details were provided, there were no photographs in either case. Due to the extreme rarity anywhere east of far western Pennsylvania, and it being a normally late May migrant, along with no previous spring county records, they are mentioned only as possibilities. Of course, never say never when it comes to the unexpected. After being detected only in two previous years on PAMC with one each year, 2 **Mourning Warblers** were tallied this year at Tyler State Park (WM) and Morrisville (JP). In addition, one was at PVP 5/15 (AM), SGL#157 on 5/18 (PC), and PVP 5/25 (DFa, AM). **Kentucky Warbler** has been rare and declining. The average on the PAMC for 1994-2003 was 3.1, and the recent 10 year average is 1.6. Only one was tallied for the PAMC in the last five years. SGL#157 had one 5/11, 5/24 (both Dfa, AM), and 5/25 (PC, MG, SG). Due to location, maybe 2 different males were heard. At least 10 **Hooded Warblers** were reported from six sites starting 4/26 at SGL#157 (DFa) where the high count was 3 on multiple dates at this breeding site (m.ob.). **American Redstart** also peaked around PAMC time, with a new record high of 176 compared to the average 68 and previous high in 1999 of 147. A scarce spring migrant here, the only **Cape May Warblers** reported were one at BHP 5/4 (WM) and 5/10 (KJ), 2 at TNT 5/10 (DA, ZM), and another 5/10 at MKF (RS). After no reports last spring, **Cerulean Warbler** was reported at PVP 5/10 (MB), near Carversville 5/11 (SFr), and near Kintnersville 5/29 (PC). The first two were heard only, and this species song is known to be copied by some Northern Parulas. No breeding sites have been reported for many years. **Northern Parula** was another species that peaked at PAMC time. The 309 far exceeded the average of 69 and the previous high of 165 in 1999. **Magnolia Warbler** also peaked for PAMC with 64 versus an average of 19. That was second to the 2003 count of 65. **Bay-breasted Warbler** had a relatively good showing with 6 recorded for PAMC compared to the average of less than one (DA, Kl, VM, BSt). After that, 11 more were reported up to 5/22 from five sites (DBe, PC, LK, AM, PT). With 152 for PAMC, **Black-throated Blue Warbler** far surpassed the previous high of 115 in 1999, and the average of 57. The PAMC **Yellow-rumped Warbler** tally of 487 compares to the average of 164 and was its third highest total for PAMC. Now rare here, **Yellow-throated Warbler** was not reported at breeding sites, but 2 were tallied at Solebury Twp. for the PAMC (TE). **Black-throated Green Warbler** was also high for PAMC, with 95 compared to the average of 34 and second

only to 114 in 1999. With a previous high of 19 in 2007, 20 **Canada Warblers** for PAMC was four times the average. With an average of only 1.5 and previous PAMC high in 1994 of 6, 15 **Wilson's Warblers** were very noteworthy. **Yellow-breasted Chat** has been rare here for many years, with one each at US Steel 5/10 (DFa), Falls of the Delaware Park 5/19 (MG), and Warminster Community Park 5/27 (GJ).

**American Tree Sparrow** was reported through Mar in small quantities at nine sites (m.ob.), with the last 3 at PVP 3/30 (KP). Likely the continuing wintering bird, a **Vesper Sparrow** was at MKF 3/2 and 3/8. The first probable migrant and only other report was there 4/9 (RS). The TNT hayfields continue to provide habitat for **Grasshopper Sparrows**, but there were only two reports (PC, SS). Rare in spring, only one **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported this year 5/10 (PAMC). **White-throated Sparrow** was again common in May, with regular reports through 5/18 (DFa), and the final one 5/24-27 at MKF (RS). The PAMC 161 surpassed the previous high of 135 in 1999 and far exceeded the average of 43. The winter scarcity of **White-crowned Sparrow** continued, with only seven sites reporting a total of 10 birds (m.ob.). Seven of those were May migrants, the last being on 5/11 at PVP (BSw ph.). **Dark-eyed Junco** was regular through 5/2 (DA). The 13th **Summer Tanager** known in our records was at Bristol Twp. 5/10 (DFi). **Scarlet Tanager** had its second best PAMC count, with 97 compared to the average of 72. **Blue Grosbeak** was reported from five locations (DFa, MG, RS, LT, RS). The PAMC **Bobolink** total of 115 was the sum of reports from eight sites. The highest was at MKF area with 49 (RS). **Rusty Blackbird** was reported until 5/10 (DPv) in mostly low single digit counts (m.ob.). The exception was 30 at QTS 4/17 (SS). The male and female **Baltimore Orioles** that wintered in Middletown Twp. were last seen 4/28 after consuming over 160 ounces of jelly (DPe). The female was presumed to be the same one that wintered there last year and left one day earlier in 2013! The first migrants arrived 4/26 at Silver Lake Park (DFi). **Purple Finch** was all but absent. One was at Riegelsville 3/4 (DBr ph.), one was at PVP 3/11 (MH), 6 were at E. Rockhill Twp. 4/12 (VM), one was there 4/13 (VM), and one was at SGL#157 on 4/26 (DFa) for the only reports.

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#### Butler County

No compiler.

#### Cambria County

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

Waterfowl arrived later than usual at PG due to persistent ice. Perhaps the best report was of thousands of **Tundra Swans** that put down in late March into early April. This was the best showing of these birds in years. There were no reports of any unusual ducks and numbers were down. Grebes were in good numbers with **Horned Grebe** making a good showing. One **Red-necked Grebe** was seen in early April (JS). Shorebirds were rare this spring due to the high water levels at PG. **Spotted Sandpipers** put up the best numbers. Gulls and terns put on a good showing with above average numbers of **Bonaparte's Gull**, **Ring-billed Gull**, and **Herring Gull**. The highlight of the period was on 4/30 when over 175 terns were hawking insects over the lake at PG. The bulk of the group was made up of **Common** and **Forster's Terns** but at least one **Black Tern** was in the mix.

Up to 4 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at STL during late May (DG, JS). One **Common Nighthawk** was at PG 5/24 (RB).

Unusual for our area were both **Yellow-throated** and **Warbling Vireos** at PG for the PAMC (BG). **Purple Martins** returned to the gourds at PG 4/1 (JS). A small flock of **American Pipits** were at PA 4/14 (DG). Migrating warblers put on a great show perhaps due to increased detectability resulting from a lack of foliage. Every day seemed to bring different waves of birds. Nothing unusual was found but the numbers were higher. Grassland sparrows returned to their nesting areas, mostly reclaimed strip mines, in good numbers. A single **Lapland Longspur** was mixed in a huge flock of **Horned Larks** at PA (DG). **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks** were seen in average numbers. A meadowlark nest with 5 eggs was found 5/14 (DG, JS).

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#### Cameron County

No compiler.

#### Carbon County

No compiler.

#### Centre County

Locations: PSU Arboretum (ARBOR), Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor (B2BE), Black Moshannon S.P. (BMSP), Colyer L. (COL), Governor Tom Ridge Wetland Preserve (GTRWP), PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220 west of Julian (JUL), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (MMNC), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), Toffrees pond and game lands (TOF).

Data for this report were obtained primarily from the State College Bird Club listserv and eBird <ebird.org> with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010, Stone Mountain Publishing, State College, PA (B&G, 2010). The second edition of the *Sibley Guide to Birds* (2014, Knopf: New York) was also used. The following uncommon migrants were observed in at least five locations and will not be discussed further in this report: **Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Ruffed Grouse, Horned Grebe, Green Heron, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Semipalmated Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Herring Gull, Black-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Acadian Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Fish Crow, Common Raven, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martin, Cliff Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, American Pipit, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Canada Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, and Purple Finch. Three rare spring migrants were also observed in a minimum of five locations: **Snow Goose, Red-necked Grebe, and Great Egret.****

A single rare **Brant** was observed at COL 3/30 (AaL, JV). **Cackling Geese** are also rare but were reported more widely, with one ph. 3/7-14 at Johnson Rd. pond (LaS, JV, AC, DBr, BB), and up to 3 at COL 3/18-28 (AL, et al.). Another bird was ph. 3/21 at BESP (TJ, CE, BA). During bird banding at ARBOR 4/1, 4093 **Canada Geese** flew over in numerous flocks (AL, et al.). A county first **Trumpeter Swan** was ph. 5/10-25 at Curtin wetlands in the company of a **Tundra Swan** (BS, et al.). Observers suggested the two were possibly a pair. The bird bore a yellow tag labeled M05 and was believed to have been from a release program in Ontario (BS).

Although a common species, **Wood Duck** were present in uncommon numbers 3/28 at BESP, when at least 150 were present on the lake. The previous high count on eBird for the park is only 35 (AL). Several

uncommon species were also reported in limited numbers. One or 2 **Northern Shovelers** were at the Duck Pond 3/10-15 (RD, CK), and up to 12 were at BESP 3/21-4/4 (TJ, et al.). A single bird was at TOF 4/4 (AL, BeV), and as many as 5 were reported 4/5-5/2 at Curtin Wetland (AL, et al.). One **Surf Scoter** was reported 4/4-11 (JV, AL, MSa) and two were spotted 5/3-4 (AC, et al.). All observations were at BESP. Up to 6 **White-winged Scoters** were also present at BESP 3/8-20 (BSC, RD, BA) and 4/4 (CE, et al.). Up to 9 **Long-tailed Ducks** were spotted 4/4-5 at COL (JD, BSc, Rd, ApS, JV), and 4 were noted 4/5 at BMSP (DiB). A high of 41 was observed 4/4 at BESP; one to 3 were seen 3/15-4/11 at BESP (MaR, et al.). Thirty-three were present at Howard Park 4/4 (CE). March brought **Common Goldeneyes**, with half a dozen spotted 3/9 at Curtin Village and bridge (JV). One or 2 were noted 3/10 at the Duck Pond (RD, BA), and up to 17 were seen 3/12-4/4 at BESP (JeS, et al.).

S.A.

On 3/21 birders at BESP were treated to the sight of 2 **Pink-footed Geese** with a large flock of **Canada Geese** (MSa, et al.). Observers believed they were a male and female due to the noticeable size difference and a pair because they spent all their time in close proximity to one another (MSa). Many photographs were taken of these birds, which hold the distinction of being the first ever reported in *Centre*.

As many as 3 rare migrating **Red-throated Loon** were spotted 3/12-5/4 at BESP (BA, et al.). Three **American Bitterns** were noted, one each at SCO 4/4 (AL, BeV, JV), JUL 4/6 (AL, BeV, IG) and 5/7 (KE), and Curtin Wetland 4/29 (AL). The 4/4 date was five days earlier than the previous earliest eBird record (AL).

**Black Vultures** were widespread throughout most of *Centre*, including one on the Allegheny Pike along Rattlesnake Pike (AL, MM, MaR). **Osprey** were widely reported, but local birders were excited to spot a pair apparently investigating and then building a nest at BESP 4/12 through late May (MOT, AL, BS, MT). **Golden Eagles** are uncommon migrants; one was observed 3/21-23 BESP (TJ, SF); another was spotted 3/30 in Unionville (DO), and a third was seen 4/10 at COL (RD, BSc). A trio of uncommon **Rough-legged Hawks** lingered into the spring, with one each reported 3/1 at Whitehall Farms (CE), 3/2 at Musser Gap (JP), and 3/12 at Unionville (BA).

One or 2 rare **Virginia Rails** were identified 4/1-5/13 at MMNC (MSa, RD, AL, IG, JD), and up to 4 were noted 4/8-5/24 at JUL (PSU (UP) Ornithology Lab, et al.), and one was observed 5/9 at GTRWP (MaR). **Soras** are uncommon during migration and were noted at three locations. Up to 2 were heard 4/1-5/18 at JUL (JV, et al.). One was identified 4/11 at BMSP (NiB), and another was heard 5/3 at Muddy Paws Marsh (SB). A rare **Common Gallinule** was ph. at JUL 4/27-29 (NB, AL, SB); this is a casually occurring species. The 5 rare **Sandhill Cranes** reported last season in the Fairbrook Wetlands-Whitehall Rd.-Tadpole Rd. area continued through 3/25 and were ph. and admired by many (CE, et al.).

One plover and 6 sandpipers made the list this season. A rare **Black-bellied Plover** was ph. 4/30-5/10 at BESP (MeF, et al.). **Willetts** are accidental visitors, so as many as 17 at BESP 4/29-5/1 were very exciting (JD, et al.). Also on 4/30, BESP hosted a twofor on accidentals, when birders also found what appears to be a *Centre* first—a **Marbled Godwit** (SB, et al.). A rare migrating **Ruddy Turnstone** made it three rarities at BESP 4/29 (MSa, AL, IG, BeV, CE). Three other rare sandpipers were also reported. Two **Dunlin** were ph. 5/21 on Tadpole Rd. (MaR, CE, SB), and one or 2 were spotted 5/21-23 at Fairbrook Wetlands (JV, AC, BA, KE). Because of the proximity of the locations, these were probably the same two birds. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was ph. 5/10 at COL (JV, AL), and on 5/19, a **Red-necked Phalarope** was spotted at COL in a flock of **Least Sandpipers** (WL, CE, JV).

This was a good spring for accidental gulls, with three such species noted. Two **Little Gulls** were ph. at BESP 4/29 (AL, et al.). A **Franklin's Gull** was first reported by a Shaver's Creek Birding Cup team 5/3 at Curtin Wetlands, where it continued to hang out with a mixed flock of **Ring-billed Gulls** and **Bonaparte's Gulls** through 5/5 (AL, et al.). This was probably the same gull ph. 5/3-4 at BESP (CE, et al.). This was the second county record; the first Franklin's Gull in *Centre* was observed in 1983, also at BESP. Although there are single historical reports of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** in *Clinton* and *Huntingdon*, the first *Centre* record was established 3/16 at BESP, when one was ph. (BSc). Three weeks later a second was ph. at the same location 4/11 (AL, JV).

Four uncommon or rare terns were noteworthy. Up to 12 **Caspian Terns** were observed 4/11 and again 5/16 at BESP (AL, et al.), and one was also spotted 5/2 at Howard Park (AL, MM, IG, MSa). A single rare **Black Tern** was noted 4/30 at BESP (AL, MSa), and **Common Terns** were

reported there 4/11-5/3 (AL, et al.). In most cases 2-20 were spotted at one time; however, a high of 109 was reported and ph. 4/29 (CE). Up to 6 **Forster's Terns** were also present at BESP 4/27-5/1 (Bald Eagle SP eTT Data, et al.).

Since first reported in 2011, **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continue intermittently in the fields south of State College. This season one was noted 3/3 on S. Nixon Rd. (JV). Two rare **Long-eared Owls** were reported. One was heard 4/14-18 at SCO (MSa, CE), and another was located 5/2 at the Rusnak Hill reclaimed strip mine (IG, MSa). Two rare **Short-eared Owls** were also present during the spring migration. One was present 3/1-13 at Woodward Gap (JV, CE, JD), and another was ph. 3/2 on Cemetery Rd. (AL, BeV, EIG, JB, JiK). Although considered uncommon, only one **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was observed 5/2 at BMSP (AL, IG, MSa). Four **Common Nighthawks** were reported: one each at Boalsburg 5/19 (CE), Curtin Wetlands 5/22 (TS), B2BE 5/27 (JD), and State College 5/30 (CE). Two uncommon falcon species were reported. A **Merlin** was spotted 3/14 on Whitehall Rd. (JV), and another was seen 4/24 at GTRWP (DaH). Two birders observed a **Peregrine Falcon** at COL 3/15-23 (AC, RD).

A single **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was observed 5/10 at Muddy Paws Marsh (JV). This species is rarely found during the spring migration. Two uncommon **White-eyed Vireos** were reported, one 5/4 at BESP (MSa, AL, MM) and another 5/5 at ARBOR (RD). **Philadelphia Vireos** are rare spring migrants. One was observed 5/6 at SGL 92 (KD). Another was seen 5/12 at Lederer Park (CE). **Bank Swallows** are uncommon and were noted at four locations. One or 2 were seen 4/26-5/23 at COL (MaR, BA, JV, RD); the same numbers were reported 4/27-5/7 at JUL (JV, CE). Birders found up to 4 at BESP 4/29-5/5 (IG, et al.) and 2 at Duck Pond 5/11 (JoW). Two **Winter Wrens** were identified 5/2 at SCO (JC), and one rare **Marsh Wren** was ph. 5/7 at JUL (CE).

On 5/27 marauding raccoons raided 37 of 43 boxes on a bluebird trail in Sinking Creek, resulting in the loss of 25 **Eastern Bluebird** chicks, 36+ **Tree Swallow** chicks or eggs, 6 **Black-capped Chickadee** chicks and 14+ **House Wren** eggs (LR). A rare **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was spotted 5/17-18 (BA, JV). **Northern Mockingbirds** are common throughout *Centre*, except on the Allegheny Plateau, where an uncommon sighting of a single bird was made 5/26 on Steel Hollow Rd. (JV).

A total of 35 warbler species and one hybrid were reported. A **Brewster's Warbler** was on W. Gatesburg Rd. 5/3 (CE), and another was intermittently observed 5/9-30 at SCO (MaR, SB, JC). A rare **Prothonotary Warbler** was ph. at BESP 5/31 (AuC). The last record for this casually occurring species was 5/13/2004 at TOF (B&G, 2010). A very rare spring **Orange-crowned Warbler** made an appearance 4/29 at Curtin Wetland (AL). A few rare **Mourning Warblers** were also spotted, with one each at BESP 5/10 (JV), State College 5/16 (CE), and Black Moshannon IBA 5/24 (JD). Two were observed 5/24-25 at SCO (SB, MaR, JC). Some rare **Kentucky Warblers** were also reported, with one each at South Gatesburg Ridge 5/10 (JV) and ARBOR 5/17 (RR). Two vocalizing birds were ph. 5/17-18 on Steele Hollow Rd. (BA), and a single bird was observed 5/19 on W. Gatesburg Rd. (CE). A few **Cape May Warblers** were also reported. Two were observed 5/8 at ARBOR (NaW); single birds were observed at two locations in State College, one 5/8 (MMA) and another 5/13 (RC). One was heard at BESP 5/18 (NB). A handful of **Cerulean Warblers** were present, including one 4/26 at SCO (LF), and one 5/10 on Rattlesnake Pike (JV). Two were located on Steele Hollow Rd. 5/17-18 (BA, MaR), and 2 more were found 5/19 on Mountain Rd. (JB). Rare **Yellow-throated Warblers** were also present, with one or 2 ph. in Unionville 4/12-13 (DO, AL, BA, JV). Single birds were reported 4/18 and again 5/8 at ARBOR (RD), and 5/4 at COL (JWe). A singing **Yellow-breasted Chat** was spotted 5/9-10 in Pine Grove Mills (JK, JV), and another single was in State College 5/10 (JV).

Two to 5 rare **Henslow's Sparrows** were observed 5/2-30 at SGL 100 – German Settlement Grasslands (AL, et al.). A singing male **Blue Grosbeak** was at SCO 5/22-23 (PaL, JV). B&G (2010) notes that most spring records are presumably migration overshoots. This casual migrant was last reported at the Pancake strip mine near Snow Shoe in 2010. A single **Pine Siskin** was heard 5/30 in State College (CE).

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Marshall (MMA), Jackson Martini (JaM), Craig & Jean Miller (C&JM), Mark Mizak, Jane Myers, Dan Ombalski, Mark Ott (MOt), Joshua Potter, Penn State (UP) Ornithology Lab, Larry Ramsey, Matt Rockmore (MaR), Ron Rovanske, Matthew Sabatine (MSa), Matt Schenck (MSc), Brian Schmoke (BSc), Tim Schreckengost, Laura Sellers (LaS), Jerod Skebo (JeS), Bob Snyder, April Sperflage (ApS), Nick Thomas, Matthew Truesdale, Joe Verica, Ben Vizzachero (BeV), Joel Wagner (JoW), Peggy Wagoner, Drew Weber, Jessica Welch (JWe), Nathan Weyandt (NaW), Martin Wilson, Russell Winter.

### Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chambers Lake (CL), Exton Park (EP), Honey Brook Water Treatment Plant (HBWTP), Longwood Gardens (LWG), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES), Struble Lake (SL).

Winter weather lingered into spring, with few early warm fronts and excess rainfall. Most agreed that many migrant species seemed to arrive slightly later than a typical year, likely a result of few southerly fronts. The cooler temperatures stunted the leafing of fresh spring foliage, and in the end, these factors contributed to a nice showing of colorful neo-tropical migrants, and a diversity of species that was worth waiting for.

Highlights of the season were some unexpected finds, including a county first **White-faced Ibis**. Other remarkable sightings included **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, **Upland Sandpiper**, **Summer Tanager**, **Mississippi Kites**, and **Yellow-headed Blackbirds**.

**Cackling Geese** were found in scattered locations, with the last report made 3/15 (m.ob.). The wing-tagged **Trumpeter Swan** first discovered in early Jan spent much of the winter around a small flood plain of the Brandywine Creek in Chadds Ford. Many were able to view the bird through 4/17 (m.ob.). Dabbling duck numbers were fair in spring, registering high counts of **Gadwall** at 18 on 3/18 (LW), **54 American Wigeon** 3/22 (HM), and ample collections of **Northern Pintail** in various locations in the county, including: 250 in a flood plain in Northbrook 3/11 (KN), 222 in a flooded horse pasture in Northbrook 3/12 (HM) and 186 at SL 3/20 (NP). A solo **Canvasback** was found on a farm pond in Cochranville 3/19 (MG), and 2 **Canvasback** made appearances on CL 3/23-29 (m.ob.). Another was found at HBWTP 3/19 (LW, m.ob.). **Redheads** made a good showing in the region during winter and continued through 3/27 (KN), with a peak of 11 at Wedgewood Pond 3/18 (LW). Two **Greater Scaup** spent time at Somerset L. 3/2-16 (m.ob.), and another was seen at HBWTP 4/6 (MC). Numbers of **Lesser Scaup** spiked to 15 on SL 4/5 (AL, MD). A report of 13 **Common Goldeneye** came from Somerset L. 3/1 (EB). There were multiple reports of **Red-breasted Merganser**, with the high count and last date coinciding in one report of 5 at MCSP 4/9 (LP).

**Wild Turkeys** were seen mostly in the northern portion of the county, but a report of 9 in the Unionville area was notable (KH). Often found in larger concentrations on area lakes in spring, **Common Loons** were not seen in abundance this season. Several were detected overhead in migration or on area lakes (m.ob.). The last loon was at CL 5/29 (RR). A high count of 11 **Horned Grebes** came from SL 4/2 (NP). The species was last reported 4/15 (BQ). After the remarkable winter showing of **Red-necked Grebes** in the region, spring followed in-trend with reports around the county through 3/29, where they were last seen at Atwater Quarry, a favored location for this species through both winter and spring (m.ob.).

During a marsh bird survey 4/26 on private property in northern Chester, an **American Bittern** was encountered (MG). A favored wetland for American Bitterns passing through the county is within EP, and this spring, the "big bitterns" were encountered on multiple occasions, beginning 4/28 and curiously, through 5/31 (BQ, m.ob.). Since American Bitterns are typically not encountered past mid-May, the later date was intriguing, and raised questions of possible breeding at this site. This species has very few breeding records in the county, historically. A new **Great Blue Heron** rookery was discovered at Hanson Quarry in Downingtown, where at least five nests appeared to be active this spring (HM). According to the quarry manager, this is the first season the herons have nested around the quarry. Other rookeries in the county have grown, especially one on Strasburg Rd. The spring saw fewer reports of **Great Egret** than typical, with sightings mostly reported from EP and BCP (m.ob.). A subadult **Little Blue Heron** was spotted in a flooded horse pasture in the Northbrook area 5/21 (HM). There were 3 encounters with **Black-crowned Night-Herons** in spring: 4/28 at Black Rock (RK), 5/8 at EP (GT, KCA), and 5/22 at Octorara Res. Chester waters (PM). Remarkable was a lone **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** that appeared in a well-manicured backyard in East Marlborough Twp. 47-12 (JB). According to the homeowner, the Night-Heron would appear in the afternoon and forage for earthworms in her flooded yard.

Photos confirmed an adult. This species is rare in Chester, and the location quite unexpected!

An astounding 43 **Glossy Ibis** spent the day in a flooded cow pasture in Doe Run 5/20 (IG, KF, AG, AL, PM). This number is likely a new high count for the county. Typically, singles or just a few individuals are seen, so a flock this large stirred a bit of excitement. Of course, when encountering a flock this big, one must be sure to look for the one that may be a bit different than the others.

### S.A.

What certainly was the find of the season, was what appeared to be a great candidate for **White-faced Ibis** among the collection of glossies that landed in Doe Run 5/20 (PM). This ibis was discovered after viewing digital images, when the distinctive facial coloration and red eye were found on one individual in the group. Unfortunately, the flock of ibis departed the location before the discovery was made. If accepted by the records committee, this will mark the third state record for this species.

Now becoming one of the most reliable locations for spotting a **Mississippi Kite** in Pennsylvania in spring, BCP again this year was the place to try one's luck for a kite. During the 2014 "Kite and Shorebird Watch" hosted by LL, sightings of Mississippi Kite were made 5/16, 5/17, and 5/26 (LL, m.ob.). All three observations were of subadults. The pair of **Bald Eagles** at Apple Cross Golf Course Community in Gurthriessville successfully fledged one eaglet this spring (GT, m.ob.). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted in the Cochranville area 4/6 (MG).

**Virginia Rails** were detected in area wetlands throughout the period, with lingering birds in areas where the species is presumed to be breeding (m.ob.). Reports of **Sora** mostly came from EP, but there were two found in other locations: one at Hibernia Park 5/5 (RR), and another 5/10 on a private property northern Chester (MC). An exciting discovery was 2 **Common Gallinules** seen swimming in a pond at ChesLen Preserve 5/8 (JM).

The annual "Kite and Shorebird Watch" at BCP allowed birders to witness migration in action as shorebirds winged their way to northern breeding grounds. A group of 45 **Black-bellied Plovers** dodged regional storms 5/22, and flew over the watch (LL). Another 67 were tallied the following day (LL). Small groups of **Semipalmated Plovers** were found foraging wet areas in the county on a few occasions this spring. A group of 3 were seen in a flooded horse pasture in Northbrook 5/16 (HM), 5 were seen at OCTRES 5/24 (PM), and 2 in the same spot 5/25 (PM). Another group of 4 flew over the shorebird watch at BCP 5/22 (LL). An **Upland Sandpiper**, rare in Chester, was spotted perched on a telephone wire in Doe Run 5/4 (AL), but only made a brief appearance before flying deep into the tall grasses, not to be detected again. This species likely nested in this very location historically, before its extirpation as a breeding bird in Chester. Exciting was the sight of 7 **Ruddy Turnstones** in flight over BCP 5/22 (LL). Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were reported from a flooded field in Kennett Square 5/10 (PM). Also on this date and in the same location was a **Pectoral Sandpiper** (PM). A **Dunlin** was spotted from a kayak at OCTRES 5/24 (PM). Another Dunlin dressed in striking breeding plumage was found on the pond's edge on Wilson Rd 5/30 (BQ, m.ob.).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** made multiple appearances at area lakes and ponds this spring, with a noteworthy high count of 103 made at MCSP during a storm 4/7 (HM). A first-cycle **Iceland Gull** was picked out among the throngs of gulls in a field near South Eastern Chester County Refuse Authority 3/1 (KN). Two more Iceland Gulls were found in the Honey Brook area foraging in Amish farm fields 4/5 (AL). Multiple reports of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** came from various locations where gulls collect, and continued through 4/5 (m.ob.). There was only a single report of a **Caspian Tern**, from CL 5/1 (RR). A **Common Tern** was a surprising sight at MCSP 4/7, since this species is not commonly found without a strong easterly storm (HM, m.ob.).

A surprising find 5/21 was a **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, a species that has not been reported in the county in several years (IG, KF). The dove was discovered walking around feedlots on a private property in the Doe Run area, with origins unknown. Multiple reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** were made this spring. This species occasionally goes without detection in spring in Chester. Reports came from EP, Crow's Nest Preserve (GT, SM), and Nottingham CP (HM, BK). Two other reports were from private residences (AL, RB). A roosting **Common Nighthawk** at EP 5/17 was a nice find, since this species much more easily detected in flight (BQ, BR). Other reports were of aerial nighthawks, including a high count of 6 from Binky Lee Preserve 5/24 (HM). A singing **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was a delight heard from within an Easttown yard 5/4 and 5/5 (AC). It was presumed that this

was a migrant and not reported thereafter. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continued to put on a show for birders visiting Crow's Nest Preserve, and were reported from there through 5/12 (GT, m.ob.). Other reports of this species came from Chrome Barrens Preserve, where multiple birds were observed through 5/4 (KS). A single Red-headed Woodpecker was seen at Stroud Preserve 5/18 (KDb). A Honey Brook yard hosted Red-headed Woodpeckers through 5/24, bringing excitement for the family of birders residing there (LW).

Individual **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen at BCP 5/22 and 5/26 (LL, m.ob.). Another was at Westtown School 5/25 (TS). A report of a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** discovered at Nottingham CP 5/31 was the only one of this rare spring migrant (BK). Another noteworthy flycatcher seen that date and location was an **Alder Flycatcher** (BK). There were multiple encounters with **Least Flycatchers** around the county, including one that was banded at Rushton Farm 5/7 (DM, WS). The rash of sightings of **Common Raven** in *Chester* increased this spring, with reports concentrated around the Exton and Downingtown areas. Exciting was news of a nest from within the Hanson Quarry in Downingtown. Successful nesting was confirmed when two raven chicks were found in the nest 5/21 (BB, HM). This marked the first-ever documented breeding of ravens in *Chester*.

An early **Purple Martin** was spotted in flight over Chrome Barrens Preserve 3/22 (HM, KS). **Bank Swallows** were reported only three times in spring: 4/29 at MCSP (HM), 5/20 at CL (BQ), and 5/30 at CL (RR). Similarly, **Cliff Swallows** were reported on 3 occasions: 4/23 at CL (RR), 5/5 at Taylor Run Bridge (NP), and 5/6 at EP (BB). There were very few reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** during winter, and the trend continued into spring. One frequented a feeder in Wayne through 5/4 (BE). Nottingham CP hosted up to 2, reported 4/1 (NP), and 4/12 (CG). A **Marsh Wren** was detected at ChesLen Preserve 5/8, and was the only report of this species during spring (JMcn). There were multiple reports of encounters with **Gray-cheeked Thrush** around the county, including one banded at Rushton Farm 5/14 (AD), and 2 found at Hibernia CP 5/22 (NP). There were many reports of **Swainson's Thrush** throughout the county, while the high count was of 3 in Avondale 5/22 (WBH).

It was a good spring for warbler watching, with 32 species and one hybrid seen in *Chester*. **Worm-eating Warblers** are low-density breeding birds in the county, but were encountered as migrants, and on breeding territories, repeatedly from several sites, including: Rushton Farm, Springlawn Trail, Pickering Trail, and Harmony Hill Nature Area (m.ob.). It was another good spring for **Northern Waterthrush** sightings, with widespread sightings (m.ob.). A good high count was of 6 encountered at EP 5/11 (NP). A **Lawrence's Warbler** was reported from Westtown Lake 5/1 (MD). A good find was 3 **Prothonotary Warblers** along the Springlawn Trail 5/1 (MG). Another Prothonotary was found along the Pickering Trail 5/2 (AL, BQ). This species historically nested in *Chester*, but evidence of breeding has not been detected in nearly a decade. **Tennessee Warblers** were found in only two locations this spring: Coventry Woods 5/11, 5/18, 5/21 (VS, PW), and LWG 5/12, 5/15, 5/18 (CM). There was a nice flight of **Nashville Warblers** 5/1-24 (m.ob.). A second year male **Mourning Warbler** was captured in the mist nets at the Rushton Farm Banding Station 5/14 (DM, et al.). This marked the only report of this species in the county for spring. There was an uptick in spring reports of **Cape May Warblers** this year, by comparison to other recent years. Eight encounters were reported, with 2 individuals present at Jenkins Arboretum 5/10 (MH), and 5/18 at LWG (CM). This was a promising sign of an increasing population of this species, as similar trends have been noted during fall migration. Another boreal nesting bird that is showing an upswing in reports in our region during migration is the **Bay-breasted Warbler**. There were 8 reports of this species, with a notable high count made 5/18 at LWG (CM, RM). **Yellow-throated Warblers** are low-density breeding birds in *Chester*, and returned to Kerr Park in late Apr, a known breeding site in Downingtown (HM, NP). Other reports of this species were from Hibernia CP 4/22 (RR), Avondale 5/2 (WBH) and Struble Trail 5/9 (HM, LW). There were multiple observations of **Wilson's Warblers**, an uncommon migrant, with a noteworthy high count of 3 singing males seen at Hibernia CP 5/3 (RR). The **Yellow-breasted Chat** is locally common in the Serpentine Barrens region of SW *Chester*, and can be found in good numbers there with some effort. Nottingham CP is one such location, where a high count of 9 was noted 5/24 (HM, TR). Other observations away from Nottingham came from Mill Race Trail 5/2 (WBH), MCSP 5/10 (BB), Pickering Creek (LT, MH), and Harmony Hill 5/15 (AS).

The **Lincoln's Sparrow** is less commonly encountered in spring than in fall, but this spring yielded more reports of this sparrow in *Chester* and regionally. One was seen at Hibernia CP 5/5 (RR), another was captured in the nets at Rushton Farm Banding Station 5/9 (DM, et al), and one was located along the Springlawn Trail 5/18 (JS). A brilliant red surprise was a male **Summer Tanager** at Rushton Farm 5/3 (AL). This represented the first record in several years. A reliable location to find a **Blue Grosbeak** in *Chester* is BCP, where again this spring at least one pair returned by 5/23,

but it was suspected that there may have been multiple pairs on territory within the preserve. A yard near Landenberg also hosted two frequenting a feeder 5/1-9 (AM). A good find was a **Dickcissel** singing on private property in Doe Run 5/24 (KF). Four more were reported in the same vicinity 5/30 (AL, BQ). Confirmation of breeding of this species in *Chester* has not occurred, but this region, rich in quality grassland habitat, certainly makes it a possibility. Cochranville is an area known for its impressive blackbird flocks, with many open fields for ground foraging, and this spring, a lucky birder picked out two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds**. An adult male was spotted 3/19 in a field among a large mixed icterid flock in. Another visited a backyard feeder not far from there 3/26 (MG). **Rusty Blackbirds**, a species in population decline throughout its range, were encountered at several spots, including at EP 4/10 (m.ob.), and repeatedly from Westtown School 4/3-5/2 (m.ob.). Others were seen at: Ashbridge Preserve 4/11 (AL), BCP 4/13 (m.ob.) and Pickering Creek Trail 5/2 (AL, BQ).

Numbers of winter finches were down in fall and winter, and into the spring. **Purple Finches** were reported only twice during spring, and both reported observations were of males visiting feeding stations: one 4/5 in Downingtown (HM), and another 4/28 in Frazer (BQ).

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#### Clarion County

No report.

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#### Clearfield County

Locations: Beaver Meadow Walkway (BMW), Dubois area (DB), La Jose (LJ), Westover (WST).

**Canvasback, Blue-winged Teal, Long-tailed duck, Surf Scoter, Red-throated Loon, and Red-necked Grebe** were at Dubois Reservoir 4/11 (DR). **Great Blue Herons** returned to the colony at WST and were being harassed by an adult **Bald Eagle** 4/22 (DG). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was at LJ 3/23 (DG). A **Virginia Rail** was at Beaver Meadow Walkway (DR). Gulls and terns included **Bonaparte's Gull** and **Caspian, Common, and Forster's Terns** at DB 4/11 (DR).

A lone **Northern Shrike** was at DB 4/11 (DR). A **Common Nighthawk** was at WST 5/25 (DG). A **Warbling Vireo** was at BMW 4/11 (DR). A **Fish Crow** was seen in Clearfield 4/21 (DR). **Marsh and Winter Wrens** were seen at DB 4/21 (DR). The warbler migration was good with the usual species being seen. A **Northern Waterthrush** was at BMW (DR). **Bobolinks** were seen at BMW in late April (DR).

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#### Clinton County

Locations: Lock Haven (LH), Mill Hall (MH), and Susquehanna River (SR).

Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on the SR at LH 5/10 (JB). At a pond in the MH area, one **Red-throated Loon** was reported 3/26 (MA). Two **Black Vultures** were in the MH area 5/10 (MA). The resident pair of **Peregrine Falcons** inexplicably relocated their nest site in early spring to the Rt. 220 bridge on the SR east of McElhatten (m.ob). The nest failed apparently due to the falcons' choice of a location that allowed for excessive rain and dampness. This is the first nest failure of this pair since they were first discovered nesting in 2008 at the McElhatten Avenue SR bridge, which

is west of this season's site. A shorebird fallout along River Rd. near LH 5/25 and 5/26 produced one **Red-necked Phalarope** 5/25 (LMS) and a **Black-billed Plover**, **Least Sandpipers**, and **Semipalmated Plovers** 5/26 (CCH). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was in the MH area 5/10 (MA).

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### Columbia County

No compiler.

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### Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Conneaut Marsh (CM), Custards (CUST), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), Fish Hatchery (FH), Ford Island (FI), Geneva (GEN), Jamestown State Park (JSP), Linesville (LINE), McMichael Road (McM), Meadville (MEAD), Pymatuning (PYM), Pymatuning Area (PA), Pymatuning Causeway (PC), Pymatuning Goose Management Area (PGMA), Pymatuning Spillway (PS), Springboro (SPR), Sugar Lake (SL), Tamarack Lake (TL), Woodcock Lake (WL).

A white morph **Snow Goose** and a blue morph **Snow Goose** were noted at McM 3/15 (SC). **Tundra Swans** made a better than usual appearance with 2566 at CM and PYM 3/15 (RFL, IF). They were noted often 3/12-5/18 with over 500 birds present many times (m.ob.). Almost all the usual ducks were noted in fair to good numbers. Some top counts were 850 **Northern Pintail** at TL 4/6 (RFL, IF), 100 **Wood Duck** at McM 3/15 (SC), 1578 **Redhead** at CL and PC 3/29 (RFL, IF), 1500 **Canvasback** at CL and PYM 3/29 (RFL, IF), 1531 **Ring-necked Duck** at CM and PYM 4/6 (RFL, IF), and single **Surf Scoters** at PC 3/16 (RFL) and CL 3/18 (SC).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was found at ENWR 5/16 (SC) and one was heard drumming at McM 5/18 (RFL). A nice total of 64 **Wild Turkey** were studied at Porter Road near CL 3/8 (RFL). The total of 14 **Common Loons** at area lakes 4/5 (SC) was the lowest high total in several years. A good find was 3 **Red-necked Grebes** at the PC 3/9 (SC) and one to 2 were noted at PS, FH and CL 3/23-5/18 (TCN, MV, RFL). The top count of **Horned Grebe** for the season was 60 on 3/29 (RFL, IF). **Pied-billed Grebe** was found in usual numbers throughout this period (m.ob). **Double-crested Cormorants** were present all period with top count of 663 birds seen at PS 5/3 (RFL).

**American Bitterns** at McM 5/24 (KV) and 5/28 (GK, MAK) were excellent. Lone **Great Egrets** were sighted 4/6 and 4/9 at GEN (RFL, IF), 4/19 at FH (SC), and near Mt. Hope and SL Road 4/21 (RE). Two were at FH 4/15 (TCN). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found at Blair Bridge Road 5/3 (RFL).

The first **Turkey Vultures** were noted 3/9 near SPR (TCN). Thirty were tallied 4/12 in western *Crawford* (RFL, IF). Lone **Northern Harriers** were seen 3/16 at PGMA 3/22, and 4/2, 4/5, and 4/6 at CM and SL (SC, RE, IF, RFL). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen near MEAD at Krider Road 5/3 (RFL). **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen until 4/6 at PGMA, CL and SL (m.ob). An immature **Golden Eagle** was reported at Dutch Hill near CM 3/16 (RFL) and one was at PGMA 4/12 (RFL, IF). **Bald Eagles** were noted as usual all period with a one day high count of 22 on 4/6 (RFL, IF). **Osprey** again nested at WL, where there are two nests, first seen 4/6 (m.ob). They were also seen at PYM (SC, RFL, SC, IF, MV).

A **King Rail** was reported at CM 4/19 (DI). A total of 5 **Virginia Rails** were reported at McM 4/12, 4/27, 5/1, and 5/24 (RFL, IF, SC, GK, MAK). Up to 10 **Soras** were seen and heard at McM 5/2 (SC). A pair of **Common Gallinules** were seen at G 4/27 (RFL) and 4 were there 5/4 (SC). Top count of **Sandhill Cranes** was 15 at GEN 3/15 (SC).

A nice find were 5 **Black-billed Plovers** at Miller Ponds, PGMA 5/23 (MS). Top count of **Semipalmated Plover** was 17 at PGMA 5/16 (MV). Also 17 were there 5/21 (MV). Two **Upland Sandpipers** were at PGMA 4/23 (SC); lone birds were seen there 5/2-18 (m.ob.). The top count of **Greater Yellowlegs** was 200 at PGMA 4/27 (RFL, IF), along with 104 **Lesser Yellowlegs** (RFL, IF). Two **Willetts** were found at PGMA 4/30 (SC). A total of 120 **Least Sandpipers** were reported 5/23 at PGMA (MS). A rare spring **Stilt Sandpiper** was at the PGMA 5/24 (MV). The only reported **American Woodcock** were 3 noted near SPR 4/7 (TCN). Two **Red-necked Phalaropes** were found at PGMA 5/16 (MV) and one was there 5/18 (MV).

A total of 14 **Herring Gulls** were in normal numbers. A fair number of **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen mainly at JSP 3/15 with 3335 birds (RFL, IF). An adult **Laughing Gull** was studied at PC marina near Espyville 5/31 (RFL, IF). The reports of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were rather sparse with 297 the highest total in the PA 4/6 (RFL, IF). Up to 22 **Caspian Terns** were

found in the PA 4/8-30 (SC, RFL, IF, TCN). Lone **Forster's Terns** were spotted at PC, PS and WL 4/12-5/31 (MJ, SC, RFL, IF). Three **Common Terns** were noted at SPR 5/18 (TCN) 5/18.

Lone **Barred Owls** were found at ENWR (RFL, IF) 4/9 and near M 5/10 and 5/24 (RFL). One **Great Horned Owl** was seen on a nest at SPR 4/1 (TCN) and one was at PGMA 4/27 (RFL). A lingering **Snowy Owl** was last seen at the PC 3/18 (BK, BrK). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was seen 5/18 at CUST (SC), 5/28 at GEN (SC) and one was near GEN 5/28 (RFL, IF). Lone **Black-billed Cuckoo** were noted at CM 5/18, 5/24, and 5/31 (RFL, IF, SC, GK, MAK). One to 3 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were recorded on 11 different days 4/6-5/24 at FI, McM and GEN (m.ob.). Four **Common Nighthawk** were found at WL 5/19 (TCN).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was near PGMA 5/19 (MS). All other flycatchers were recorded in normal numbers. Single **Northern Shrikes** were at SPR 3/2 (TCN), and near Mt. Hope east of M 3/8 (RFL). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen 5/9 at McM and one was at WL 5/18 (RFL). One to 2 **Common Ravens** were noted 3/19-5/29 northeast of SL (RE). **Purple Martin** returned in good numbers with two the first noted at FI 4/6 (RFL, IF) and 151 counted in western *Crawford* 5/24 (RFL, IF). Swallows seemed down for the most part.

Lone **Winter Wren** were noted 3/8 at Towpath Rd. CM (RFL) and near SL 4/18 (RE). One to 3 **Marsh Wrens** were found at GEN and McM 5/4-31 (TCN, RFL, BG, JG, SC). **Brown Creepers** were thought to be nesting near the bridge on McM but were not found after 5/24 (GK, MAK). A few **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were noted at ENWR, McM, TL and WL 4/6-19 (SC, RFL, IF). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were noted 4/19 with 10 at WL (SC) and 3 at Towpath Rd. (RFL, IF). Seven **Wood Thrushes** were recorded at CM 5/31 (RFL, IF). An early **Veery** was seen at ENWR 4/19 (RFL, IF) and single birds were noted though 5/24 at CM (SC, GK, MAK, RFL, IF). The only reported **Swainson's Thrush** was one at TL 5/10 (RFL, IF). A **Hermit Thrush** was noted at ENWR 4/19, 5 were at WL 4/19, one at Mt. Pleasant 4/27, and was one at WL 4/13 (SC). Two **American Pipits** were found at Marsh Rd. CM (RFL, IF) and 4 were near SL 5/16 (RE). **Snow Bunting** remained at the PC until 3/23 in small numbers (TCN, RFL, IF, BG, JG).

**Prothonotary Warblers** were well recorded at CM with up to five seen 5/10-28 at CUST, GEN, and McM (m.ob). A rarely reported **Worm-eating Warbler** was noted at WL 5/16 (SC). Other warblers recorded included **Blue-winged**, **Black-and-white**, **Nashville**, **Tennessee**, **Northern Parula**, **Cape May**, **Yellow**, **Black-throated Blue**, **Yellow-rumped**, **Magnolia**, **Cerulean**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Bay-breasted**, **Blackpoll**, **Blackburnian**, **Black-throated Green**, **Pine**, **Palm**, **Ovenbird**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Mourning**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded**, **Wilson's**, and **American Redstart**.

A **Summer Tanager** was found at a feeder in Rundell 5/18 (AT *fide* TCN). The last **American Tree Sparrow** was noted at McM 4/19. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at WL 5/9 (RFL). **Fox Sparrow** reports included one at TL 3/16 (RFL), 2 near SL 3/23 (RE), 2 at ENWR 3/31, and 8 at WL 4/19 (SC). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** returned 4/27 with one at CM, 2 at FI (RFL, IF), and one at CUST (SC).

**Bobolinks** were recorded on five days 5/10-31. Two were at CM 5/10 (RFL, JB, IF), 11 were at PYM (RFL, IF) and 10 at ENWR 5/16. The top **Rusty Blackbird** report was of 54 at GEN and 64 at McM for a total of 108 on 4/6 (RFL, IF). They were recorded on 19 different days 3/15-5/4 (m.ob).

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### Cumberland County

Locations: Boiling Springs Children's Pond (BSCP), Conodoguinet Creek (CC), Huntsdale Hidden Pond (HHP), Mud Level Road (MLR), Mountain Road Marsh (MRM), Opossum Lake (OL), State Game Lands 169 (SGL 169), State Game Lands 230 (SGL 230).

This spring was colder than usual following the long cold winter reluctantly turning into spring, but the period will be remembered for a colorful bird from southern climes.

Waterfowl of interest included one **Cackling Goose** at HHP 3/18 (VG) and 3 **Greater White-fronted Geese** flying in with a flock of **Canada Geese** at BSCP 3/9 (MR). One **Canvasback** was reported on Kuhn's Lake 3/17-22 (MW, AnM, VG). Up to 4 **Redhead** were reported at BSCP through 3/9 (DK, EB, DN) and another 3 were reported at Kuhn Lake 3/22 (VG, AnM). Two **Common Goldeneye** were on the CC near Meadowbrook Gourds 3/1 (JM).

**Rudy Ducks** were reported in the following places: 2 at BSCP 3/9 (EB), one on the Big Spring 3/17 (MW), one on the kettle ponds on Stamy Road Newville 3/19 (VG) and one on OL 3/28 (VG), with another 2 at the same location 5/16 (DK).

With the filling of Opossum Lake, one to 4 **Common Loons** were reported there 4/2-5/21 (m. ob.). **Cumberland** got in on the **Red-necked Grebe** invasion with 2 on the CC at SGL 169 3/9 (JM), 4 at the mouth of the CC at West Fairview 3/15-18 (m. ob.), one on the CC near Cabin Road SGL 169 on 3/22 (VG) and one on a small farm pond on Shank Road, Penn Township 3/25 (VG). In April one was reported at Kuhn Lake 4/4 (VG) and one was even reported in May at OL 5/16-17 (DK).

An early **American Bittern** was reported on the Big Spring 3/27-28 (BG, BG, VG, PB) followed by reports of a single bird at SGL 169 on 4/5 (VG, AnM, CK, SS, KS, LW), 4/26-27 (VG, MW), and 5/11 (MW). There was one report of **Least Bittern** at SGL 169 at the MRM 5/30 (VG). One adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was reported on the Tichy Park Ponds in Mount Holly 5/17-23 (AK, m. ob.). Of course the reason that this Night-Heron was found had everything to do with the number of people who came to see the county first record **Purple Gallinule** at the same location. It was found 5/10 and last reported 5/22 (MM, PB, m.ob.). There was also a report of a **Common Gallinule** at the SGL 169 MRM 4/25 and 4/29 (LG, VG) and of 2 **Sandhill Cranes** flying back and forth from the SGL 169 propagation pond area on Bridgewater Road from approximately the third week of April and the first week of May. The birds were also seen not far from there 4/20-24 (JM). Six **Glossy Ibis** were off of Rte. 997 on Lakeview Drive 4/26 (GF).

An extraordinary kettle of raptors over a private residence in Lower Frankford Twp. 4/1 included an adult **Bald Eagle**, an **Osprey**, a **Cooper's Hawk**, a **Red-tailed Hawk**, and a **Mississippi Kite** (RF). The observer assured me this was no April Fools joke despite the date.

It was a decent period for shorebirds with 19 species reported mostly due to a good amount of rain late in the period that flooded fields. There were 11 **Black-bellied Plovers** at MLR 5/16 and 7 on 5/22 (VG). **Semipalmated Plovers** were also reported at MLR 5/16-24 with a high of 25 reported 5/17 (VG). Horner's Road also had reports of **Semipalmated Plovers** 5/10-20 with 19 being the high count at that location (GD). A rare find for **Cumberland**, one **Willet** was reported at St. Patrick's School in Carlisle 5/15-16 (MK, PB, VG). Two **Dunlin** were reported at MLR 5/16-17 (VG). One **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at Horner's Road 5/18-23 (RK, AnM, GD, VG, PB) and 3 more at MLR 5/22 (VG). One **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at MLR 4/20 (VG) and Horner's Road 5/10 (RK). One male **Wilson's Phalarope** was at Horner's Road 5/16-17 (PB, VG, SS, MW).

Up to 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and 2 **Iceland Gulls** were found at the Cumberland County Landfill 3/8-10 (AM, VG). Ten **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported at OL 4/2 (JS), 2 were reported at Horner's Road 4/5 (VG), and between one and 5 were seen 5/7-11 (PB, MW, HW, VG) and yet one other at MLR 5/16 (AM, VG). There was also one **Laughing Gull** at MLR 5/16 (VG, AM). Two **Caspian Terns** were at MLR 5/1 (DK).

In an interesting development, 4 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were reported at the intersection of Rte. 997 and Center and Meadows Roads 5/10-27 (AnM, SS, KK, VG, PB). This site is only a little over a mile from the location where 4 were reported in 2013. No sign of a nest or breeding was found by seasons end. One **Barn Owl** was reported at the SGL 169 barn 3/28 (VG). One **Merlin** was at the MRM SGL 169 on 3/23 (VG).

There were no reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher or Yellow-bellied Flycatcher for the period. There were, however, several reports of **Least Flycatcher** as follows: 2 birds at the West Fairview Boat Launch trail 5/3 (PB, CM, MM), 3 individuals at SGL 230 on 5/4 (RK, SS, PL, AnM) and one other at the same location 5/13 (RK, AnM), one at Meadows Road 5/6 (VG), one at Annette's Clear Cut 5/8 (VG), and one individual 5/10 at SGL 169 MRM (AMc) and at Grahams Wood Road (RF). The one report of **Philadelphia Vireo** came from SGL 230 on 5/4 (PL, RK). There was one **Cliff Swallow** at SGL 169 Cabin Road 4/17 (VG) and 2 **Bank Swallows** were at Horner's Road 5/18 (RK, AnM). There was also one **Marsh Wren** reported at SGL 169 MRM 5/1 (VG) and 5/10 (AMc) and one seen at Sheaffer Road Mechanicsburg 5/10 (EB).

Of the less common warblers, migrants included one **Orange-crowned Warbler** at the West Fairview Boat Launch trail 4/26 (RK) and another at Pine Grove Furnace State Park 5/10 (VG). **Golden-winged Warbler** was reported at SGL 230 on 5/4 (PL, RK, AnM, SS) and the only **Mourning Warbler** from the Mount Holly Marsh Preserve 5/20 (GD). Camp Michaux saw the return of at least 2 male **Kentucky Warblers** with a number of reports of one to 2 birds present 5/9-26 (VG, CK, RK, PB, SW).

**Blue Grosbeaks** were again found in the Rock Run / Hunter's Road area with a pair reported at the intersection of the two roads 5/10 (RF). One male was at the same location 5/26 (VG) and again 5/30 (PB, CM, MM). There was also one male at the corner of Rock Run and Buttermilk Roads 5/26 (VG). **Dickcissels** made an appearance near the end of the period on Center Road about a half mile south of the intersection with Rte. 997. One

female and 2 males were seen 5/27 (VG) and one male was singing 5/30 (PB, CM, MM). Up to 11 **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported at HHP 3/15-4/26 (VG, m. ob.), and up to 9 where reported 3/14-4/10 at SGL 169 MRM (VG, m. ob.). Ten were at the Big Spring 4/5 (CK).

Reports of finches were scarce. Two **Purple Finches** were at 13 N. Letort Drive in Middlesex Township 3/14 (HW), one was on Fern Ave. in Carlisle 4/8 and 4/12 (SS), and one on Meadows Road 4/12 (VG). The only report of **Pine Siskins** were 2 individuals seen at 13 N. Letort Drive in Middlesex Township 3/8 (HW).

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## Dauphin County

Locations: Boyd Big Tree Preserve (BBTP), Blue Mountain (BMT), Hershey(HER), Haldeman Island (HI), Hershey Important Bird Area # 45 (HIBA), Harrisburg (HGB), Hummel Nature Trail (HNT), Highspire Reservoir/Lisa Lake (HRL), Hummelstown (HUM), Milton S. Hershey School campus (MSH), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR at Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR from Harrisburg (SRHB), SR from Marysville (SRMV), SR at Middletown/Royalton (SRMR), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Three Mile Island (TMI), Wildwood Lake (WL).

**Snow Geese** were on the move in the first half of April. A few hundred were counted on both 3/1 and 3/6 over Gates Rd., HER (AB), and as many as 700 hundred settled into the fields along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA 3/13 (TJ, CKo). Arguably the best find on this year's Penn State Ornithology Lab field trip to HI was a **Ross's Goose** 3/22 (MB, IG, AL, et al.). A single **Mute Swan** was reported SRMV 3/7 (RK) and again 3/11 (P&RW). Two were found 3/29 at WL (JF). A lone **Trumpeter Swan** was observed and photographed in the HIBA 4/6 (P&RW). **Tundra Swans** were reported from the second week of March through the second week of April (m. ob.) with the highest counts coming the third week of March. On 3/18, 250 were observed in Swatara Twp. (LU), on 3/22, 325 were counted flying over SHT in multiple flights (P&RW), and also on 3/22, 180 were noted SRMV (RK).

Dabblers started to return to WL the second week of March as the long winter's ice began to melt. **Wood Duck**, **American Black Duck**, **Gadwall** and **Northern Pintail** were among the species reported 3/8 (CKf, et al.) **Green-winged Teal** was first noted 3/10 (EB). The PSOL field trip to HI 3/22 had some of this season's highest counts including 70 **American Wigeon**, 135 **Northern Pintail**, 12 **Canvasbacks**, and more than 200 **Ring-necked Ducks** (MB, et al.).

## S.A.

Certainly the highlight of the season was a drake **Cinnamon Teal** found at SRWF 3/19 (B&BN) and relocated the following day (SD). Photos were provided by both observers. Although many birders searched both the east and west shores of the SR it could not be located for nearly two weeks. Finally, it was found again 4/1 along the Wormleysburg waterfront (CM, MM). During the weekend of 4/5-6 many birders were able to observe the bird from McCormick's Island south to the Harvey Taylor Bridge along Front St. in HBG (m.ob.). The last sighting came 4/13 SRWF (TJ). From its initial observation 3/19 it was always in the company of one or two pair of **Blue-winged Teal**. Pending PORC approval, this represented the first record of Cinnamon Teal for the county.

**White-winged Scoter**, fairly common this winter, continued to be reported through mid-April from Clark's Ferry south to the PennDOT building at the Rte. 83 bridge with a high count of four at the latter location 3/8 (CKf, et al.). The only **Surf Scoter** was at SRHB 4/6 (TJ). **Long-tailed Duck** was also fairly common along the SR through March to mid-April. Most reports came from SRMV and SRWF with the high count of 16 at SRWF 4/4 (RK). The last report was of a pair at SRWF 4/15 (AL). Although **Common Mergansers** are not uncommon during the spring season, the discovery of a female with thirteen chicks at the Canal Lock boat launch near Royalton 5/10 was noteworthy (PF, CM).

The first **Common Loon** was reported 3/17 at SRWF (MW) and many reports followed through the rest of March and all of April (m. ob.). Three were still present 5/11 at SRWF (RK, AM). There were only two observations of **Red-throated Loon** this season, one from SRFH 3/22 (JDr) and one 4/3 SRMR (P&RW).

With the 90% freeze of the Great Lakes, the **Red-necked Grebe** irruption, which began in our county in mid-February, continued to increase through March and early April. Multiple birds, often a half dozen or more, were reported from Clark's Ferry, SRFH, SRMV, SRWF, SRMR and other locations (m.ob.). The highest count from any location occurred 4/3 SRMV when 21 were tallied (EB). The last sighting of **Red-necked Grebe** was 4/25 when one remained at SRMR (JC, P&RW). This year's showing did not quite reach the heights of the 2003 irruption, but it was impressive nonetheless. The first **Double-crested Cormorant** of the season was reported 3/14 SRWF (SW). The annual Wade Island Nest Survey conducted by the PGC noted a continued decline in the number nests. This year 103 were counted, down from 162 last year and from the high of 188 in 2012 (PB, DB).

There were two reports of **American Bittern**. The first was in the HIBA 4/5 (CBo) and the second was in a flooded field along Sandbeach Rd. just north of the Swatara Creek and just outside the HIBA 4/11 (TJ). The **Great Blue Heron** rookery along E. Canal Rd. in SHT was again active this year. The 12-15 nests appeared to all be occupied and by the end of the season two to four young were observed in a few of them (P&RW, et al.).

A **Snowy Egret** was observed on 4/14 HBG (KB) and, another was reported at WL 5/5 (EB). An adult **Little Blue Heron** in a flooded field within the HIBA 4/4 was quite unexpected (P&RW). This marked a new earliest date for the species, surpassing the previous date of 4/14/1990. The arrival of the first **Great Egret** of the season at WL 3/16 was right on schedule (SL, et al.). Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were observed along Wormleysburg waterfront 4/2 (MD), and another **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was observed at HRLL 4/17 (SH, P&RW). The annual spring Wade Island nest survey, conducted by the PGC since 1985, yielded 103 **Great Egret** nests and 55 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** nests (PB, DB). The **Great Egret** count was down from the 181 in 2013 but the **Black-crowned** count was slightly higher than last year's 48 nests. Seven **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were observed at various nest sites in Midtown HBG 4/13 (TJ). Numerous reports from the various midtown locations were posted through the rest of the season (m.ob.) with one report from Front St. in HBG 5/29 indicating two adults and one juvenile (MG). A rare observation, especially in the southern part of the county, was of a **Sandhill Crane** flying over Hersheypark Dr. 4/6 (KB, TB).

Four **Northern Harriers** in the HIBA 3/13 was an exciting find (CKo). **Osprey** returned to a nest in a rail yard along Rt. 230 between Steelton and Highspire 4/6 (KK); the pair was observed copulating and defending territory against a **Bald Eagle** 4/17 (SH). There were also two active **Osprey** nests on TMI this spring (MSg). The **Bald Eagle** nest near Indian Echo Caverns in HUM had one hatchling 4/28 (CKo).

A **Spotted Sandpiper** was observed on a floating piece of wood heading downriver 4/6 SRHB (BQ), another new earliest date. The previous date was 4/13/2011. An early **Lesser Yellowlegs** was reported HRLL 3/22 (SH) and the first **Greater Yellowlegs** of the season was found in the HIBA 4/4 (P&RW). Twelve **Pectoral Sandpipers** were in a flooded field in the HIBA 4/6 (P&RW). Among the shorebird species tallied on HI for the PAMC 5/10 were 5 **Western Sandpipers** (SB). Previous to this there were only a half dozen reports of Western Sandpiper for the county and all from SRWF in the 1990s. Two other rather rare species for the county, especially in spring, were a **Semipalmated Plover** and a **Dunlin** both at WL 5/28 (LC). The first **American Woodcock** was reported 3/13 SHT (TJ).

**Black-headed Gull** was first reported 3/17 SRMV (RK) and continued at this location to 4/7 (m. obs.) One was also reported at SRWF 4/2 (VG). The first **Little Gull** report was 2 at SRWF 3/30 (TJ, ML). **Little Gull** sightings continued to 4/9 from SRWF to SRMV (m.ob.). On 3/30 a **Glaucous Gull** was reported SRMV (AL, et al.). This represented only the fifth county record for **Glaucous Gull**, the two most recent were both in February, 2/20/2002 and 2/7/2012. **Bonaparte's Gull** reached their peak numbers from late March to mid-April when hundreds were often reported (m.ob.). A high count of 800 was made 4/5 at SRWF (RK) and the last report of a single was 5/11 at SRWF (RK & AM). Four tern species made brief appearances along the SR this spring. **Caspian Tern** was reported 4/6-12 with a high count of five along the Wormleysburg waterfront 4/12 (KB, TB). **Forster's Tern** was reported twice from SRWF, one 4/4 (RK) and 10 on 4/8 (MSc). The only reports of both **Common** and **Black Tern** were from SRWF where both a single **Black Tern** and a single **Common Tern** were noted 5/10-11 (RK & AM).

A **Snowy Owl** was found in Derry Twp. 3/9 sitting atop a truck trailer at the West Chocolate factory (BB, RSe). The photo appeared in that week's edition of the *Hummelstown Sun*. One was observed in the northern part of

the county 3/14 along the road near Berrysburg (KH). There were four active **Barn Owl** nest sites on the MSH campus, banding of young owls is scheduled for early July (NM). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard calling on a property in East Hanover Twp. in mid-March and again 4/7 (NC). The first report of **Common Nighthawk** was from Koons Park in Linglestown 5/9 (EB). Additional observations continued through the end of the season (m.ob.). Three reports of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** came 4/27, later than usual, two from SHT (JG, P&RW) and one from Lower Paxton Twp. (LKK). Nesting **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found in Clark's Valley 5/30 (SB). The **Peregrine Falcons** nesting on the Rachel Carson building in downtown HBG had a good year. Four eggs were laid from 3/13-19. The first chick hatched either late evening 4/19 or early 4/20, by the end of the day three of the four eggs had hatched. The fourth hatched 4/22. Banding 5/15 revealed two males and two females. Fledging began on 5/29 (SH, <www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon>). On 5/5 three **Peregrine Falcon** nestlings were banded on the Clarks Ferry Bridge (*fide* EC). On 5/31 they were observed frequently flapping their wings on the bridge piers and getting ready to fledge (SL). Two additional Peregrine chicks fledged from the TMI nest in the first week of June (MSg).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported at Reich Park in Steelton 5/15 (EB). The first report of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was from SGL 246 on 5/8 (CM, MM). One was observed at BBT 5/19 (EB) and one was found on the grounds of the Harrisburg State Hospital 5/30 (DG). An **Alder Flycatcher** was among the species at WL 5/28 (LC). The first report of **Least Flycatcher** was 4/28 at HNT (P&RW). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was observed at WL 5/13 (EB), and another was found at the Darlington Trailhead parking area on the BMT Parkway 5/25 (LC).

**Purple Martin** reports included one in SHT 4/13 (TJ), 5 from along the Wormleysburg waterfront 5/2 (CBT), 3 from SRWF 5/18 (RK, AM), and two from the Ned Smith Center near Millersburg 5/26 (LC). This is a significant increase in sightings. During the past two decades there have been many spring and summer seasons with no Purple Martins reported in the county. The First Bird Breeding Atlas in the 1980s showed six confirmed nesting blocks, but during the Second Atlas only one block confirmed nesting and that was in the extreme southeastern corner straddling the *Lebanon* line, and the nesting site was actually in *Lebanon*.

Despite a nearly frozen SR **Tree Swallows** returned to SRWF 3/1 hawking insects along the open channel running south from the West Fairview boat launch (RK, P&RW). This matches the earliest return date for this species from 2003. A **Marsh Wren** was found near the MSH north campus along E. Canal Rd. in SHT 5/26 (EM).

The first report of **Swainson's Thrush** was 5/3 from HRLL (P&RW). There were a number of sightings of **Swainson's Thrush** on the State Hospital grounds 5/14-22 (DG) and from SHT 5/15-22 (JG). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was noted from a few locations during the second and third weeks of May. The first WL report came 5/9 (JF), another was noted 5/14 (EB), and a third observation came 5/19 (LC). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was also found in SHT 5/13 (TJ), and one was at BBT 5/20 (LC). The **Gray Catbird** at WL 3/21 (RK) may have wintered there.

The first report of **American Pipit** was 3/12 when 18 were found in HIBA (DH). Numbers increased at this location in early April with a high count of 55 on 4/6 (P&RW). The last were 4 at SRWF 5/18 (RK, AM).

Warbler highlights included an early **Cerulean Warbler** at BBT 4/22 (TA). Two more were noted at the top of Peter's Mt. 5/3 (AM) and 5 were counted at the crest of the BMT Parkway 5/13 (TJ). All these locations are likely nesting sites. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at the Kokomo boat launch in HUM 5/9 (DH), and a **Mourning Warbler** was at WL 5/23 (EB).

A male **Blue Grosbeak** was observed along East Canal Rd. in SHT 5/16-17 (P&RW). This was the fifth consecutive year that one or more have been reported during the breeding season at this location. **Rusty Blackbird** was first reported 3/20 from HIBA where two were observed (CKo). Reports continued through April (m.ob.), with the last 4/29 when three were found along Paxton Church Rd. (EB). The scarcity of winter finches continued into spring. The only reports of **Purple Finch** was one in SHT 4/12 (TJ) and one in the Chambers Hill area 4/13 (AM).

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## Delaware County

Locations: Brinton Lake (BL), Crum Creek Reservoir (CCR), Delaware River (DR), Glen Providence Park (GLPP), Governor Printz Park (GOPP), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR), The Willows (WILL).

Coming off an exciting winter of birding, this spring season in *Delaware* only ramped up the excitement with a whopping 196 species tallied. The 2014 spring season yielded 12 more species than the 2013 spring season and was marked by appearances from rarities such as **Northern Shrike**, **Mississippi Kite**, and **Sandhill Crane**. Also, this season featured the first confirmed breeding record for **Barred Owl** on the Bridle Trail in RCSP.

**Snow Geese** were mostly present in mid- to late Mar with a highest single count of 1821 over Media 3/12 (AG). Single **Mute Swans** were recorded throughout Mar and Apr from GLPP 3/14-4/3 (SG, AG, NS) and in a series of ponds along Church Road in Wayne 3/18-4/19 (m.ob.). Setting a new late departure date for *Delaware*, 27 **Tundra Swan** were on the far shore of DR 3/1 (AG).

**Gadwalls** were observed throughout Mar and Apr at CCR and JHNWR, which hosted an exceptional 24 birds on 3/14 (GJ). **American Wigeon** was observed at BL 3/14 (BB) and at JHNWR 3/14-23 (AG, DO). Four late **American Black Ducks** were at JHNWR 5/2 (TB). **Blue-winged Teal** were sparse this spring with only one observation of 4 in Chadds Ford 4/18 (JF). **Northern Shovelers** were only seen in the southern part of *Delaware*, including 6 at JHNWR 3/23 (AG) and 3 on the DR 3/28 (AG). **Northern Pintail** occurred in small numbers throughout the county in Mar with the exception of 207 flyovers in Media 3/10 (AG). **Canvasback** were most prevalent in early Mar along the DR between 3/2-8 (m.ob.), but one Canvasback at BL 3/20-4/5 (BB, AG) marked the only observation away from the DR. Along with Canvasback, **Greater Scaup** and **Lesser Scaup** were most frequently observed on the DR in early Mar with the high counts of 136 and 36 respectively at GOPP 3/2 (TB). **Common Goldeneye** only appeared along DR 3/1-16 (m.ob.). Rare for *Delaware*, a high total of 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at JHNWR 3/2-7 (m.ob.).

**Wild Turkey** were observed in small numbers this spring season with 2 at JHNWR 4/13-5/4 (TA, AG) and one at GLPP 4/6-4/7. Two species of loon were observed in *Delaware* during the spring season. One **Red-throated Loon** was observed at GOPP 3/6-16 (DE, KG, AU). **Common Loons** reports consisted of single birds at Media 4/19 (AG) and Haverford College 5/4 (WS). *Delaware* tallied an impressive three species of grebe this season. **Pied-billed Grebes** were common throughout the county, and **Horned Grebes** were reported at CCR 4/7-8 (TB, BR) and SR 4/3-9 (TB, AG, NS). One of the highlights of the season was the frequency of **Red-necked Grebes** with 2 at JHNWR 3/4, one on the DR by PPL Park in Chester 3/9 (DE), one at SR 4/3 (AG, NS), and another on the DR 3/28 (AG). A high count for *Delaware*, 5 **Great Cormorants** were seen flying upriver DR 3/28 (AG).

An endangered species in Pennsylvania, **American Bittern** was observed twice in the county: one at WILL 5/1 (KG) and one at JHNWR 5/2 (TB). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were observed only in late May with single birds in Marcus Hook 5/22 (AG) and at WILL 5/25 (DO). Flyover **Glossy Ibis** were seen at JHNWR 4/12-13 (AG, DO).

A rarity for *Delaware*, one **Mississippi Kite** was spotted over JHNWR 5/22 (TA).

**Virginia Rails** at JHNWR included 2 calling 5/18 (AG) and one 5/28 (GA). An **American Coot** at CCR 4/3-25 (m.ob.) was the only one reported this season. An exciting find, one **Sandhill Crane** at the Okehocking Hawk Watch 4/16 (CP) flew from *Delaware* into *Chester*.

Eleven species of shorebirds were observed. Among these, highlights included 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** at JHNWR 5/4 (AG), one **Dunlin** at PHL 4/18 (AG) and an impressive 49 at JHNWR 5/2 (TB), and 5 **Pectoral Sandpiper** at the PHL 4/13 (AG). Also of interest, **Least Sandpipers** were observed in the southern end of *Delaware* with 2 at PHL 4/23-28 (AG) and a high count of 33 at JHNWR 5/4 (AG, RM). Most impressively, a new high-count record of 88 **Wilson's Snipe** were tallied at PHL 4/13 (AG).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen along the DR this spring with a high count of 37 on 4/13 (AG). **Laughing Gull** were observed in the southern part of the county at JHNWR and along the DR, but the most notable observation was a total of 15 birds at the Best Western in Chester 5/11 (m.ob.). One **Caspian Tern** was observed along the DR 4/11 and 2 at PHL 4/23 (AG). **Forster's Tern** were observed from mid-Apr to early May in

*Delaware* with 8 along the DR 4/16 (AG), 2 at PHL 5/8 (GA), and a high total of 5 at JHNWR 4/18-5/4 (TB, AG).

An annual visitor to *Delaware*, one **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard at RCSP 5/18 (DE, AG). An exciting first for RCSP, **Barred Owl** was confirmed breeding along the Bridle Trail and young were photographed peeking out of a nest hole 5/18 (BC, et al.). One **Merlin** was an exciting yard bird for two lucky observers in Drexel Hill 3/14 (BR) and Nether Providence Township 3/23 (DO).

Flycatchers were most abundant in the month of May; that month saw nine different species. Remarkably, all nine were observed on the Bridle Path at RCSP including the most notable: **Least Flycatcher** 5/3, **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 5/14, and **Alder Flycatcher** 5/17 (AG). A rarity in *Delaware*, one lingering **Northern Shrike** from the winter season was photographed at JHNWR 3/22 (DO). **Common Ravens** continued this spring with the greatest concentration of sightings from the area surrounding the quarry in Glen Mills, their confirmed 2013 breeding location, from 3/2-4/27 (m.ob.). A difficult find in *Delaware* in spring, single **Horned Larks** were observed at PHL 4/8-5/24 (m.ob.). Highlights among the six swallow species included one **Bank Swallow** at JHNWR 4/28 (AG) and one **Cliff Swallow** at RCSP 5/7 (AG). Exceptionally late, one **Winter Wren** was observed on the Nature Trail at Bethel Springs Elementary School 5/20 (DM).

The season proved to be fruitful for warblers, with an impressive 32 species were found. **Worm-eating Warblers** were present throughout the county only during the first week of May with single birds at RCSP, GLPP, and Taylor Memorial Arboretum 5/1-5 (m.ob.). Two **Prothonotary Warblers** were observed along the wetland trail at JHNWR 5/2 (TB). **Tennessee Warblers** were only on the Bridle Path at RCSP with one 5/13 (AG) and 2 on 5/19 (TB). One **Mourning Warbler** was observed on the Bridle Path in RCSP 5/23 (AG). **Kentucky Warbler** were present throughout mid- to late May in RCSP from 5/17-25 (m.ob.) with a highest count of 2 on 5/18 (AG). One **Cape May Warbler** was a yard bird in Wallingford for one lucky photographer 5/13 (NS). An infrequent migrant in *Delaware*, one **Cerulean Warbler** was observed at Haverford College 5/3 (SJ). **Bay-breasted Warblers** appeared during their usual mid-May range with sightings at Crum Woods 5/10 (TB) and WILL 5/21 (DO). Only one **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen during the spring season at JHNWR 5/2 (TB).

The only sighting of **Bobolink** in *Delaware* this spring was 2 at Episcopal Academy between 5/2-5/9 (WS). One **Purple Finch** was observed in Newtown Square 5/1 (BR).

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## Elk County

No compiler.

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## Erie County

The exceptionally cold winter persisted well into spring and Lake Erie ice did not completely melt until 5/6. Since ice remained on Presque Isle Bay and Lake Erie through much of March, a large numbers of diving ducks concentrated in the channel, the only area of open water. Remnants of the unprecedented **Snowy Owl** invasion in the region were in evidence, with individuals reported at various sites in the county up to 3/30. Passerine migration was considered moderate with one major fallout 5/8.

The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park (PISP) unless noted otherwise.

A very high count of 2300 **Tundra Swans** were on Edinboro Lake 3/12 (SW, JH). A single **Cackling Goose** flew over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch at West 12th St. and Peninsula Drive 3/21 (JM, RD, SS), and another was seen 3/28 and 3/29 over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (JM, SS). The 3000+ **Redheads** concentrated in the channel 3/16 was a very high count (JM). Two or three **Surf Scoters** lingered in the channel until 3/9 (MW). There were up to 35 **White-winged Scoters** in the channel through 3/29 (JM) and the single at Gull Point from 5/20-25 was very late (m.ob.).

A total of ten **Red-necked Grebes** were in the channel at PISP through March, with a single day high of 17 there 3/30 (m.ob.). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was on Edinboro Lake 3/30 (JH).

The only **Least Bittern** reported for the spring season was one at Niagara Pond 5/18 (JM). Quite a surprise was a single dark **Ibis sp.** that flew in from the lake, over Gull Point, and then west and out of sight 5/28

(RD). It was likely a Glossy Ibis, but White-faced Ibis could not be ruled out.

A single **Black Vulture** was over Lawrence Park 3/18 (MW) and yet another was seen periodically through most of May at the Lake View landfill (MW). This is the latest spring **Black Vulture** on record for *Erie*. A cold front forced down over 400 migrant **Turkey Vultures** at the entrance of PISP where they were concentrated in the tops of the cottonwoods (JM). Always exciting, 2 immature **Golden Eagles** flew together over the hawk watch at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center 4/20 (RD, RS). Another immature **Golden Eagle** passed over the hawk watch 5/9 (RD, JM).

A total of three **Willetts** were recorded during the International Shorebird Survey from 5/1-17 (RD, MB). The only **Red Knot** of the spring season was one at Gull Point 5/31 (RD). Extremely rare in spring was a calling adult **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Gull Point 5/13 (RD).

A total of four **Little Gulls** were reported 3/30-4/14 in Presque Isle Bay (JM, KA). A single immature **Thayer's Gull** was at PISP 3/8 (MW) and another was at the Lake View Landfill 3/16 (JM). A season total of seven **Iceland Gulls** were tallied through March at PISP and the Lake View Landfill (EK, MW, JM). Six was the final season total for **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at PISP through March (m.ob.). A season total of 14 **Glaucous Gulls** were counted at PISP and the Lake View Landfill through March (EK, MW, JM). A probable **Herring x Glaucous Gull** was studied at the lake View Landfill 3/26-27 (JM). The 200 or more **Common Terns** counted at Gull Point through at least 5/13 was a very high total for this early in the season (MB).

A total of 5 **Snowy Owls** remained from the winter season, observed at different sites in the county with the last reported sighting 3/31 (m.ob.). A **Long-eared Owl** lingered in the pines at PISP from 3/8 to 3/29 (RD) and likely a different bird was there 5/4 (RD). An injured **Short-eared Owl** was brought into the Tom Ridge Environmental Center 3/3, which later died and was donated to the Natural History Museum at the TREC (RK). A **Short-eared Owl** was spotted at Gull Point on the late date of 5/3 (RD). A total of three **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were located in the pines on PISP 3/9, 3/29, and 5/2 (RD). A probable breeding pair of **Merlins** was observed in Erie through April and May again for at least the second year in a row (MB).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was on Pine Tree Trail 5/25 (JM) and another singing bird was at Fry's landing on the same day (*vide* SS). At least four different **Northern Shrikes** were seen at various sites in the county to at least 3/18 (m.ob.). Single **Worm-eating Warblers** were reported from PISP 5/8, 5/13, and 5/16 (SC, AT, RSw). A rare **Brewster's Warbler** was spotted at Pine Tree Trail 5/8 (SC). The season total of **Golden-winged Warblers** was four reported from various sites on PISP 5/8-5/21 (m.ob.). The only **Orange-crowned Warbler** was one identified in Harborcreek Twp. 5/7 (MW). No longer annual was a **Kentucky Warbler** 5/15-16 (RSt, RSw) and another 5/21 (RSw).

It was believed that there were at least three immature male **Summer Tanagers** on PISP, based upon plumage differences, from 5/5-11 (SC, et al.). Another immature male was a rare inland find for Harborcreek Twp. 5/18 (MW). One or two **Clay-colored Sparrows** were identified on 5/6 and 5/8 (m.ob.). The only northern finch reported this spring, other than **Purple Finch**, was a single **Pine Siskin** that made a brief visit at a feeding station in Union City 5/2 (DP).

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### Fayette County

Location: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL), Ohiopyle State Park (OSP).

A small group of 14 **Tundra Swans** at GRL 3/14 (MF, TA, LH) was the only report of the season. High counts of ducks for the season at GRL included 22 **Wood Ducks** 4/2 (TA), 41 **Gadwall** 4/4 (MF), 8 **American Wigeon** 3/14 (MF), 7 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/3 (TA), 18 **Northern Shoveler** 4/4 (TA), 5 **Green-winged Teal** 4/2 (TA), 3 **Canvasback** 3/21 (JO), 8 **Redhead** 3/16 (LH), 12 **Ring-necked Duck** 4/2-3 (TA), 24 **Greater Scaup** 4/2 (TA), 33 **Lesser Scaup** 3/21 (TA, LH), 47 **Bufflehead** 4/2 (TA), 7 **Common Merganser** 4/2 (TA), 48 **Red-breasted Merganser** 4/2 (TA), and 22 **Ruddy Duck** 4/5 (JO). Two **Northern Pintail** at the lake 3/21 (TA, LH) was the only report of this species. Sea ducks included 2 **Long-tailed Ducks** 4/2-4 (TA), 2 **White-winged Scoters**, and a **Surf Scoter** 4/2 (TA).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was in Fayette City 3/29 (AT). **Common Loon** was reported at GRL 3/21-4/11 (TA, LH, MF, JO) with a high of 3 there 4/4 (TA, MF). **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes** were also present the same time as the loons. The high count of **Pied-billed Grebe** was 11 on 4/4

(TA, MF) and 17 **Horned Grebes** 4/4 (TA, MF) was the high count for that species. Two **Red-necked Grebes** were present at the lake 3/6-4/5 (TA, LH, JO) with a single bird remaining 4/10-11 (JO). Three **Double-crested Cormorants** were at GRL 4/25 (MF) and one was there 4/29 (TA, LH).

**American Bitterns** are basically never reported in *Fayette*, so it was a nice surprise to have two reports this spring. One was at Spring Valley 4/26 (LD) and one was at Jacob's Creek Wetlands 5/3 (ST, PL). Two **Green Herons** were at GRL 5/1 (TA).

An **Osprey** was at GRL 4/4 (TA) and a rare sight at the lake was a **Bald Eagle** 3/20 (TA). A **Bald Eagle** was also seen along Jacob's Creek between West Newton and Wissett during a canoe trip 5/24 (WJS, JH, SOH). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Bear Run Nature Reserve 5/5 (KSJ).

Rails are rarely reported. A wayward **Virginia Rail** in a North Union Twp. yard 4/24 (JL). Four at Jacob's Creek Wetlands 5/3 (ST, PL) was a great count. Shorebirds are always sparse in *Fayette*, but a few were found. Two **Dunlin** were at GRL 5/1 (TA). Two **American Woodcock** were displaying in Perryopolis 3/28 (AT). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was seen at OSP 5/24 (MF). It seems an odd place to see one, but they nest along the turbulent Youghiogheny River at the park. Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at GRL 4/2 (TA) and 90 were there 4/4 (TA). **Ring-billed Gull** reports at GRL included 45 on 3/21 (TA) and 5 on 4/4 (TA, LH). Four **Herring Gulls** were there 3/16 (LH).

Three **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard near Farmington 5/31 (LD). Two **Black-billed Cuckoos** and 3 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were counted at OSP 5/13 (LD).

Eight **Acadian Flycatchers** were counted at SGL 51 on 5/10 (AC, LM). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** and an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** were at OSP 5/13 (LD). Numerous **Bank Swallows** were at GRL 5/4 (ST, PL) and 5/15 (MF). A **Purple Martin** was in Farmington 5/2 (LD) and a few were at GRL 5/15 (MF). **Cliff Swallows** were at the nesting colony in OSP 5/24 (MF). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found at SGL 51 during the PAMC 5/10 (AC, LM).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at SGL 51 on 5/10 (AC, LM). **Swainson's Thrush** reports included single birds at OSP 5/13 (LD) and 5/24 (MF). A **Hermit Thrush** was at OSP 5/4 (ST, PL) and 24 **Wood Thrushes** were counted at SGL 51 on 5/10 (AC, LM). An **American Pipit** was at GRL 3/17 (JO).

Coverage of the extensive SGL 51 during the PAMC 5/10 provided great totals of warblers that included 27 **Ovenbirds**, 5 **Louisiana Waterthrushes**, 22 **Black-and-white Warblers**, 6 **Tennessee Warblers**, 2 **Kentucky Warblers**, 18 **Common Yellowthroats**, 22 **Hooded Warblers**, 21 **American Redstarts**, 6 **Northern Parulas**, 2 **Blackburnian Warblers**, 24 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 3 **Blackpoll Warblers**, 3 **Prairie Warblers** and 24 **Black-throated Green Warblers** (AC, LM).

Warblers tallied at OSP 5/13 included a **Blue-winged Warbler**, 10 **Black-and-white Warblers**, 24 **Tennessee Warblers**, 5 **Nashville Warblers**, 2 **Kentucky Warblers**, 15 **Common Yellowthroats**, 8 **Hooded Warblers**, 17 **American Redstarts**, 2 **Northern Parulas**, 7 **Magnolia Warblers**, 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers**, a **Blackburnian Warbler**, 6 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, a **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, 13 **Black-throated Green Warblers** and a **Canada Warbler** (LD).

Other warbler highlights included a **Northern Waterthrush** at SGL 51 on 5/10 (AC, LM) and at OSP 5/13 (LD), a **Cape May Warbler** at OSP 5/13 (LD), a **Cerulean Warbler** there 5/24 (MF), 4 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** at Bear Run Nature Reserve 5/5 (KSJ) and 2 at OSP 5/24 (MF), a **Pine Warbler** at Nemaquin Woodlands Resort 4/1 (LD) and a **Prairie Warbler** at Fort Necessity National Battlefield 4/27 (LD). A **Connecticut Warbler** was at GRL 4/29 (TA, LH) and a **Mourning Warbler** was a nice find at OSP 5/13 (LD).

A **Savannah Sparrow** was heard singing in a farm field near OSP 5/24 (MF). **White-crowned Sparrows** were at OSP 5/4 (ST, PL). Three **White-throated Sparrows** at OSP 5/13 were the last reported for the season (LD). Great counts of **Indigo Buntings** were made this spring with 20 at SGL 51 on 5/10 and 17 at OSP 5/13 (LD). Three **Bobolinks** were at the agricultural fields on Middle Ridge Road near OSP 5/24 (MF). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was at GRL 3/14 (LH), the first report of the season.

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### Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Beaver Meadows (BM),

Buzzard Swamp (BS), Cook Forest (CF), Tionesta Creek (TC), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake (TL).

Spring migration in *Forest* was highlighted by an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, warbler variety, **Rusty Blackbirds**, and an **Orchard Oriole**.

Migrating waterfowl included 3 **Tundra Swans**, 2 **Red-necked Grebes**, and **Red-breasted Mergansers** 3/30 (GE, RS); 2 **American Black Duck**, one **Bufflehead**, one **Ruddy Duck**, and a **Horned Grebe** 3/31 (FM, JM), all on the Allegheny River at TI. A **Common Loon** at BM 5/16 was a rather late migrant and the only one seen this season (DY). **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen 5/10 both at TI and BS (FM, JM). Twenty **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at TI 4/2 (FM, JM).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 5/8 was a nice find at Yellowhammer; this species has declined throughout much of its range (GE, RS). The first **Blue-headed Vireo** was at CF 5/1 (AG); these were reported at several locations throughout the rest of May. A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was seen 5/1 at CF (AG), and two counter-singing males were reported 5/19 near Pigeon; this behavior suggests that they may stay to breed (CW). A **Swainson's Thrush** was seen 5/10 and again 5/25 near Guiltonville (FM, JM).

The only **Louisiana Waterthrush** reported was seen 5/8 at TC (GE, RS). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a nice find on the PAMC 5/10 at Red Brush (FM, JM). It was in excellent habitat, a regenerating clearcut, where they have been observed before, although not since 2003. They have suffered a steep population decline in the past several decades. Four **Blue-winged Warblers** as well as a **Tennessee Warbler** were noted 5/31 at the Salmon Creek Valley (PW). A **Nashville Warbler** was seen 5/8 at TC (GE, RS) and another 5/16 at BM (DY). **Northern Parulas** were noted 5/1 at CF (AG), and 5/31 at Minister Creek Trails (PW). Three **Blackburnian Warblers** were seen 5/19 near Pigeon (CW), one 5/8 at TI (GE, RS). Two **Palm Warblers** were seen 5/3 along the Guiltonville Road (DP). A **Pine Warbler** was seen 5/29 near Nebraska (DB, BB). A **Canada Warbler** was noted 5/8 at TC (GE, RS), and another 5/31 at Minister Creek Trails (PW).

**Fox Sparrows** were noted near TI 4/3-12 (FM, JM). **White-throated Sparrows** were reported 4/28-5/13 at various locations (m.ob.). Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen 3/30 near the visitor center at TL, and another on the fish hatchery lawn near TI (GE, RS). This is one of North America's most rapidly declining species, so any sightings are good news. Unhappily for the observers, the birds could not be relocated the next day. An **Orchard Oriole**, very uncommon in *Forest*, came to an oriole feeder at Endeavor 5/3-13 (MS).

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#### Franklin County

No report.

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#### Fulton County

No report.

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#### Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Enlow Fork Spring Wildflower Walk (EFSW), Franklin Twp. (FT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Sycamore (SY), Wayne Twp. (WT).

In WT **Wood Duck** made their first appearance 3/22, **American Wigeon** was last seen 3/18, and **Blue-winged Teal** and 34 **Ring-necked Ducks** were last seen at same location 3/22 (JC, MH). **Green-winged Teal** was found in Whiteley Twp. 3/22 (JC, MH) and a **Long-tailed Duck** was in Center Twp. 4/3 (AC, TC). At a private pond in FT **Hooded Merganser** was present 3/16 (TD) and **Common Merganser** was last seen on a creek at EV 4/18 (MH).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was in Whiteley Twp. 3/22 (JC, MH), and a pair of **Wild Turkey** was seen mating in the backyard at LCR 3/17 (MLP);

56 were counted in Whiteley Twp. 3/21 (JH, RC). **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen at a club pond in FT 4/6 (JH). **Great Egret** was first reported in WT 3/14 (TCo) and last reported 4/30 in FT (KH). A **Black Vulture** was seen in Center Twp. 3/11 (BD) and **Turkey Vulture** was first seen at LCR 3/4 (MLP). **Osprey** was over Bell Farm 4/12 (CDB, LB); last was one 5/1 in Center Twp. (MiH). A **Northern Harrier** was sighted 4/5 in Whiteley Twp. (JH). Again this year a **Red-tailed Hawk** nest was found in the middle of a utility pole in WT (MH).

The only report of **Spotted Sandpiper** was at FT 5/30 (KH). A lone **Solitary Sandpiper** was at EFSW 4/27 (m.ob.). First **American Woodcock** was 3/14 in WT (TCo); they nested again this year at SY (JC). Several **Ring-billed Gulls** were flying around a small parking lot in FT 3/13 (JC).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was first heard at LCR 5/12 (MLP) but the first **Black-billed Cuckoo** wasn't reported until 5/19 at Enlow Fork (MH, PH). **Great Horned Owl** was heard in FT 4/28 (LS). **Chimney Swift** was not sighted until the PAMC 5/10 in FT (m.ob.). The first reported **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was 4/15 at EV (MH). **Belted Kingfisher** was found at LCR 3/4 (MLP). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was in Nineveh 4/30, the same location where they brought young to the suet feeder last year (C&CA).

The first **Eastern Wood-Pewee** and **Acadian Flycatcher** were first reported on the PAMC 5/10. At SY 5/23, **Eastern Phoebe** young left the nest (JC). **Great Crested Flycatcher** was first noted at LCR 5/21 (MLP). The first sighting of **Eastern Kingbird** was 4/27 at SY (JC). The first **White-eyed Vireo** was heard 5/10 on the PAMC (MH). **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Warbling Vireo**, and **Red-eyed Vireo** were heard 4/27 on EFSW (m.ob.). **Purple Martin** was first sighted 3/29 in Morgan Twp. (CDB, LB). The first **Tree Swallow** was in WT 3/22 (JC, MH) and **Barn Swallow** was found at Bell Farm 4/3 (CDB, LB). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was first sighted at EV 4/14 (MH). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were found 4/27 at EFSW (m.ob.).

**Eastern Bluebirds** were seen feeding young at LCR 5/26 (MLP). **Wood Thrush** was first heard at EV 4/18 (MH). **Gray Catbird** was found at SY 5/3 (JC). **Brown Thrasher** was first seen at EV 4/13 (MH). **Cedar Waxwing** was first reported at SY 5/15 (JC).

**Ovenbird**, **Kentucky Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Prairie Warbler**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** were first found on the PAMC 5/10. The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** was heard at LCR 4/4 (MLP). At EFSW 4/27 **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **American Redstart**, **Cerulean Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler** were all recorded (m.ob.). **Tennessee Warbler** was seen in FT 5/2 (KH). The first **Northern Parula** was heard 4/18 in FT (JC, MH). A **Magnolia Warbler** visited a feeder in SY 4/11 (JC) and the first **Yellow Warbler** was heard at EV 4/24 (MH). The last reported **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was 4/27 at EFSW (m.ob.). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was heard in EV 4/12 (MH).

**Chipping Sparrow** was noted at LCR 3/13 as was the first **Field Sparrow** 4/6 (MLP). At EV **White-throated Sparrow** was last seen 5/6 and **White-crowned Sparrow** was last seen 5/4 (MH). The last **Dark-eyed Junco** was reported at EV 4/27 (MH). **Scarlet Tanager** was found at EFSW 4/27 (m.ob.). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at a feeder in EV 4/24 (MH). LCR was the site of the first **Indigo Bunting** and **Orchard Oriole** (a pair) 5/7 (MLP). **Baltimore Oriole** was seen at EFSW 4/27 (m.ob.).

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#### Huntingdon County

Locations: Juniata River (JR), Lake Raystown (LR), Old Crow Wetlands (OC), Seven Points Marina (SP).

Sixty **Tundra Swans** were observed off SP at LR 3/15 (GG) and 355 were counted over Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch 3/18 (JK). The JR at Mapleton had 65 **Greater Scaup** 3/5 (GG). On the JR at Mt. Union were 18 **Common Goldeneye** 3/5 (GG). A high count of 60 **Common Merganser** was reported on the Raystown Branch of the JR 4/5.

A **Brown Pelican** was present at SP around 5/19 but was not known by the birding community until 5/25 (MS); it was observed 5/26 (DK, TK, DG, GG, JK) but then was not seen again. This represented only the second county record, the first was a dead bird found at LR in 2008. Two **Red-**



necked Grebes were seen on JR 3/5, two were at Seven Points LR 3/15-29, and was one at Raystown Dam 4/5 (GG). An **American Bittern** was observed at OC 4/13 (GD, JK) and was seen regularly by many observers through 5/7. A **Great Egret** was at OC 3/29 (GG) and a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported there 5/3 and 5/8 (m.ob.). Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch had a disappointing 21 **Northern Harriers**, compared to an average of 39, but a good count of 63 **Red-shouldered Hawks** and an above-average season total of 201 **Golden Eagles** (JK).

Twenty-one **Semipalmated Plovers** were at River Road 5/21 (JK). The greatest number of **Solitary Sandpipers** this season was 20 at Allison Rd, near Petersburg, 5/1 (DG, GG), where 5 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were also seen 5/16 (GG, JK). A **Short-billed Dowitcher**, the first sighted in *Huntingdon* since 2008, was spotted near Cottage 5/1 (GG). Two **Laughing Gulls** furnished another second *Huntingdon* record, also at Seven Points LR 5/26 (DK, TK). High counts for **Bonaparte's Gull** this season included 32 at Harper Hill Rd. near Mooresville 4/4 (DG, GG, JK, DW) and 55 at Raystown Dam 4/5 (GD). Sightings of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** included one on Stone Creek Ridge 5/7-10 (DG, GG) and one to 3 on Davis Barr Roads Loop 5/3 and 5/8 (GD and others).

Single **Olive-sided Flycatcher** were at Alan Seeger Natural Area 5/24 (DK, TK) and Shaver's Creek Environmental Education Center 5/26 (JD). One **Philadelphia Vireo** was in Ardenheim 5/8 (GG). The only **Northern Shrike** this season was one that perched briefly at Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch 3/20 (JK). One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen at Ardenheim 5/8 and two were near Huntingdon 5/15 (GG). A total of 100 **American Pipits** were reported on Harper Hill Road 4/4 (JS). **Yellow-breasted Chats** included 2 at Aitch Boat Launch LR (JK) and one or 2 in Trough Creek Valley 5/26 and 5/31 (DG, GG, JK). Five **Bobolinks** were at Nelson Rd. near Cottage 5/17 and 4 were in fields at Longhorn Road in Trough Creek Valley 5/26 (DG, GG). The largest groups of **Rusty Blackbirds** recorded were a flock of 12 on Harper Hill Rd. 4/4 (JK), 11 were at Brumbaugh's LR (IG), and 10 were at Marklesburg Propagation Area LR (GG).

**ADDENDUM:** A late report of a well-described **Snowy Owl** from this past winter was given by a farmer near Blair Mills (*vide* DK).

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## Indiana County

Locations: Conemaugh Dam (CD), Ghost Town Trail (GTT), Indiana (IN), Indiana University of PA (IUP), Raxis Branch (RB), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Yellow Creek Lake did not thaw as early as normal this year with only one or two small open patches by 3/15 which was also the date of return for many waterbirds; significant ice remained through 3/25. All waterfowl reports are at YC unless otherwise noted.

The first flock of 150 **Tundra Swans** arrived 3/15 (LC, SD, TG) at YC where the high count of 234 was tallied 3/28 (LC); last noted were 60 on 3/30 (LC, MD). The date of 3/15 (LC, SD, TG) also marked the arrival (more than a week late on average) for the first **Wood Duck**, 2 **Gadwalls**, and 20 **American Wigeons**. High counts included 24 for **Wood Duck** 3/22 (LC, DC, EHC, MH, RH), 34 for **Gadwall** 4/2 (LC, RC, MH, RH, GL, MS), and 25 for **American Wigeon** 3/18 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL). Both Gadwall and wigeons lingered through 5/13 (m.ob.) at YC. Twelve **American Black Ducks** arrived in a YC puddle 3/11 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT). **Blue-winged Teal** moved through *Indiana* between 3/25 (LC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM) and 5/13 (SGo) with the best count of 26 on 4/17 (LC). Ten was the **Northern Shoveler** high 4/1 (LC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM, RN). Four **Northern Pintails** 3/11 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT) were first; 49 was the top count 3/18 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL); 5 remained through 4/5 (TBC, 3RBC). Twenty-six was the high **Green-winged Teal** tally 3/22 (LC, DC, EHC, MH, RH) and 22 on 4/11 (LC) were last. Seven **Canvasbacks** arrived 3/16 (MH, RH); maximum count was 75 on 4/5 (TBC, 3RBC); 4 lingered through 4/6 (TR). Thirty was the high **Redhead** tally 3/16 (MH, RH) and the last spotted were 2 on 4/17 (LC). **Ring-necked Ducks** were noted in triple digits on nine dates with best count of 277 on 3/28 (LC); last was a singleton 5/3 (LC, TC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, JT). Four **Greater Scaup** arrived at YC 3/16 (MH, RH) and one or two remained 3/30 (LC, MD). **Lesser Scaup** maxima were 211 on 4/5 (TBC, 3RBC) and 249 on 4/11 (LC); one remained at YC through 5/15 (MH, RH). Ten **White-winged Scoters** landed at YC 4/11 (LC); one was present there 4/16 (LC). **Long-tailed Ducks** made three appearances, 2 on 3/28 (LC), 2 on 4/2 (LC, RC, MH, RH, GL, MS), and one 4/5 (3RBC, TBC). High **Bufflehead** tallies included 234 on 4/2 (LC, RC, MH,

RH, GL, MS) and 207 on 4/11 (LC). One to 2 **Common Goldeneyes** were noted on six dates between 3/15 (LC, SD, TG) and 4/22 (LC, EHC, SD, TG, MH, RH, KT). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were sighted below polluted McKee Run on Crooked Creek in Creekside 3/2 (MH, RH). Forty-eight were counted at YC 3/30 (LC, MD). **Common Mergansers** continued to expand their range in *Indiana* with sightings along the GTT between mile marker one and two on both 4/12 (LC, SD, MH, RH, WL) and 4/24 (LC), along Cheese Run 5/14 (MH, RH), and at CD 5/15 (MH, RH). An estimated 185 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on YC lake 4/5 (3RBC, TBC); 7 still lingered 5/17 (LC, DC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, GL, SM, JT, WT). **Ruddy Ducks** appeared in mostly modestly sized flocks until 4/11 (LC) when 357 were counted; last noted were 7 at YC 5/22 (TG, RH, GL).

A single **Red-throated Loon** visited YC 4/5 (3RBC, TBC). First **Common Loon** arrived at YC 3/30 (MD); a brief stop at YC 4/23 (MH, RH) yielded the high of 37; a first-year bird lingered on the lake through the end of the period (MSy). **Pied-billed Grebes** passed through YC between 4/1 (LC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM, RN) and 5/9 (AF). The first 2 **Horned Grebes** arrived 3/30 (LC); numbers peaked at 23 on 4/11 (LC). **Red-necked Grebes** were more common than usual. The first 2 appeared 4/1 (LC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM, RN); by 4/17 (LC) 3 were present, then on 5/6 (LC, TG, GL, SM, RN), 3 were once again counted. Maximum count of **Double-crested Cormorants** was 40 on 5/10 (GL, GS) at YC.

Three **Great Egrets** appeared at YC 4/23 (LC, MH, RH); one arrived 5/10 (GL, GS) and remained through 5/13 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, DM, MVT). First **Green Heron** was listed 4/19 (NW) at YC.

**Turkey Vultures** were first sighted near Blairsville (DC) and in IN (DB) 3/6. **Ospreys** moved through YC between 4/1 (LC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM, RN) and 5/22 (LC, TG, RH, GL). The presence of both adult **Bald Eagles** simultaneously at YC starting 4/15 (m.ob.) indicated that their nest had failed. A **Northern Harrier** at Penn Run 4/7 (DB) was the only one spotted this spring. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at nine locations this season; **Cooper's Hawks**, at only 6. The GTT near Saylor Park produced the first **Broad-winged Hawk** returnee 4/12 (LC, SD, MH, RH, WL).

First 2 **American Coots** arrived 3/15 (LC, SD, TG) at YC where numbers peaked to 218 by 4/15 (LC, TG, MH, RH); by 5/17 (m.ob.) only 8 remained on YC Lake and one stayed to 5/27 (LC, MH, RH, KT).

Mud in Little Yellow Cove provided habitat for migrating shorebirds. One or 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** stopped to feed between 5/6 (LC, TG, GL, SM, RN) and 5/15 (MH, RH). **Spotted Sandpiper** was first noted 4/22 (LC, EHC, SD, TG, MH, RH, KT); maxima included 10 on 4/29 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL) and 11 on 5/15 (MH, RH). One to 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** visited YC between 4/15 (LC, TG, MH, RH) and 5/15 (MH, RH); Waterworks Conservation Area hosted the season's last 5/20 (SD). One to 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** were noted on five dates bracketing 4/11 (LC) and 5/15 (MH, RH). Exactly 30 **Willetts**, accompanied by 24 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, all in Little Yellow Cove 4/29 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL), were unexpected. **Dunlin** were listed on four dates between 5/6 (LC, TG, GL, SM, RN) and 5/15 (MH, RH); on the evening of 5/15, a flock of roughly 25 flew past the beach at YC several times before landing near the wetland walkway. **Least Sandpipers** migrated through YC 4/29 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL) through 5/15 (MH, RH), with high count of 10 occurring 5/10 (GL, GS). Eighteen **Pectoral Sandpipers** appeared at YC 3/28 (LC); the only other report involved one on 5/15 (MH, RH). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found only between 5/13 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, DM, MVT) and 5/15 (MH, RH) with the high tally of 4 on the latter date. The first **Wilson's Snipe** was spotted at YC 3/29 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM); one 4/22 (LC, EHC, SD, TG, MH, RH, KT) was last. First **American Woodcocks** were 5 found near Creekside 3/13 (DL).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** moved through YC between 3/22 (LC, DC, EHC, MH, RH) and 5/7 (GL); 4/17 (LC) produced the highest count of 128. **Ring-billed Gulls** first appeared 3/9 (JT) at IUP and 3/11 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT) at YC where top tally was an estimated 200 on 4/5 (3RBC, TBC). Irregular in the county, a **Herring Gull** visited YC 4/5 (3RBC, TBC); individuals were seen again 4/8 (LC, MH, RH, SM) and 4/25 (LC). **Caspian Terns** stopped at YC on six dates between 4/15 (LC, TG, MH, RH) and 5/15 (MH, RH); the only sighting involving more than one tern was 3 on 4/26 (RS, SS). First **Forster's Tern** arrived 4/8 (LC, MH, RH, SM) at YC where 14 was a good count 4/29 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL); last noted was one 5/13 (SGo).

Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** returned to various parts of the county 5/10 (m.ob.). **Great Horned Owl** was listed only near SH 3/22 (MH, RH); **Eastern Screech-Owl**, near Lewisville 5/10 (DC, MC) and in Armstrong Twp. 5/12 (RS); and **Barred Owl**, only at Nolo after 4/1 (DB) and at YC 4/22 (LC, EHC, SD, TG, MH, RH, KT). **Common Nighthawks**, increasingly difficult to find even in migration, appeared in *Indiana* a tad more frequently this spring. Two were flying over YC Lake 5/10 (GL) at dusk; singletons were listed in IN 5/13 (DL) and near Lewisville 5/14 (DC, MC). An 04:00 pontoon ride at YC yielded 2 pre-dawn nighthawks flying low over the lake 5/20 (LC, EHC, PH, MH, RH, JK, GL, MS). First dates included 4/13 (DL) in IN for **Chimney Swifts** and 5/3 (MH, RH) for **Ruby-throated**

**Hummingbird** near SH. An adult male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** near SH 4/11 (MH, RH) was the only one noted this season.

Flycatcher arrivals included 5/10 for **Eastern Wood-Pewee** and **Acadian Flycatcher**, 5/15 (MH, RH) for **Alder Flycatcher** at YC, 5/13 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, DM, MVT) for both **Willow** and **Least Flycatcher**, also at YC, 3/25 (LC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM) for **Eastern Phoebe** at YC, 5/10 (m.ob.) for **Great Crested Flycatcher** on the PAMC, and 4/26 (RG, SG) for **Eastern Kingbird** at YC. First **White-eyed Vireo** appeared at YC 4/29 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL). A migrant **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen and heard at YC, where it does not usually breed, 5/3 (LC, TC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, JT). An early **Blue-headed Vireo** was observed at YC 4/19 (NW); throughout the spring Blue-headededs seemed to be in low numbers. Five **Warbling Vireos** were first spotted 5/10 (DC, MC) in southern *Indiana*. A **Philadelphia Vireo** at YC 5/13 (SGo) comprised the entire report for this species. First **Red-eyed Vireo** was listed 5/9 (AF) at YC. **Fish Crow** reports included 2 at IUP after 3/15 (JT) and individuals in IN 4/30 (PJ) and 5/10 (DL). Top IUP count was 6 on 4/28 (JT).

The only **Purple Martins** noted in the county included 14 on 5/10 (MM, NS) in N. Mahoning Twp. and 2 at CD 5/14 (MH, RH, JT). First swallow dates, all at YC unless otherwise noted, included 3/22 (LC, DC, EHC, MH, RH) for **Tree**; 4/13 (JT) for **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at IUP; 5/2 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM) for **Bank**; 4/22 (LC, EHC, SD, TG, MH, RH, KT) for **Cliff Swallow**; and 3/25 (LC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM) for **Barn Swallow**. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** which have nested near SH for years disappeared after 4/16 (MH, RH). One at Lions Health Camp 5/10 (DM) was the only other one reported. First **House Wren** was heard near SH 4/14 (MH, RH) and first **Winter Wren** appeared at YC 4/6 (TR). Seven **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** along the GTT between Wehrum and Clarke Run were first arrivals. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** moved through *Indiana* between 4/13 (MH, RH) and 5/10 (LC). The PAMC yielded 2 **Veeries** 5/10 (m.ob.); the only other sighting was one at CD 5/15 (MH, RH). The PAMC yielded 8 diurnal **Swainson's Thrushes** and a nocturnal watch yielded 63 (DL) passing over IN. Three **Hermit Thrushes** were at YC 4/11 (LC); one was along the RB of the GTT 5/1 (MH, RH); a third was at Hemlock Lake 5/10 (MH, RH). YC had the first **Wood Thrush** 5/1 (MH, RH). First **Gray Catbird** was at Blue Spruce 4/28 (MH, RH); **Brown Thrasher**, at IUP 4/6 (JT).

Blue Spruce hosted the first returning **Ovenbirds** 4/28 (MH, RH). First **Louisiana Waterthrush** was spotted along the GTT between Dilltown and Clarke Run 4/4 (MH, RH); none were found at the typical YC locations till 5/3 (LC, TC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, JT). The RB of the GTT produced the first singing **Northern Waterthrush** 5/1 (MH, RH); a rather late bird was singing at YC 5/27 (LC, MH, RH, KT). **Blue-winged Warbler** was first observed 4/30 (JT) at IUP; PAMC participants tallied 14 on 5/10 (m.ob.). The GTT near Wehrum yielded the first **Black-and-white Warbler** 4/20 (DG, GG). **Tennessee Warblers** migrated through the county between 5/10 (m.ob.) when 7 were tallied and 5/17 (LC, DC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, GL, SM, JT, WT) when YC also yielded 7. **Nashville Warblers** were found between 4/30 (JT) and 5/15 (MH, RH). The PAMC (m.ob.) produced only 7 **Kentucky Warblers**. First **Common Yellowthroats** were spotted at Blue Spruce 4/28 (MH, RH). **Hooded Warbler** arrived at YC 5/3 (LC, TC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, JT); 51 were counted on the PAMC (m.ob.). The GTT's RB hosted the first **American Redstart**, **Cerulean Warbler**, and **Northern Parula** 5/1 (MH, RH). **Magnolia Warbler** was first spotted at YC 5/3 (LC, TC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, JT). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were found on only three dates this spring: one on 5/10 (MH, RH) in ne. *Indiana*, one 5/13 (SGo) at YC, and one 5/17 (LC, DC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, GL, SM, JT, WT) at YC. The RB hosted the first **Blackburnian Warbler** 5/1 (MH, RH) and the first **Yellow and Chestnut-sided Warbler** respectively arrived 4/29 (JT) at IUP and 5/4 (TR) at YC. **Blackpoll Warblers** migrated through *Indiana* between 5/9 (AF) and 5/29 (MH, RH). **Black-throated Blue Warbler** reports included one along the GTT's RB 5/1 (MH, RH), 4 on the PAMC (m.ob.), and one at YC 5/13 (SGo). **Palm Warblers** were in evidence between 5/3 (LC, TC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, JT) and 5/9 (AF); 7 were present at YC 5/4 (TR). **Pine Warbler** was first noted near SH 4/7 (MH, RH) and at YC 4/26 (RG, SG); it has been known to breed at both locations. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, a non-breeder in the county, was first seen along the GTT between Wehrum and Clarke's Run 4/14 (MH, RH); last observed was one at YC 5/15 (MH, RH). **Yellow-throated Warblers** had returned to CD by 4/15 (EF, MF). The PAMC (m.ob.) yielded 15 **Prairie Warblers**. The first 2 **Black-throated Green Warblers** were found at Blue Spruce 4/28 (MH, RH). **Canada Warbler** sightings included 2 for the PAMC (m.ob.) and one at YC 5/14 (SGo). One to 2 **Wilson's Warblers** were found on three dates 5/10-15 (m.ob.). Besides the 3 **Yellow-breasted Chats** observed during the PAMC, the only other report mentioned one at CD 5/14 (MH, RH, JT).

**Eastern Towhee** returned 4/1 (LC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM, RN) at YC. Last **American Tree Sparrow** was sighted on the IUP campus 4/3 (JT) while the first 2 **Chipping Sparrows** appeared at YC 4/6 (TR); **Field Sparrow** was first found 4/8 (LC, MH, RH, SM) at YC. First **Savannah**

**Sparrow** was listed 4/2 (JT) at IUP; the PAMC (DC, MC) yielded only 4 of this increasingly difficult to find species as well as only 5 **Grasshopper Sparrows** and 3 **Henslow's Sparrows**. Nolo hosted one to 2 **Fox Sparrows** between 3/12-26 (CL, GL); last seen occurred 4/8 (MH, RH) near SH. By 3/25 (LC, TG, MH, RH, SM, WL) the first **Swamp Sparrow** had returned to YC. One **White-throated Sparrow** lingered for the PAMC (DM) near Lions Health Camp. **White-crowned Sparrows** migrated through the county in small numbers between 5/3 (CL, GL) and 5/14 (MC).

**Scarlet Tanagers** arrived 5/3 (LC, TC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, JT) and were in good numbers for the PAMC (m.ob.). Nolo produced the first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 4/27 (CL, GL) and the SH area, the first **Indigo Bunting** 5/3 (MH, RH). Nineteen was the PAMC (m.ob.) **Bobolink** count. **Rusty Blackbirds** slipped through the county in small flocks with first sighting of only 7 along the GTT near Clarke Run 4/4 (MH, RH). YC's reports were limited to 4 on 4/5 (3RBC, TBC) and 2 on 4/22 (LC, EHC, SD, TG, MH, RH, KT). Oriole dates of return included 4/30 (MH, RH) for both **Orchard** and **Baltimore** near SH.

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#### Jefferson County

Locations: Brockway (BW), Clarion River (CR), Clear Creek SF (CC), Cloe Lake (CL), Cook Forest SP (CF), Deemer-Dobson Rd (DR), Fordham Lake (FL), Harvey Run Rd (HR), Kramer Rd (KR), Kyle Lake (KL), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), North Fork Park (NF), North Point Rd (NP), Pansy-Ringgold Rd (PR), Paradise Rd (PAR), Punxsutawney (PX), Rattlesnake Creek (RC), Ringgold (RG), Sandy Ridge Rd (SR), Worthville (WV).

A season high of 53 **Canada Geese** was reported on FL 3/25 (TG). An estimated 380 **Tundra Swans** were seen over the MS 3/12 (KD). The first two **Wood Ducks** were found on the MS 3/10 (KD). The only two **Northern Shovelers** reported for the period on FL 4/18 (TG), and 7 **Ring-necked Ducks** were discovered on PR 3/23 (JK), along with two more on the MS 4/10 (KD). Six **Lesser Scaup** showed up on the MS 3/10 (KD). An interesting find was two **Surf Scoters** on the CR 4/25 (CW). A lone **Long-tailed Duck** was on KL 4/4 (NW) and again 4/6 (NW). Also seen were two **Buffleheads** on KL 4/27 (JM). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were noted on the MS 3/19 (KD) and two more were noted again on the MS 4/10 (KD). A flock of 15 **Red-breasted Mergansers** was seen on KL 4/4 (NW). One **Ruddy Duck** was seen on FL 4/26 (LC, DC, EC, SD, TG, MH, RH), and two more **Ruddy Ducks** were found on KL 5/4 (JK).

A nice find was 16 **Common Loons** on KL 4/14 (CD). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen on CL 5/4 (JK). Of particular note, **Horned Grebes** were found on KL three times, 2 on 4/4 (NW), 8 on 4/6 (NW), and 8 on 4/14 (CD). Only one **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported for the period, in CF 5/4 (TO). The first season's first **Green Heron** was on the MS 4/18 (TG).

The first **Turkey Vulture** for the period was noted on HR 3/4 (JM), and two **Osprey** seen on KL 4/6 by NW were the first for the season. The resident **Bald Eagles** of the MS failed in their attempt at nesting this year. The female was on the nest starting the last week in Feb through Mar, but sometime during the first part of Apr they abandoned the nest. The cold damp weather may have been the reason. Two **Broad-winged Hawks** were the first recorded on the MS 4/26 (LC, DC, EC, SD, TG, MH, RH).

The only reported **American Coots** were two on FL 3/25 (TG). Three **Killdeer** found on NP 3/12 (LH) were the first for the season. The first two **Spotted Sandpipers** for the period were found 4/27 at KL (JM), and the first **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at FL 4/26 (LC, DC, EC, SD, TG, MH, RH). A lone **American Woodcock** was found on KR 4/14 (TS). An interesting find for *Jefferson* was 24 **Ring-billed Gulls** on the MS 4/2 (KD), along with two **Herring Gulls** on KL 4/14 (CD).

Only one **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported 5/12 on the MS (KD). The first **American Kestrel** was on PAR 4/2 (TS), and the only **Merlin** was seen on the MS 4/26 (LC, DC, EC, SD, TG, MH, RH).

The season's first **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was found in CF 5/6 (TO). One **Alder Flycatcher** was noted on the MS 5/9 (KD), and 3 **Least Flycatchers** were also found on the MS 5/8 (KD). The first **Eastern Phoebe**

was discovered in WV 4/6 (JK). Two **Great Crested Flycatchers** showed up on the MS 5/8 (KD). The first season's **Blue-headed Vireo** was at CL 4/13 (CD), and the first **Warbling Vireo** was on DR 5/26 (CE). The first **Philadelphia Vireo** was on the MS 5/8 (KD), and the first of many **Red-eyed Vireo** was near the CR 5/1 (AG). The only **Common Raven** was reported in PX 5/27 (TS). An interesting observation was 2 **Horned Larks** in WV, 5/4 (JK). The first 2 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were found on the MS 4/26 (LC, DC, EC, SD, TG, MH, RH), and an estimated 100 represented the high count at CL 5/4 (JK). The first **Tree Swallows** showed up at KL 4/4 (NW), and high count of 75 was also reported at KL 4/27 (JM). Two **Bank Swallows** were found in CF 5/8 (TO), and the first **Barn Swallow** for the period was found on the MS 4/26 (LC, DC, EC, SD, TG, MH, RH). Six **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were the first reported on the MS 4/14 (KD), and four **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were also a first find on the MS 4/11 (KD). The season's first **Veery** was on the MS 5/7 (KD). The only **Swainson's Thrush** was also found on the MS 5/12 (KD). The first **Gray Catbird** appeared in WV 5/4 (JK), and the first **Brown Thrasher** also was in WV 4/12 (JK). Two **Northern Mockingbirds** were first noted again at WV also 4/12 (JK).

The period produced 19 species of warblers. The first **Ovenbird** was near the CR 5/1 (AG). Two **Blue-winged Warblers** were on the MS 5/8 (KD), and a **Black-and-white Warbler** was also first find for the season on the MS 5/8 (KD). Two **Nashville Warblers** were a first for the MS 5/9 (KD). Two **Hooded Warblers** were discovered also on the MS 5/8 (KD), along with 2 **American Redstarts** again on the MS and on the same day 5/8 (KD). The season's first **Northern Parula** was one found near the CR 5/1 (AG). Four **Magnolia Warblers** were on the MS 5/8 (KD), and 4 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were there 5/12 (KD). Two **Blackburnian Warblers** showed up on the MS 5/7 (KD). The season's first 4 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were on the MS 5/7 (KD). Four **Blackpoll Warblers** were on the MS 5/9 (KD), and 3 **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were also on the MS 5/8 (KD). An interesting early find was one **Pine Warbler** heard at the NF 3/31 (DR). The first **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was on the MS 4/18 (TG). One **Black-throated Green Warbler** was on the MS 4/26 (m.ob.). The only two **Canada Warblers** for the season were on the MS 5/12 (KD).

The last 5 **American Tree Sparrows** of the season were in RG 3/2 (JK). **Chipping Sparrows** were noted for the first time in RG 4/6 (JK), and the first **Field Sparrow** heard was on the MS 3/12 (KD). The first **Savannah Sparrow** arrived on PAR 4/2 (TS). Three **Grasshopper Sparrows** and 3 **Henslow's Sparrows** were found on the grasslands of SR 5/24 (TG). The first **Swamp Sparrow** appeared on the MS 4/18 (TG). A late **White-throated Sparrow** was observed on the MS 5/12 (KD). The only **White-crowned Sparrows** noted appeared in early in May, one in RG (JK), one in BW 5/8 (JM), and 3 also in BW on 5/8 (RHL). It is always interesting to note the last **Dark-eyed Juncos**: in the southern part of the county was one on the MS 4/18 (TG), but in the forested northern part of the county they were still being noted through the end of May even into June in CC 6/5 (JF).

Five **Bobolinks** returned to KR 5/23 (TS). And an early **Eastern Meadowlark** was found on the MS 3/19 (KD). Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were discovered on the MS 3/19 (KD), but a welcome find was 24 more found on RC 3/29 (PW) just south of Brockway. The first returning **Orchard Oriole** was found in RG 5/3 (JK), and the first **Baltimore Oriole** was also found in RG 4/28 (JK).

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### Juniata County

Locations: Parsons Pond (PP), Mifflintown River Access (MRA).

A total of 166 species were reported to eBird during the spring migration with the highlight a **Harlequin Duck** along the Juniata River 3/4-11 (CK). Many birders enjoyed this bird as a lifer.

Waterfowl were good beginning 2/27, with **Redhead** and **Canvasback** in good numbers on open water at PP (CK). A **White-winged Scoter** was found on the river at MRA 3/4 along with **Northern Shovelers** (JS, DW). This scoter led to the eventual discovery of the Harlequin Duck. There were nice numbers of **Red-breasted Mergansers**, **Red-necked Grebes**, and a pair of **Red-throated Loons** (CK).

The Birding Cup, a fundraiser for Shavers Creek, was held in Juniata for the first time 5/3. The Juniata Juncos took the county cup for having the

most species in a single county across the seven-county region. The top number for this year was 120 species, and the title will be defended again next year (VG, CK, RK, AT).

The PAMC was held 5/10 and saw a record number of 160 species. A total of 32 species of warblers were the highlight of the day. Thirty-seven people participated, traveling 33 miles on foot, vehicle and water over 108 total field hours.

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### Lackawanna County

No compiler.

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### Lancaster County

Locations: Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands (CRTW), Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Muddy Run (MR), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Speedwell Forge Reservoir (SFR), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clark (SRLC), Susquehanna River Peach Bottom (SRPB), Woods Edge Park (WE).

This season was strange. Lingering winter birds were still in place while summer birds were returning, and it seemed that many migrating birds were late this year, possibly due to the harsh winter. Waterbirds were found on lakes and ponds once they were open, but the river was still the best place to find most of the waterbirds. Variety was good. **Red-necked Grebes** were abundant this year, along with **Canvasbacks** and **Northern Pintails**.

Approximately 50 **Tundra Swans** were flying in the Forrey Road area 3/2 (ML). A total of 4800 were at MCWMA 3/12 (DK). Two late birds were at the Chestnut Grove Nature Area 5/5 (ML, JM). A **Trumpeter Swan** was at MCWMA 3/14-31 (BR, KB, TD). Another was at MR 3/16 (TR). Upwards of 2000 **Snow Geese** were in field along Forrey and Charlestown Roads, and another 1000 were in another field nearby 3/2 (ML). An estimated 60,000 were at MCWMA 3/12 (DK). Eight flew over the LCCP 5/14 (FB). A **Ross's Goose** was with a flock of approximately 1500 **Snow Geese** at Greenfield Estates Pond 3/6 (TJ), and 2 were there 3/8 (CK). Lastly one was at MCWMA 3/12 (RK). A **Cackling Goose** was at MCWMA 3/10 (TB), 5 were at Greenfield Estates Pond 3/14 (JBo), and one was at Chestnut Grove Nature Area 5/5 (ML). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was on the SRCF 3/22 (ME, JBo, ML).

First **Wood Duck** was on the SR 3/26 (CC), and 10 were on the SR between Accomac and Wildcat Falls 3/29 (JH). A total of 17 were at OR 4/2 (BH). Eight **Gadwalls** were at MCWMA 3/12 (RK). They were also reported at Riverfront Park 3/16 (GL). Eight **American Wigeon** were on the SR 3/7 (ME), 90 were at MCWMA 3/12 (RK), and 14 were at the Chestnut Grove Nature Area 5/5 (JM, ML). It was a remarkable season for **Eurasian Wigeon**. One was at Riverfront Park 3/20 (ME), 2 were on the SRCF 3/22 (ME, JBo, ML), and a third one was at Riverfront Park (ME, ML). Twelve **American Black Ducks** were on the SR 3/7 (ME), 450 were at MCWMA 3/12 (RK), and one was still hanging around 5/25 at SRCF (BC). Four **Northern Shovelers** were at MCWMA 3/12 (RK). An amazing total of 2000+ **Northern Pintails** were at OR 3/11 (PM) and 1300 were at MCWMA 3/12 (RK). One was at SFR 5/10 (BC). A number of **Green-winged Teal** were on the OR 3/11 (PM), 110 were at MCWMA 3/12 (RK), and last were at East Donegal Twp. Park 4/7 (AE). Four **Blue-winged Teal** were at East Donegal Twp. Park 4/6 (AE) and a number were at Safe Harbor 4/9 (JS, RiS). Sixty **Canvasbacks** were on the SR 3/7 (ME), 550 were on the SR 3/13 (ME); last were in a Lancaster City quarry 3/16 (AC). Three **Redheads** were on the SR 3/13 (ME), and a number were in a quarry in Lancaster City 3/16 (AC). Thirty **Ring-necked Ducks** were on the SR 3/7 (ME), 160 were on the SR 3/13 (ME) and a pair was at Safe Harbor 4/9 (JS, RiS). Eight **Greater Scaup** were on the SR 3/13 (ME); 120 **scaup sp.** were on the SR 3/7 (ME) and 40 were on the SR 3/13 (ME). Two **Lesser Scaup** were at WE 3/8 (CK), one was at MCWMA 3/12 (RK), and one was on the SR 3/29 (JH). A **White-winged Scoter** was on the SRLC 3/6-8 (ME) and one was there again 3/31 (ML). Five **Buffleheads** were on the SR 3/7-13 (ME, CK, ML) and 24 were on the SRPB 4/4 (BS). Thirty **Common Goldeneyes** were on the SR 3/7-8 (ME, CK). Three **Long-tailed Ducks** were on the SR at Falmouth 3/8 (CK). A male was at MCWMA 4/4 (BC) and one was on the SR 4/7 (SS). Three **Hooded Mergansers** were on the SR 3/7 (ME), and 2 were on the SR 3/13 (ME) and 3/29 (JH). A total of 15 **Common**

**Mergansers** were on the SR 3/7 (ME) and an amazing 2500 were on the OR 3/11 (PM). Lastly 9 were on the SRPB 4/4 (BS). Four **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on the SR 3/7 (ME), one was on the SRCF 5/25 (EW, BC), and one was on the OR 4/2 (BH). **Ruddy Ducks** were scarce this year. One was on the OR 4/2 (BH).

A **Red-throated Loon** was on the SR 3/7 (ME) and one was at Greenfield Estates Pond 3/6-4/5 (LB, ER, TJ, m.ob.). The extended stay of the latter bird gave many birders a chance at excellent looks. Four **Common Loons** were on the SR 3/26 (CC), 4 were at SRPC 4/4 (BS) and one was calling at SRPB 5/29 (BS). One **Pied-billed Grebe** was on the SR 3/13 (ME), two were there 3/26 (CC) and one was on the OR 4/2 (BH). Eight **Red-necked Grebes** were on the SR 3/1 (ME, EW), a nice count of 20 were on the SRLC 3/31 (ML) and one was still lingering at Muddy Run Reservoir 5/6 (RSm). A **Horned Grebe** in near breeding plumage was on the SR 3/16 (GL). Another at the East Donegal Twp. Park 4/7 (AE) appeared to be missing a leg. Two were on the SR 4/7 (SS). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was on the SR 3/16 (GL), 10 were on the OR 4/2 (BH) and a number were at Safe Harbor 4/9 (JS, RiS).

An **American Bittern** was at WE 4/19-23 (ML, JY, ME, LB). A **Great Egret** was at WE 4/19 (ME) and one was at WE 5/2 (PF, JL), possibly the same bird. Three were seen on the SR 5/7 (MM), and one with a blue wing tag was at WE 5/25-28 (SS). Two **Green Herons** were at MCWMA 4/14 (BC), one was at WE 4/19 (ME) and one was on the SR 5/7 (MM). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at WE 4/19 (ME). A flock of 15 **Glossy Ibis** flew over Rte. 72 near the Mt. Hope Winery 5/25 (RM).

**Bald Eagles** are commonplace these days. Seven were on the SR 3/7 (ME), 8 were there 3/26 (CC) and 4 (three adults) were at OR 4/2 (BH). A **Golden Eagle** at MCWMA 3/8 (GP) was a nice treat. An **Osprey** was on the SRPB 4/4 (BS) and single birds were at Safe Harbor 4/9 (JS, RiS) and MCWMA 5/2 (BC). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was in the Safe Harbor/Shenk's Ferry Area 4/9 (JS, RiS). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was in the Voganville Road area 3/1 (BM) and a light morph was at OR 3/9 (TR). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Safe Harbor 4/16 (FB), one was in the E. and W. Hempfield Twp. area 4/23 (BH), and 2 flew over at SGL 156 on 5/1 (BH).

Two **Virginia Rails** were calling at WE 4/19 (ME) and one was calling there 5/2 (PF, JL). Two **American Coots** were at WE 3/8 (CK) and 2 were on the OR 4/2 (BH). A **Sandhill Crane** was flying with a flock of **Tundra Swans** at Peach Bottom 3/21 (BS).

Shorebirds were lacking this year. One **Killdeer** was on the SR 3/13 (ME) and 3 were at SFR 4/9 (BH). Three **Semipalmated Plovers** were at OR 5/21 (MM). On 5/25, five were on the OR (PM). Five **Black-bellied Plovers** were on the SRCF 5/25 (EW, BC). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was on the CRTW 4/11 (TJ). It was seen again 4/13 (Rko). Four were along the SR 5/7 (MM). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Noel Dorwart Park 5/2 (PF, JL). They were also at MCWMA 5/2 (BC) and along the SR 5/7 (MM). **Greater Yellowlegs** were at MCWMA 5/2 as well as some **Lesser Yellowlegs** (BC). On 5/20-22, there was a couple present at OR (PM). On 5/21, one **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at OR (MM). Twenty **Least Sandpipers** were at OR 5/21 (MM) and one was there 5/25 (PM). Several **American Woodcock** were at MCWMA doing courtship flights 3/15 (SW). Ten well-camouflaged **Wilson's Snipes** were feeding in the mud at SFR 4/9 (BH). A **Dunlin** was at the OR 5/25 (PM) and two were in a field off of Beechdale Road 5/29 (SS).

Unlike shorebirds, reports of gulls were good. First **Bonaparte's Gulls** were 6 on the SRPB 3/4 (BS), 500 were on the SRPB 4/4 (BS), and 2 late birds were on the SRCF 5/30 (GD). One **Little Gull** was at the Pequea Boat Ramp 3/16 (TR). A total of 4 on the SR 3/29 included 2 at the SRCF (ME), one at Wrightsville (ML, ME), and one at Accomac (JH). One was on the SR 4/6 (Rko, AMa), with another five at SRLC (EW). A basic plumaged adult at SRPB 5/8 (BS) was late. An adult **Black-headed Gull** in breeding plumage was on the SR 4/2 (ME, LBl), and one was at Wissler Run Park 3/15 (TR). Thirty **Herring Gulls** were on the SR 3/7 (ME), one was on the SR 3/13 (ME) and 15 were on the SR 3/26 (CC). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was on the SRLC 3/7 (ME, AW). Another was on the SR at the Falmouth Access 3/7-8 (TJ, AM, TGo). Two were on the SRLC 4/5 (EW, BC). Four **Great Black-backed Gulls** were on the SR 3/7 (ME) and 9 were there 3/26 (CC). On 3/29, there were four on the SR (JH). On 3/8, a **Glaucous Gull** was on the SR below Safe Harbor Dam (TR). A **Caspian Tern** was on the SRCF 4/4 (ME). A **Common Tern** was at Riverfront Park 4/5 (ML).

A **Eurasian Collared Dove** was at the Rock Springs Preserve 5/11 (TR), and another was at the SRCF 5/25 (EW, BC, TG). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was in a field in Gap 5/15 (PF). Seven **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were at LCCP 5/14 (FB).

**Snowy Owls** stayed into March still giving wonderful looks. One was perched in a tree in the front yard of a home on Linden Grove Road 3/1 (PF). Another was along Indiantown Road near Durlach Road (CMA). A third was on Wissler Road (DHa). A individual was on Musser School Road (LC). Five were in the Musser School Road area 3/15 (ML), and another two were in the Voganville Road area (RKe). One on Musser School Road 4/1 (RS)

was the last of an amazing and memorable season. A **Barred Owl** was calling at Safe Harbor 4/16 (FB).

First **Chimney Swift** was at St. Mary's and Lancaster Cemetery 4/12 (BM). A male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was in Akron 5/4 (BC). A male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at a yard in Peach Bottom 3/3 (BS). One was in a Denver yard 3/14 (LG). An immature was at Shenk's Ferry 4/9 (JS, RiS). There were more reports of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** than normal, but it is unknown whether they are truly increasing. One was on Long Lane in Brecknock Township 3/8 (AH) and another was on Pleasant Valley Road 3/8 (AH). There were two on Musser School Road and one on Voganville Road 3/16 (NP, SJ). A fourth bird was on Long Lane (LC). One was at SGL 52 on 3/22 (AH) and one was in Gap 5/18 and 5/22 (PF). A **Merlin** was at Safe Harbor 4/16 (FB). A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** was being amorous at the Wrightsville Bridge 3/8 (CK). One was at Safe Harbor 4/16 (FB) and one was at the SR 5/7 (MM).

Songbirds seemed late to return overall. An **Eastern Phoebe** was at the SR 3/26 (CC) and one was along the Seglock Run 4/1 (SS). An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was along the SR 5/7 (MM) and two were at LCCP 5/14 (FB). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was in a neighborhood in Lancaster 4/21 (ML). Two were along the SR 5/7 (MM) and on 5/14, four were at LCCP (FB). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was singing on the Observation Site Road 5/2 (LB). Another was at Overlook Park 5/31 (GS), and one was at Pequea Silver Mines 5/10 (TR). An **Eastern Kingbird** was at SGL 156 on 5/1 (BH). A **Least Flycatcher** was at MCWMA 5/2 (BC) and one was along the SR 5/7 (MM). **Willow Flycatchers** were at MCWMA 5/12 (SS).

Two **White-eyed Vireos** were at Holtwood 4/13 (TA) and one was along the SR 5/7 (MM). The only **Philadelphia Vireo** of the season was at the Wheatland Hills Park 5/7 (GS). Two **Blue-headed Vireos** were at Pumping Station Road 4/26 (BC). They were also at MCWMA 5/2 (BC). Three **Warbling Vireos** were at Safe Harbor 4/26 (CGr), one was at Noel Dorwart Park 5/2 (PF, JL), and 6 were in LCCP 5/14 (FB). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was in Mountville 5/4 (SM). Four **Red-eyed Vireos** were along the SR 5/7 (MM).

There were more reports of **Common Raven** this season than ever before. One was at SRPB 3/1 (BS), 2 were at the SR 4/4 (ML), one was at Chickies Rock County Park 5/17 (ML), and one was also at MCWMA 5/3 (RM). Lastly a pair was at Breezyview Overlook, being harassed by an **American Crow** 5/18 (ML). Two **Horned Larks** were in a farm field between SFCP and SPR 4/9 (BH). They were also reported at the Lancaster County Airport 5/26 (DKu). Seven **Tree Swallows** were on the SRLC 3/1 (EW). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was on the Conestoga Greenway Trail 3/22 (BM). A slightly early **Barn Swallow** was at the SR at Wildcat Falls 3/29 (JH), and one was at the OR 4/2 (BH). A possible **Bank Swallow** was at Shenk's Ferry/Safe Harbor 4/9 (JS, RiS). A **Black-capped Chickadee** was at Laurel Drive 5/11 (BSn). Two **Brown Creepers** were at a yard in Denver 3/1-14 (LG). Two were at OR 4/2 (BH). One was in the vicinity of Shenk's Ferry/Safe Harbor 4/9 (JS, RiS). Two **Winter Wrens** were singing at SFCP 4/9 (BH) and one was at Safe Harbor 4/26 (CGr). A **House Wren** was in the E/W Hempfield Twp areas 4/23 (BH).

Ten **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were along the SR between Falmouth and Bainbridge 4/13 (ME). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at the OR 4/2 (BH), one was at Safe Harbor 4/16 (FB) and one was still at Wheatland Hills Park 5/7 (GS). Three **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were at Safe Harbor Park 4/16 (FB), two were in the E/W Hempfield Twp areas 4/23 (BH) and there was still one around 5/7, along the SR (MM).

Three **Veeries** were at Pumping Station Road and SGL 156 on 5/1 (BH). A **Hermit Thrush** was at the OR 4/2 (BH). On 5/1, two were at Pumping Station Road and SGL 156 (BH). One was at Noel Dorwart Park 5/1 (PF, JL). Five **Wood Thrushes** were at SGL 156 and Pumping Station Road 5/1 (BH). There were three along the SR 5/7 (MM). On 5/14, five were in LCCP (FB). A **Gray Catbird** was at OR 3/10 (CG), one was at the SR, at the Falmouth Access 3/28 (GD), 3 were at SGL 156 and Pumping Station Road 5/1 (BH). A **Brown Thrasher** was at the OR 4/2 (BH). Two **American Pipits** were at the SR 3/26 (CC). From 5/5-13, up to six were in a field in Gap (PF). Three **Cedar Waxwings** were in LCCP 5/14 (FB). A **Lapland Longspur** was on Musser School Road 3/25 (JBo).

A **Palm Warbler** was along the Enola Low Grade Trail 3/31 (CG). Three were on Pumping Station Road 4/26 (BC) and one was at MCWMA 5/2 (BC). A **Northern Parula** was singing at the Falmouth Access of the SR 4/12 (GD), another was at the Chickies Day Use Area (ML). Six were along the SR 5/7 (MM). A **Prairie Warbler** was singing at a power line cut along Prescott Road 4/13 (ME). An **Ovenbird** was feeding in the underbrush along Pumping Station Road 4/18 (ME) and one was on Pumping Station Road 4/26 (BC). An amazing 258 were counted on Pumping Station Road and SGL 156 on 5/23 (ME). A **Magnolia Warbler** was at Chiques Rock 4/26 (ME) and on 5/14, two were at LCCP (FB). First **Louisiana Waterthrush** was along the Seglock Run 4/1 (SS). Two **Northern Waterthrushes** were on Pumping Station Road 5/1 (BH). One was in Mountville 5/4 (SM) and one

was at MCWMA 5/12 (SS). Four **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at Safe Harbor Park 4/16 (FB). Fifty or more were at Safe Harbor 4/26 (CGr). Two were in LCCP 5/14 (FB). Two **Blackpoll Warblers** were along the SR 5/7. This was about the earliest date for them for *Lancaster*. On 5/14, there were two in LCCP (FB) and two were in Gap 5/15 (PF). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was singing along the Conoy Canal Towpath Trail 4/8 (ME). Four were singing at Safe Harbor Park 4/9 (JS, RiS), 6 were along the SR, from Falmouth to Bainbridge 4/13 (ME). A **Yellow Warbler** was at SFCP 4/25 (BC). A single **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at LCCP 5/14 (FB). One **Magnolia Warbler** was along the SR 5/7 (MM). Two **Common Yellowthroats** were at SFCP 4/25 (BC). A **Pine Warbler** was at Pumping Station Road 4/26 (BC). Two **Black-and-white Warblers** were at SFCP 4/25 (BC), 3 were on Pumping Station Road 4/26 (BC) and 10 were on Pumping Station Road and at SGL 156 on 5/1 (BH). One **Black-throated Green Warbler** was on Pumping Station Road 4/26 (BC). Three were at Safe Harbor 4/26 (CGr). On 5/1, two were at Pumping Station Road and SGL 156 (BH). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** showed up at MCWMA 5/2 (BC). **Blackburnian Warblers** were at MCWMA 5/2 (BC). **Nashville Warblers** were at MCWMA 5/2 (BC). Two **Blue-winged Warblers** were at Pumping Station Road and SGL 156 on 5/1 (BH). One was singing at Noel Dorwart Park 5/2 (PF, JL). A **Mourning Warbler** was on Pumping Station Road 5/2 (ME) and another put in an appearance in Mountville 5/4 (SM). **American Redstarts** were in Mountville 5/4 (SM). On 5/7, six were along the SR (MM) and 4 were in LCCP 5/14 (FB). Five **Prothonotary Warblers** were along the SR 5/7 (MM) chasing each other around, trying to set up territories. One was at Safe Harbor 5/23 (TR). A **Cape May Warbler** was at Pequea Silver Mines 5/10 (TR). Nine **Hooded Warblers** were on SGL 156, in the deer exclusion areas, 5/23 (ME). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at the Holtwood Fly Ash Basin 5/3 (JS, DeH). One was along the SR 5/7 (MM).

Two **Scarlet Tanagers** were on SGL 156 on 5/1 (BH). A **Summer Tanager** was singing in a power line cut at Martic Twp. Park 5/27 (TR). Four **Eastern Towhees** were at SFR/SFCP (BH). They were also at the OR 4/14 (TW). Three **Chipping Sparrows** were at SPR/SFCP 4/9 (BH) and Safe Harbor 4/9 (JS, RiS); 15 were at Safe Harbor 4/16 (FB). Two **Field Sparrows** were at the OR 4/2 (BH). A **Swamp Sparrow** was at the OR 4/2 (BH) and one was at Noel Dorwart Park 5/2 (PF, JL). A **Fox Sparrow** was in a yard in Peach Bottom 3/3 (BS) and two were in a Denver yard 3/13-14 (LG). Three **White-throated Sparrows** were at MCWMA 3/12 (RK), 15 were at the OR 4/2 (BH) and one late bird was at Wheatland Hills Glenbrook Area Community Park 5/22 (DL). Three **White-crowned Sparrows** were in Akron 5/4 (BC). Six **American Tree Sparrows** were at a park in Strasburg 3/4 (TR). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at MCWMA 5/12 (SS). There were some at the Lancaster Airport 5/26 (DKu). **Savannah Sparrows** were at the Lancaster County Airport 5/26 (DKu). Four **Dark-eyed Juncos** were at MCWMA 3/12 (RK). One was late at Mount Joy Farm 5/3 (JH).

A **Dickcissel** was singing along Umbletown Road in Gap 5/12 (PF). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was in Akron 5/4 (BC). An **Indigo Bunting** was in Mountville 5/4 (SM). Seven were along the SR 5/7 (MM) and 8 were in LCCP 5/14 (FB). A **Blue Grosbeak** was at MCWMA 5/12 (SS). Two were at the Lancaster Airport 5/26 (DKu). Another was found at Rt. 222 and Mason Dixon Road 5/26 (SS).

**Bobolinks** showed up at MCWMA 5/2 (BC). A **Red-winged Blackbird** was at the SR 3/26 (CC). Many were at SFR/SFCP 4/9 (BH). One **Eastern Meadowlark** was singing at LCCP 5/14 (FB). They were also at the Lancaster County Airport 5/26 (DKu). Three **Common Grackles** were at the SR 3/26 (CC). One **Brown-headed Cowbird** was along the SR 3/26 (CC), 12 were at the OR 4/2 (BH) and a number were at SFR/SFCP 4/9 (BH). Two **Baltimore Orioles** were at Noel Dorwart Park 5/2 (PF, JL). Ten were at LCCP 5/14 (FB). Two **Orchard Orioles** were along the SR 5/7 (MM) and 8 were at LCCP 5/14 (FB). A female **Purple Finch** was in a yard in Denver 3/12 (LG), the only report of a winter finch this season.

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## Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Copper Road Marsh (CRM), Plain Grove Twp. (PGT).

Rare geese included a blue morph **Snow Goose** at BS 4/6 (GM) and a **Ross's Goose** on Vosler Road 4/5 (BD, RW). The latter appeared one day after a Ross's Goose was found about 40 miles to the south in *Allegheny*, raising the possibility that it was the same bird. **Tundra Swans** were detected as they moved through in March: 90 were at BS 3/13 (SG) and 62 were there 3/21 (BB). Last was one lingering bird at BS 4/6 (GM). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was found at the Glacial Sand Gravel Company pond 4/12-13 (MV), which lies on Rte. 108 just off the I-79 exit. This bird was still present 4/13 and was seen on the *Butler* side of the county line as well (MD, et al.). Reports of more common waterfowl were good, particularly at BS in March as the long deep freeze of the previous winter finally relented. Top count of **Gadwall** was 16 at CRM 4/6 (MV). A very nice tally of 40 **American Wigeon** was made at BS 3/21 (BB), and 12 were still at the Glacial Sand pond 4/12-13 (MV, m.ob.). Just 2 **American Black Ducks** were found, both at BS from 3/31-4/6 (m.ob.). **Blue-winged Teal** were oft reported in April, with a peak of 16 at BS 4/27 (DI). Eight **Northern Shovelers** were at BS 3/11 (ST) and 6 were at CRM 4/6 (MV). A wonderful count of 90 **Northern Pintail** was made at BS 3/21 (BB), and 35 were still there 4/6 (GM). Best count of **Green-winged Teal** was 25 at BS 3/11 (ST); two stragglers were still there 4/20 (DI). Despite a nice showing in nearby counties, the only report of **Canvasback** in *Lawrence* this season was 4 at Mason Road in PGT 3/24 (SB). **Redhead** was much better represented; top counts were 20 and 50 at BS 3/13 (SG) and 3/21 (BB), respectively. Six were still at the Glacial Sand pond 4/12-13 (MV, m.ob.). **Ring-necked Ducks** put in their usual impressive appearance, this year topped by 150-160 at BS 3/21-27 (DI, BB). A nice April total of 59 were counted at CRM 4/6 (MV); a few lingered there to 4/19 (MV). The only reports of **Lesser Scaup** were 3 at CRM 4/6 (MV) and 3 late birds at Mason Road 5/3 (SB). A **Long-tailed Duck** was at Mason Road 4/5-6 (SB, et al.). Top count of **Bufflehead** was just 10 at CRM 4/6 (MV); two lingered with other late waterbirds at Mason Road 5/3 (SB). A **Common Merganser** and a **Red-breasted Merganser** were at the Glacial Sand pond 4/12 (MV). The Common Merganser (or another) was still there 4/27 (MJ). One **Ruddy Duck** was still at Mason Road 5/3 (SB).

**Common Loon** was noted in PGT 4/6 and 4/26 (BD, RW). **Horned Grebe** was found in three locations with the last at Glacial Sand 4/12-13 (MV, et al.). Very unusual for *Lawrence* but perhaps not unexpected in this invasion year, two **Red-necked Grebes** were found: one at Glacial Sand 4/12-13 (MV), and one late lingering bird at Mason Road 5/3 (SB).

**Osprey** was noted at CRM 4/13 (MV) and in PGT 4/26-27 (BD, RW). There were at least six sightings of **Bald Eagle**, mostly in PGT (m.ob.), but one was also at CRM 4/6 (MV). Four **Common Gallinules** (two pairs) were at Wampum-New Galilee Road 5/16 (GM), a traditional breeding site. The wintering flock of **Sandhill Cranes** in PGT totaled 44 birds 3/11 (ST), and dwindled to 13 by 3/27 (DI). By April all reports were of just one or two birds, presumably the locally breeding pairs.

In this season of rarities, none was as remarkable as the 9 **Willetts** at Mason Road 5/3 (SB, ph. GM), *Lawrence's* first of this species. These birds appeared squarely in the middle of the species' narrow late-April/early May migration window in western Pennsylvania, and as is also quite typical, they did not remain the next day. Otherwise reports of shorebirds were poor, with only a few reports of **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Wilson's Snipe**, and **American Woodcock**. Among these, only the 6 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at BS 3/30 (DI) were notable, in this case for their early date. Very nice by *Lawrence* standards were 25 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at CRM 4/6 (BD, RW). Even **Ring-billed Gull** is somewhat unusual in *Lawrence*, so 2 at BS 4/6 (GM) were also a decent find. **Short-eared Owl** was noted at the Volant Strips 3/11 (ST) but was not reported thereafter. A **Common Nighthawk** at Enon Valley 5/26 (TJ) was the only one reported.

Highlights at McConnell's Mill SP 5/21 (RN) were **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Veery**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler**. A **Purple Martin** was in PGT 4/6 (BD, RW). **Swainson's Thrush**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, and **Canada Warbler** were at SGL 178 on 5/10 (SB). Three **Tennessee Warblers**, a **Blackpoll Warbler**, and a **Black-throated Green Warbler** were heard at Wampum-New Galilee Road 5/16 (GM). **Henslow's Sparrow** and **Bobolink** were present at the Volant Strips again this year into the summer (RN, m.ob.); the latter were especially plentiful.

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## Lebanon County

Locations: Camp Shand Powerline (CSP), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Kreider's Retention Pond (KP), Lion's Lake (LL), Marquette Lake (ML), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Millardsville Quarry (MVQ), Mt Pleasant Rd (MPR), Pine Rd (PR), Quittapahilla Wetlands Preserve (QW), Reistville and Prescott Rd Ponds (RPP), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), SGL 80, SGL 145, SGL 211, Shuey Lake (SL), Spring Hill Acres (SHA), Snitz Creek Park (SCP), Swatara State Park (SSP).

Another successful PAMC was conducted 5/10. Twenty-seven species of warbler were found. New county high counts were set for seven species, including **Eastern Whip-poor-will** (17), **Yellow-throated Vireo** (18), **Warbling Vireo** (9), **Chestnut-sided Warbler** (23), **Prairie Warbler** (15), **Scarlet Tanager** (89), and **Orchard Oriole** (15). Five **Soras** tied the previous high, and a **Prothonotary Warbler** provided a ninth county record.

**Snow Geese** peaked at an estimated 60,000 at MC between 3/17-20, according to MC staff. Twenty-seven **Snow Geese**, some probably injured, were tallied at MC during the PAMC 5/10 (JH). A **Ross's Goose** was at MC 3/17 (TB). **Cackling Geese** were found at five county locations. These included up to two seen at MVQ 3/5-13 (RCM), and three at Spangler Rd Pond 3/22 (JH). **Cackling Geese** were also found at MC 3/10 (TB) and 3/21 (RCM); at MLSP 3/18 (TB); and LL 3/18 (CBo). Two **Mute Swans** were at a pond along W. Kercher Ave 3/19 (TB), and one at MLSP 3/22 (JD, DM). Up to two immature **Mute Swans** were at MC 4/3-5/10 (RCM, AH, JH, TB). Seven **Mute Swans** provided a new county high count after a storm at MLSP 5/27 (TB, KB). An apparent pair of **Trumpeter Swans** was seen at Spangler Rd Pond 3/22 (TJ). Two **Trumpeter Swans** were found at MVQ 3/28-29 (RCM, TB, KB, DM, CBo, TJ), and again along Rte. 419 south of Millbach 3/31 (RCM). In each of these sightings the Trumpeters were also heard calling. Considering all of these sightings the same pair would, collectively, provide a fifth county record. According to MC staff, **Tundra Swan** numbers peaked at an estimated 5000 at MC between 3/17-20. An estimated 2000 **Tundra Swans** were found in fields along Mt. Zion Rd 3/28 (TB, KB). Three **Tundra Swans** were a good find during the PAMC 5/10 (m.ob.). **Tundra Swans** were fairly late at MC 5/21 (SS), and at RPP 5/24 (SS). Twenty-four **Gadwalls** was a nice count at MLSP 4/5 (RK). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** provided a seventh county record at MLSP 3/21-4/5 (TB, KB, JD, DM, JR, m.ob.). Some good counts of **American Wigeon** were made on 3/21, with 58 at MC (RCM) and 114 at MVQ (RCM). An **American Wigeon** was a good PAMC find at MLSP 5/10 (JH). **Blue-winged Teal** were sporadic finds at MC 3/17-4/3 (RM, RCM), with two pair there 4/3 (RCM). On 4/4 a **Blue-winged Teal** was at MLSP (TB), and a pair were also at KP (JD, TB, KB). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were seen at MLSP 5/1 (JD, DM). During the PAMC two **Blue-winged Teal** were at Camp Shand 5/10 (SW). Up to two female **Canvasbacks** were at MVQ 3/1-31 (RCM, TB, JDu, CBo, TJ). Five **Canvasbacks** were at MLSP 4/4 (TB). A female **Canvasback** was at MLSP 4/15 (EC). Up to 40 **Redheads** were found at MVQ 3/3-31 (DK, RCM, TB), and up to five were at MLSP 3/14-4/6 (TB, KB, JD, LB, MC, m.ob.). Smaller numbers of **Redheads** were seen at four other county locations (TB, BC, RCM, RM). Some good counts of **Ring-necked Ducks** included 95 at MVQ 3/9 (GL), and 110 at MLSP 3/27 (RCM). **Ring-necked Duck** numbers peaked at 216, for a new county high, at MLSP 4/5 (RK). **Greater Scaup** were fairly plentiful this spring. Up to six were at MVQ 3/7-10 (TB). Up to ten **Greater Scaup** were at MLSP 4/4-5 (TB, JH, JD). Single **Greater Scaup** were found at MLSP 3/22 (JD, DM), at MVQ 3/31 (TB), and at the Myerstown Quarry Pond 3/24 (RCM). Thirty-five **Lesser Scaup** were found at MLSP 4/5 (RK). A male **White-winged Scoter** was at MLSP 4/4 (TB, JD). A male **Long-tailed Duck** continued from the winter quarter at MVQ until 3/18 (RCM, GL, TB, DK). One was seen there again 4/2 (RCM, DBi). A female **Long-tailed Duck** was at ML 4/10-15 (JD, DM, TJ, TB). Twelve **Long-tailed Ducks** were at MLSP 4/4 (TB). A great waterfowl fallout at MLSP included 150 **Buffleheads** 4/4 (TB). A pair of **Common Goldeneyes** was at MLSP briefly on the morning of 4/4 (TB). Thirteen **Hooded Mergansers** were at a pond along Sherks Church Rd 4/12 (TJ). A male **Red-breasted Merganser** was at MVQ 3/5-11 (RCM, TB); and two females were there 4/4 (TB). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at MLSP 3/29-30 (TB, JD); and four were there 4/4 (TB, JD). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were also noted at Short Rd. near Lebanon 3/2 (DB), and at the Myerstown Quarry Pond 3/10 (TB). A female **Red-breasted Merganser** tied the county late date at ML 5/11 (TB, KB). Accidental in late May, at MLSP, were a pair of **Common Mergansers** 5/29 (TB, KB), and a **Ruddy Duck** 5/29-30 (R&PW, TB). Two **Ruddy Ducks** were at MLSP for the PAMC 5/10 (DM, JD, CBo, BW, RCM).

A **Ruffed Grouse** flushed from a trail at SSP 3/24 (TB). A **Ruffed Grouse** was drumming at 2Mtn 5/10 (TB). **Northern Bobwhites** were heard calling at three locations: along the Pinch Rd. powerline for the PAMC

5/10 (RCM), from a wooded area along S. Forge Rd 5/12 (TJ), and along Prescott Rd. 5/31 (VG).

Twenty-two **Common Loons** were a good find, flying over SGL 145 on 4/11 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). Four **Common Loons** were at MLSP 4/15 (EC), and seven were there 5/16 (TB, JD). Two were reported from ML for the PAMC 5/10. The pond at KP was an odd setting for a **Common Loon** 5/16 (TJ). Up to 40 **Horned Grebes** were at MLSP 4/4-5 (JH, JD, TB). Two **Horned Grebes** provided a good PAMC find at MLSP 5/10 (JD, DM, CBo, BW). *Lebanon* had a share in the state-wide **Red-necked Grebe** phenomenon this spring. A **Red-necked Grebe** was at MVQ 3/15-4/12 (DK, RCM, TB, JH, TJ, m.ob.). Up to four were found at MLSP 3/23-4/16 (JD, TB, KB, BW, GL, TJ, m.ob.). **Double-crested Cormorants** were found perched on the buoys at MVQ, with two 3/23 (CBo) and five 3/28 (TB). Fifty-nine **Double-crested Cormorants** came into MLSP 4/11 (TJ, TB). A **frigatebird sp.**, all dark plumage, was reported from MC, flying west along Sunnyside Rd., 3/26 (AK). This provided the third frigatebird for the county.

It was a great spring for wading birds in *Lebanon*. Two **American Bitterns** were in a small marsh near MLSP 4/5 (TB, KB, JD, JH), with one there again 4/19 (JF) and 5/10 (JH). One was in the cattails along the CSP 4/9 (JH). One was in the Lake Duffy marsh, at SGL 145, from 4/25-5/6 (TB). A farm along Rte 419 in Millcreek Twp. also hosted an **American Bittern** 5/2 (RB), and one was at SL 5/3 (CB). A **Least Bittern** flushed from some shrubs bordering a swamp at FIG 5/15 (DM). It was seen perched in a tree along the same swamp 5/21 (JD, DM, CBo, TB). At a rookery along Conewago Creek, found two years ago (EC), fifteen **Great Blue Heron** nests were active 4/24 (RCM). Accidental in March were **Great Egrets** seen at SSP 3/23 (GK), and at Sherks Church Rd. 3/31 (TB, KB). One was fairly early at PR 4/3 (TB). Four **Great Egrets** were at Sherks Church Rd. 5/8 (TB), and three flew over a home near Grantville 5/24 (TB). A breeding plumage **Snowy Egret** was at Sherks Church Rd on a new county early date 4/11-12 (TB, JD, KB, CBo, TJ). A **Snowy Egret** at PR provided a new county late date 5/19-23 (RCM, ME, TB, RvM). An adult **Little Blue Heron** dropped into PR on a new county early date 4/5 (TB). This was probably the same bird seen the previous day at the Hershey IBA in *Dauphin* (R&PW). A **Green Heron** was found close to the early date at MLSP 4/6 (TB). A **Green Heron** was somewhat early at SGL 145, Calvary Dam 4/25 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was intermittent at a pond along Rte 22 east of Grantville 4/13-5/4 (TB, KB, JD, CBo). The same heron, perhaps, was found at SL 4/25-27 (TB, KB, CBo, JD). Three **Black-crowned Night-herons** were in a field near Reistville, possibly eating worms after heavy rains, 5/21 (SS). An amazing flock of 34 **Glossy Ibis**, a new county high count, were feeding in flooded corn stubble at PR 5/17 (TB, KB, JD, DM). An unspecified number remained 5/18 (MEI) and one was seen again at PR 5/22 (ME). A **Glossy Ibis** was moving between flooded fields at RPP 5/24 (TB, KB, RCM, TK); following the birds at PR, it provided the tenth county record.

Nesting **Black Vultures** found at Governor Dick Park 4/18 (BM, et.al.) provided the 11th breeding record. Four **Black Vulture** nests were found in boulders along the CSP during a reptile survey 5/24 (DM), providing breeding records twelve through fifteen. Both *Lebanon* **Bald Eagle** nests produced young this year. Two chicks were being fed at PR 4/6 (TB, KB). An eaglet was seen in the nest at Governor Dick Park 5/8 (A&LW). A **Northern Goshawk** was seen at SHA 4/13 (JH) and at the adjacent CSP 4/25 (TB, RCM). Fifty-five **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen passing over SHA 4/13 (JH). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was a good find along Meadow Lane 3/14 (MD). An adult **Golden Eagle** was reported from along Butler Rd. 3/22 (EB).

A total of 3 and potentially up to 5 **Sora** were at two different marshes at FIG during the PAMC 5/10 (JH, JD, DM, CBo, BW). FIG biologists believe that they bred at one of the marshes this year. A **Common Gallinule** was a great find at SL 4/30-5/3 (JD, TB, KB, CBo, JH, CB).

Three **Black-bellied Plovers** were a nice find along MPR 5/16 (ME). Five **Semipalmated Plovers** were a good PAMC find along Iona Rd. 5/10 (GB, TB). Up to four **Semipalmated Plovers** were at SCP 5/16-24 (ME, TB, JD, KB, m.ob.). A **Semipalmated Plover** was along Fox Rd. 5/24 (RCM). Some fairly early **Greater Yellowlegs** sightings included two seen at SL 3/25 (JD, DM) and one at PR 3/31 (TB). A good count of 33 **Lesser Yellowlegs** was made during the PAMC at SCP 5/10 (GB). A **Solitary Sandpiper** tied the county early date at PR 4/6 (TB). Another was fairly early along Shirksville Rd. 4/8 (JD, TB). Eleven **Solitary Sandpipers** were being sociable at Lake Duffy, SGL 145 on 5/6 (TB). A **Ruddy Turnstone** provided a ninth county record at KP 5/11 (TJ, KB, TB). Rare at the end of May was a **Least Sandpiper** at SCP 5/30 (AW). Accidental in March were three **Pectoral Sandpipers** at KP 3/28 (TB). Up to six **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at KP 4/5-6 (JH, ME, BH, SK). A **Dunlin** was at PR 5/2 (TB). One was also found at PR during the PAMC 5/10 (JH), and at RPP as well (JH). Up to five **Dunlin** were at SCP 5/16-24 (JD, TB, KB, RCM, DM, CBo). A single **Dunlin** was sighted at SCP 5/30 (TB, AW). Six **Short-billed**

**Dowitchers** provided a new county high count at MPR 5/18 (TB, JD, CBo). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was also seen at SCP 5/23-24 (CBo, TB, KB). Five **American Woodcock** were at MLSP 3/21 (TB), 6 were found in the *Lebanon* portion of FIG during a woodcock survey 4/21 (DM), one with a chick was photographed along Cold Springs Rd. at FIG 5/1 (JD), and one with four chicks was found along Tomstown Rd. 5/8 (JD). A female **Red-necked Phalarope** provided a ninth county record and a new early date at KP 5/16 (JD, TB, TJ, RCM, KB, ME).

Twenty **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at MLSP 4/4 (TB, KB), and 28 on the same date at PR (TB). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was fairly late at MLSP 5/9 (JD, TB). Five **Great Black-backed Gulls** were at MLSP 3/15 (RCM, ES). A **Caspian Tern** was found on a new county early date at PR 4/4 (TB, JD, KB). Eight **Caspian Terns** were at MLSP 4/30 (JD, TB). Two **Black Terns** supplied both a tenth county record and new early date at MLSP 5/1 (JD).

Two **Barred Owls** were found at SGL 211, Goldmine, 3/24 (TB). Another was a nice PAMC find along Valley Glen Rd. 5/10 (CB). Stop #3 at MC produced several **Short-eared Owl** sightings. One was being harassed by a **Mallard** pair at dawn 3/21 (TB). Two **Short-eared Owls** were found there at dusk 3/31 (JD), and another at dusk 4/6 (RB, JB). A **Common Nighthawk** was seen southeast of Schaefferstown 5/11 (BS). A **Common Nighthawk** was seen at MLSP 5/12 (TB, KB), and eight were found there 5/17 (JD). The first **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard along Cold Springs Rd., FIG, 4/12 (TB, KB). Seventeen **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** provided a new county high count during the PAMC 5/10 (m.ob.). Twelve of those were found along Cold Springs and Tomstown Roads at FIG (JH). Single **Chimney Swifts** were found fairly early at RPP 4/17 (RCM, DBI), and in Lebanon 4/17 (TB). At least 20 **Chimney Swifts** were together in a flock on the west end of Lebanon 4/18 (TB, KB).

A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen on a new county early date in Kleinfeltersville 4/11 (RCM). A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was found at PR 4/6-5/10 (TB, KB, TJ, JG, JH, m.ob.). One was excavating in a snag there 4/8 (TJ). A pair nested in a picnic grove at FIG, where they were also found during the winter. They were carrying food to the nest cavity 5/4 (CBo). They were reported from four other county locations, including Hergelrode Dr 5/7-8 (FH); E. Strack Dr 5/16 (JD, TB); SHA 5/24 (JH); and Sherks Church Rd. 5/25 (KB). **Merlins** were reported from seven widely scattered county locations 3/14-5/7 (DY, JH, TB, TJ, CBo). Two **Merlins** were good PAMC finds 5/10 (CB, RP, GBu, m.ob.).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was calling in SSP 5/17 (TB). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at ML 5/24 (JD). Another **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was heard at SGL 80 on 5/30 (TB). These finds established successive new county late dates. **Alder Flycatchers** were found at FIG 5/21 (JD, DM, CBo, TB), at PR 5/23 (TB), and at SGL 211 on 5/27 (TB). Three **Alder Flycatchers** were heard along the CSP 5/24 (DM). Another Alder appeared to be on a breeding territory at the CSP 5/28-30 (TB, JH). This location has hosted breeding Alder Flycatchers in the past, but the vegetation was killed by herbicide along the powerline. It is regenerating into suitable habitat, at least for now. Two **Least Flycatchers** were found at MLSP 5/4 (JD), and one was there for the PAMC 5/10 (JH). Two Least Flycatchers were also at the CSP 5/5 (TB). Two **Eastern Kingbirds** were somewhat early at PR 4/28 (TB, KB), and two were at ML 4/30 (A&LW). Some of the earlier **White-eyed Vireo** sightings were one at PR 4/25 (RCM, BN), and at SGL 145 from 4/25-28 (RCM, TB, m.ob.). A **Blue-headed Vireo** was an early find at 2Mtn 4/12 (JD). A **Common Raven** was seen by a quarry near Lebanon, where they were also being sighted during the winter, on 3/28 (CBo, TB). Up to three **Common Ravens** were found at PR 4/5 (RVM, KB). Three were also seen at MLSP 4/6 (BH, SK).

First reports of **Purple Martins** were five at E. Strack Dr 4/4 (TB), and two along Fox Rd. 4/12 (RCM, SS). Seven **Tree Swallows** arrived fairly early at MC 3/21 (RCM, m.ob.). Four **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were found a bit early at MVQ 3/24 (RCM). Two **Bank Swallows** were found at KP 5/1 (DHi). Up to three were seen at MLSP 5/3-8 (JH, JD, TB), and two were there 5/21 (TB). Two **Bank Swallows** were at SCP 5/24 (TB, KB). A **Cliff Swallow** was flying over MLSP 4/27 (TB, KB), and at FIG 5/30 (JD). Rare in early April were two **Barn Swallows** at MC 4/7 (TB), and three at Fox Rd. 4/14 (RCM). Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found at MLSP 4/13 (RK, AM). Two were also found for the PAMC at Camp Shand 5/10 (SW). A **Winter Wren** was found at Camp Shand during the PAMC 5/10 (SW). A **Sedge Wren** was seen in a marsh at FIG 5/15 (DM), and again on follow-up visits 5/20-21 (DM, JD, CBo, TB). A **Marsh Wren** in a cattail patch near MLSP provided a ninth county record 5/3 (S&SR, JD, TB, KB). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen near Grantville 5/13-14 (TB, KB), and at SHA 5/15 (JH). A good find in March was a **Gray Catbird** at MLSP 3/15 (RCM) and 3/22 (KB).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was found in a regenerating timbered area at FIG 5/23 (JD, DM). The first **Nashville Warbler** was seen at ML 4/30 (JD). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at SGL 145, Lake Duffy 4/28 (RCM). Twelve **Palm Warblers** were tallied at SL 5/3 (JH). During the

PAMC 5/10, a **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at FIG (JD, DM, CBo, BW), and two were at ML (JH). A female **Cerulean Warbler** was seen at 2Mtn 5/8 (JD). A male **Cerulean Warbler** was singing at 2Mtn 5/9-10 (JD, DM, CBo, BW, TB). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was fairly early at 2Mtn 4/12 (JD). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was reported during the PAMC from Camp Shand 5/10 (SW). A **Northern Waterthrush** was at SGL 145, Lake Duffy 4/28 (TB). **Kentucky Warblers** were found at several locations, including two at FIG 5/23 (JD, DM); Two at SGL 80 on 5/27 (TB); and two at SGL 211 on 5/27 (TB). All of these **Kentucky Warblers** were found either in or near regenerating timbered areas. A male **Mourning Warbler** was along Old Rte. 72, east of Mt. Gretna 5/17 (JH, TB, KB). Up to six **Wilson's Warblers** were at MLSP 5/3-12 (JD, TB, DM, CBo, BW, KB). A **Wilson's Warbler** was found at SL 5/11 (TB, KB), and at SSP 5/13 (TB). Six **Yellow-breasted Chats** equaled the county high count, at FIG 5/15 (DM). Other good counts of **Yellow-breasted Chats** included three along Cold Springs Rd, at FIG 5/25 (TB, KB); and three at SGL 80 on 5/27 (TB).

A **Vesper Sparrow** returned to Light's Church Rd. 4/8-13 (TB, JD, KB). A **Vesper Sparrow** and two **Savannah Sparrows** were found at a farm near Ono 4/14 (JD). A **Fox Sparrow** was seen at Cornwall Manor 3/6-7 (GB) and near Grantville 3/12 (TB, KB). They became more common during the next few weeks. Some good counts included 8 visiting a Mt. Gretna feeder 3/13 (SH) and 5 in a tree at dusk at MLSP 3/28 (TB, KB). Nine **Fox Sparrows** were at the CSP 4/5, with eight in a single flock (DM). Two were fairly late at the CSP 5/10 (SW). A **White-crowned Sparrow** at a feeder near Grantville provided a new county late date 5/24-25 (TB, KB). A **Dark-eyed Junco** lingered in South Annville Twp. 5/4-10 (MD).

**Blue Grosbeaks** were singing in the training corridor at FIG 5/21 (JD), and also behind SL 5/21 (TB). Fifteen **Bobolinks** were found at MC during the PAMC 5/10 (JH). **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen in good numbers this spring. Up to fifty were at PR 4/3-6 (TB, KB); and at least 25 were part of a mixed blackbird flock along nearby Valley Glen Rd. 3/19 (TB). Fifteen were near Kleinfeltersville 3/24 (RCM), and 12 were at MC 4/5 (RCM), and 4 were at SL on a new county late date 5/3 (JH).

A **Purple Finch** visited a feeder near Grantville 4/12 (KB). Two were found at 2Mtn 4/13-14 (TJ, JG).

ADDENDUM: A late report of a **Hooded Merganser** with three young in June of 2013 at the Goldmine beaver pond at SGL 211 (ES), represented the fourth county breeding record. They were seen on three separate visits.

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## Lehigh County

Birders in *Lehigh* reported a total of 212 species this spring, topping last year's tally by six and a new high species total for the second year in a row. Real-time communication via various social media (including vetted eBird data) has certainly contributed to the recent spike in *Lehigh* reports. Beyond this, the consistent, accurate record-keeping of a small group of faithful, skilled observers continues to add depth. Weather always plays a part in what birds we find, so a quick summary for March through May 2014 follows (as reported from Allentown, with climate data archived at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)). March was very cold, with mean temperature a full 5.4° F cooler than the 30-year norm. The Lehigh River was thick with ice floes, and lakes, quarries, ponds, and all non-spring-fed bodies of water froze solid. The mercury dipped even lower to our north, resulting in some good appearances by displaced waterfowl continuing from February, sometimes at unexpected locations. Temps in April and May were more typical, but rainfall was above the 30-year norm both months (+3.04" in April). Over six inches of rain in 48 hours 4/30 to 5/1 drenched everything, further filling lakes, ponds and flooded fields. Storms in mid to late May produced some interesting late-spring waterfowl at Leaser Lake. Birders reported some

excellent passerine fallout days in May, most notably around the PAMC 5/10 to 5/12 and again 5/20 to 5/22.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was photographed at Dorney Pond 3/22 (BE), a probable new county late date. Wintering **Snow Geese** dwindled by early March, but migrant flocks were apparent later in the month, especially at the northern end of the county. Max count was about 10,000 over New Tripoli 3/21 (FD). Small non-migrant groups continued into May and beyond at New Tripoli and Leaser Lake (AS, FD). A visiting birder from Colorado identified a pair of **Ross's Geese** with a flock of 500 **Snow Geese** near New Tripoli 3/30 (TD). After a month or more of lower numbers at the site, 3000+ **Canada Geese** were on Dorney Pond 3/21 (BE); 5000+ migrated over New Tripoli 3/20 (FD). A pair of **Cackling Geese** was along Springhouse Rd. in Lynn Twp. (FD), the only report for March. A **Snow x Canada Goose** hybrid was photographed at Lake Muhlenberg 3/18 (KD). The **Mute Swan** pair at Dorney Pond was present all winter, as usual; they have been residents here for years. Around the third week of March, the male became extremely territorial, showboating up and down the pond and driving hundreds of geese and ducks from the entire east half. The pair nested, with no success. It's uncertain, but seems likely that the eggs are added here as cygnets are never reported. **Tundra Swans** were migrants 3/8 to 3/28 with a max count (80) at Orefield 3/13 (FD). A **Tundra Swan** photographed 5/5 at Leaser Lake generated some excitement, but it later became apparent that this was most likely a wary but non-migratory bird, present around this area well into summer. The **American Black Duck x Mallard** hybrids that winter at Dorney Pond were last reported 4/12. There were three reports of **Blue-winged Teal** 3/14-24. The flooded Fields at Haafsville held a nice flock of **Northern Pintail** (max 75) 3/22 (DN), with pintails present daily in double digits 3/20 to 4/1 and lingering to 4/9. **Green-winged Teal** were also there with a 4/13 max count (12), remaining to 5/1 (DN). Two of the **Canvasbacks** wintering at various west Allentown ponds were reported almost daily through most of March, with the last report at Trexler Park 3/25 (m.ob., KD); max count there for March was only two birds, but three were at Walking Purchase Park / Lehigh Canal Park 3/8-11 (ES, KD). Six **Redheads** remained at Lake Muhlenberg / Dorney Pond to 3/6, with three present through 3/18. There were also three near Schnecksville 3/13, then 8 at the same spot 3/29 (FD, BH). The last report was one at Leaser Lake 4/6 (FD). Max count for **Ring-necked Duck** was 37 at Fogelsville Quarry 3/22 (KD). Wintering **Greater Scaup** in west Allentown dwindled from three to just one by 4/9 (KD, m.ob.). At Leaser Lake, up to 3 were present 4/5-10 (m.ob.); storm fallout produced five there 4/30 (BE). **Lesser Scaup** was present daily at west Allentown to 3/19, usually one drake, with a max count (3) 3/2 at Dorney Pond (FD). Elsewhere there were four other records through 4/5. A pair of **Long-tailed Ducks** was a nice storm-related find at Leaser Lake 4/5 (DA, FD), as were a pair of **Common Goldeneye** the same day. In west Allentown, the long-staying wintering **Common Goldeneye** were last reported at Dorney Pond the evening of 3/6 (ES). Another goldeneye was on the Lehigh River near Bethlehem 3/9 (ES). A total of 38 **Common Mergansers** was at Lake Muhlenberg 3/8 and 3/9, notable for a fairly small urban lake (KD). Up to four **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on the river near Walking Purchase Park 3/8-20 (ES, KD). On 4/5, the same storm that brought scaup, Long-tailed Ducks and goldeneyes to Leaser Lake also produced **Red-breasted Mergansers** (max 16), **Common Loon** (max 10) and a **Horned Grebe** (DA, FD). A **Red-throated Loon** was a great find at Leaser Lake 5/4-6 (m.ob.). A weather system later in the season (5/15 to 5/17) brought more fall-out to Leaser, including **Red-breasted Merganser** (max 3), **Common Loon** (max 9), and **Horned Grebe** (max 2). Rounding out the waterfowl category, and adding one more excellent bird to Lake Muhlenberg's recent impressive tally, a **Red-necked Grebe** was a one day wonder 3/5, present briefly but fortunately long enough to be photographed (JF). A **Red-necked Grebe** on the Lehigh River at Walking Purchase Park 3/8 may very well have been the same bird (ES).

There were 11 records of **Ring-necked Pheasant** reported to eBird 3/13-5/11, nearly all single birds. Ruffed Grouse wasn't reported at all, but there were 30+ reports of **Wild Turkey**, with max count (32) at North Whitehall Twp. 3/23 (BE). **Double-crested Cormorant** arrived at SGL 205 on 3/31 (FD). Migrating **American Bitterns** seemed to be more present than usual in the county, with sightings at Leaser Lake 4/5, 4/18, and 5/5 (FD, KD), at Trexler Nature Preserve 5/2 (CH), and at Haafsville 5/4 (DN). Two **Great Blue Heron** rookeries were reported to be active...hopefully more info to come in the summer report. **Great Egret** appeared early at Fogelsville Dam 3/24 (FD), and was last seen 5/24 at Leaser Lake (KD).

**Osprey** arrived 3/29 at Leaser Lake (FD). A truly remarkable find 3/14 was a **Swallow-tailed Kite** recovered at Macungie. The bird was transported to the Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility for recovery. A short video is posted at <youtube.com/watch?v=VwUkdDNPQWQ>. This very out-of-place bird was found grounded during a fairly wicked cold snap, incapacitated by hunger due to the lack of insects. Rare at any time in

Pennsylvania, this is the second March record for the state, and among only a handful of March records for the northeast. The only solid previous record for **Lehigh** was May 1935. As if one kite species weren't enough, a **Mississippi Kite** was well-described at Trexler Nature Preserve 5/13 (PH), about the eighth report for the county since first in 2003. A pair of **Golden Eagles** migrated past Bake Oven Knob 3/2 (FD). Of six records of **Northern Harrier** the last was at Heidelberg 5/10 (CH). **Bald Eagle** was reported to eBird about thirty times, mostly single birds. Although distributed widely across the county, most reports came from Trexler Nature Preserve, Leaser Lake, and areas along the Lehigh River. There are still no known nests in **Lehigh**. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported six times 4/12-5/3; adults seen fairly regularly east of Slatington may or may not breed within the county (BE). **Broad-winged Hawk** arrived 4/6 at Leaser Lake (FD).

A **Sora** near Slatington 4/13-5/19 may have indicated breeding for the second year in a row (DA, BE). Single **American Coots** remained at Lake Muhlenberg to 4/5, and at Dorney Pond to 4/13. Various coots were present at Leaser Lake to 5/13 (CH). A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** flew over New Tripoli 4/5 (FD), adding to a spate of recent reports in the county.

Shorebirds were present at the usual locations, mostly in small numbers; a total of eleven species was reported. Two **Semipalmated Plover** arrived 5/16 at Leaser Lake (FD); the species was noted several times through 5/31, when four were at Upper Macungie 5/31 (TG). **Greater Yellowlegs** was present 3/28 at Leaser Lake (FD) to 5/14 at Haafsville (DN). **Lesser Yellowlegs** arrived 3/30 at Haafsville and was last seen there 5/21 (DN); the max count (12) was 5/21. A **Dunlin** was at Nestle Way at Upper Macungie 5/15-17 (BE, FD). Max count of **Least Sandpiper** (18) occurred at Haafsville 5/18 (EK). The previously mentioned Dunlin was associated with a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/15 at Nestle Way (BE). The next day, a White-rumped was at Leaser Lake (FD), then one was at Haafsville 5/17 (FD). The Haafsville bird may have been the same bird found at Nestle two days prior; these sites are quite close as the peep flies. **Pectoral Sandpiper** (2) arrived 3/30 at Upper Macungie and was last seen 5/9 at Leaser Lake (FD). Long Lane in Upper Macungie held the max count of 22 (TG). Small numbers of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were reported 5/4-9 from various locations. **Wilson's Snipe** was near New Tripoli 3/2 (4), and again 5/10 (FD). First and last dates for **American Woodcock** were 3/2 and 5/10 (FD).

**Bonaparte's Gull** is hardly common for **Lehigh**, so multiple records definitely qualified as notable. A storm 4/5 produced up to 10 at Leaser Lake 4/5-6 (DA). The same day, three Bonaparte's were at Allentown's Queen City Airport, along with 23 **Ring-billed Gulls** (TW). Back at Leaser Lake, they were present 4/26 (JH), and 4/30 (BE). The final record for the season was 5/12 at Haafsville (JH). One or two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** continued daily at Lake Muhlenberg and Dorney Pond from the previous reporting period, but totals 3/1 were especially notable with 33 at Lake Muhlenberg and an additional 14 down the road at Dorney Pond (SK). The last record was 4/13 at Dorney (KD). Terns are always unusual for the county, so two **Forster's Terns** at Leaser Lake 4/30 was exciting (BE, FD).

Nesting **Great-Horned Owls** near Lake Muhlenberg were very notable for such a bustling, urban area along a major roadway. Unfortunately, the nest attracted a little too much attention for the birds' well-being, with some birders and photographers pushing the limits of ethics and common sense to get close to the already stressed birds. In the end, two young owlets fledged in late April. Sadly, one of the newly fledged owls was found dead along the road 4/25, mere yards from the nest location (SB). The second owlet was last noted around 5/2; it is hoped that the remaining youngster remained safe beyond that and moved to a more secluded roost. Sightings of the dark female **Snowy Owl** present since late December at Lehigh Valley International Airport became more sporadic in March, with the final two reports 3/21 (MP, MS).

**Common Nighthawk** arrived 5/9 at multiple locations, remaining to 5/25 at Leaser Lake (TG). The only reliable report of **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was 4/12 at Leaser Lake (FD). These were certainly under-reported as they are known to breed at multiple areas along Blue Mountain and were subsequently found beyond the report period. **Chimney Swifts** arrived at multiple locations 4/11. The continuing **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Stine's Corner seemed to be relatively easy for everyone *except* this compiler to find throughout the period. Elsewhere, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported 4/17 at an oak dominated woodlot near Upper Macungie (MR). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was last reported 4/19 at Walking Purchase Park (ES). Only one **Merlin** was recorded, 3/31 at New Tripoli (FD). There were eBird reports of single **Peregrine Falcons** 3/9 at Allentown and North Whitehall (MP, LG), and 4/6 at Lehigh Gap Nature Center (SK). Construction on Allentown's 8th Street Bridge, where Peregrines have nested for the past several years, seemed to deter any breeding effort this year. It was hoped that the pair moved to a more suitable location, a suspicion that was confirmed beyond the reporting period...more on that in the summer season report.



*Lehigh* had a flycatcher "sweep", with all ten expected species reported this period, some in unusually good numbers. **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Lehigh Furnace Gap 5/21 (AS) and Heidelberg Twp. 5/25 (KG, AU). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** is always nice to see, present 5/30 at Leaser Lake (BW). **Alder Flycatcher** was also at Leaser 5/9 (JF). **Great-crested Flycatcher** arrived 5/1 at the Pool Wildlife Sanctuary near Emmaus (TK), and the first **Eastern Kingbird** was four days earlier at Leaser Lake (LM). Of the six expected vireo species, only Philadelphia went unreported. **Common Raven** continues to show up in new areas. Away from Blue Mountain where they occur regularly (and where a nest was discovered for the second straight year at an undisclosed location), there were at least a half dozen reports from various "lowland" areas: 3/29 at Center Valley (ZM), 5/2 at Trexler Nature Preserve (CH), 5/13 and 5/25 (2) near Bethlehem (LF, ES), and 5/22 in Allentown (PS). The Allentown bird was noted being chased by a **Cooper's Hawk** near Cedar Crest College. The Bethlehem area birds may well have been the pair long suspected, but only recently confirmed to be nesting just across the river, a few hundred yards inside Northampton County at the Sand's Casino complex.

The max count for **Horned Lark** (112) was at Alburtis 3/29 (CH). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** arrived at Dorney Pond 3/21 (BE), and the first **Tree Swallow** the following day at Leaser Lake (FD). **Purple Martin** arrived 4/6 at Leaser Lake (CH). The martin colony at Slatedale was becoming active by the first week of April, with an uncertain number of pairs. Nearby, a new smaller colony of about eight pairs was noted a few miles north of Slatedale. The colony near Leaser Lake was also active, with martins noted feeding over the lake very regularly through April and May; again, no estimate of the number of pairs was reported. **Bank Swallow** was quite early at Leaser Lake 4/6, a possible new early arrival date for *Lehigh* (JH, CH, FD). The max count at Leaser (24) was 5/29 (RR), possibly indicating a breeding colony somewhere in the area. The **Bank Swallow** colony at Center Valley was once again active by late April, with a very rough estimate of at least a few dozen pairs (BE). A chickadee measured and banded at Emmaus met all Bird Banding Lab criteria for **Carolina Chickadee**, short of DNA testing (TK). In *Lehigh*, more than 90% of recent chickadee eBird reports have been entered as **Black-capped Chickadee**, with a handful entered as "Carolina / Black-capped Chickadee". Those who study these birds closely are generally of the opinion that summer chickadees in much, if not all, of the Lehigh Valley are hybrids at this point, with possible pure Carolinas at the southern end of the county and possible pure Black-caps at the extreme north. Again, there have been no recent DNA tests as far as anyone is aware, so the matter remains open to some speculation. The latest **Winter Wren** was at Lehigh Furnace Gap 4/13 (DA), the same day that the first **House Wrens** arrived at Leaser Lake and Whitehall (FD, KG)...presumably there was some type of private, *Troglodytes*-only "changing of the guard" ceremony. **Marsh Wren** was a great find at Emmaus 5/11 (FD). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** arrived 4/11 at Fogelsville Quarry (FD). The last kinglet reports were 4/27 (2) and 5/17, with **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at Trexler Nature Preserve and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at Leaser Lake, respectively. An impressive tally of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** (66) at Leaser Lake 4/28 was stated to be a probable undercount (KD). Thrushes made their timely arrivals this spring: **Veery** at New Tripoli 4/29 (FD), **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Trexlertown 5/13 (AS), **Swainson's Thrush** at New Tripoli 5/2 (FD), and **Wood Thrush** at Salisbury Twp 5/1 (ES). Wintering **Hermit Thrushes** overlapped the arrival of their various cousins by a couple weeks, last reported 5/12 at Emmaus (CG). Gray-cheeked was only reported three times, with the last a very nice "yard bird" at Bethlehem 5/23 (LF). Swainson's remained through 5/28 at Haafsville (DN). **American Pipit** was reported twice: 4/13 at Heidelberg Twp. (DA) and 5/10 (12) at Leaser Lake (CH). **Cedar Waxwing** was fairly regular through the period, with the max count (73) at Lehigh Parkway 4/3 (KD).

*Lehigh* had at least 32 species of warblers this spring, with a few nice surprises. Numbers were excellent on several days in early to mid-May, with several birders commenting that certain mornings presented the greatest warbler and passerine activity that they had witnessed in many years, especially along Blue Mountain. Single day counts for some species were exceptional throughout May with footnotes stating things like "not a typo" attached to certain numbers; very encouraging. **Louisiana Waterthrush** was late to be noted 4/11 at New Tripoli (FD). **Northern Waterthrush** arrived 5/1 at Emmaus (TK) through 5/12 at Trexlertown (AS); max count (11) was at Jordan Parkway for the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society walk there 5/10 (AS, m.ob.). **Tennessee Warbler** was reported to be much more common than usual this spring by several observers, arriving 5/2 at New Tripoli (FD). The last report was 5/23 (4) at Germansville (CH), but the most amazing report was 25 on 5/21 near Lehigh Furnace Gap, where the song of this species could be heard constantly throughout the hike. This was also stated to be a conservative estimate, with effort to avoid over-counting (AS). **Mourning Warbler** was reported seven times 5/4-4 (m.ob.), but **Kentucky Warbler** was only noted three times 5/9-26 (FD, CH). An exciting addition to

the *Lehigh* bird list this spring was **Kirtland's Warbler** 5/9 at Jordan Creek Parkway (AJ). The finder was scouting out the parkway prior to leading an Audubon walk there the following day. On the 5/10 walk the bird was heard briefly by one participant, which was enough reason for another participant to return to the scene for another attempt later that day. This certainly paid off, resulting in a brief but definitive 15 to 20 second observation, more than long enough to discern the necessary field marks for this identification (AS, doc SB). **Cape May Warbler** was reported about a dozen times 5/4-21 (m.ob.). **Cerulean Warbler** arrived 5/1 at New Tripoli and was reported sporadically through the season where it breeds on Blue Mountain. The max count (8) was near Lehigh Furnace Gap 5/11 (AS). **Northern Parula** had a nice showing on the Lehigh Valley Audubon walk at Jordan Creek Parkway 5/10, with about 35 individuals counted. **Magnolia Warbler** was present 5/3-26. **Blackburnian Warbler** was a bit scarce, seen 5/2-21. **Bay-breasted Warbler** was found far more frequently than usual with 18 eBird reports and several other non-eBird records 5/9-21; max count (7) was a Leaser Lake 5/15 (AS). **Blackpoll Warbler** showed up 5/9 and was last seen the final day of the period. **Pine Warbler** was recorded through May at Trexlertown Pines where it probably breeds (m.ob.). The last **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was at Dorney Pond 5/23, and the max count (52) was at Trexler Nature Preserve 5/9 (BE, CH). **Canada Warbler** was found a few times 5/4-16, **Wilson's Warbler** was here 5/9-20, recorded at least six times, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported three times this spring. Chats were at Blue Mountain 5/14 (FD), and at Leaser Lake 5/16 and 5/17 (FD).

**American Tree-Sparrow** lingered to 4/1 at Trexler Park (KD). A few **Chipping Sparrows** were recorded over the winter, but apparent migrants began arriving 3/16 (m.ob.). Same for **Field Sparrows** with a probable arrival date of 3/8 and **Savannah Sparrow** 4/13. **Vesper Sparrow** didn't winter here so 4/6 along Leaser Road seems to be the true arrival info. There were eight eBird reports of **Fox Sparrow** through 4/13 (m.ob.). Other sparrow "late dates" were 5/6 for **Lincoln's Sparrow**, 5/25 for **White-throated Sparrow**, 5/13 for **White-crowned Sparrow**, and 4/28 for **Dark-eyed Junco**, the latter seen at multiple locations that day (FD, KG, AU, DN, KD, ES). The first **Scarlet Tanager** of the year is always a wonderful and welcomed sight, and this year it occurred 5/3 at Trexler Nature Preserve (CH). **Indigo Bunting** arrived the same day at New Tripoli (FD). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was two days earlier, and **Bobolink** was two days later (at New Tripoli and Leaser Lake, respectively) (FD). Following a winter with no reports in the county, **Eastern Meadowlark** was at Haafsville 3/13 (ES). All four **Rusty Blackbird** reports were of single birds: 3/18 at Dorney Pond, 3/22 at Trexler Park (KD), 4/6 along Blue Mountain Rd. (CH), and 4/28 at Leaser Lake (KD). **Baltimore Oriole** beat **Orchard Oriole** back to *Lehigh* by one day 5/1 (TK, KD). Finally, three records of **Purple Finch** were spaced widely across the reporting period 3/ 4 (5) at New Tripoli, 4/19 at Leaser Lake, and 5/12 at Allentown (FD, KG, CG).

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#### **Luzerne County**

Locations: Beech Mountain Lakes (BML), Forty Fort (FF), Frances Slocum State Park (FSSP), Harveys Lake (HL), Kirby Park (KP), Lee Swamp (LS), Nesbitt Park (NP), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), Plymouth Flats (PF), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna Riverlands (SRL), Susquehanna Wetlands (SW).

The major avian event of the winter season in the Northeast was the irruption of **Snowy Owls**. *Luzerne* had up to four owls present in varying locations throughout the county, and though birds persisted into the beginning of April in other parts of the state, the last report in *Luzerne* was of the Hazleton bird 2/8 (RR). The Polar Vortex that plagued the region throughout the winter lasted into the beginning of March and kept nearly all local bodies of water frozen throughout the month. Migrating waterfowl were forced *en masse* to the partially open SR. Temperatures normalized in April and May, ushering in expected migration with the exception of a few early records and a few stragglers. Perhaps best represented in the county this spring were waterbirds, with several unusual species that provided the most exciting highlights.

*Luzerne* always hosts respectable numbers of migrating waterfowl on the SR, associated flats, and several large reservoirs, but this spring was extraordinary. One of the most unexpected birds of the spring was a **Greater White-fronted Goose** that was observed for only two days in mid-Mar. The bird was found on the SR at FF 3/14 (KR). On 3/15, the bird was re-found at the nearby Swetland Rd. fields (JS, et al.). It represented the fifth record for *Luzerne* in recent memory. **Snow Geese** are not particularly common in *Luzerne* and are generally only observed as high-flying, migrating flocks. The biggest push this spring came when several flocks were observed in the last two weeks of Mar and the beginning of Apr (JhD, SG, et al.). A single report of **Cackling Goose** was of one individual from the SR in Wyoming 4/1 (SG). Very exciting was a **Trumpeter Swan** observed with **Tundra Swans** at PF from 3/23-25 (JD, JH, KR, BJ) which provided just the second record of this species for the county and the first record of a non-wing-tagged bird. **Tundra Swan** numbers at PF peaked at nearly 200 birds a few days prior to this sighting (RK). Overall it was a good spring for this normally infrequent visitor in *Luzerne*.

**Wood Ducks** abounded on the SR in Mar as they attempted to find open water, with a high count of 50 at FF 3/22 (KR). Most reports of **Gadwall** this spring came from PF with the most surprising being a late migrant 5/22 (JD). In addition to the previously mentioned swans, waterfowl numbers were staggering at PF 3/23 providing several high counts for the spring. Estimates included 100 **American Wigeons**, 200 **American Black Ducks**, 275 **Northern Pintails**, 225 **Green-winged Teals**, and 250 **Ring-necked Ducks**, with lesser numbers of several other species (JD). **American Wigeons**, **Northern Pintails**, and **Green-winged Teals** were also well represented throughout the second half of Mar on the SR at FF (m.ob.). A long-staying **Northern Pintail** that kept company with a **Ring-necked Duck** was last observed at PF 5/17 (EG). **Blue-winged Teals** were observed from FF, SW, and PF, with the first observation of 2 at FF 3/14 (KR) and the last a single late bird at PF 5/22 (JD). The only **Northern Shovelers** of the spring were on the SR at FF with two birds present from 3/14-16 (KR, JD). **Canvasbacks** seemed more numerous this season than in recent years likely due to the freezing of the Great Lakes where many usually winter. Generally, the majority of reports of this species in the county are from HL. This spring, reports came not only from HL, but also from the SR in FF and the SR in Wapwallopen with a high count of eight at that location 3/11 (JD). **Redheads** were also relatively easy to find this spring with a high count of 16 at the SR in FF 3/10 (JR). A very significant raft of **scaup sp.** spent the majority of Mar on the SR at Wapwallopen. **Greater Scaups** were identified in the group, but no **Lesser Scaups** could be confirmed. A high count of 150 birds came 3/11 (JD). Given the relative abundance of all other waterfowl, it was surprising that no scoters were reported for the entire period. A species that can often be found associating with scoters, **Long-tailed Duck**, was present in moderate numbers. Reports came from HL, FF, and FSSP with a high count of 24 at HL 4/26 (DF, HF). The largest concentration of **Common Goldeneyes** was at the SR in Wapwallopen with the high count for the period being 14 birds 3/11 (JD). Two lingering **Common Goldeneyes** were found on the PAMC 5/10 in the KP vicinity (JS). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were reported from HL, FF, Wapwallopen, and the SR in Nescopeck with a high count of seven from Wapwallopen 3/11 (JD). Although **Ruddy Ducks** seemed more sparse this spring than in past years, there was one sizeable group of 40 birds reported from HL 4/26 (JH).

This spring there were no large fallouts of loons as are often seen during storms in Mar and Apr. The highest count of **Common Loons** was 8 at HL 4/26 (DF, HF) but Red-throated Loon went unreported throughout the period. **Red-necked Grebe**, yet another species forced to rivers and other open water due to the freezing of the Great Lakes, made a significant appearance in *Luzerne*. Some years this species is completely absent from the county, but more often one or two pass through in migration. Red-necked Grebes were present this spring on the SR at FF from 3/8-14 (KR, JD, JR, JT) with an amazing 14 birds 3/9 (JD). **Double-crested Cormorants** are a common sight along the SR throughout spring and summer, so most sightings would go unnoticed, but 25 birds at HL 4/27 (AY, BY) were significant.

An exciting discovery of the 2013 summer season was the confirmation of breeding **American Bitterns** at "The Meadows" of SGL 57 on Mountain Springs Lake Road. The male **American Bittern** returned this year and was found 4/28 giving its pumping call (DG). This bird persisted into Jun, but as of the end of the spring season, no further signs of breeding had been detected. Additional **American Bitterns** were present at Nescopeck Township from 4/21-5/3 (BH, NH) and LS from 5/4-10 (JH, SaG, BW). Two **Cattle Egrets** at PF 5/9 (SG, RK) were the rarest waders of the period. These birds represented just the third record for *Luzerne*. **Great Egrets** are very common in post-breeding dispersal and fall migration, but less expected during the spring. Reports came from SW 5/3 (EG), PF 5/9 (SG, RK), and NP 5/10 (AY, BY).

As has been the case in recent years, **Bald Eagles** nested in several sites along the SR. **Ospreys** first arrived 4/4 at SW (EG) and **Broad-winged Hawks** arrived 4/13 near Drums (JD). Other than these sightings, spring raptor migration was uneventful.

Only two rails were detected this spring, and both were **Virginia Rails** found on the PAMC 5/10. One individual was at SGL 57 (DF, HF) and one was at Lee Swamp (SaG, BW). The last of the unexpected and exciting waterbirds was a **Common Gallinule** found and photographed at SW 5/2 (EG). This species has been observed several times in the county, but the last occurrence was over 10 years ago. Three **American Coots** lingered until 5/4 at PF (JD) and were the last to be seen in *Luzerne* this spring.

Shorebird migration was rather quiet, with numbers of individuals and species diversity on the low side. Up to 3 **Semipalmated Plovers** were present at PF from 5/14-17 (JD, EG). Both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** moved through in small numbers, as did **Least Sandpipers** with a high count of 14 from PF 5/14 (JD). This number was a significant departure from recent years. An early-arriving **Pectoral Sandpiper** that showed up at PF 3/23 (JD, JH, KR) represented the first in Pennsylvania this year according to eBird data. Nearly a week later on 3/29, the count of **Pectoral Sandpipers** increased to six birds (JD, JhD).

**Chimney Swifts** arrived very early this year 4/14 in Wyoming (JS) and the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported a bit early on 4/29 from HL (CS). **Red-headed Woodpecker** is a species that is often difficult to find in *Luzerne*, but one was observed at an undisclosed location on private land 5/9 (SG, RK).

*Luzerne* is one of the few counties in the state that hosts three species of breeding falcons. **American Kestrel** is widespread throughout the county's farmlands and **Peregrine Falcons** nest annually in Wilkes-Barre on one of the city's bridges or buildings. The most recent addition to the breeding list is **Merlin**, which in recent years has taken up residence in FF. On 3/22, a **Merlin** pair was observed copulating and entering and leaving the nest location (JH), although no confirmation of young was made during the spring season.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** at a private residence in Sweet Valley 5/24 (DF) was a significant find since this species tends to be much easier to locate in fall. The only other noteworthy flycatcher was a very early **Eastern Kingbird** from BML 4/23 (JD), sighted over a week earlier than the normal arrival date at that location. One **White-eyed Vireo** was heard singing along the Lehigh River in White Haven at the eastern edge of the county on the PAMC 5/10 (JH, SG). This species does not breed in the county, generally reaching its northern limits just south of *Luzerne*. **Common Raven** is seen regularly in the county, but a group of 16 birds from Lily Lake 4/13 (EH) was unusual. A species that was very scarce this spring was **Red-breasted Nuthatch** following their very poor showing statewide this past winter. Gray-cheeked Thrush was not reported this spring, but there were several reports of **Swainson's Thrush**, mostly from NSP and vicinity.

Warbler migration was slightly above average this season as most breeding species returned as expected, and migrants that pass through our area seemed to be present in greater numbers than normal. **Golden-winged Warbler** was previously a breeder in *Luzerne*, but those populations collapsed making the species very difficult to find in the county. There were two reports of migrating birds, one from SW 5/4 (JD) and up to two birds at NP from 5/9-10 (SG, RK, AY, BY). **Tennessee Warblers** and **Cape May Warblers** are usually more prevalent in fall migration, but these "spruce budworm specialists" were present this spring in significant numbers. Six of each species were recorded on the PAMC, and several other reports of these birds came in from various parts of the county. A new outbreak of spruce budworms in the boreal forests of Quebec has likely increased the nesting success rate of these specialists causing an uptick in their populations. Another migrant that was more common than expected was **Mourning Warbler**. Occasionally this species nests at high elevations in and around RGSP in previous clear-cuts or blow down areas. One or two are often found as migrants each spring, but this season there were four reports. One was present at NP 5/9 (SG, RK), one at Frank Slaper Park in West Wyoming 5/15 (SG, JH), one at SW 5/18 (JG), and one at Hollenback Rd. outside of White Haven 5/24 (JD). A **Kentucky Warbler** was found with the **White-eyed Vireo** near White Haven on the PAMC (JH, SG). This is another species, like the vireo, that generally stays south of *Luzerne*, but can be found every few years as a migrant or trying to establish a territory. A bit disconcerting was the lack of **Cerulean Warblers** this spring, with only one record from the SRL parking lot on the PAMC (DF, HF). A traditional breeding stronghold for this species is the Hunlock Creek Boat Launch and the adjacent Warrior Trail along the SR, but as of the end of the spring season no birds were detected at either location. **Wilson's Warblers** were present in higher than normal numbers with migrants reported from SW, NP, NSP, FSSP and five on the PAMC. The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** for the period was heard calling behind a cemetery on Stites St. in West Wyoming 5/15 (JH, SG).

A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** on the PAMC at KP (JS) provided the only record of this species for the spring. **Rusty Blackbird** is a species of special conservation concern due to its recent population collapse. Two of the three reports of this species were from the SR in FF with nine individuals 3/16 and one 3/28 (JD). More unusual was a single bird from a less expected location, NSP 4/14 (JD).

After last year's extreme irruption of winter finches, the northern cone crops had a chance to regenerate meaning none of these species were present in *Luzerne* with one very notable exception. A few **Red Crossbills** were detected during a nature survey at SGL 57 on 3/11 (RK). This report probably represents the lone record in the state since last year's irruption.

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## Lycoming County

Locations: Canfield Island (CI), Glacial Pools Preserve (GPP), Indian Park-Montoursville (IPM), Lycoming County Conservation offices (LCC), Mill Street (MS), North White Deer Ridge and hawk watch (NWD), Old Lycoming Township (OLT), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Susquehanna River West Branch (SR), Susquehanna River Walk at Williamsport (SRW), Williamsport (WPT), Williamsport Water Company (WWC).

This season's report benefited from increased birding activity spurred by field trips coordinated by Lycoming Audubon, initially along the SRW. Additional factors were a reconstructed listserv, the additional birding effort put forth by several birders (DvB, DB, EH) undertaking a big county year, and the growing use of eBird. The increased activity produced highlights including what were likely first county records, as noted below.

The spring season opened still in the grips of the frigid winter that characterized the previous season. Lows during the first week of March were in single digits. Most of the waterfowl observed since January continued into the spring, with highlights such as a **Long-tail Duck**, 4 **Redheads**, a **White-winged Scoter**, **Red-necked Grebe**, **Canvasbacks**, and other species readily seen from the SRW until 3/9 (JY). That all changed with a surge of warm weather, bringing highs above freezing every day thereafter and heavy rains 3/12 that washed the ice out of the river and with it, most of the waterfowl diversity that had clustered below the WPT Dam during the deep freeze. What a change a day can make!

With the river raging and largely cleared of ducks, the waterfowl excitement shifted from the SRW to broad farm fields in the SR floodplain known as Avis Flats. Replacing the diving ducks enjoyed all winter were geese, swans, and various puddle ducks (e.g., a pair of **Northern Shovelers**, several pairs of **Green-winged Teal**) joining the lingering **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Redheads**, and scaup (CH). A placid section of the SR at Nisbet supported at least 30 **Wood Ducks**, 4 **American Wigeon**, 20 **Northern Pintail** and a **Red-necked Grebe**, and at least 4000 **Canada Geese**, 40 **Snow Geese** and 50 **Tundra Swans** lingered on adjoining flooded farm fields 3/17 (DB). A **Cackling Goose** was seen there 3/16 (NF), and at IPM 3/18 (AK) and 3/25 (EH). **Canada Geese** remained in large numbers in the valley until early April. A male **American Wigeon** was noted 3/11 at IPM with 2 **Redheads** (DB).

Emerging from winter's grip 4/4, RVL began to host many of the same cast of aquatic characters, including 25 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 20 **Greater Scaup** and 6 **Lesser Scaup**, 10 **Long-tailed Ducks**, and 25 **Horned Grebes**, joined by 14 **Gadwall**, 4 **American Wigeon**, 6 **American Black Ducks**, 2 **Northern Shovelers** and another surprise that day, a male **Eurasian Wigeon** (NF, DB), a county first. Most of the puddle ducks did not remain long, with even **Blue-winged Teal** not reported in May, although a **Red-breasted Merganser** and **Red-necked Grebe** continued at RVL until 5/16 (EH). Shifting into breeding season, fourteen juvenile **Hooded Mergansers** at Haleeka Wetlands during the PMAC 5/10 provided a nice nesting confirmation (DvB).

Fallout conditions resulted in at least 132 **Common Loons** and 3 **Red-throated Loons** at RVL 4/11 (DB). Single **Common Loons** continued to be seen at various points on the SR through the season and into the summer (JY). An **American Bittern** showed up at a small pond in OLT 5/3 (DF) and one was found at RVL 5/20 (EH). A notably early **Great Egret** was at RVL 4/8 (DvB) and seen many until 4/11 (DB).

Four **Turkey Vultures**, a **Black Vulture**, and 3 **Golden Eagles** were seen moving north from the NWD 3/9 (JY). **Black Vultures** continued to be

seen through the season. The first **Osprey** of the season came 3/29 at a Lycoming Audubon trip to RVL, but none remained to nest this year. **Bald Eagles**, however, continued nesting in at least 5 locations in the county, with a new site in South WPT (JD). The PAMC 5/10 was very productive, highlighted by the remarkable observation and photograph of a **Mississippi Kite** (JY, ML, et al.) at RVL, likely a county first.

Most shorebirds are few and scarce here. The first **American Woodcock** of the season was noted in OLT 3/15 (DF). An early **Greater Yellowlegs** was noted 3/31 (DB) and the only **Lesser Yellowlegs** report was 5/1 at CI (DB), and a **Solitary Sandpiper** was at CI 5/4 (DvB) and at MS 5/15 (DB). Five **Dunlin** dropped into RVL during a storm 5/16 (DvB), and 4 **Least Sandpipers** in a gravel bar of the Loyalsock Creek at MS 5/13 lingered a few days (EH, DB). Notable in the early movement of birds were the 500+ **Ring-billed Gulls** flying west along the SR at WPT during week of 3/23 (m.ob.).

Other waterbirds at RVL 4/4 included 25 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, and notably 2 **Little Gulls** seen flying off with them, which may have represented a county first (DB, NF). Also there were 2 fairly early **Caspian Terns** (DB, NF) and 3 smaller terns suspected to be **Common Terns** (DB, NF). Not to be outdone, 2 **Little Gulls** were also seen from the SRW the next day (4/5) with about 40+ **Bonaparte's Gulls** (JY), perhaps the same birds. Four **Common Terns** were observed 4/30 at RVL (DvB, DB); topping that were 30 circling high over the WPT airport at MS the evening of 5/1 (JY, JK, MD).

Noted only electronically (based on a transmitter reading), one of the **Snowy Owls** that wintered in Lancaster stopped by the WPT airport in the middle of the night 3/25, but didn't remain to be seen by anyone. The county's only documented **Barn Owl** nesting location near Elimsport had 5 young (MG). Despite the added birding of a few county fanatics, few owls were reported until later in June. Now found only during migration, 12 **Common Nighthawks** over MS 5/25 provided a great migration count (BG). Hints of a gypsy moth outbreak seemed to attract a good number of both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed cuckoos** at the GPP 5/24 (EH) with regular sightings until late May (DB). **Red-headed Woodpecker**, a county rarity, was noted (with photographs) 5/10 at the LCC and at the Muncy Heritage Park (DvB).

An unfortunate drama developed with the **Peregrine Falcon** pair on the Market St bridge in March. A first-year female entered into the territory 3/23, just prior to the typical nesting season. This interloper continued in the area and eventually resulted in no nesting activity at this much-heralded site. The **Peregrine Falcon** pair at Muncy continued and, with anticipation, a pair was noted on the Montgomery Cliff nesting area in March (MG). A **Merlin** was seen from the SRW 4/9 (JY). It was again reported near last year's Armory nest location 5/22 (GJM) and flying over Sheridan St., WPT, 4/14 near the 2011 nest location (SP).

An **Eastern Phoebe** showed up on the NWD 3/17 (JY). A single report of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was made 5/31 at GPP (DMB). The unfolding spring weather brought a few hundred **Tree Swallows** to the SR at WPT 3/23. **Purple Martins** returned to the county's sole nesting location at LCC, arriving 4/14 (DvB), with at least 5 present in May (FS). A county rarity **White-eyed Vireo** was found at MS 5/12 (EH). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was noted at several locations from 5/7-30. One of few reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was of a resident breeder at Alergine Swamp during the PMAC (DvB).

The much anticipated spring warbler migration began as expected with reports of **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/12 (LW) and good numbers of **Palm Warblers** noted 5/1, including 12 at RVL (AK) and 5 at CI (DB). A **Northern Waterthrush** 4/27 at CI (DvB) and at MS 4/30 seemed a little early (DB). Good counts of many warblers including **Prairie Warbler** were found on the SRW 5/4 (JY), which built to a crescendo for the PAMC on 5/10 when great conditions and large numbers of birds along the SRW including most notably **Wilson's**, **Kentucky**, **Bay-breasted** and **Cape May warblers**, and **Northern Parula** contributed to the total 21 species of warblers for the day for one team (JY, ML, MD, JK). Similarly, that day, good numbers of warblers were present in the WWC including **Tennessee**, **Magnolia**, **Canada**, other typical migrants, and at least 58 **Hooded Warblers** which appeared to be on territory (DB). A **Brewster's Warbler** was seen at the WWC 5/23 (ph. DvB) and a **Blue-winged Warbler** was at GPP 5/25 were it remained on territory for several weeks (DvB, et al.). A **Golden-winged Warbler** at Little Pine State Park 5/12 (NF) was the only county report this year. Marking the beginning of the end of warbler migration, a **Blackpoll Warbler** was seen at Balls Mills already by 5/13 (DF). An apparent migrant **Yellow-throated Warbler** were seen 5/10 outside Montoursville (EH), and was found as a locally rare breeder along the Lycoming Creek below Trout Run in late May (DH, AK).

The spike in **Fox Sparrow** sightings occurred late March through early April, with a high count of 10 at the WWC 4/10 (NF), and **White-crowned Sparrow** made brief appearances in early May. However, grassland sparrows were very hard to come by at suitable fields in late-May, but a

**Grasshopper Sparrow** was a surprise along the SRW on 5/15 (DvB) and then was found intermittently on the western border of the WPT airport at MS on various dates (DvB) and at the Stoltz Cemetery 6/17 (AK).

The aforementioned change of weather in March brought an influx of blackbirds including an 60 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** already by 3/11 (LW). A few individuals and small groups of **Common Grackles** and **Red-winged Blackbirds** were evident on 3/9 (DB, JY), but larger flocks were widespread by 3/12 (DB). Special efforts to document **Rusty Blackbird** yielded many more reports than usual through mid-April (EH) and a high count of 20 at Nesbit (NF). With that, a remarkable range of weather conditions contributed to a tremendous variety of birdlife through the county during these three months.

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### **McKean County**

No compiler.

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### **Mercer County**

Locations: E. Zahnizer Road (EZR), Hambury-Big Bend Trail (HT), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Sandy Lake (SL), Shenango R. Res (SRR), Shenango Wildlife Area (SWA), Williamson Rd (WR).

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found at Sugula's Ponds 3/17, one of just a few times this species has been reported during spring migration (JD). **Snow Geese** were found in numbers well above average. Thirteen were seen in flight over WR 3/3, and 17 (including one blue morph) were at EZR 3/23-25 feeding in a wheat field (NT). An adult **Trumpeter Swan** was at Tieline Road 4/26-5/1 (MV). **Tundra Swans** were first noted 3/1 at Airport Road (JT). On 3/14 an estimated 400 were at the Golden Run area at SRR (SS); 248 were counted flying into Lake Latonka from EZR 3/30 (ST). The last report was 5/10 when one was found in the Grove City area on the PAMC (RS). Almost all the expected waterfowl species were found with the following species of note: 3 **Surf Scoters** at SL 4/9 (NT), one **White-winged Scoter** at LW 4/2 (SS), and **Long-tailed Duck** 3/15-4/9. The heaviest concentration of **Long-tailed Ducks** was reported 4/2-4 when a high of 72 were found at LW (JS). A **Blue-winged Teal** was at a wetlands north of Grove City 5/10 (NT).

Only one **Ruffed Grouse** was found at SGL130 on the PAMC 5/10 and no drumming birds were heard (NT). A total of 225 **Common Loons** and one **Red-throated Loon** were at LW 4/5 (RS). A lingering **Common Loon** was on the Shenango River in Sharon 5/29 (BD). **Red-necked Grebe** appeared in numbers rarely encountered within the county. They were first seen at SRR 3/27 when 2 were found (SS) and a high of 8 were SL and LW 4/4 (NT). The last were 3 at LW 4/9 (NT). Two **Eared Grebes** were reported at SRR 4/6 (MM, no doc.). One **Double-crested Cormorant** was at SRR 3/27 (SS), and a **Great Egret** was at the SWA 3/28-4/13 (m.ob.). Several **Sandhill Cranes** were heard along Forrester Road 5/10 (HT).

Wet fields alone Tieline Road hosted a variety of shorebirds including 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/26 (MV), 4 **Willet** 5/17 (JB), 25 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/2 (SS), 9 **Least Sandpiper** 5/10 (RS), 7 **Pectoral Sandpiper** 5/10 (NT), and 3 **Wilson's Snipe** 5/10 (NT). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at EZR 5/20 (ST) and 3 **Least Sandpiper** were there 5/4 (NT).

A **Black-headed Gull** was at the SWA 4/19 (JB). This sighting would represent the first county record if accepted by PORC. An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at SRR 3/14 (SS). A **Caspian Tern** was at LW 4/3 (JS) and 3 were found at the SWA 4/9 (NT). Eight **Common Terns** were reported from the Grove City Area on the PAMC 5/10 (RS) and one was found 5/13 at SRR (NT).

Two **Short-eared Owls** were at EZR 3/6-9 (JH, NT, ST). A **Common Nighthawk** was seen 5/10 in downtown Sharon (BD) and singles were at WR 5/20-30 (NT, ST). A **Peregrine Falcon** was at the SWA 3/30 (JB).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at the Triple Link area of SGL 130 from 5/10-19 (NT, SS) where they are annual especially in spring. All five of the eastern *Empidonax* flycatchers were reported including a vocal **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 5/14 (JH, NT) at Nicklin Lane. An immature **Northern Shrike** was seen and heard at the Reed's Furnace area of SGL 130 on 4/2 (NT). The expected six vireo species were found. An early **White-eyed**

**Vireo** was at Poole Rd. 4/18 (NT) and a singing **Philadelphia Vireo** was found along the HT 5/13 (NT). Two **Common Ravens** were seen at the Reed's Furnace area of SGL 130 from 5/10-13 (NT, SS). A **Marsh Wren** was found at a wetlands along HT 5/10 (SS) and 2 were heard at Penny Swamp on the same date (RS). A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was still at WR 5/6 (NT). **Lapland Longspurs** were found in the fields along EZR 3/19-23 where they are expected annually during migration (JH, NT, ST). A high of 45 were counted 3/22.

Thirty-three warbler species were reported during this period. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was found at Mahoney 5/7 (SS) and one was heard at Lake Latonka 5/21 (ST). Three **Prothonotary Warblers** were at the Golden Run area at SRR 5/13 (NT). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen along the HT 5/10 (JB) and a **Mourning Warbler** was at SGL 130 on the same date (NT). A **Kentucky Warbler** was singing alone Poole Road 5/15 (NT) and 2 **Cape May Warblers** were at WR 5/14 (NT). A **Pine Warbler** was at LW 4/18 (NT, ST, SS) and 2 were at Poole Road 4/30-5/7 (NT). Three **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found along the HT and Bend Road 5/10-13 (JB, SS, NT). **Canada Warblers** were also found there 5/10-13 (JB, NT). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was heard at the Reed's Furnace area of SGL 130 on 5/10 (NT).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was at EZR 4/6 (NT) and a **Grasshopper Sparrow** was heard at Limber Road 5/10 (NT). Eight **Rusty Blackbirds** were found 3/27 at WR, which was the highest count reported for this species during the period. The last report was 4/11 when 5 were found at WR (NT). A lone **Pine Siskin** at a feeder along E. Zahnizer Road 4/15 was the only winter finch reported for the period (MM).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137**, Jeff Brinker, Paul Brown, Jake Dingle, Bill Drolsbaugh, Joseph Hochstetter, Marty McKay, Steve Sanford, Jerry Stanley, Randy Stinger, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Ruth Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Mark Vass.

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### **Mifflin County**

Locations: Big Valley (BV), Bunker Hill Pond in Big Valley (BHP), Juniata River (JR), Lewistown (LT), Reedsville (RV), Reed's Gap State Park (RGSP), Victory Park in Lewistown (VP).

With the lingering effects of the cold winter and frozen lakes, it was an active spring for waterfowl. **Snow Geese** are an uncommon sight in *Mifflin*, so a flight of 42 over RV was notable (RH). The high **Wood Duck** count was 7 at VP 3/30 (RD). Other surface-feeders at VP included 6 **Northern Shovelers** 3/30 (RD) and 5 **Northern Pintails** 3/13 (RH). Five **Gadwalls** were at BHP 3/1 (JZ). **Canvasbacks** and **Redheads** are not common here, but as elsewhere in the state, they were present in *Mifflin* this season. Five **Canvasbacks** were in the JR 3/5 (GG) and 6 were at VP that same day (RD). Thirty-five **Redheads** were on the JR near Mattawana 3/5 (GG). A **White-winged Scoter** represented a good find on the JR near LT 4/6 (RH). Another good count, 24 **Common Goldeneyes** were on the JR 3/5 and 6 were at VP on the same date (GG, RD).

*Mifflin* shared in the **Red-necked Grebe** invasion; the first was seen 3/5 and counts of up to 4 on the JR were made through 3/30 (m.ob.). Five **Horned Grebes** were at VP 4/5 (RD). The high **Double-crested Cormorant** count was of 7 at LT 4/3 (RD). **Great Egrets** are annual but uncommon visitors; one was at VP 4/5 and two were there 4/30 (RD). Five **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, not found annually, were in BV 5/10, accompanied by 3 **Least Sandpipers** (JZ). Five **Spotted Sandpipers** were at VP 5/3 (RD).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard at RGSP 4/19 (RD). An uncommon sight these days, a **Common Nighthawk** was over LT 5/24 (RH). Four **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were tallied along Cooper's Gap Rd. in Rothrock SF 5/3 (RD), a stronghold for this species in central Pennsylvania. Away from the local hawk watches, **Peregrines Falcons** are seldom reported in *Mifflin*; one was seen at VP 3/29 (JZ).

Another rarely reported species, two **White-eyed Vireos** were in BV 5/10 (JZ). Warbler highlights included two **Cerulean Warblers** detected at RGSP during a Breeding Bird Survey 5/30 (DG) and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at VP 5/10 (RD). **Rusty Blackbirds** were in BV where 3 were reported 4/2 (RH) and 2 on 4/5 (JZ).

A probable first county record was provided by **Blue Grosbeaks** at a farm near Belleville in Big Valley in late May. Initially a male was seen but a pair was observed 5/29 (JZ, DS) and they continued into the first week of June. **Blue Grosbeaks** are slowly spreading northward in central Pennsylvania. The first confirmed breeding occurred in adjacent *Huntingdon* 2013 and during the Breeding Bird Atlas (and since). They were even found on the high elevations of the Allegheny Plateau in northern *Centre*.

A somewhat impromptu *Mifflin* Big Day was done 5/2-3 as part of the

Shaver's Creek annual fund-raiser; an impressive 85 species were found in this county where shorebirds and waterfowl are not easy to find (RH, RD).

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### Monroe County

Locations: Delaware State Forest (DSF), Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA), Monroe County Environmental Education Center (MCEEC), Mountain Spring Lake (MSL), Saylor's Lake (SL), Trout Lake (TL).

The cold temperatures of the winter extended into March with ponds and lakes still frozen through most of that month, and interesting waterfowl sightings also carried over into the spring.

The only reports of **Common Loon** were single birds from SL and TL and another 3 on MSL, all 4/5 (SK). The first migrating flocks of **Snow Geese** passing over MCEEC were seen 3/14 (BH). Waterfowl diversity and numbers of individuals were notable. Uncommon in *Monroe* were the 2 **Canvasbacks** at Stillwater Lake 4/11 (BJ), and **Ring-necked Duck** numbers were strong with 70 on the Delaware River at Shawnee 3/20 and 59 at MSL 4/5 (SK), and a high count of 122 on Shawnee Lake 3/26 (BJ). The 2 **Greater Scaup** on the Delaware River at Shawnee 3/18 represented an uncommon county record (SK) and a high count of 29 **Lesser Scaup** was on MSL 4/5 (SK). Outstanding was the high count of 7 **Long-tailed Ducks** at SL 4/4 (SK). A pair of **Hooded Mergansers**, uncommon county breeders, returned for the seventh consecutive spring to a nest box on the MCEEC pond; they were first seen 3/24 in a small patch of open water (BH). By 4/17 the female was incubating 11 eggs (BH). Continuing the waterfowl hit parade, the flock of 61 **Common Mergansers** 4/4 at SL represented a high count (SK), and 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at the same location on the same day (SK). The 19 **Ruddy Ducks** on MSL 4/5 represented another high count for the period (SK).

The first report of **Wilson's Snipe** was 5 birds seen in Cherry Valley 4/2 (SK), with a high count of 13 in the Blakeslee area 4/26 (BJ). An unusual find for the county was the single **Bonaparte's Gull** at MSL 4/5 (SK). The first report for **Tree Swallow** this spring was from Cherry Valley where 2 birds were seen 4/2 (SK).

Some general comments on the excellent spring migration were received with few details, but BJ may have summed it up best when he used the word "awesome" to describe it. Eighteen warbler species were seen 5/7 in DWGNRA (BJ), and another 20 species, including **Golden-winged Warbler**, were recorded county-wide 5/18 on a MCEEC field trip (DS). Surprisingly early, especially considering the late spring, was the **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/2 singing at the Meesing site in DSF 4/2 (DS, BH). A **Kentucky Warbler**, uncommon in the county, was found in DWGNRA 5/4 at the same location for the second year in a row (DA, SK). The 14 **Eastern Meadowlarks** in a Long Pond field 3/25 represented a high count for the period (BJ).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Monroe County Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net,** Dan Altif, Bruce Johnson, Steve Kloiber, Darryl Speicher, Rick Wiltraut.

### Montgomery County

Locations: Elkins Park (ELP), Evansburg State Park (ESP), Fort Washington State Park (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Haverford College (HC), Lorimer Park (LP), Norristown Dam (ND), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Schuylkill River Trail at Oaks (SRTO), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP).

The Philadelphia area received 314% more snow than average during the winter of 2013-14, and this harsh winter spilled over into the spring, with weekly snowstorms continuing through 3/17. Significant portions of the reservoir at GLP remained frozen through much of Mar. Normal spring weather did finally arrive by Apr. Birders across *Montgomery* managed to track down 212 species during the period—213 if the AOU ever signs off on a certain Teal split. On 5/10, During the PAMC 5/10, a total of 12,021 individuals of 138 species were tallied across the county. In addition to setting new *Montgomery* PAMC records for both numbers of individuals and species, this year's count also saw participation more than double from 2013.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was present at GLP 3/10-16 (KC, m.ob). Roughly 3000 **Snow Geese** were observed at GLP 3/14, though most did not settle on the water (AM). An injured **Snow Goose** was seen in an East Norriton housing development 5/8 (PK). A **Snow x Canada Goose** hybrid was at GLP 3/23 (WBH, SK). A single **Ross's Goose** was noted at GLP 3/15 (SK), quite unusual for the location. The other mini-geese species, **Cackling Goose**, was observed more regularly. Single Cacklers were seen off and on from 3/4-23 at GLP (KC, m.ob.). On 3/17, 2 **Cackling Geese** were present at GLP (AM). Numbers of **Canada Geese** at GLP were high through Mar, topping out at 6000-plus 3/20 (SG). **Tundra Swan** counts were also high at GLP during Mar, with as many as 98 noted 3/14 (AM).

At least 50 **Wood Ducks** were observed 3/12 at VFNHP (WBH) and 41 at GLP (AM), a peak migration day for the species. **American Black Duck x Mallard** hybrids were observed at 3 locations in Mar (m.ob.). Only a few **Blue-winged Teal** were detected during the period. These included one at SRTO 4/2 (ZM), in addition to pairs at GLP on 3 occasions between 4/8 and 4/24 (GF, JT, SS). **Northern Pintail** were present at GLP in good quantities through late Mar (m.ob.), peaking at 225 on 3/10 (AM). Seventy-five American **Green-winged Teal** were noted at GLP 3/15 (PD). Accompanying them was a drake **Common Teal**, initially discovered 3/12 (AM). This Eurasian subspecies of Green-winged Teal, potentially destined for full species status, was the first of its kind ever noted at GLP. It remained there through 3/16 (m.ob.).

Five **Canvasbacks** were spotted at GLP 3/15 (m.ob.). A single **Canvasback** was also present there 3/22 (SK), and 3 on 3/24 (SG). **Redheads** were noted at multiple locations, including one continuing at SRTO through 3/8 (WBH, KR), 2 at a shopping mall pond in Limerick 3/29 (WBH), one at White's Mill Preserve 4/1 (SG) and 6 at GLP 3/29 (PD). Two counts of **Ring-necked Duck** over the century mark were noted: 128 at GLP 3/15 (SK) and 125 at Skymount Park 3/30 (SG). There were quite a few reports of **Greater Scaup** on the Schuylkill River and at GLP (m.ob.), likely aftershocks of the Polar Vortex system that pushed more into the area than usual over the winter. Of those, the highest Greater Scaup count was 18 at VFNHP 3/9 (WBH). The latest sighting, later than the rest by over a month, was of 4 at GLP 4/26 (PD). Three **Long-tailed Ducks** were a nice post-storm find at GLP 4/26 (GF). **Bufflehead** numbers peaked at 65 at SRTO 3/8 (KR). There were more than a dozen reports of **Common Goldeneye** (m.ob.). Twenty-six **Hooded Mergansers** were present at Norristown Riverfront Park 3/9 (WBH), and **Common Merganser** numbers maxed out at 150 at GLP 3/29 (PD). **Common Merganser** ducklings were first noted 5/16 at GLP (PD). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were unusually common on the Schuylkill in Mar, including a high of 10 at VFNHP 3/9 (WBH). Seven were noted at GLP during a rainstorm 4/4 (KC, WBH). A single **Red-breasted Merganser** was at SRTO 4/11 (WBH), and 3 were noted at GLP 4/26 (GF). By contrast, **Ruddy Duck** reports were very light, with no counts higher than 5 (m.ob.). Two late Ruddies were at GLP 5/27 (GF). In all, 21 species of duck were observed.

**Wild Turkey** was seen at PERT and ESP (m.ob.), the usual locations, plus a couple of unusual spots: single turkeys were noted at NFP 4/16 (WBH) and 5/14 (BHi), and one was heard at GLP 3/29 (PD).

A rainstorm during the afternoon of 4/4 dropped 2 **Red-throated Loons** on the reservoir at GLP (KC, WBH). One persisted there until 4/11 (FD, m.ob). The same 4/4 storm brought down 21 **Common Loons** and 12 **Horned Grebes** at GLP (KC, WBH). A **Common Loon** was noted on the rather late date of 5/27 at GLP (AM). Two late **Horned Grebes** were at GLP 5/23 (GF). **Red-necked Grebes** were almost abundant on the Schuylkill through 4/11 (m.ob). A group of 5 was observed at Schuylkill Canal Park (Lock 60) 3/9 (WBH). One **Red-necked Grebe** was at GLP 3/9-10 and another was there 4/26 (both GF).

An **American Bittern** was seen in Fort Washington 4/28 (BR). Another was recorded flying over ELP the night of 4/2 (PD). With it, on the same recording, almost counter-calling, was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** (PD). Single **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were also noted at SGL 234 on 4/12 (WBH) and NFP 5/4-5 (PD, m.ob).

The largest count of **Black Vultures**, by a wide margin, was 100 at a deer carcass in Pottstown 3/22 (NW). An early **Osprey** was detected at FWSP 3/11 (BV). The biggest raptor surprise for the period was the 2 **Mississippi Kites** observed and photographed 5/10 during the PAMC, one at NFP (WBH) and the other from the Perkiomen Trail (SK). A late **Northern Harrier** was also present for the PAMC at ESP 5/10 (SK). **Bald Eagle** continues to be widely reported county-wide (m.ob). Mildly early **Broad-winged Hawks** appeared 4/9 at both McKaig Nature Center (MR) and NFP (AU). A late Broad-wing, or possible breeder, was observed at GLP 5/25 (GF). The leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** at Hatfield was seen again 3/6 (AM).

**Virginia Rails** were noted in small quantities at more locations and on more dates than usual (m.ob.), though that seems more due to increased observer effort rather than increased rail numbers. Of those observations, the final two for the period were a nocturnal flyover at ELP 5/26 (PD) and a

heard-bird at Fort Washington 5/31 (DB). A **Sora** was at Fort Washington 5/4 (PD). A late **American Coot** was seen at GLP 5/27 (AM).

It was a typical, poor spring in *Montgomery* for shorebirds, with only 9 species reported, and few of those in good quantities or with much regularity. Two **Semipalmated Plovers** were at a retention pond in Plymouth Meeting 5/9-12 (PB, m.ob.). Another was at GLP 5/26 (WBH). **Solitary Sandpipers** were the exception to the "low quantity" theme, at least at the newly constructed NFP wetland mitigation areas. Double-digit counts were noted there on several dates in early May (m.ob.), with a high of 29 on 5/6 (WBH). A very early **Greater Yellowlegs** was observed briefly at GLP 3/12 (KC, AM). With the reservoir still mostly frozen at that point, it did not linger. It represented a new early date record for the park. Single **Greater Yellowlegs** were noted at three other locations later in the season (PD, AM, SP). The only **Lesser Yellowlegs** found was a nocturnal flyover at ELP 5/21 (PD). There were several reports of small numbers of **Least Sandpiper**, the only peep species observed (m.ob.). The last 3 **Wilson's Snipe** of the season were detected in Lower Moreland 5/7 (PD).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen on 5 occasions at GLP (m.ob.), with a high count of 55 on 4/7 (PD). **Ring-billed Gulls** were present in the hundreds at GLP through Mar (m.ob.). Five thousand at GLP 3/28 (GF) was something of an aberration, and was the only count above 1000. Two **Iceland Gulls** were picked out of the GLP gull flock 3/23 (KR). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** numbers peaked at 52 at GLP 3/8 (GF). Two tern species were noted at GLP during the period: a **Common Tern** 5/16 (PD, GF) and 3 **Forster's Terns** 5/1 (PD).

It seemed to be a good season for cuckoos. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was fairly widely reported (m.ob.). Single **Black-billed Cuckoos** were discovered at four locations during daylight hours (m.ob.). Several nocturnal observations were also made, including 10 Black-billed calls recorded at ELP 5/21 (PD). **Barred Owl** was noted 5 times at ESP (m.ob.), with nesting confirmed 5/10 (SF, SK). Two **Long-eared Owls** were at VFNHP through at least 3/12 (JC). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was a bizarre and great find at HC 5/7 (SJ). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** continued at Congo Road Open Space in Gilbertsville until at least 3/29 (PD, m.ob.).

The pair of **Peregrine Falcons** that was present through the winter at ND nested there, a first for this location. Though the nesting attempt ultimately failed, the birds were seen regularly incubating through the entire period (m.ob.). Three Peregrines were observed at ND 3/14 (WBH, FAM): the local pair and an interloper. Peregrines were also noted at a few other locations along the Schuylkill (m.ob.).

An above-average number of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were detected in May. Single birds were seen on the Green Ribbon Trail at GWP 5/13 (AM), at Ashbourne Country Club 5/14 (PD), FWSP 5/18 (DB, JB), Fulshaw-Craeg Preserve 5/19 (DeB) and NFP 5/23 (KR). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Windlestrae Park 5/26 (KR) and another was heard at GLP 5/27 (AM). An **Alder Flycatcher** was at SGL 234 on 5/24 (KR). Three Alders were found at GLP 5/24 (PD), with one persisting until 5/26 (WBH). **Least Flycatcher** was observed on five dates in late Apr and early May (m.ob.). A late **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen from the Green Ribbon Trail 5/21 (AM). Forty-five **Fish Crows** were at GLP 4/5 (PD), and 23 at King of Prussia 3/22 (BE). **Common Raven** was noted 4 times in the GLP area (GF, ML), including a group of 4 on 5/13 (GF). There were also 5 reports of the species at PERT, all single birds (m.ob.). Two Ravens were at King of Prussia 3/5 (BE). The only **Horned Larks** observed during the period were 5 at Palm 3/1 (GF).

Twenty **Purple Martins** were at their colony site in Harleysville 4/28 (AM). **Tree Swallows** were noted in good quantities on the Schuylkill during Mar: 412 were counted in a photo taken at SRTO 3/27 (WBH), and another 400 were estimated at ND 3/24 (MR). A dozen early **Tree Swallows** were seen at SRTO 3/2 (PB). Twenty-five **Bank Swallows** were at GLP 5/5 (GF). One **Cliff Swallow** was at GLP 4/24, and 3 on 4/27 (both GF), the only reports of this species. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at ESP 3/2 (WBH), probably a continuing bird, one of the few that actually overwintered in the county. Another at NFP 4/10 was an obvious passage migrant (PB). A slightly early **House Wren** appeared at Riverbend Environmental Center 4/10 (BRo). Late **Winter Wrens** were noted at High School Park 5/4 (GP) and PERT 5/10 (PD).

**Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were observed at several locations in mid-May, including FWSP, LP and PERT (m.ob.). Flyovers were also heard on four different nights at ELP, with 16 calls recorded 5/26 (PD). During pre-dawn hours of 5/21, 288 **Swainson's Thrush** calls were counted from the same location (PD). Seven **Hermit Thrushes** were found at McKaig Nature Center 4/28 (EP). The **Gray Catbird** that spent much of the latter half of winter at HC continued there until 3/19 (SJ). Another early Catbird was noted in Glenside 3/28 (SW). Two **American Pipits** in Gilbertsville 4/5 were the only ones of their kind reported for the period (PB). **Cedar Waxwings**, which had been almost entirely absent from *Montgomery* over the winter months, didn't return in good numbers until mid-May, with only small

quantities infrequently observed from mid-April until then (m.ob.). One waxwing at VFNHP 3/12 (WBH) was the sole report for March.

Thirty-three warbler species were observed, a count high enough to require the presence of several "good" ones. It seemed to be a nice season for **Worm-eating Warblers**, which were reported from 10 different locations (m.ob.). Single **Prothonotary Warblers** were found at HC 5/3 (SJ) and GLP 5/26 (WBH). **Tennessee Warblers** also seemed to be more common than usual for spring. Like Worm-eaters, they were noted in at least 10 locations (m.ob.), with 4 counted at LP 5/12 (PD). Three **Nashville Warblers** were at FWSP 5/10 (DB, JB). A **Mourning Warbler** was singing at FWSP 5/10, and continued with a friend (for a count of 2) the following day (BM, MM, DB). Other Mournings were noted in the Unami Creek Valley 5/21 (SG), PERT 5/24 (AnM) and King of Prussia 5/24 (AMe). Formerly a breeding species in *Montgomery*, but now scarce even in migration, **Kentucky Warbler** was observed at Riverbend Environmental Center 5/10 (KW, LW), VFNHP 5/10 (MEH) and Whites Road Park 5/14 (KR). **Hooded Warbler** was noted on 9 dates in May at 6 locations (m.ob.). **Cape May Warbler** was similarly widespread, with 7 observations at 6 locations (m.ob.). A **Cerulean Warbler** was an excellent find at NFP 5/8 (AU). A high count of 35 **Northern Parula** was tallied at LP 5/11 (PD). Two slightly late **Magnolia Warblers** were at FWSP 5/31 (DB). It was a great season for **Bay-breasted Warbler**, with many reports, including several of 2+ birds (m.ob.). A high of 6 was reported at LP 5/15 (PD). Eighteen **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were noted at PERT 5/10 (PD). A mildly late and thus potentially breeding **Pine Warbler** was singing at GLP 5/26 (WBH). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was again found at GLP: first noted 4/28 (AM), a pair was seen together 5/26-27 (WBH, AM) one of which was carrying food (AM). Twelve **Canada Warblers** were at LP 5/15 (PD). It was a remarkable spring for **Wilson's Warbler**, reported from more than 20 locations (m.ob.). The sole **Yellow-breasted Chat** of the season was in an East Norriton yard 5/6 (WBH).

The only **Grasshopper Sparrows** observed were at their breeding territory by Graterford Prison (m.ob.). Four were noted there 5/10 (SK). A possible **Nelson's Sparrow** was noted singing at SGL 234 on 5/10 (SK). **Lincoln's Sparrows** seemed abnormally common region-wide for the spring. They were noted 6 times at 3 locations in *Montgomery* during the narrow span of 5/6-11 (WBH, AMe, GP). A late **Swamp Sparrow** was in Horsham 5/24 (GP). **White-throated Sparrows** lingered county-wide through mid-May (m.ob.). The latest one observed was at NFP 5/25 (BHi, PK). **White-crowned Sparrows** were rather scarce in general, but also lingered into May, including one seen at NFP 5/8-9 (WBH, PB). A late **Dark-eyed Junco** was found at VFNHP 5/12 (MEH).

A **Summer Tanager** was at Alverthorpe Park 5/8 (ph. AZ). Single **Blue Grosbeaks** were present at a Collegeville feeder 5/3-5 (JD) and LP 5/10 (PD). A **Dickcissel** was recorded as a nocturnal flyover at ELP 5/27 (PD). Small numbers of **Rusty Blackbirds** persisted into May, including 4 at NFP 5/6 (WBH). The last was a single Rusty at PERT 5/10 (PD). The famous **Bullock's Oriole** of Gilbertsville was last seen 4/16 (MA *vide* HE). With any luck, it will be back for its fifth winter in *Montgomery* later in the year.

The only "winter finch" species detected in spring 2014 was **Purple Finch**, and they were few and far between. Quantities of 2-5 Purple Finches were noted at a Green Lane feeder through at least 3/24 (AG, PG). Single female-types were observed in Pottstown 4/8 (JT) and Royersford 4/12 (JK).

**EXOTICS:** An **Egyptian Goose** was at GLP 3/14-15 (AM, PD).

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#### **Montour County**

No compiler.

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#### **Northampton County**

Locations: Bear Swamp (BS), Green Pond (GP), Housenick Memorial Park (HMP), Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP), Minsi Lake (ML), Monacacy Nature Center (MNC), Nazareth Quarry (NQ).

In recent years, this county has had large numbers of **Snow Geese** staging and migrating through in spring. The extreme cold this past winter resulted in frozen quarries and a lack of geese. The only open water was at small ponds and the Delaware and Lehigh rivers. The immense numbers of geese seen in late 2013 did not return. An adult **Ross's Goose** and a **Greater White-fronted Goose** were in a field in E. Allen Twp. 3/19 (DW). An adult blue morph **Ross's Goose** was photographed at Seiple's Farm Pond with 3000 **Snow Geese** 3/10 (MS). There were 7 **Cackling Geese** at GP 3/17 (MS). **Tundra Swans** that we normally see a few of each spring were observed at multiple locations. There were 18 at GP 3/25 (DD), 40 in a field in E. Allen Twp. 3/19 (DW), 70 flew over Nazareth 3/10 and smaller numbers seen in various flooded fields. Other waterfowl were seen in above average numbers. Species reported on the Delaware River in Mar and early Apr included **Canvasback**, **Redhead**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **White-winged Scoter**, **Greater Scaup**, **American Wigeon**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Wood Duck**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Red-breasted Merganser** and **Red-necked Grebe**. Some numbers included 43 **Common Goldeneye** at the Portland Pedestrian Bridge 3/2 (MS), 5 **Canvasback** at MCEP 3/15 (MS), 23 **Greater Scaup** at MCEP 3/10 (MS), 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** at Riverton 3/9 (RW), 2 **White-winged Scoters** at Riverton 3/1 (RW), and 344 **Wood Ducks** and 9 **Red-necked Grebes** along the Delaware R 3/15 (RW).

At GP, there were 2 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/6 (JM) and 6 on 4/19 (JH). A stop at Sunset Dr. Marsh 4/5 had **Northern Shoveler**, 3 **Blue-winged Teal** and **Gadwall** (MS, CCS). Another **Northern Shoveler** was at a pond close to GP 3/15 (LF). The Albert Rd. Ponds held 80 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/22 (KS). There was an impressive showing of **Northern Pintails** at GP with 196 on 3/24 and 187 on 3/27 (MS). The flooded field along Rte. 91 near Newburg had an adult male intergrade **Green-winged Teal** (hybrid American x Eurasian Green-winged Teal) among other teal 4/5 (MS, CCS). Some overnight storms helped provide a mini fallout 4/4. There were 7 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 16 **Greater Scaup** and 19 **Bufflehead** at ML, another 7 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 7 **Horned Grebes** and 2 **Common Loons** at NQ, and at Northampton Quarry there were 3 **Long-tailed Ducks** and 9 **Lesser Scaup** (MS). On 4/5, NQ had 6 **Northern Shovelers**, 12 **Horned Grebes**, 7 **Ruddy Ducks**, and 19 **Common Mergansers** (MS). At ML 4/5, there were 20 **Common Loons**, a **Red-throated Loon**, and a **Long-tailed Duck** (KS). In the afternoon on 4/5 at ML, in addition to the loons, there were 10 **Horned Grebes**, 17 **Bufflehead**, 145 **Ring-billed Gulls**, 7 **Bonaparte's Gulls** and 3 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (MS). On 4/6, the **Red-throated Loon** and 15 **Common Loons** continued at ML (JM). A late **Red-necked Grebe** was at ML 4/2 (KS). Other lingering waterfowl included a **Ring-necked Duck** at Echo Lake and a female **Red-breasted Merganser** at ML 5/10 (MSa, BW) and 3 **Lesser Scaup** at MCEP 5/10 (MS, CCS).

An imm. **Great Cormorant** was at the Portland Pedestrian Bridge 3/11-14 (MSa, et al.). **American Bittern** reports are from National Park Dr of the Delaware Water Gap NRA 4/26 (BW), School Rd Marsh 5/10 (BW, MSa), and at BS 5/17 (MS). An early **Great Egret** was at Seiple's Farm Pond 4/4 (MS). Just before sunrise 5/10, the "wok" call of a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was heard at ML (MS, CCS). It circled low over the East lot before flying off. Nearby at Sunset Dr. Marsh, a **Sora** called a few times 5/10 (MS, CCS).

Shorebird variety was respectable with numerous flooded fields around the county. The flooded field along Rte. 91 near Newburg had a **Dunlin** 5/9 (MSa), 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 5/3 (MS) and 26 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/4 (MS). At GP, there were 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 5/14-15 (MS) and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at the flooded field on Christian Springs Rd. 5/21 (MS). Three **Wilson's Snipe** were flushed from a wet area along Old Allentown Rd. 5/10 (MS, CCS). A walk at HMP yielded 3 **Wilson's Snipe** 3/27 (JM). In Plainfield Twp, 8 **American Woodcock** displayed in the owners backyard 3/21 (KS). A good location for gulls was the Forks of Delaware in Easton. On 3/10, the Forks hosted an **Iceland Gull**, 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, 20 **Herring Gulls**, 145 **Ring-billed Gulls**, and a **Great Black-backed Gull** (MS, CCS). A lone **Bonaparte's Gull** was at the flooded field on Rte. 91 5/10 (MSa, BW). There was an ad **Caspian Tern** at Martins Creek Quarry 5/9 (MS).

Conditions were ideal on 5/10 for the PAMC, starting with fog and giving way to partly sunny skies. The fog helped keep the songbirds from leaving overnight and the aftermath was a record 150 species. Birders tallied 964 warblers of 28 species. One location that was dripping with birds was National Park Dr. along the Blue Mountain in the northeast corner of the county. There were actually several days before and after the PAMC with above average numbers of migrant songbirds. Missing from the count were cuckoos. This species showed up a day late with **Black** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Smith Gap (MS). Goatsuckers seen during the PAMC included an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** at Little Gap (CCS) and a **Common Nighthawk** at School Rd. Marsh (MSa, BW). A **Short-eared Owl** seen in Seemsville 3/3 (BE) was a surprise find. Early **Chimney Swifts** were seen

at the Sands Casino 4/26 (DL). On 5/11, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported from Bangor (MSa) and another was at MNC 5/25 (LF, JM). A very excited birder was pumping gas when a gray morph **Gyr Falcon** flew past 3/26 (BS). He watched the falcon near Hanoverville Rd., E. Allen Twp., and then saw it again fly over Arrowhead Rd. The **Peregrine Falcon** pair at the Sands Casino in Bethlehem was seen fairly often during the period (DL). An **Alder Flycatcher** was at BS 5/15 (MS) and 5/26 (RW). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen at BS 5/18-26 with a high of 3 on 5/26 (RW). Another **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at MNC 5/21 (LF). At Marshfield Dr. 5/10, a high of 4 **White-eyed Vireos** were reported (MSa, BW). The only observation for **Philadelphia Vireo** was 5/10 with a bird in Williams Twp. (AK). Four **Purple Martins** were observed gathering mud along Totts Gap Rd. 5/10 (MS, CCS). The first reports of **Tree Swallow** was 30 at MCEP 3/26 (JM) and of **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was 3 at Riverton 3/23 (RW). There was a singing **Winter Wren** at Katellen 5/7-10 (MS, CCS).

**Gray-cheeked** and **Swainson's Thrush** were fairly common at BS in May. More exciting was the discovery of a **Bicknell's Thrush** at BS 5/26 (RW). The thrush was seen and heard with the observer describing the bird and noting its loud emphatic call notes. In Moore Twp., 26 **American Pipits** were counted 5/10 along Schlegel Rd (MSa, BW). There was a **Lawrence's Warbler** seen along the boardwalk trail at BS 5/15 (MS). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was photographed at HMP 5/8 (JM) and another was at BS 5/9 (MS). There were 3 **Yellow-throated Warblers** at the Bethlehem Boat Club 4/14 (MS). At HMP, there was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** 5/23 (PW, BW). There was a **Prothonotary Warbler** seen by several birders at MNC by the pond 5/3 (LF, et al) and a different **Prothonotary Warbler** was singing at MNC 5/24 (LF). Continuing with uncommon warblers, a **Mourning Warbler** was heard at BS (MSa, BW) and at Institute Rd. (MS, CCS) 5/10. **Mourning Warbler** was also at HMP 5/12 (JZ) and MNC 5/13 and 5/19 (LF). Highlighting a great warbler spring was the third county record of **Swainson's Warbler** 5/18-19. It was photographed at BS in a thick Rhododendron patch 5/18 (RW) and was also heard singing early the next morning (DD, KS). At MNC, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen 5/1 (LF, DG).

There was a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at MCEP 5/10 (MSa, BW) and at MNC 5/2 (LF). **Bobolinks** were at MNC 5/2-9 which is somewhat unusual. **Bobolink** was also reported from HMP 5/4 (JZ). **Purple Finch** was at a feeder in Northampton 4/13 (BE).

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### Perry County

Locations: Little Buffalo State Park (LBSP), State Game Lands 170 (SGL170).

The spring period was colder than usual, with the long cold winter reluctantly turning into spring. Waterfowl of interest included 2 **Tundra Swans** in a field on Doubling Gap Road in Tyrone 3/11 (VG), 4 more at LBSP 3/24 (SJ), and a flyover of 150 birds where Rte. 322 runs near the Juniata River across from State Game Lands 281 on 3/22 (IG, AL, BS). There were also 8 **Long-tailed Ducks** reported at LBSP 4/4 (IG) and another one on the Juniata River in Newport 4/4 (CB). There was one **Ruffed Grouse** reported at Grove Road 5/4 (NZ) and another at Miller's Gap 5/10 (RK). There were 200 **Bonaparte's Gulls** seen on the Juniata River in Newport 4/4 (CB) and another 9 at LBSP 4/4 (IG).

There was one **Least Flycatcher** reported at SGL 170 on 5/11 (RK, AM) and one **Swainson's Thrush** identified at Lambs Gap 5/10 (NZ) and then again 5/14 (RK). Unusual warblers included one **Northern Waterthrush** at SGL 170 on 5/11 (RK, AM), one **Brewster's Warbler** 5/11 and 5/18 (RK, AM), one to 2 **Cerulean Warblers** at Miller's Gap 5/10-18 (RK, AM, PB) and one more off of Deer Lane on the Appalachian Trail north of Rte. 944 on 5/26 (RG). There was also one **Wilson's Warbler** at LBSP 5/11 (CD). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at SGL 170 on 5/11 (RK, AM).

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## Philadelphia County

Locations: Bartram's Garden (BG), Benjamin Rush State Park (BRSP), 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 (NEWPCP), PAMC (Pennsylvania Migration Count), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Southampton Woods (SHW), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

Winter's snow and ice melted too slowly for eager birders, but migrants and returning breeders arrived not much later than usual given the severe winter. In March the river ice, broken up by ships keeping the port open, drifted swiftly with the wind and tides, bringing waterfowl and resting gulls into and out of view much faster than usual. At least a few species seemed to guess that icebergs would be on the Great Lakes into July, and remained until May. Most notable was our last **Red-necked Grebe** flying north on the SR 5/22 (LW), a very late **Glaucous Gull** at the NBC 5/8 (GA) and 39 **Brant** 5/21 (GA). Birders on the 5/10 PAMC found 139 species including **Red-headed Woodpecker** and **Red-necked Grebe**, both firsts for the count, plus **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**. A mini Philly Big Day 5/4 with just two skilled participants yielded 114 species including 22 warblers (GA, TF).

Fewer than 500 **Snow Geese** were reported 3/15-22 plus a few stragglers through 5/29 (GJ). A **Cackling Goose** at FDR 3/2 (MS) attracted birders who found two on 3/5 (ph. GA, MD, FW). As mentioned a late flock of 39 **Brant** were spotted that the Philadelphia Navy Yard 5/21 (ph. GA). A dozen **Tundra Swans** rested at TI 3/13-14 (FW, MD, GJ).

The **Gadwall x Mallard**, a.k.a. **Brewer's Duck** reported at TI in winter was photographed 3/16 (KG, AU) and last seen 4/9 (ph. DO). Our **Blue-winged Teal** population was stagnant as the season warmed. Only two were reported from TI through 5/21. The movement of waterfowl increased in March with hundreds of **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail** and **Green-winged Teal** on the move. The raft of **Canvasback** feeding at the NBC reached 270 by 3/16 (TF, GA) but decreased quickly until the last Canvasback departed 4/19 (TF). Three **Redhead** were at TI 3/13-4/5 (m.ob.) and one was at FDR 3/11 (FW). This was an exceptional year for **Ring-necked Duck** at TI where 150 were seen 3/19 (FW) before their departure 4/19 (DO, FW). Wintering **Greater Scaup** continued to outnumber **Lesser Scaup** even as spring arrived. At POD there were only 19 on 3/5 (FW), but at TI up to 12 were present 3/19-4/6. **Lesser Scaup** were still at TI 5/1 (FW). A **White-winged Scoter** followed the DR south 3/1 (MD, GA). Eight **Long-tailed Duck** at GF 3/1 (GA, MD) dispersed along the upper DR where groups of three and five were seen until 3/23. Another late departure on 5/5 was **Bufflehead** (TF, GA). These days it's rare to see even one, so 2 **Common Goldeneye** at TI daily from 3/22-4/9 (m.ob.) were notable, but even better on the DR at POD were 30 Goldeneye 3/1 (GA, MD) and 24, possibly some of the 30, farther south at NBC 3/8 (GA). The bulk of the 78 **Common Mergansers** at TI on 3/9 were gone by 4/1 leaving only three until 5/2 (ABin). The SR hosted 6-8 **Red-breasted Mergansers** from 3/8-21 and 18 at GF on 3/23 became a county high (GA, BH). **Ruddy Duck** numbers were modest with 10-30 birds at TI and a high of 62 at the Delaware River Trail 3/21 (GA). Notable reports for **Ruddy Duck** were two birds on the upper SR, a female at the Art Museum 3/5 (GJ) and another further north at the Manayunk Canal 3/12 (KJ) with the late sighting at BG 5/10 (PR, SM).

One to two **Red-throated Loons** were at NBC 3/1-3 and further north at POD until 3/23. Our **Red-necked Grebe** invasion continued until the last grebe left TI 5/15 (GJ, CM, ph.) and the very last grebe flew north and out of the county on the SR 5/22 (LW). High grebe counts came from the SR 3/25 where photo documentation of 22 individuals was assembled (GJ, CM) and 32 were at POD and NBC 3/23 (FW, GA, GJ).

Various reports of 100 and 250 **Double-crested Cormorants** summed in the thousands from mid-April through mid-May with 247 on 5/2 over TI (GJ, CM). **Great Cormorants** were last seen 4/13 (GA). At TI 4/8 an **American Bittern** was found (ph. KM) and at Germantown Academy a small wetland hosted an **American Bittern** and a **Wilson's Snipe** 4/28 (BR) exactly where a bittern was seen last spring. **Least Bittern** were first noted at TI 5/17 (ph. KM, GJ). A **Cattle Egret** in the parking lot of TI 4/27 (MD, FW, ph.) was a one-day wonder, as was a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** near the old trolley bed 5/4 (ABin, RM ph.). Two **Glossy Ibis** at TI 3/22 provided an early Philly record (GA). Six ibis reports followed including a first record at MA 4/27 (KJ) and an all-time high of 27 passing POD 5/3 (GA, TF).

The 3/12 arrival of **Osprey** at GF replaced the 3/15 record set in 1908. For unknown reasons the **Bald Eagle** nest at TI failed during incubation, but the Pennypack nest produced chicks. A 5/25 report of a **Broad-winged**

**Hawk** soaring over TI was late (TC). **Virginia Rails** were considered to be breeding at TI when two were seen and heard calling together from 4/27-5/31. Unfortunately, there were no June sightings. A **Sora** spent 5/17 at TI (GA, MD) where the Fish and Wildlife Service seems to have scrapped plans for the seasonal drawdown of the impoundment to accommodate migrating shorebirds. Ageing equipment and lack of personnel may have been the reason. Four **American Woodcock** put on a show for birders at TI 3/22 (DB) and one was at Race and Hicks St., downed in the light and towers of Center City (CM).

**Bonaparte's Gull** reports were numerous with up to 15 at TI 4/8-13 and at the NBC 4/11 when a tug flushed 42 that were resting on the DR (GA). A **Ring-billed Gull** hatched in 2009 or earlier and tagged in Worcester, Massachusetts in 2012 was found at the Snyder Ave. Walmart (JShe). This is the fourth tagged bird in Philly in three years. Color marking is an increasingly popular and useful research tool. An **Iceland Gull** was flying south at GF 3/23 (MD, GA). Four **Lesser-black Backed Gulls** were at POD 3/1, 3/30 (GA, MD) and lastly 4/16 (GJ, DO). As mentioned above, a second or third cycle **Glaucous Gull** was seen flying north at NBC 5/8 (GA). Later records for Glaucous Gull exist at the coast, but this is the latest Philly record known.

On 3/15 a fresh **Snowy Owl** carcass from inside the Northeast Airport fence was sent to laboratories for testing as part of Project SNOWstorm (FW, DM). The last snowy was at the Northeast Airport 3/28 (FW). A **Long-eared Owl** was photographed during a brief stay at TI 3/14 (CH). When **Eastern Whip-poor-will** roosts in Philly they prefer Awbury Arboretum and one chose it again 5/6, calling at dawn and dusk (BR, FW, MD). The **Red-headed Woodpecker** found during a bird walk in the very under-birded Tacony Creek Park 5/10 (KR) was an unexpected delight. Five **Peregrine Falcon** pairs occupied nests throughout the city and prepared to raise young (AM).

Migrant flycatchers gave birders a show in late May. **Olive-sided Flycatcher** appeared at BG 5/19 (DA) and at Awbury Arboretum 5/23 (BR). **Alder Flycatcher** is a regular fall migrant though rarely reported when not vocalizing. Several Alders were heard for extensive periods, one at the NBC 5/23, 5/30 (FW, GA, MD), two at separate locations at TI 5/19-29 (m.ob.) and finally two Alders calling at Poquessing Valley Park in the Northeast 5/24 (FW, MD, GA). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** were at TI 5/24-25 (GA, FW), and one was recorded at CW 5/29 (MD, fide DGro). Two **Least Flycatcher** were calling at TI 5/2-8 with a third bird called 5/14 and 5/21 (m.ob.). On 5/3 at CW a Least called (AU, KG) and at BG 5/19 (DA). Our **Northern Shrike** was last photographed 3/23 (ABin). It seems too much to hope that it returns in 2015 for a fourth winter, but birders will be looking. A late **Swainson's Thrush** was at Andorra Natural Area 5/31 (MD).

Sixteen **Northern Waterthrush** at TI were an indication of the size of the morning's fallout 5/3 (TF). They arrived along with 14 **Black-and-white Warblers** at CW (KJ, MD) and 20 **Black-throated Blue Warbler** also at CW (MD). More than 10 **Cape May Warbler** were reported on five days 5/5-16. A flock of 5 **Bay-breasted Warbler** (yes, a flock of Bay-breasted in Philly!) at TI 5/14-17 (m.ob.) topped several other reports of multiple birds. As a spruce-woods warbler and bud worm specialist, this species outnumbered **Blackburnian** possibly due to the current outbreak in the budworm's 35 year cycle. It is thought Blackburnian numbers decrease during an outbreak due to increased competition for food. We saw a huge upsurge in **Tennessee Warbler** in 2014 possibly for the same reason. **Blackpoll Warbler** had a high count of 36 at TI 5/23 (GA) with a late departure of 6/7. Early **Pine Warbler** numbered 13 at TI 4/3 (DO). **Wilson's Warbler** was recorded on 13 days 5/2-26 with three seen 5/23 (GA). Always a good bird in spring an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Valley Green 4/4-6 (ph. KJ) and at TI 4/13 (GJ, CM, DO, ph.). A male **Prothonotary Warbler** arrived at TI 4/18, as early as we can expect, in an area where males occasionally explore the inviting Tree Swallow nest boxes. This male stayed until 5/9 before departing to more attractive breeding grounds. **Yellow-breasted Chat** passed through TI where it bred in the past 5/3-19 (LW) and at NBC a chat found 5/30 (MD) was joined by another 5/31 (FW).

Reminiscent of the time when both species bred in Philly, a **Blue Grosbeak** was with the chat at NBC (FW). The last **American Tree Sparrow** was reported 5/2 from TI (ABin, DB). More than eight locations reported **Savannah Sparrow**, but none as consistently as POD where 17 was the high count 5/7 (TJ, DGoc). The window for **Lincoln's Sparrow** was only three days 5/4-6 when two birds were seen at TI and FDR (MD ph., GA); one late bird was at BG 5/30 (MD). **Rusty Blackbird** was easy to find at TI with 28 seen 3/23 (GA); last was 5/9.

**EXOTICS:** A **Monk Parakeet** originally thought to be exhibiting breeding behavior was in the Northeast 5/17 (GA, TF, ph. FW) but it was not seen again.

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Debbie Beer, Anne Bekker (ABek), Annie Bird (ABir), Adrian Binns (ABin), Skip Conant, Tony Crossdale, Martin Dellwo, Todd Fellenbaum, Doug Gochfeld (DGoc), Doug Gross (DGro), Kim Gruener, Al Guarente, Brian Hart, Christian Hunold, Ken Januski, Gary Jarvis, Tom Johnson, Steve Mattan, Rob McGraw, Art McMorris, Kay Meng, Charles Muntean, Christine Murray, Damon Orsetti, Brian Quindlen, Bill Reaume, Patty Rehn, Lynn Roman, Keith Russell, Matt Sharp, Jennifer Sherwood (JShe), Jerene Shroeder (JShr), Paul Thott, Anthony Uhrich, Linda Widdop, Frank Windfelder.

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### Pike County

Locations: Delaware State Forest (DSF), Lake Wallenpaupack (LW), Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC).

Thick ice continued in March on area lakes, with some open water on the Delaware River between Milford and Metamoras. An injured **Snow Goose** was at LW 5/18 (MS, CCS). In Milford, a pale **Cackling Goose** was amongst **Canada Geese** at the Kittatinny Canoe Boat Launch 3/16 (MS, CCS). A male **Canvasback**, 15 **Redhead**, 5 **Green-winged Teal**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, and 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on the river by Delaware Valley HS 3/16 (MS, CCS). Waterfowl observed at Airport Park on the river by the I84 Bridge on 3/16 included 16 **Greater Scaup**, 37 **Common Goldeneye** and **Bufflehead** (MS, CCS). A large flock of 116 **Ring-necked Ducks** swam near the Metamoras boat launch 3/16 (MS, CCS). A female **Long-tailed Duck** was on LW 4/5 despite the lake being 90% frozen (MS, CCS). There were 5 **Long-tailed Ducks** on Lake Shohola 4/26 (MS, CCS).

A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** frequented the feeder station at PEEC 4/19-5/26 (SK, et al.). **Ruffed Grouse** were heard drumming at DSF along Snow Hill Rd. and at Promised Land SP in May. There was a **Virginia Rail** at the Kemadobi Marsh off Rte. 739 on 5/25 (MS, CCS). Exposed mud at Pecks Pond provided some shorebird habitat that attracted a **Wilson's Snipe** 4/5-6 and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** and 2 **Least Sandpipers** 5/18 (MS). A good location for gulls was LW with **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls** common in Mar and Apr. Uncommon were 10 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and 2 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at LW 4/5 (MS, CCS). On 4/26, a large flock of 23 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at LW (MS, CCS). There were 8 **Common Nighthawks** hunting the river at Airport Park 5/11 (MS, CCS). There were **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** in DSF along Flat Ridge Rd. 5/11 (MS, CCS).

There was an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Toms Creek RA 5/17 and another at PEEC 5/26 (MS). A **Willow Flycatcher** was singing near the garden area at the Old Heller Farm 5/17 (MS). On 5/25, a **White-eyed Vireo** was seen along the McDade Trail near the Flying Hawks Airfield (MS, CCS). **Philadelphia Vireo** was at DSF off Snow Hill Rd. 5/25 (MS, CCS) and from the Thunder Swamp Trail 5/18 (CC). Three **Purple Martins** were hunting the Delaware R. by the I-84 Bridge 5/11 (MS, CCS). Fourteen early **Tree Swallows** were at the same location 3/16 (MS, CCS). **Gray-cheeked** and **Swainson's Thrush** were in DSF along Snow Hill Rd. 5/11 (MS).

A check of eBird showed 27 species of warblers were seen during the period. The rarest was a **Mourning Warbler** at Kleinhan's Trail, DSF 5/26 (EP, MR). There was also a **Lincoln's Sparrow** seen along Kleinhan's Trail 5/26 (EP, MR). There were 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** at the entrance road to the Eshbach Boat Launch 5/11 (MS, CCS). **Bobolink** reports came from the Old Heller Farm of the Delaware Water Gap NRA 5/17 (MS) and at Paupack 5/27 (PT, TM). At Pecks Pond 4/5, there were 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** feeding on the mud flat seen from the shore (MS). **Orchard Oriole** was also seen at the Old Heller Farm 5/17 (MS).

Observers: **Michael Schall**, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, PA, (610) 737-5275, [mdtjschall@yahoo.com](mailto:mdtjschall@yahoo.com), Cooper Cronk, Stephen Kloiber, Topillzin Martinez, Edie Pamum, Mike Rosengarten, Corinne Campbell Schall, Peter Trueblood.

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### Potter County

No compiler.

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### Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Kelayres Reclaimed Minelands (KRM), Landingville Dam (LVD), 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), West Deerview Drive (WDD).

Weather through the reporting period was much cooler and wetter than normal. The PAMC 5/10 recorded a total of 149 species which was two more than the past two years. We all thank Mike Ward for his able handling of the organization and compilation of the count. We also acknowledge the work of John and Jonathan DeBalko who decided to do a county big day on the day of the PAMC. They spent 18 hours in the field and racked up an impressive list of 127 species including rarities seldom seen in *Schuylkill*.

*Schuylkill* does not have any large bodies of water that attract good numbers of ducks, and instead is limited to farm ponds to medium size municipal reservoirs. Additionally the reservoirs are in steep valleys so they generally lack extensive shallow zones that support aquatic vegetation. With some minor exceptions, what waterfowl we do get range from rare to uncommon. In addition, the excessive cold temperatures kept the larger lakes south of the county (like Ontelaunee and Blue Marsh) frozen into early April. This seemed to force some ducks to move around in search of open water, and as a result a larger than usual number of species began arriving at LVD in mid-March and stayed for several weeks. Up until that point, however, little was seen aside from **Canada Goose**, **Mute Swan**, and **Mallard**. This spring we had seventeen species of waterfowl reported, which, generally speaking, stayed later than last year. **American Wigeon** arrived in small numbers 3/21 at LVD (DR) and stayed in the county until 4/5 when three were seen at APWS (JoD). **American Black Ducks** were confined to the northern sector of the county at APWS (JD, JoD), TSP (JoD) and OCR (FD, DK). **Northern Pintail** arrived 3/19 at LVD (DR) and stayed in *Schuylkill* for at least four weeks. A **Green-winged Teal** stayed around until the PAMC and became only the second record for the count. Four **Lesser Scaup** were seen at OCR 4/6 (DK) and **Ring-necked Ducks** appeared throughout the county between 3/10 and 4/27 (m.ob.). Always notable, **Long-tailed Duck** appeared at both LVD and TRR (DK) in early April. Two **Buffleheads** were seen at SAL 4/4 (BR). **Common Mergansers** arrived 3/10 at LVD (DR) and a late report of a pair was received after the end of this reporting period at SAL (DD) and another (or perhaps the same pair) was at Lebanon Reservoir 6/28 (DK). **Horned Grebes**, not common in the county, were initially seen 4/4 at SCR (DK) and were last seen 4/9 at #8 Reservoir (JD).

Once again, an **American Bittern** spent a day at LVD, this year 4/11 (BJ, MW). Sporadic reports of **Great Egrets** were made between 4/11-5/26 at APWS (JoD), LVD (BJ, MW) and SSP (BR).

**Bald Eagles** continued their presence in *Schuylkill* and were reported at most of the larger reservoirs; a total of 7 were reported on the PAMC (m.ob.). One of the two confirmed eagle nests in *Schuylkill* successfully fledged young this year (DD), but no observations were made of the second nest. There was an unconfirmed report of a third nest in the county was not verified. Two **Ospreys** were seen on the PAMC, a very low number compared to other years. **American Kestrels** have had a fairly stable population in the county in the past, however, only one was spotted on the PAMC and none were reported during the reporting period. The single bird seen on the PAMC represented the lowest count ever.

An extremely rare bird for *Schuylkill* this spring was a **Common Gallinule** which was spotted at SSP 5/5 (BR). Given that the habitat was suitable and the bird's secretive nature, it is possible the bird stayed beyond that date. Like waterfowl, shorebirds are also very uncommon the *Schuylkill* due to a general lack of mud flats. **Solitary Sandpipers** arrived later than normal 4/26 (JoD) and left 5/12 (JoD), which was earlier than normal. **Greater Yellowlegs** were found between 4/10 and 5/15 only at APWS (JoD, JD). Likewise, **Lesser Yellowlegs** were also only reported at APWS (JD, JoD) between 4/11 and 5/23. **American Woodcock** were reported numerous times through the season beginning 3/14 in Pottsville (DK).

The only **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** reported this spring were 3 during the PAMC. That number was significantly lower than the 20 reported last year. Only two **Wilson's Snipes** were found; one was in McAdoo 4/3 (JD) and another was seen during the PAMC. Three species of gulls and a tern moved through the county this spring which is quite significant. **Ring-billed Gulls** moved through the county between 3/11 and 4/30 and were seen at several of our lakes (DK, DR, FD, TB). A single **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported 4/2 at LVD (DK). Two individual **Herring Gulls** were seen at THS; one 3/13 and other 4/29 (FD). Finally, four **Caspian Terns** were seen fishing 4/11 at LVD (MW, BJ).

For the first time, no **Barred Owls** were reported on the PAMC. The only record for this period was a pair of birds in Port Clinton 5/26 (RK). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** reappeared in an area where they were confirmed nesting last year (KG) on the north slope of Blue Mountain. In addition, another single bird spent a couple of weeks in May in the vicinity of Coal Mountain near Orwigsburg (LG). A **Peregrine Falcon**, although missed on the PAMC, was seen at HMS overlook 4/6 (LG).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, very elusive in the county, was seen 5/20 on WDD (DR). The *Empidonax* flycatchers arrived in the county in early to mid-May. All five species were seen on the PAMC including a **Yellow-**

**bellied Flycatcher** which was reported for only the second time on the PAMC; the first was in 2013. **Alder, Willow, Acadian, and Least Flycatchers** breed at several locations in the county. In addition to the PAMC sighting, a second **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at LLSP 5/22 (TB). **White-eyed Vireo** expanded their range in the county and appeared in northern *Schuylkill* at TSP and SGL 227 for the first time anyone can remember. Up until now, the bird has not been seen north of Pottsville. **Philadelphia Vireo**, very unusual in the county, showed up on the PAMC for only the second time. Besides a single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** seen on the PAMC, the only other one reported was 4/19 in the Orwigsburg area (LG). Unlike last year when three **Winter Wrens** were reported beyond mid-May including one on 6/8, only two birds were seen this year, both at LVD; one 4/5 and the other 4/12 (DK).

There were a total of 30 warbler species tallied. This year the earliest warbler was a **Pine Warbler** 3/22, the only warbler reported in March. The biggest wave of warblers came through in early May, coinciding nicely with the PAMC. **Northern Waterthrush** arrived 4/27 (TB) in what seemed like good numbers. A total of 12 were seen on the PAMC including 7 at SSP (JoD, JD). Also notable due to their unusually high numbers were **Tennessee** and **Cape May Warblers**. Providing just the fourth PAMC record for the county, a **Mourning Warbler** was seen at TSP (JoD, JD). For the second time in two years, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen on the PAMC. One was seen at TSP between 5/7-10 (JoD, JD) and another (or perhaps the same one) was seen 5/16 at SGL 227 (JD).

Even though *Schuylkill* has some pockets of agriculture, certain of the grassland sparrows only breed here in small numbers. Single **Savannah** and **Vesper Sparrows** were seen on the PAMC in Pitman in the northwestern corner of the county (JoD, JD). Likewise, a single **Lincoln Sparrow** was spotted migrating through 5/7 at TSP (JoD).

A single **Bobolink** was found 5/8 near TSP (JoD) and another on the PAMC. **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen between 3/15 and 5/11 at four locations: SSP (BR, DK, DM), SGL 160 (DK), LVD (BJ, DK, DR), and APWS (JoD). Notable by its absence, no **Purple Finches** were seen on the PAMC, only the second time this has happened. Individuals came through in a narrow window of 4/9-13 (JoD, DK, LG). A late bird almost made the count, found 5/9 (JD).

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### Snyder County

Locations: Faylor Lake (FL), State Game Lands 188, Kettle Road (KR), Snyder County Birding Trail (SCBT), Tall Timbers (TT), Walker Lake (WL).

A lone **Black Scoter** was at FL 5/10 (KC, JW) and a **Common Loon** was there that day (KC, JW). **Bald Eagles** were seen throughout the reporting period at FL, WL, and near the river (m.ob.). A **Virginia Rail** was at SCBT 4/26 (JW) and one was heard at FL 5/10 (KC, JW). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen briefly and photographed in a yard in Shamokin Dam on the evening of 5/15 (JW).

A single **Yellow-throated Vireo** was on Back Mountain Road 5/30 (DG). Three singing **Winter Wrens** were heard at TT 5/10 (KC, JW). A **Cerulean Warbler** was at SGL 188 on 5/10 (JW). A single **Blackpoll Warbler** was at FL 5/10 (KC, JW) and several were heard singing in yards in Shamokin Dam 5/16 (JW). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was on KR 5/10 (KC, JW). Eight **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen near WL 3/15 (JW).

Observers: **Jason Weller, fishingdude20@hotmail.com**, Kay Cramer, Deborah Grove.

### Somerset County

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

Cold weather persisted into early March and lakes were slow to thaw. Waterfowl migration seemed to be pent up, but many birds arrived at the beginning of the thaw and built up to high numbers of mostly puddle ducks,

geese and swans. Somerset Lake is still drawn down and its fate is unsure; mud flats at the north end attracted a good mix of shorebirds. Bird of the season awards would probably go to the large flock of **Willetts**, but the **Greater White-fronted Geese** and especially the late report of male **Western Tanager** were contenders.

An excellent find was a total of 10 **Greater White-fronted Geese** at SL 3/12 (LG) and enjoyed by many until at least 3/15. This species is only found every 5-10 years, usually as singles, so this number was unprecedented. A **Snow Goose** was reported near Boswell (PF). **Cackling Geese** were widely reported between 3/12-22, starting with 2 at SL (AMc). There were 4 at QR same date (LG) and last were 3 north of Jennerstown (ML). **Tundra Swans** put in an exceptional showing with 700 using a swampy bottom and cornfields near Roxbury (JP, et al.). Good sized flocks were also seen on SL and QR. Most puddle duck species were in above average numbers with over 400 **Northern Pintail** at the above flooded swamp 3/18 and over 200 at SL during this time (ML) record numbers for county. Numbers of diving ducks were about average with large amounts of ice still in the middle of lakes when numbers should have peaked. Noteworthy were large fallouts of **Long-tailed Ducks** 4/4 that included 20 at SL (ML), 85 at QR, 50 at Indian Lake, and 10 on a small pond near Fairhope (JP, NC). Two **White-winged Scoters** stopped at SL 4/4 (ML).

**Red-throated Loon** appeared at QR 4/4-23 (MD, LG) and one was at SL 4/23 (ML). A good count of 32 **Common Loons** was made at QR 4/23 (LG). **Red-necked Grebes** were in high numbers and at multiple locations, including one at BC 3/16 (AMc, ML, JP), four 3/23 at QR (LG), 3 at SL 4/2 (ML), and last 5/18 at SL (ML). A high count of 50 **Horned Grebes** was at SL 4/4 (ML).

**American Bittern** was at north end of SL 4/4 (ML). **Great Egrets** were sporadic migrants this season, reported mostly at SL 4/11-5/4. **Turkey Vulture** was first reported west of Somerset 3/9 (JM, MM). A **Black Vulture** was seen migrating along Allegheny Mountain 3/13 (CP). **Bald Eagles** were regularly seen at numerous spots in the county including an adult pair visiting SL through the period. The **Sandhill Cranes** did not return to BC this year, the first absence since 2009.

A **Black-bellied Plover** was at SL 5/8 (BC). Very noteworthy were 65+ **Willetts** flying over SL 4/30 (ML). Twenty seven of these birds landed and were determined to be of the western subspecies (ML, AMc, JP). Other notable shorebirds included 2 **Sanderling**, 20 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, and 7 **White-rumped Sandpipers** at SL 5/27 (ML). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was very early at SL 4/26 (AP, JP).

No unusual gulls were detected this season. All 4 expected terns were found albeit no large numbers. A late report of a February **Snowy Owl** near Jennerstown was received (PF). An early **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was at PP 4/13 (JP). Migrant **Common Nighthawks** were at SL 5/19 (AM) and at PP 5/26 (JP). The first reported **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was a bit late 5/2 (JM, MM). **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports came from Hidden Valley (SC) and Somerset Area (JM, MM) both 5/3. Interesting was a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** pair breeding at PP. This species was not found in the county on the first Breeding Bird Atlas, started breeding on Laurel Mountain during the second BBA, and now is pushing south on Allegheny Mountain. It is nice to see an avian success story. A migrant **Peregrine Falcon** was in BA 4/21 (AP, JP) and a **Merlin** was in same area 4/2 (NC, JP). **Sora** was heard at SL 4/26 (ML).

Rather early was an **Acadian Flycatcher** migrating at PP 4/21 (JP, AP). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** went unreported. A **Marsh Wren** was singing at SL 5/18 (ML). **Carolina Wrens** were severely impacted by the severe winter but persist in pockets in lower elevations like Confluence. The last report of **Lapland Longspur** was 3/4 (JP).

Several warblers of interest included a **Golden-winged Warbler** 5/26 in Confluence area doing a trilling type call. **Golden-winged Warblers** also were found on PP for the first time in 20 years (CP, JP). Singing males were also found in QR and Fairhope Area (CP). About 4 **Yellow-throated Warblers** were singing in CA 5/26 (CP, JP). A **Pine Warbler** visited a suet feeder 4/4 (AMc). **Kentucky Warbler** was found in CA 5/26 (CP, JP). Unusual in spring were migrant **Wilson's Warblers** 5/7 at SL (MD) and one at PP 5/16 (CL, JP). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was also in CA 5/26 (CP, JP).

Several **Henslow's Sparrows** were found in old fields in the Fairhope Area 4/21 (AP, JP). A **Western Tanager** visited a feeder 5/1-5 (*fade* ML) and was photographed. The local birding community was not alerted during its visit. A nice sighting was 13 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** (11 males) at PP feeders 5/16 (JP). **Rusty Blackbirds** were detected 4/2-21 (JP).

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## Sullivan County

Locations: Dutch Mountain (DM), Shady Nook (SN), State Game Lands #66 (SGL 66), Cherry Township (CT), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), Splashdam Pond (SDP), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP).

Winter held on late in many corners of Pennsylvania, and *Sullivan* was no exception. A trip to the county 4/11-15 found smaller ponds open but more than one of the larger lakes were still partially covered in a thin skim of ice. The woods and shady areas still held small pockets of snow. The weekend started cold but finished quite warm and erased the last signs of a long winter. The PAMC was conducted 5/10, and this compiler was the only participant as usual. A very modest 85 species were observed consisting of 797 individual birds. The day was overcast and breezy with a few slight showers but generally warm. By contrast, close to 105 species were recorded in the county over the following weekend. All sightings are by the author unless otherwise indicated; except for anything not otherwise noted between 5/16-18 when an annual week-before-Memorial Day trip into the county was undertaken by four long-time birders (RM, SC, GB, TR), a tradition that extends back around 30 years.

**Canada Geese**, **Wood Duck**, and **Hooded Mergansers** were all seen in multiple locations throughout the season and were all confirmed as breeders, and **Mallard** and **Common Merganser** were probable breeders. Single male **American Black Duck** and **Blue-winged Teal** were found on Kost's Pond in Dushore 4/11-15 (RM). Three **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen the same weekend along with three **Pied-billed Grebes** on Eagles Mere Lake. Two female **Buffleheads** and a **Common Loon** were present on SDP 5/10, the day of the PAMC.

**Ruffed Grouse** were present at SDP and DM in early April. The DM bird was heard drumming on many occasions through May. **Ring-necked Pheasant** were seen in CT 5/16. **Wild Turkeys** were plentiful. Three **Double-crested Cormorants** flew over McCarroll's Corner 4/14 (RM). **Great Blue Heron** was somehow missed on the PAMC but was observed on numerous other occasions.

Vultures and raptors were well represented during April and May. A **Black Vulture** was in the company of **Turkey Vultures** and a **Red-tailed Hawk** at the bottom of Rosenberry Hill in Colley Township 5/11, unfortunately one day late to make the PAMC tally. **Osprey** and **Bald Eagle** were observed at Eagles Mere Lake 4/13. Both adult and immature **Bald Eagles** were seen at SN Lake and SDP on multiple visits. Two **Bald Eagles** were also seen in the Muncy Valley area 5/24 (BG). A female **Northern Harrier** was seen carrying food 4/13 at the Hayfields area of RGSP. **Sharp-shinned**, **Cooper's**, and **Broad-winged Hawk** were also observed 4/11-15. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported in LSF 4/23 (DG). **American Kestrel** was more numerous in early April than in May.

There are usually reports of **Sandhill Cranes** along Litzelman Road in CT in late March or April, but they were not seen this year until 5/16 (RM, SC, GB, TR) when a very young and precocial chick was found accompanied its two adult parents. A nearby animal enclosure along the same road has a small wet area that held several **Killdeer**, three **Semipalmated Plover** and a **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/18. One **Greater Yellowlegs** and several **Spotted Sandpipers** were at Lake Akela in CT 5/16. The lake had been drawn down and was quite low on the north end exposing some mudflat. **American Woodcock** was first reported 4/11 doing display flights at McCarroll's Corner. **American Woodcock** were displaying in the SDP area 4/28 (DG) and 5/18 (EZ).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard 5/26 at the Old Home Place at SN in SGL 66. There was an obvious murder of crows kicking up a large fuss over a pair of **Great Horned Owls** one morning of the Memorial Day weekend (RM). A **Barred Owl** was calling on the morning of 4/13 at SN Lake, also in SGL 66. Another was heard during the PAMC. **Northern Saw-whet Owl** and 3 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were calling at SDP 4/28 (DG). **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was also heard at McCarroll's Corner the night of the PAMC and on DM over the Memorial Day weekend (RM). The DM site is only a half mile from McCarroll's Corner so these could have been the same bird. There were several other reports of **Eastern Whip-poor-will** from SDP including a high count of 5 on the evening of the PAMC, and two 5/18 (EZ). The first report of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was from Sonestown 5/6 (JP, *fide* WE). Six different species of woodpecker were reported 4/11-15 and 5/16-18. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was observed on both occasions at Kost's Pond in Dushore and was reported from Bridgeview Camp 5/16 (TK). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** remains the most common woodpecker in the county. **Northern Flicker** seemed to be everywhere 4/11-15 with 30 individuals tallied. A **Pileated Woodpecker** was near Kinsley's Corner 4/13 and was observed many times at DM.

**Eastern Phoebe** returned in force by 4/11. The rest of the flycatchers seemed to return later than in recent years. The only *Empidonax* found during the PAMC was **Least Flycatcher** and the only other returning

flycatcher on PAMC was **Eastern Kingbird**. A single **Alder Flycatcher** was added a week later in the SN area. Memorial Day brought a single **Eastern Wood-Pewee** along the Muncy Creek near Sonestown, an **Acadian Flycatcher** near Hunter's Lake, and a **Willow Flycatcher** along Rte. 87 at the bottom of Rosenberry Hill.

**Blue-headed Vireo** was first reported at SDP 4/13. **Red-eyed Vireos** were numerous during the PAMC. **Warbling Vireo** was found in two separate locations 5/16. **Fish Crow** were heard in Dushore 4/14 and 5/18. This species is rare in *Sullivan*. Other species present 4/11/15 included **Tree and Barn Swallow**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Brown Creeper**, **Carolina and Winter Wren**, and **Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglet**. The Ruby-crowns had apparently passed through by the PAMC; the last report was from RGSP 5/4 (BK).

**Eastern Bluebird** was plentiful across the county and a pair took up residence in a nest box at DM (RM). **Veery**, **Wood Thrush**, and **Hermit Thrush** had all returned in time for the PAMC and were present in multiple locations, however, typical of thrushes there was not a lot of singing on cold mornings. A **Swainson's Thrush** was spotted near Hunter's Lake. A **Brown Thrasher** was singing in CT 4/14.

Twenty-three species of warbler were reported during April and May. **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were already establishing territories on creek beds along Ogdonia and Dry Run Roads in LSF 4/11-15 with five individuals counted. A lone **Yellow-rumped Warbler** and two **Palm Warblers** were seen at SDP 4/13. **Black-throated Green Warbler** was first reported from the Shanersburg Road in LSF 4/23 (DG). Single **Pine** and **Worm-eating Warbler** were reported near LaPorte 4/26 (CH). First reports of **Black-and-white** and **Magnolia Warbler** come from the tent camping area of RGSP 5/4 (BK). **Yellow** (24), **Chestnut-sided** (22), **Black-throated Green** (35), **Blackburnian** (23) and **Ovenbird** (41) were all abundant across the county during the PAMC. **Nashville** and **Prairie Warbler** along with **American Redstart** and **Common Yellowthroat** were also counted. Nice close eye level looks of a **Nashville Warbler** occurred 5/11 in an area of SGL 66. The morning 5/16 was overcast, dreary and at times raining but rewarding. A stop at the covered bridge over the Muncy Creek downstream from Sonestown produced **Northern Parula**, **Blackpoll**, and **Bay-breasted Warbler** (RM). **Canada Warbler** was present at Shanersburg Bog in LSF 5/17. A **Mourning Warbler** sang briefly in the High Knob area of LSF 5/17. Another was heard and seen along Ogdonia Road about a half mile off Rte. 87 over the Memorial Day weekend. A beautiful male **Cape May Warbler** gave fabulous looks while flitting among a group of evergreens in bright morning sunlight in the SN area of SGL 66 on 5/17.

Two **Fox Sparrows** were seen along Ogdonia Road 4/12. **Eastern Towhee** as well as **Chipping**, **Field**, **Song**, and **Swamp Sparrow** were all first reported 4/11-15. **White-throated Sparrow** was found at SDP 4/28 (DG). **Savannah Sparrow** was found in CT on the evening of 5/15 (RM). At least two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were in a grassy field adjacent to Airport Road in CT 5/25. Although they sang repeatedly, they never made an appearance.

**Red-winged Blackbird**, **Common Grackle**, and **Brown-headed Cowbird** were abundant on the mid-April trip. **Eastern Meadowlark** was also found at that time in more than one of the large open fields in CT. First reports of **Scarlet Tanager**, **Indigo Bunting**, **Baltimore Oriole**, **Bobolink**, and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** occurred during the PAMC. **Purple Finches** were first observed 4/12 at DM.

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## Susquehanna County

No compiler.

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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), Justus Bike Trail (JBT), Fishermans's Cove

(FC), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil Creek State Park (OCSP), Two-Mile Run County Park (TMRP), Wyattville Pond (WP).

The season produced a second county record and a few sightings of species that are regular but less than annual. Otherwise the season was routine. Sighting reports were received from 25 birders via eBird. The species total for the period was 188.

About 700 **Tundra Swans** put down at WP 3/12 (NB, GE, KG, JS). *Venango's* second **Eurasian Wigeon** was at WP 3/10 (JS, et al.). The previous record was from 1995. Other waterfowl of note were: a **Surf Scoter** at KL 4/11 (GE, JS), one **White-winged Scoter** on the AR along the JBT 3/15 (GE, JW) and another at KL 4/11-5/4 (GE, KG, JS, RS), 61 **Red-breasted Mergansers** on the AR along the JBT 3/27-28 (GE, JH, JS), a **Red-throated Loon** at KL 4/4 (JS), and **Red-necked Grebes** at various locations 3/22-5/4. An **American Bittern**, only our fourth in the past 13 years, was at KL 4/26 (KG, JS).

The only **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at TMRP 5/23 (CH). At least two **Upland Sandpipers** were found regularly at BS beginning 5/1 (NB, RS, m.ob.). All four terns made appearances at KL: **Caspian Tern** 4/10-11 (GE), **Black Tern** 4/29 (JS), **Common Tern** 4/29-5/9 (GE, JS, RS), and **Forster's Tern**, 5/9 (GE).

The first **Common Nighthawk** was recorded in Franklin 5/8 (JH). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were seen at BHNS 5/23 and 5/27 (JS). **Acadian Flycatchers** were at BHNS 5/11-23 (KG, JS), and at FC 5/23 (JH, JW). An **Alder Flycatcher** was reported from OCSP 5/29 (DK, RN), **Great Crested Flycatcher**, normally reasonably common, had only three reports (NB, JH, DK, RN, JS). **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen at BHNS 5/18 (KG, JS). The county's only active **Purple Martin** colony continues to thrive at an Amish lumberyard in the BS.

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported 5/20 and **Swainson's Thrush** migrated through BHNS 5/8-23 (KG, JS). The only **American Pipits** were seen at KL 3/30 (KG, JS). A pair of **Worm-eating Warblers** nested successfully at BHNS (KG, JS). In all, 30 warbler species were reported.

**Grasshopper Sparrows** were seen at BS 5/22 (ST) and 5/30 (MAK, CH). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found twice during the period: 5/9 and 5/12 (KG, JS). An uncommon **Orchard Oriole** was reported at BS 5/22 (ST).

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#### Warren County

No compiler.

#### Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Bavington (BAV), Bentleyville (BENT), Buffalo Creek IBA 80 (BC), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Hillman State Park (HSP), Mingo Creek County Park (MC), Peters Township (PET), Robinson Township (RBT), Timber Lake (TL), Washington Park (WP), Washington Park School Pond (WPSP), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4), Zinc Dam Reservoir (ZDR).

Waterfowl were very well reported in *Washington* this season, primarily due to two factors: the continuing effects of the winter freeze well into March that kept birds concentrated on what limited open water was available and the increased coverage by *Washington* birders on the many small ponds and reservoirs throughout the county. Besides well-worn spots like AMD, BENT, R4, and CL, birders also found waterfowl on many other less famous small bodies of water, such as the lake at CC, Lake Joann, Trax Farm in Peters Twp., TL, ZDR outside of Langeloth, and Cherry Valley Reservoir, as well as a few others.

The injured **Greater White-fronted Goose** found at AMD at the end of the winter season was seen there again 3/10 (GG). Likewise for the **Cackling Goose** that was first found on the same day last season—it was seen again 3/1 (JM) and 3/3 (GG). Max count of **Canada Goose** was 200 at TL 3/2 (GG). The only report of **Tundra Swan** was 3 over PET 3/12 (GG). **Gadwall** was periodically reported through 4/4 with top counts of 19 on 3/19 and 41 on 4/4 at BENT (AB). On 4/4, 11 **Gadwall** were also at Lake Joann

(GG). **American Wigeon** followed a similar pattern of periodic reports through Mar beginning with 2 at CL 3/11 (MV) and a peak of 35 at BENT 4/4 (AB). Sparse reports of **American Black Duck** were bookended by singles at AMD 3/1 and 4/11 (both MV). The top count was 7 at Van Emmans Pond 3/18 (MV). The high count of **Mallard** was 148 at AMD 3/1 (MV), when the effects of the winter freeze were still being felt. Numbers dwindled to about 40 by the end of Mar. **Blue-winged Teal** was very well reported with sightings from nine locations beginning 3/14. Notable were 5 at ZDR 4/27 (CB) and one still there 5/27 (CB), raising the possibility of breeding, which was not confirmed. Two reports of **Northern Shoveler** were both made 4/4 during a strong weather system: 3 at PET (GG) and 2 at BENT (AB). **Green-winged Teal** were reported from seven locations through 4/4 which was also the day of the peak count of 15 at BENT (AB). Up to 5 or 6 **Canvasbacks** lingering from the winter season remained at AMD through 3/31 (MV, GG), except for 3/12 when 14 were present at the pond (GG). Last were 4 at BENT 4/4 (AB). The season opened with a single-digit flock of wintering **Redheads** at AMD, which quickly jumped to as many as 25 (on 3/18, MV) and persisted through 4/4. In BENT, counts of **Redhead** reached 48 on 3/19 (RR) and 85 on 4/4 (AB). One bird remained at AMD to 4/11 (MV), and two very late Redheads were still at BENT 4/30 (AB). The highest counts of **Ring-necked Duck** also came from BENT, with 115 on 3/19 (RR) and 145 on 4/4 (AB). Reports of smaller but still impressive numbers were widespread in Mar, headed up by 32 in PET 3/24 (GG), 50 at R4 on 3/27 (RI), and 60 at Trax Farm in PET 3/30 (GG). All were gone after 4/4 except one at CC 4/5 (TJ, SG) and 5 at BENT 4/16 (AB). **Greater Scaup** is rather rare in *Washington*, so 2 at AMD 3/1-11 (MV) and 10 at BENT 3/19 (RR) were notable. **Lesser Scaup** is a bit more frequent, with sightings at five locations through 4/16 this season, topped by 25 at BENT 3/19 (RR). **Buffleheads** were also found at five different locations, with a peak of 31 at BENT 4/4 (AB) and last birds on 4/6, when 6 were at Boone Reservoir (GG) and 7 were at ZDR (CB). A late **Common Goldeneye** was spotted at R4 on 3/19 (RI). **Hooded Mergansers** turned up in eight spots, with peaks of 10 at CL 3/16 (GG) and 17 at BENT 4/4 (AB). A female with 9 young was present at ZDR 5/20 (CB), a rare nesting record for *Washington*. Even **Common Merganser** turned up in five places: one at TL 3/4 (GG), 4 at Van Emmans Pond 3/18 (MV), 2 at CC 4/5 (TJ, SG), 2 at Avella 5/16 (RI) where they may have nested last year but were not confirmed, and one male at Dutch Fork Lake 5/31 (GG), another potential nester. Nice counts of **Red-breasted Merganser** were made at BENT, with 16 on 3/19 (RR) and 23 on 4/4 (AB). Otherwise a few were reported at R4 from 3/27-4/4 (m.ob.), one was at ZDR 4/8 (CB), and 2 were at CC 4/8 (RI). **Ruddy Duck** was reported in small numbers in several locations 3/18-4/16, with peaks of 25 on 4/4 and 21 on 4/16, both at BENT (AB). Despite this great bout of coverage, *Washington* somehow missed out on the late winter White-winged Scoter invasion entirely. This probably could have been rectified by closer (or any) scrutiny of the Monongahela River, which once again was largely ignored by birders.

**Common Loons** are unusual in the county, so one at R4 from 3/27-31 (RI), 12 at BENT 4/4 (AB), and one at BENT 4/30 (AB) made for a good season. **Pied-billed Grebe** was widely reported 3/19-4/26. **Horned Grebe** is also an uncommon species here, so eight reports from five locations 3/19-4/30 was very good. Top count was 16 at BENT 4/4 (AB), and the last bird 4/30 (late) was also at BENT (AB). Prior to this year, *Washington* had perhaps five records of **Red-necked Grebe** total, but five different birds were found this season alone: one at BENT 3/19 (ph. RR), one at Trax Farm in PET 3/19-21 (ph. BZ, m.ob.), one at CC 4/5 (TJ, SG), one at R4 on 4/24 (RI), and one at CC again 4/24 (RI). A flock of 60 **Double-crested Cormorants** was at Peters Lake 4/23 (RI). An **American Bittern** was found at GCW 4/26 (ph. MJ) and was seen there again 5/1 (RI). Bitterns bred at GCW in the early 2000s but not since to anyone's knowledge. Unfortunately this bittern was not reported again after 5/1. Three **Great Egrets** were seen flying over I-70 outside *Washington* 4/24 (RT) and one was at GCW 5/6 (RI).

Despite five nests in *Beaver* and two in *Allegheny*, *Washington* is still without its own **Osprey** nest (again, possibly due to woeful coverage of the Mon River), so reports this season were again limited to migrants, plentiful as they were, from 3/24-4/30. They were spotted at CL, AMD (2 on 3/24, MV), CC twice, BENT twice, and R4 on several occasions. The county did, however, add a long-awaited raptor to its list of breeding species. A **Bald Eagle** nest with three young was found 5/23 in a remote area in the southwestern corner of the county (JR). The nest appeared to be new this year based on its size and structure, and all three young were going strong into the summer. A **Northern Harrier** was reported at Venice 3/5 (CB), the only report. A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was present again this spring near Taylorstown, where it has been seen for several years.

A great count of 125 **American Coots** was made in BENT 4/16 (AB). This followed 76 there 4/4 (AB). Reports of **Sora** at GCW were of 2 on 4/28 (TM), one 5/6 (RT), and one 5/13 (RI). Virginia Rail was not reported.

The best shorebird of an otherwise lackluster season was a **Black-bellied Plover** at BENT 4/30 (AB). I know of about nine records for the

county including this one, all from the BENT area and all since 2005. Both **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs** were at CL 4/28-5/13 (RI, ST). Only Lesser was found elsewhere, which included 4 at ZDR 4/27 (CB), 4 at GCW 5/6 (RI), and a one in PET 5/6 (GG). **Solitary Sandpiper** was noted in five locations 4/28-5/6. The only **Least Sandpipers** were at CL 5/5 and GCW 5/13 (both RI). A **Wilson's Snipe** was at Claysville 3/21 (RR).

Gulls and terns other than Ring-billed Gull are rare in *Washington*, so a **Bonaparte's Gull** and 2 **Herring Gulls** (RR) 3/19 and a **Caspian Tern** 4/30 (AB) at BENT were all notable. Even Ring-billed Gulls, though regular, are normally limited to a few reports per season, but this year in March the species was found in above average numbers, likely due to the large influx of gulls into the region this past winter. They were found at the small TL 3/2 and 3/12 (GG), 45 were at CL 3/12 (GG), 3 were at AMD 3/12 (GG), 3 were at BENT 3/19 (RR), and 14 were at R4 on 3/22 (RI).

Sightings of **Black-billed Cuckoo** seem to be getting more infrequent. This season, 2 at WPSP 5/9 (LC), one at HSP 5/19 (JM), and one in PET 5/31 (GG) were the only reports. **Barred Owl** was noted at HSP 3/31 (BB) and 5/23 (MV, CT), and one was at BC 4/9 (RN, DK). Last **Short-eared Owl** of the winter at RBT was noted 3/10 (AK, MJ, JM). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at HSP 4/18 (BB, RM) and 5/23 (MV, CT). **Pileated Woodpeckers** nested again at West Pike Run Twp. (WJS), where they have bred for over 10 years. Besides the usual locations in RBT and BC, **American Kestrels** were also noted around Ft. Cherry 3/16 (CB) and Atlasburg 5/19 (CB, RT). A **Merlin** was at Washington Cemetery 3/5 and another was at CL 3/10 (both RI).

**Least Flycatcher** was noted in the county three times 5/6-20 (m.ob.). **Great Crested Flycatcher** was seen much more frequently, including multiple sightings at WP and WPSP 5/1-28 (LC). They were also noted by multiple observers at HSP in the second half of May. **Blue-headed Vireo** was reported a few times from mid-Apr though 5/13 (m.ob.). **Common Ravens** once again appeared in many and new places. Two were at WP 3/9 (*vide* LC), one was at MC 3/18 (AK), 2 were at CC 4/5 (TJ, SG) and again 4/26 (MJ), and 2 were at Avella 5/16 (RI) were they were reported nesting again this year (*vide* RI). A **Purple Martin** was at HSP 5/23 (MV, CT), an odd location for the species. The only report of **Bank Swallow** was one at Peters Lake 4/23 (RI), and the only **Cliff Swallow** was at CL 5/5 (RI). Despite their near absence this winter, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reliably at Washington Cemetery 3/30 (MJ) and 5/28 (PB), and the HSP/Bavington area 4/26-5/17 (m.ob.); both locations host breeding pairs in most years. A **Marsh Wren** was singing at GCW 5/24 (MJ) but was not reported thereafter despite the late date. The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** appeared at BC 4/9 (RN, DK). Spot-breasted thrushes were fairly well reported. **Veery** was noted at GCW 5/6 (RI), at WP 5/13 (LC), and at PET 5/16-20 (GG). The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was one at GCW 5/13 (RI). **Swainson's Thrush** was reported frequently from six locations 5/7-21 (m.ob.), a better than average showing for this species which also appeared in good numbers in neighboring counties. A **Hermit Thrush** was at HSP 4/18 (BB, RM). An early March gathering of 300 **American Robins** at Peterswood Park in PET 3/12 was impressive (GG). A **Gray Catbird** was at WP 3/9 (*vide* LC), early enough to be considered a possible wintering bird if it were not for the extremely cold winter that had just completed. Suffice it to say the record was odd, and if it represented a wintering bird, it must have been a particularly hardy half-hardy to have made it through the brutal winter in this region.

It was a good season for warblers with 30 species reported. Highlights among these included the following: **Orange-crowned Warbler** at WP 5/5 (LC) and HSP 5/19 (RI), **Cape May Warbler** at California 5/14 (AT), **Bay-breasted Warbler** at GCW (RI) and WP (LC) 5/13, **Palm Warbler** at ZDR 4/27 (CB), CL 4/28 (RI), and WP 5/1 (LC), **Canada Warbler** at GCW 5/13 (RI), and **Wilson's Warbler** at WP 5/9 and WPSP 5/13 (both LC). Other more common, transient migrants that were well reported included **Black-and-white Warbler** 5/1-19, **Tennessee Warbler** 5/6-19, **Nashville Warbler** 5/1-14, **Magnolia Warbler** 5/7-13, **Blackburnian Warbler** 5/6-20, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 5/6-13, **Blackpoll Warbler** 5/13-19, **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 5/5-13, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 4/4-5/14, and **Black-throated Green Warbler** 4/26-5/13. A total of 8 **Cerulean Warblers** were at BC 5/6 (RT), a summer stronghold for them. Also notable was a **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Dutch Fork Lake 5/31 (GG), the date suggesting the possibility of breeding in the area.

**Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows** were back in good numbers at HSP/Bavington and RBT again this year (JM, m.ob.). Two **Fox Sparrows** at GCW 3/21 (RR) represented the only report, as did a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at HSP 5/19 (RI). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** at GCW 3/21 (RR) were surely overwintering; the only pass-through white-crowns noted were 3 at PET (GG) and 2 at WASH (CB), both 5/6.

**Bobolinks** were at a traditional site in RBT 5/19 (RI). Three reports of **Rusty Blackbird** included 2 at RBT 3/2 (JC, AP), 5 in PET 3/10 (GG), and 2 at CL 3/28 (GG). **Purple Finches** were at a feeder in PET 3/29-4/30 (GG)

and one was at HSP 5/19 (RI). A collection of 40 **American Goldfinches** was tallied at feeders in WASH 4/23 (RI).

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#### Wayne County

No report.

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#### Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Cedar Creek County Park (CCCP), Conemaugh Reservoir/Livemore (CR), Donegal Lake (DL), Keystone State Park (KSP), Latrobe Reservoir (LR), Lock and Dam #4 on the Allegheny River (LD4), Loyalhanna Dam (LD), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR).

Let the record show that the cold winter weather of 2014 carried over into the spring migration, and despite the historic irruption of Snowy Owls in 2013-14, they unfortunately went unsighted in *Westmoreland*. A Black-crowned Night-Heron and Yellow-headed Blackbird did provide for some rare sightings for the season.

Seven **Tundra Swans** were at LR 3/29 (JO). The earliest report for **Wood Duck** was of 3 at DL 3/20 (TA). Significant counts for **Wood Ducks** included 11 at LR 4/11 (JO) and 16 (8 pairs) at CCCP 4/20 (KSJ). The only report for **Northern Shoveler** was for 5 at Acme Dam 4/4 (JO). Scarce this season, 2 **American Wigeon** were at BRR 4/9 (KB). High counts for **American Black Duck** were observed at LR: 27 on 3/21 and 25 on 3/29 (JO). There were few reports for **Blue-winged Teal** and **Green-winged Teal**; 2 of each were reported at CR 4/1 (KB). **Northern Pintail** were also scarce this season; the high count was for 5 at LR 3/26 (ML).

Abundant this winter on the Allegheny River, there were 6 **Canvasback** at LD4 3/1 (MVT). A single **Canvasback** was at Derry Lake, also 3/1 (DM). **Redheads** were another winter holdover with several observations recorded early in the season on the Allegheny River and a high count of 12 at Derry Lake 3/15 (MM). The highest count for **Ring-necked Duck** was 200 at CR 4/1 (KB). **Greater Scaup** and **Lesser Scaup** were reported at a number of locations, generally in low numbers. Exceptions included 14 **Greater Scaup** at LD4 3/1 (MVT) and 15 **Lesser Scaup** at LR 4/4 (JO). The only report of the season, one well-described **Surf Scoter** was at BRR 4/6 (MH). The Allegheny River provided for observations of **White-winged Scoter** with 2 reported at LD4 3/1 (MVT, TR) and 2 again observed 3/8 (TR). One **Long-tailed Duck** was at LD4 3/1 (TR), 2 were at Derry Lake, both on 3/8 (PF) and 3/15 (MM). There was a high count of 12 **Long-tailed Duck** at DL 4/4 (JO). Reported at several locations, the season-high count was 45 **Bufflehead** BRR 4/6 (MH). The season-high count for **Hooded Merganser** was 19 at LD 3/29 (MM). A handsome pair of **Common Mergansers** was floating down the Youghiogheny River at CCCP 4/13 (TK, JK). Numerous reports for **Ruddy Duck** were recorded at DL throughout the season (TA, LH).

Now rarely encountered in the field, and a missed on the PAMC, a **Ruffed Grouse** was reported at PNR 4/19 (MH). A nice flock of **Wild Turkeys**, 12 hens and 3 magnificent toms, visited the feeders at the Kuehl Property 3/10 (JK). The only report for **Red-throated Loon** was a single bird at DL 4/28 (TA, LH). **Common Loon** was reported at several locations; the season-high count was for 4 at LR 4/4 (JO). Generally in modest numbers, **Red-necked Grebe**, **Horned Grebe** and **Pied-billed Grebe** were observed at several locations. A high count of 8 **Horned Grebe** were reported on both 4/4 and 4/11 at DL (JO). There were scattered reports of just one **Double-crested Cormorant** and two were reported at BRR 4/6 (MH). A rare sighting, a single **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was photographed at Loyalhanna Creek in downtown Latrobe beside the former LeNature's building (TV).

Both **Black Vulture** and **Turkey Vulture** continue to winter-over in the Ligonier Valley, and both species were observed near Wilpen 3/1 (DM). Beginning 3/22 (with ice still remaining), and on many occasions thereafter

one or two **Ospreys** were reported at DL, a long time nest site (TA, LH). A report for 5/20 indicated 3 young on the nest. A chance fly over of one **Osprey** at Bushy Run State Park was reported 3/31 (MM). During the peak time of their migration, 2 **Golden Eagles** were seen flying over Linn Run State Park 3/10 (TA, LH). Among many reports, the high count for **Bald Eagle** was at BRR, a long-time nesting site, with 3 including a photo of an eaglet on the nest 5/10 (MM). Two **Bald Eagles** were observed near a long time nesting site at the CR 4/14 (KB). Among several scattered reports was a **Northern Harrier** observed at dusk at the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve in Latrobe 3/1 (RH). Among several reports for migrating and returning **Broad-winged Hawks**, an adult whistled as in soared over the Kuehl Property 5/24 (TK, JK).

One **Sora** and one **Solitary Sandpiper** were reported at PNR 4/25 (HW). As in the prior two years, **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at Laurel Bog for the PAMC, with 4 on 5/11 (TK, JK). A **Dunlin** was photographed at DL 5/8 (YF). On the warm evening of 3/13 no fewer than 5 **American Woodcock** displayed in the reclaimed strip mine area near the Kuehl Property (TK). As with 2013, **Bonaparte's Gull** were again observed migrating through *Westmoreland*; 2 were at KSP 4/11 (MD), 2 at DL 3/28 (TA, LH) and again 4/4 (TA), and 7 were at LR 4/11 (JO). An aftermath of the cold winter, 5 **Herring Gulls** remained on the Allegheny River 3/1, reported at LD4 (MVT). Of the numerous reports for **Ring-billed Gull** the high-count was 9 at Derry Lake 3/15 (MM). One **Common Tern** was observed at DL 4/10 (TA). One **Forster's Tern** was at DL 4/28 (TA, LH), and at the same location a single bird was reported and photographed 5/8 (YF). No migrating owls were reported. The only report for **Barred Owl** was one heard in the early morning hours of 3/24 at the Kuehl Property (JK, TK). **Common Nighthawks** were reported at PNR; 4 on 5/22 (HW) and 8 on 5/24 (TKi). One **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was tallied on Chestnut Ridge near Derry (the most reliable *Westmoreland* location for this species) on the 5/10 PAMC. Most often reported on the private property of the Rolling Rock Reserve for the PAMC, a single **Red-headed Woodpecker** was heard in that area in Rector 5/10 (JK, TK). **Peregrine Falcons** continue at the Tarentum Bridge, a nesting location since 2010, with one observed 3/1 (JK, TK). The only report for **Merlin** was for a single bird at the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve 3/1 (RH).

PNR provided reports for rare migrating flycatchers. These included single reports of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 5/17 (HW), 5/18 (AC), and 5/22 (TKi), and three reports of single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were made 5/16-18 (AC). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were also represented by one at BRR 5/12 and one 5/13 on the Westmoreland Heritage Bike Trail (both KB). Two **Alder Flycatchers** were reported at DL 5/14 (TA). The only report for the season for **Philadelphia Vireo** was one at PNR 5/18 (HW). **Common Ravens** continued to be reported in lower elevations, this season including one in Delmont 5/9 (KB). **Horned Larks** remained in *Westmoreland* during the season, with a flock of 8 on Allen Road in the Rector area 3/17 (TA, LH). There were numerous reports confirming that **Purple Martins** have returned to the gourds provided at the MAWC office at the Rte. 380 overlook of the BRR; a high count of 12 **Purple Martins** was provided for 5/29 (KB). **Bank Swallows** were reported at DL; 3 on 5/6 (TA, LH) and also for DL, 4 were reported along with 3 **Cliff Swallows** 5/2 (LG). At least 200 **Cliff Swallows** (well described) were at DL 5/17 (BT).

Sparingly reported, and once again not tallied on the PAMC, one **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at PNR 4/19 and again 5/18 (AC). At least 4 **White-breasted Nuthatches** fledged from a screech owl box on the Kuehl Property 5/27 (JK). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was widely reported at various locations in the higher elevations of the Laurel Highlands during the season. Five **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported at PNR 5/18 (AC). A **Swainson's Thrush** was singing at dusk on the Kuehl Property 5/27 (JK, TK). One **American Pipit** was at DL 3/21 (TA, LH).

There were 29 species of warbler reported on the 5/10 PAMC, equal to last year's tally. Notable breeding species missed that day were **Prairie Warbler** and **Worm-eating Warbler**. Hunter's Lane, a generally reliable location for **Golden-winged Warbler**, provided for a report of two 5/8 (TA, LH), and migrants at the same location that day included 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers** and one **Blackpoll Warbler**. Other reports for migrating warblers this season included one **Prothonotary Warbler** at KSP 5/10 (PAMC party of the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club), **Mourning Warbler** PNR 5/16 (HW), one **Palm Warbler** at DL 5/8 (YF), one **Cape May Warbler** at PNR 5/15 (AC) and 2 **Wilson's Warblers** at PNR 5/15 (AC). Four **Palm Warblers** were at BRR 5/8 and 5 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were in Delmont 5/8 (all KB). **Tennessee Warblers** seemed plentiful this season; 2 were observed gleaning bugs from Serviceberry blooms on the Kuehl Property 5/11 (TK). A likely migrant, but a possible breeder, one **Nashville Warbler** was at PNR on both 5/8 and 5/10 (HW). Also a likely migrant, a **Cerulean Warbler** sang at the Kuehl Property 5/27 (JK). High-counts of **Yellow-throated Warbler** were recorded at the reliable location of CCCP, where mature Sycamore trees grace the banks of the Youghiogheny River; 7 were

tallied 4/13 (JK, TK) and 9 on 4/20 (KSJ). Two parties reported one each of **Yellow-breasted Chat** for the 5/10 PAMC. One **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at Pleasant Valley Park in Murrysburg 5/30 (KB).

**American Tree Sparrow** (although just one), **Savannah Sparrows**, **Grasshopper Sparrows**, **White-throated Sparrows**, and **White-crowned Sparrows** were recorded on the 5/10 PAMC, as were 7 **Purple Finches**. One **Fox Sparrow** visited feeders 3/3 (DB) and one was photographed at the Kuehl Property 3/13 (JK). One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported at PNR 5/18 (AC) and one in Tree's Mill 4/28 (KB). Despite the cold, **Red-winged Blackbirds** were observed in the first week of the season 3/3, among the reports were 10 at feeders in Stahlstown (DB). There were only two reports of **Rusty Blackbird**; the high-count was 3 on 3/20 at Mammoth Wetlands (TA). A remarkable male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** attended a feeder in Lower Burrell for about a week in mid-April (*fide* BS) but was unknown to the birding community until the homeowner contacted the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania 4/17. It was seen and photographed by two determined birders after a five hour wait that afternoon (ph. MH, ph. MF) but was not seen after that date. There were numerous reports of **Purple Finches** at feeders, including in Stahlstown 3/7-4/6 (DB).

Thanks to Dick Byers for his compilation of the *Westmoreland* PAMC. Twelve parties reported 140 species (10-year average is 148) and 5693 individuals. To close, at the Kuehl Property the **Carolina Wrens** survived the cold winter from the north only to be confronted with an invasion of **House Wrens** from the south. They were not driven out but certainly were relegated to the surrounding woods rather than the friendly confines of the shrubs and grass of the yard. We'll welcome back the sweet tea-kettling of the **Carolinians** once the harsh-rattling **House Wrens** have moved on.

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### Wyoming County

Locations: Beaumont (BM), Davis Crossing (DC), Iroquois Trail (IT), Lake Carey (LC), Lake Winola (LW), Little Rocky Glen (LG), Mulligan's Pond (MP), Oxbow Lake (OL), Russell Hill (RH), Scottsville Road (SR), Sharpe's Lake (SL), Sordoni's Farm (SF), State Gamelands 57 (SGL), Vosburg Neck (VN).

A total of 143 species were reported during the period, and the PAMC 5/10 netted 108. Both were normal numbers for *Wyoming*.

Many of the expected waterbirds arrived or passed through in small numbers, as usual. Some of the more unusual included a single **Tundra Swan** at LC 4/3 (AT), 9 **Lesser Scaup** 4/5 at SF (JD), a single **Long-tailed Duck** 4/5-9 at LC (JD), one **Common Goldeneye** at SF 4/5 (JD), 2-5 **Red-breasted Merganser** at LC 4/7-17 (JD), one **Red-throated Loon** at LC 4/12(JD), and 2-10 **Horned Grebe** at LC 4/3-5/3 (JD, MC).

A **Sandhill Crane** was observed 5/9 at SL (JD). There were other undated reports of up to 3 birds, but there were no confirmed reports of nesting (m.ob.). A **Bonaparte's Gull** spent a few hours at LC 5/1 (JD), the first reported in *Wyoming* since 2000 (Bill Reid). What may well have been the first record of a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** for the county was made 3/29 at LC (JH). The bird was with a group of **Ring-billed Gulls**.

Highlights from the PAMC 5/10 follow. Teams reported 108 species, below the 20-year average of 115. The count of individual birds was 3176, which compares to a 20-year average of 2733. Interestingly, over the past five years there has been a slight downward trend in the number of species and an upward trend in number of individuals. Birders reported 22 species of wood warblers for the period, including two that are rarely reported. In addition, two rarely recorded species of gull made a brief appearance. Highlights were as follows: The total of 33 **Common Mergansers** was the highest number since 2003. **Wilson's Snipe** (2) was recorded for just the second time in 20 years. The count of 17 **Eastern Kingbirds** was a new high count. There were just **Yellow-rumped Warblers** compared to a 20-year average of 17. The 17 **Black-and-white Warblers** was twice the average and the highest since 2000. **Connecticut Warbler** appeared on the count for the first time; previous records for *Wyoming* were all during fall migration and none since 2005. **Canada Warbler** was rare for both the count and the county both. A fine total of 203 **Bobolinks** were found, three times the count average and the highest in 20 years. Eight **Orchard Orioles** exceeded the count average of a single bird.

Outside of the PAMC, **Worm-eating Warbler** was observed and heard singing in the right habitat at IT and VN, but before safe dates. **Cerulean Warbler** was seen and heard singing in those same two locations in *Wyoming*, again outside of safe dates. Perhaps in the summer season both species will be confirmed as breeders.

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### York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd Landfill (ALT), Apollo County Park (APO), Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hawk Lake Golf Course Grounds (HAWK), Kiwanis Lake (KL), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count (PAMC), Pleasant Valley Golf Course (PVGC), Ski Roundtop (SRTP), Spring Grove (SG), Spring Valley County Park (SVCP), Sunnyside Road (SUNN).

The 188 species that included 29 waterfowl and 32 warbler species represented a somewhat above average season. The 5/10 PAMC co-compiled by Ann Pettigrew and Randy Phillips produced 130 species. There was a marked increase in eBird participation which enabled a more complete picture of the season. One of the county's better birding spots, BI, was visited less visited than usual.

The Susquehanna R. continues as an unofficial western boundary in south-central Pennsylvania for migrating **Snow Geese**, but **Tundra Swans** seem to be making more appearances in the county. Snow Goose was noted in very limited numbers (12 or less) from 3/9-15 (CH, HM, RP) at CSP and overhead at SRTP. The eight reports of Tundra Swan 3/1-4/10 included high counts of 125 at LR/LW 3/14 (CK), 500 at CSP 3/15 (RP), and 80 at Hanover 4/1 (PJR). A **Wood Duck** hen at CSP with 22 ducklings was a good example of conspecific nest parasitism. **American Black Duck** was only observed on the Codorus Creek at Glen Rock 4/3 (MC). A single **Greater Scaup** was at SG 3/3-23 (CB, PK). Always a good find, a **Common Goldeneye** was at CSP 3/24 (JA). In early May, **Hooded Mergansers** with young were found at SG (PK) and SUNN (CB). A **Lesser Scaup** at SG 5/10 (PK), a **Red-breasted Merganser** at Wrightsville 5/10 (RP), 3 **Horned Grebe** at CSP 5/9 (RS), and a **Red-necked Grebe** at CSP 5/4 (CB) were all on the late side. A nice raft of 500+ **American Coots** were at CSP 4/11 (MC). The **Great Blue Heron** rookery at SG showed some evidence of expansion as did the **Great Egret** colony at KL. In contrast, winter damage to some of the **Black-crowned Night-Heron** nesting trees at KL appeared to have caused lower nesting density than prior years.

Frequency of **Osprey** and **Bald Eagle** reports continued their favorable trends. Seven of the eight reports of **Broad-winged Hawk** were during the typical April migration period with a 5/22 (JL) sighting at PVGC a notable exception. The highlights of eight reported shorebird species were 16 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at SUNN 5/4 (CB), 4 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at LR 5/18 (LC), and four reports of **Wilson's Snipe** at four locales 3/16-5/10 (CB, MC, PK). A nice count of 6 **Caspian Terns** were at LR 4/27 (RP). Woodpeckers had a strong showing for the expected species. Eight locations produced **Red-headed Woodpecker** but observations typically involved single birds. A **Merlin** was at CSP 4/28 (DN).

**Acadian Flycatcher** was frequently reported and 17 were found on the PAMC. **Willow Flycatcher** was far less common with only three reports; high count was 3 birds at SUNN 5/12-22 (CB). The four reports of **Least Flycatcher** were confined to 5/4-17. Vireos were well-reported with five reports of **Yellow-throated Vireo** and six reports of **Blue-headed Vireo** the highlights. The PAMC produced the only report of **Common Raven**. Although **Horned Lark** was found at three locations it went unreported from the typically reliable ALT. **Purple Martin** colonies at CSP produced high counts of 19 at Hoff Rd. 5/6 (HM) and 21 at the marina 4/28 (DN). A 3/16 (CB) **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at SG set a new early date for the county by five days. **Bank Swallow** again showed evidence of a very small colony at SG 5/18 (PK) and **Cliff Swallows** were at the established nesting site at CSP with 12 birds seen 5/28 (DN) and a single at LR 5/20 (HM). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at Indian Rock Dam 4/3 (KaG) and one was found on the PAMC. **Brown Creeper** produced a dozen reports but none after 4/8. A high count of 5 **Veery** came from GPSP 5/23 (DN). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was a good find on the PAMC. **Swainson's Thrush** was

reported seven times, and noted as "common" at SVCP throughout May (DC). SUNN is becoming reliable as a spring migration stop for **American Pipit** with birds present 5/1-12 (CB) but high count was just 3, lower than prior years.

It was a good season for warblers. **Blue-winged Warblers** were up with five locations producing birds 5/3-10. RRCP provided the sole **Capo May Warbler** 5/9-10 (RP, AWO). Six reports of **Yellow-throated Warbler** were well above the norm. Good counts (10 each) of **Prairie Warbler** came from APO 5/3 (DWe) and GPSP 5/10 (SW). **Cerulean Warbler** was found at GPSP 5/6 (GKi) and 5/23 (DN). **Prothonotary Warbler** reports came from the reliable BI 5/1-15 (GKi, DWe) and a 4/21 (BT) photographed bird at Klein's Run Park surpassed the prior county early date by five days. Nice counts of 6 **Black-and-white Warbler** came from RRCP 5/9 (RP) and 5 **Hooded Warbler** were along River Farm Rd. 5/8 (LS). **Wilson's Warbler** was found twice, at GPSP 5/10 (SW) and at LW 5/22 (DN). Two **Canada Warbler** were at GPSP 5/10 (SW) and APO produced the only report of **Yellow-breasted Chat** with two birds 5/3 (DWe).

Sparrows were in line with prior springs periods with one very notable exception—a singing **Henslow's Sparrow** at HAWK 5/26 (DH). The last reported sighting was May 1961. Small numbers of **Savannah Sparrow** and **Grasshopper Sparrow** were at ALT 5/10-31 (m.ob.). **Fox Sparrows** were on the move 3/14-4/6. Single **Swamp Sparrows** were reported from six locations.

Eight reports of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** spanned 5/4-10 (m.ob.). A nice count of 10 **Bobolink** came from HAWK 5/6 (FW) with additional reports of one bird at SUNN 5/4 (CB) and 5 at ALT 5/19 (DF). **Eastern Meadowlark** high count was 9 at the reliable ALT 4/14 (RS). **Rusty Blackbird** was at LR 3/27-4/3 (DWe); high was 6 on 3/27. Two **Rusties** were also seen at Smith Mill Rd. 3/10 (PM). **Orchard Oriole** showed well with eight reports and a nice high count of 5 at HAWK 5/6 (FW). Movement of **Purple Finches** was concentrated from 4/3-14 with seven of the eight reports for the season in that window.

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**United States Postal Service  
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

1. Publication Title: **Pennsylvania Birds**
2. Publication Number **2905**
3. Filing Date **09/02/2014**
4. Issue Frequency **Quarterly**
5. Number of Issues Published Annually **4**
6. Annual Subscription Price **\$30**
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: **2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730; Contact Person Franklin Haas; Telephone 717-445-9609**
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: **2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730**
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor  
 Publisher: **Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730**  
 Editor: **Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730**  
 Managing Editor: **Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730**
10. Owner: **Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730**
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box:  
 **None**
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below **07/31/2013**

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)		526	525
b. Paid Circulation	(1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541.	479	443
	(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541.	17	15
	(3) Sales Through Dealers, etc.	0	0
	(4) Other Classes	3	3
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), (4))		499	461
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	(1) Outside-County	0	0
	(2) In-County	0	0
	(3) Other Classes	0	0
	(4) Outside the mail	8	8
e. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		8	8
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		507	469
g. Copies Not Distributed		19	56
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)		526	525
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation		98	98

16. Electronic Copy Circulation		Average No. Copies During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies		4	4
b. Total Paid Print Copies (15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (16a)		503	465
c. Total Print Distribution (15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (16a)		511	473
d. Percent Paid (Print & Electronic) (16b divided by 16c x 100)		98	97

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership  
 Publication required. Will be printed in the Vol 27 No.2 (October 2014) issue of this publication.
  18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Date  
 Franklin C. Haas, Treasurer, 09/03/2014
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Issue	Sightings due to Compilers by...	Articles due to Editor by...	Publication Date
Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)	31 March	1 May	July
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 June	1 August	October
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 August	1 October	December
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 December	1 February	April

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## IN FOCUS



*Pink-footed Goose, Bald Eagle State Park, Centre County. See p. 113.  
(Photo by Wayne Laubscher)*



*Mississippi Kite, Bucktoe Creek Preserve, Chester County. See p. 115.  
(Photo by Holly Merker)*



*Cinnamon Teal, Harrisburg, Dauphin County. See p. 118.  
(Photo by Steve Dale)*



*Willets, Plain Grove Twp., Lawrence County. See p. 127.  
(Photo by Geoff Malosh)*



*Least Bittern, Imperial Grasslands, Allegheny County. See p. 102.  
(Photo by Geoff Malosh)*



*Yellow-headed Blackbird, Lower Burrell, Westmoreland Co. See p. 143.  
(Photo by Mike Fialkovich)*