

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 29, No. 2  
Mar - May 2015  
Issued October 2015





# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 29 Number 2 Mar - May 2015

**Geoff Malosh, Editor-in-chief**  
450 Amherst Avenue  
Moon Township, PA 15108-2654  
(412) 735-3128 [pomarine@earthlink.net](mailto:pomarine@earthlink.net)  
<http://www.pabirds.org>

## Seasonal Editors

Daniel Brauning  
Michael Fialkovich  
Greg Grove  
Geoff Malosh

## Department Editors

**Book Reviews**  
Gene Wilhelm, Ph.D.  
513 Kelly Blvd.  
Slippery Rock, PA  
16057-1145  
(724) 794-2434  
[GeneWilhelm@aol.com](mailto:GeneWilhelm@aol.com)

**CBC Report**  
Nick Bolgiano  
711 W. Foster Ave.  
State College, PA 16801  
(814) 234-2746  
[nbolgiano@pennswoods.net](mailto:nbolgiano@pennswoods.net)

**Hawk Watch Reports**  
Laurie Goodrich  
Keith Bildstein  
410 Summer Valley Rd.  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961  
(570) 943-3411  
[goodrich@hawkmtn.org](mailto:goodrich@hawkmtn.org)  
[bildstein@hawkmtn.org](mailto:bildstein@hawkmtn.org)

**PAMC**  
Franklin Haas  
2469 Hammertown Road  
Narvon, PA 17555  
[fchaas@pabirds.org](mailto:fchaas@pabirds.org)

Chuck Berthoud  
4461 Cherry Drive  
Spring Grove, PA 17362  
[cnberthoud@gmail.com](mailto:cnberthoud@gmail.com)

**Pennsylvania Birdlists**  
Peter Robinson  
P. O. Box 482  
Hanover, PA 17331  
[pabirder@hotmail.com](mailto:pabirder@hotmail.com)

**Data Technician**  
Wendy Jo Shemansky  
41 Walkertown Hill Rd.  
Daisytown, PA 15427  
[pabirdsrus@zoominternet.net](mailto:pabirdsrus@zoominternet.net)

**Publication Manager**  
Franklin Haas  
2469 Hammertown Rd.  
Narvon, PA 17555  
[fchaas@pabirds.org](mailto:fchaas@pabirds.org)

**Photo Editor**  
Geoff Malosh  
450 Amherst Avenue  
Moon Township, PA 15108  
[pomarine@earthlink.net](mailto:pomarine@earthlink.net)

## Contents

- 75 from the Editor
- 76 Pennsylvania's Importance to American Kestrels: A Regional Context  
..... Nick Bolgiano, Jean-François Therrien, and Greg Grove
- 84 Raptor Migration Summary – Spring 2015 ..... Laurie Goodrich
- 87 Book Review ..... Gene Wilhelm  
*The Passenger Pigeon*
- 88 Summary of the Season: Spring 2015 ..... Mike Fialkovich
- 91 Birds of Note – March through May 2015
- 94 Photographic Highlights
- 101 Local Notes - March through May 2015
- 144 Suggestions to contributors
- Inside Back Cover - In Focus

Cover Photo: American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). Avocets were recorded in just one county this spring, but that record was wonderfully captured in this image. These two birds in fine breeding plumage were part of a flock of six at Beaver Run Reservoir, *Westmoreland* 27 April 2015. (Steve Gosser)

**Compiler News**

**Oscar Miller** is the new compiler for *Butler*; his first report appeared in the previous issue. Gene Wilhelm's departure from the *Butler* job after many years in the role left a big hole in the coverage of western Pennsylvania, so we thank Oscar for stepping up to compile for this heavily birded county.

**Greg Grove**, our Seasonal Editor for the winter season and WRS Project Coordinator, has returned to his past role of compiling for *Huntingdon*, taking over for Debra Grim who did excellent work covering *Huntingdon* since 2013. Meanwhile Greg had also covered *Mifflin* for many years, but he now turns that

county over to **Jon Kauffman**, whose first report appears in this issue. Many thanks to Debra, Jon, and Greg for making sure *Huntingdon* and *Mifflin* don't miss a step.

Lastly, I want to call special attention to *Crawford*, where, after 29 years of service, **Ron Leberman** has decided to call it quits. Anyone who knows anything about birding in our state knows the name Leberman, and knows the countless contributions to Pennsylvania ornithology that Ron and Bob Leberman have made. Ron was just one of three remaining active county compilers who had submitted a county report to the very first issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*, back in 1987. That

kind of dedication is a rare thing, and something to be greatly respected and appreciated. PSO, and indeed all birders in Pennsylvania, owe Ron a deep debt of gratitude.

Into these considerably big shoes steps **Rob Hodgson**, whose first report appears in this issue. I'm sure all readers will agree it's a good one, and it's nice to know that *Crawford* remains in good hands. Certainly, like *Butler*, it's one of the most heavily birded—not to mention ornithologically important—counties in Pennsylvania. Thanks very much Rob!

*Geoff Malosh*  
Editor-in-Chief  
pomarine@earthlink.net

**United States Postal Service  
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

1. Publication Title: **Pennsylvania Birds**
2. Publication Number **2905**
3. Filing Date **09/08/2015**
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)		513	475
b. Paid Circulation	(1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541.	450	405
	(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541.	17	17
	(3) Sales Through Dealers, etc.	0	0
	(4) Other Classes	3	2
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), (4))		470	424
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)		478	432
g. Copies Not Distributed		35	43
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)		513	475
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation		98.33	98.15

16. Electronic Copy Circulation		Average No. Copies During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies		8	2
b. Total Paid Print Copies (15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (16a)		472	426
c. Total Print Distribution (15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (16a)		480	434
d. Percent Paid (Print & Electronic) (16b divided by 16c x 100)		98.33	98.16

I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price:  **X**

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership  
 Publication required. Will be printed in the Vol 29 No.2 (October 2015) issue of this publication.
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Date  
 Franklin C. Haas, Treasurer, 09/08/2015

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

**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 © 2015 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's Importance to American Kestrels: A Regional Context

Nick Bolgiano, Jean-François Therrien, and Greg Grove

Several population indexes provide evidence that American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) have been declining across North America, particularly in the northeastern United States. Indeed, according to the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), American Kestrels declined during 1966-2013 at annual rates of 1.7% continent-wide and 2.1% in the eastern region (Sauer et al. 2014). Over recent decades, migration counts of kestrels have fallen drastically at some hawk watches (Farmer and Smith 2009). Moreover, kestrel nest-box occupancy has shown decreasing trends at several large nest-box deployments, including at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in eastern Pennsylvania (Smallwood et al. 2009a). In Pennsylvania's second breeding bird atlas, American kestrels were found in 52% of blocks, which was a 13% decline in occupied blocks compared to the first atlas; losses were concentrated in the Piedmont region, especially around Philadelphia (Farmer and Bildstein 2012). Recent breeding bird atlases in other provinces and states such as Ontario, New York, and Maryland corroborate the kestrel declines in those regions that are evident in BBS data (Gahbauer 2007; Nye 2008; Ellison 2010). American Kestrel populations have reached sufficiently low levels that it is now listed as endangered in Delaware and threatened in Connecticut and New Jersey, states where it used to be a common species.

Several causes have been proposed to explain these population declines. West Nile virus (WNV) is one of them, as 95% of wild-caught kestrels in eastern Pennsylvania tested positive for WNV antibodies (Medica et al. 2007). However, declines in kestrel nest-box programs began before the actual arrival of WNV in the North America (Smallwood et al. 2009a). Habitat change is also suggested as important by the finding that breeding kestrels prefer suitable habitat patch sizes of at least 1000 ha (~2500 acres) and are scarce when suitable habitat patches fall below 250 ha (~625 acres) (Smallwood et al. 2009b; Brown et al. 2014). This is consistent with Pennsylvania's second atlas results which showed that kestrels retracted from around Philadelphia and Pittsburgh (Farmer and Bildstein 2012). Because fledgling productivity of occupied nest boxes has remained high, Smallwood et al. (2009a) thought that the root causes of the decline occur primarily outside of the vicinity of occupied nest boxes, possibly during migration or the winter period.

American Kestrels are small falcons of farmlands and other open or semi-open

areas, where they feed upon small rodents, birds, and large insects. Kestrels are secondary cavity nesters and readily utilize nest boxes, which have proven to increase kestrel numbers where there is suitable habitat (Brauning 1982; Smallwood and Bird 2002). In eastern North America, the American Kestrel breeding range extends south from James Bay and Newfoundland to the Gulf coast and southern Florida. American Kestrels are partial migrants, completely withdrawing from the northern part of their range. They are also leap-frog migrants; kestrels from the northern part of their range tend to migrate to southern latitudes, mid-latitude (33-44 degrees of latitude) kestrels tend to move comparatively shorter distances, often to avoid harsh winter periods, and southern birds do not migrate (Bird and Palmer 1988; Smallwood and Bird 2002; Wheeler 2003).

In this article, we examine data from various sources and address the following questions about the status of Pennsylvania's kestrels: 1) How do Pennsylvania observations of breeding, migrating, and wintering American Kestrels compare to observations elsewhere in eastern North America? 2) Is the number of American Kestrels that winter in Pennsylvania affected by severe winters? 3) Are there differences among Pennsylvania counties in kestrel wintering trends? 4) To what extent are kestrels found wintering in Pennsylvania likely to be local breeders, thus allowing wintering data to reflect local breeding success?

## Methods

**Hawk Watch.** We compared long-term migration counts from hawk watch sites in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in eastern North America, using maps of kestrel numbers observed at hawk watches and summarizing hawk watch trend analysis.

Daily fall and spring counts for eastern North American hawk watch sites 2005-2014 were obtained from Hawkcount (2014) and Inzunza (2008). The seasonal time period in which 95% of migrant kestrels were tallied was determined and the 10-year mean number of kestrels/hour in the 95% passage period was calculated. Density maps of hawk watch locations were created for fall and spring using this passage period statistic, to compare the kestrel migration across sites.

Hawk Migration Association of North America researchers have

analyzed data from several North American hawk watches. For each watch site, a yearly raptor population index is computed and its trend over time assessed (Farmer and Hussell 2008). We summarize their findings for those eastern North American hawk watch sites with higher kestrel numbers and longer spans of operation.

**Breeding Bird Survey.** BBS data and trend analyses were obtained from Sauer et al. (2014) and density maps of the mean number of American kestrels/route in eastern North American states and provinces were created for each of the four decades from 1970-2009.

**Christmas Bird Count.** CBC data were obtained from National Audubon Society (2014). Each American Kestrel count was standardized as the count per 10 party-hours, and a record was omitted if the party-hours were missing or less than 20, or if the kestrel count was determined to be missing. The year referred to is the year in which Christmas occurred.

Density maps of the mean number of American kestrels/10 party-hours were created for each of four decades, 1970-2009, using data from sites with four or more reports in a decade.

The 1973-2013 trends were evaluated from sixteen geographic regions. Eastern regions include each of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida; the combined area of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island; and the combined area of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Regions to the west include Ontario south of 45 degrees of latitude (i.e. the southern peninsula north of Lakes Erie and Ontario) and each of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Standardized values in each region were averaged for each year, thus equally weighting the sites. Polynomial regression analysis was used to assess trends.

**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. County and annual WRS summary statistics are graphically displayed, as are three December-February weather variables measured at Williamsport, Pennsylvania, located at the north end of the central Susquehanna Valley: average temperature (°C), total snowfall (cm), and

average snow depth (cm) (NOAA National Climatic Data Center 2015; The Pennsylvania State Climatologist 2015). The statewide trend in American Kestrels/hour was assessed using polynomial regression, with the weather variables included.

**Pennsylvania CBC and WRS by County.** Pennsylvania counties except Philadelphia were assigned to one of five regions by similar topography and WRS kestrel counts: six southeastern counties around Philadelphia (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton); three counties to the west (Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon); 19 counties in the south-central; 14 counties in the southwest; and 24 counties in the north (Figure 6). CBC sites were assigned to a region by the location of their circle center and each region's mean kestrel count/10 party-hours was computed for sites with at least 20 party-hours, thus equally weighting each site's observations. Polynomial regression was used to assess trends for both CBC and WRS.

**Band Returns.** American Kestrel bird band return data from 1916-2013 were obtained from the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center's Bird Banding Laboratory. Records were identified for kestrels banded in Pennsylvania during the breeding season (May 15-July 31, the second atlas safe dates) and recovered during a subsequent wintering period (October 27-March 20, the period between the fall and spring 95% migration periods). For these records, the distance between banding and recovery sites was calculated. Records were also identified and source region determined for those kestrels banded in the breeding season and recovered in Pennsylvania during a subsequent wintering period.

**Results**

**Hawk Watch.** Maps of eastern North America show hawk watch locations (Figure 1), with symbols representing the annual 2005-2014 average of American

Kestrels/hour observed during the period when 95 percent of migrants are observed (9/3-10/26 in fall, 3/21-5/12 in spring). In both fall and spring, the highest numbers of migrating kestrels were observed along the Great Lakes and Atlantic Coast, where water edges concentrate flights.

The fall hawk watch sites that report the highest numbers of American Kestrels are Tadoussac, Québec; Hawk Cliff and Holiday Beach, Ontario; Detroit River, Michigan; Cadillac Mountain, Maine; Blueberry Hill, Connecticut; Lighthouse Point and Quaker Ridge, Connecticut; Raccoon Ridge, Montclair, Chimney Rock, and Cape May, New Jersey; Ashland and Cape Henlopen, Delaware; and Kiptopeke, Virginia. A fall site not shown in Figure 1 is the Florida Keys in southern Florida, which averaged 6.1 kestrels per hour during 2005-2014. The spring hawk watch sites that report the highest numbers of American kestrels are Presque Isle, Pennsylvania; Braddock Bay, New York; Sandy Hook, New Jersey; Pilgrim Heights and Plum Island, Massachusetts; and Bradbury Mountain, Maine (Figure 1).

Among fall sites, there is significant statistical evidence for declines at the Great Lakes sites Tadoussac, Québec, and Holiday Beach, Ontario; at the Atlantic Coast sites Lighthouse Point, Connecticut, and Cape May, New Jersey; and farther inland at Montclair, New Jersey and at Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania. There is no significant statistical evidence for trends at Detroit River, Michigan, and Waggoner's Gap, Pennsylvania. Among spring sites, there is significant evidence of a decline at Fort Smallwood, Maryland, but there is no significant evidence for trends at Braddock Bay or Derby Hill, New York (Raptor Population Index 2014, Table 1).

**Breeding Bird Survey.** Decadal maps of eastern North America show the mean number of kestrels per route in each state or province (Figure 2). Three general trends are apparent: 1) in eastern North America, American

Kestrels are most abundant in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio, where breeding populations have mostly been stable; 2) kestrel breeding populations have been declining in an arc of states and provinces to the north and east of Pennsylvania, including Michigan, Ontario, New York, most of New England, New Jersey, and Maryland; and 3) kestrel breeding populations in southern states are low, except in Tennessee. In Pennsylvania, kestrel counts have been of intermediate level and are relatively stable. The BBS data indicate that Pennsylvania and New York have the highest concentrations of breeding American Kestrels east of Ohio (Figure 2).

**Christmas Bird Count.** Decadal maps of eastern North America show effort-adjusted American Kestrel counts during the CBC (Figure 3). During the 1970s and 1980s, there were two core regions for wintering kestrels within the map area. One was primarily east of the Appalachians, concentrated in western New Jersey, southeastern Pennsylvania, the Delmarva Peninsula, and coastal sites south to Florida (not shown south of Virginia). The other was around the western end of Lake Erie and into Ohio. Compared to the 1970s, fewer kestrels were recorded in northern New Jersey during the 1980s. Changes during the next two decades were of larger magnitude, as the numbers of kestrels found in the eastern core area were a small fraction of what had previously been observed, except in a remnant area extending from the central Susquehanna Valley into northwestern Virginia and eastern West Virginia. In Ohio, numbers remained stable during the 1990s, but declined during the 2000s (Figure 3).

There was significant statistical evidence for a declining trend in the mean number of American Kestrels/10 party-hours in all regions east of Ohio. Wintering numbers declined steeply in New York, southern New England, Delaware-Maryland-D.C., and New Jersey, and their estimated 2013 wintering kestrel densities were low. The CBC data indicate that Pennsylvania and Virginia have the highest wintering concentrations east of Ohio, even though Pennsylvania experienced an estimated 62% decline in wintering numbers since 1973. Florida once had one of the highest wintering densities of American Kestrels; densities there remain relatively high, but at about half their previous level. They also declined in Ohio and southern Ontario, although apparently not as steeply as farther east. Wintering numbers in Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Arkansas were comparatively stable (Figure 4, Table 2).

**Table 1.** Trend statistics for American Kestrels at eastern hawk watch sites

Site	Years	Season	% Annual Change	P-Value
Tadoussac, QC	1993-2012	Fall	-6.22	0.03 *
Holiday Beach, ON	1979-2012	Fall	-2.04	0.003 *
Detroit River, MI	1996-2012	Fall	-2.90	0.308
Lighthouse Point, CT	1980-2012	Fall	-3.51	<0.001 *
Cape May, NJ	1976-2012	Fall	-3.82	<0.001 *
Montclair, NJ	1977-2012	Fall	-3.59	<0.001 *
Hawk Mountain, PA	1967-2012	Fall	-1.39	<0.001 *
Waggoner's Gap, PA	1987-2012	Fall	1.14	0.081
Braddock Bay, NY	1978-2013	Spring	-1.50	0.169
Derby Hill, NY	1979-2013	Spring	-1.17	0.128
Fort Smallwood, MD	1993-2013	Spring	-8.06	<0.001 *

\* - significant statistical evidence for a trend

**Table 2.** Trend analysis for CBC American Kestrel data by region

CBC Region	1973-2013 % Change*	2013 Kestrels/10 party-hrs*
New York	-84.3	0.38
Mass-Conn-RI	-95.3	0.09
Delaware-MD-DC	-89.5	0.45
New Jersey	-96.6	0.13
Pennsylvania	-62.1	1.31
Virginia	-51.0	1.52
Florida	-51.4	3.63
North Carolina	-69.7	0.94
Ohio	-58.2	1.70
s. Ontario	-82.0	0.29
Indiana	6.8	2.62
Illinois	119.2	3.65
Kentucky	NA	7.02
Tennessee	31.8	3.74
Louisiana	NA	4.29
Arkansas	-22.3	2.44

\* - calculated from regression fits, except used the 10-year (2004-13) average as the estimate for Kentucky and Louisiana's recent density

**Winter Raptor Survey.** A map of effort-adjusted American Kestrel counts during the WRS shows that the center of wintering American kestrel abundance during 2001-2015 was the Susquehanna Valley, with southwestern counties being a distant second (Figure 5).

The statewide trend in the WRS number of kestrels/hour was downward, but there were periods of consecutive years with little change. Downward changes occurred during winters when there was a combination of low temperature, high snowfall, and high snow depth (indicated by dark-colored bars in Figure 5). There was significant statistical evidence for both the trend and the effect of snow depth in explaining the observed variation ( $p$ -value < 0.001,  $R^2$  = 87.7%).

The highest number of observed American Kestrels/hour occurred during the first survey year, 2001. Kestrel numbers declined in both 2003 and 2004 with severe winter conditions, but bounced back in 2005 to about the 2003 level. In 2011, numbers declined slightly with moderately severe conditions, but bounced back the next year. Another decline occurred in 2014 with severe winter conditions. In 2015, another year with a severe winter, there was little change in kestrel numbers (Figure 5).

**Pennsylvania CBC and WRS by county region.** Trends in CBC and WRS data from the five Pennsylvania county regions are illustrated in Figure 6. There was significant statistical evidence for declines in CBC data from each region. During the 1970s to mid-1980s, the number of kestrels observed per unit time during the CBC was similar in the six southeastern counties, Berks-

Lancaster-Lebanon, and the south-central region. Beginning in the mid-1980s, the kestrel density from the six southeastern counties began to fall below the density of those other two regions and to eventually fall to the low level that is currently observed in the north. Beginning in the mid-2000s, the kestrel density in Berks-Lancaster-Lebanon began to fall below the density in the south-central region. The WRS data show similar patterns as the CBC data. There was significant statistical evidence for declines in the WRS data from the six southeastern counties and Berks-Lancaster-Lebanon, though not for the other three regions (Figure 6).

CBC trend statistics for the Pennsylvania regions indicates that the 1973-2013 percent change and the 2013 wintering density for the six southeastern counties were similar to what was observed in New York, southern New England, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware. The decline in Berks, Lancaster, and Lebanon counties was also steep, though not as severe. While the wintering density in the 19 south-central counties also appeared to decline, the 2013 kestrel density there remains comparable to densities observed in some of the Midwestern states. The estimated decline in the southwestern counties was the lowest among the five regions and its 2013 density second to the south-central counties. A large decline was also estimated for the 24 northern counties (Table 3).

**Table 3.** Trend analysis for CBC American Kestrel data by Pennsylvania region

CBC Region	1973-2013 % Change*	2013 Kestrels/10 party-hrs*
6 se. counties	-93.8	0.35
Berks-Lanc-Leb	-82.3	0.86
South-central	-31.9	3.08
Southwest	-25.1	1.45
North	-73.3	0.52

\* - calculated from regression fits

**Band Returns.** There were 92 records of an American Kestrel being banded in Pennsylvania during the breeding season and recovered during a subsequent wintering period. Of these, 51 (55%) of the recovery locations were within 100 km (62 mi) of the banding location, and 28 (30%) of recovery locations were more than 500 km (310 mi) from the banding location, as far south as Florida. Thus, a minority of Pennsylvania breeding kestrels appears to migrate far; most appear to winter not far from their breeding territory.

There were 50 records of a kestrel banded during the breeding season in northeastern North America and

recovered in Pennsylvania during a subsequent wintering period; of these 46 were banded in Pennsylvania, two banded in New Jersey, and one each banded in Ontario and New York. Although this result may overstate the importance of Pennsylvania as a breeding source of its wintering kestrels, it reinforces that a majority of Pennsylvania's breeding kestrels are likely to winter in relative proximity.

## Discussion

While a key finding of Pennsylvania's WRS has been the importance of the Susquehanna Valley for wintering raptors (Grove and Bolgiano 2012; Grove 2014), the CBC data indicate that, for American Kestrels, the Susquehanna Valley is a remnant of a much larger core wintering area that once extended from northern New Jersey through southeastern Pennsylvania to southeastern Maryland and Virginia. In this larger Northeast region, the data sources (hawk watch, BBS, CBC, Pennsylvania WRS, nest-box programs) are consistent in indicating declines in kestrel populations. Because kestrels of this latitude are partial migrants, these declines probably reflect a decline in their regional breeding populations; this doesn't rule out that there may also be fewer immigrant kestrels from more northern latitudes. That the northeastern declines began in the 1970s supports the hypothesis that land-use change might be a primary cause, as large-scale farming and land use changes began to negatively affect many farmland bird species at that time (Bolgiano 1999, 2000). It is possible that there are multiple causes of the American kestrel declines, each additive in its effect.

In contrast, the BBS indicates that breeding American Kestrel populations in Midwestern states are of higher densities and are mostly stable, although these populations are not well-monitored by hawk watches. The CBC also shows that the numbers of kestrels wintering in the Midwest to the west of Ohio are also relatively stable. In Ohio, the BBS indicates that the breeding kestrel population appears to be stable, though CBC data indicate that the wintering population is declining. Many of the kestrels that winter in Ohio may have migrated through southern Ontario and around the western end of Lake Erie; thus, the declining Ontario breeding population may partially explain the Ohio wintering pattern. (Migration through Ohio could also be the source of some of the American Kestrels that winter in western Pennsylvania.)

The WRS and weather data indicate that wintering American kestrel numbers are affected by severe winter

conditions, particularly when there are extensive periods with higher snow cover. American Kestrel numbers have shown different responses to severe winters. After declines in 2004 and 2011, kestrel counts bounced back the following year, suggesting that kestrels may have migrated farther south during those severe-weather winters. The declines of 2003 and 2014 were not followed by bounce-back years, suggesting that juvenile recruitment the next summer did not replace the higher winter mortality. At this latitude, it appears that winter mortality can be a major additional stress upon American Kestrels that are already experiencing declines due to other factors.

The CBC data show that the kestrel wintering declines have occurred throughout all Pennsylvania regions since the mid-1970s, but have been steeper in the southeast. That the same data patterns appear in both CBC and WRS data lends credence to these conclusions. Interestingly, nest-box occupancy in Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's kestrel nest-box program was relatively stable until dropping in 2003-2005 and is now showing an overall decreasing trend (J.-F. Therrien et al. unpubl. data), about the same time that there was separation between the wintering kestrel densities in Berks-Lancaster-Lebanon counties vs. the south-central region.

Our examination of banding data corroborates that many of the American Kestrels that breed in Pennsylvania winter relatively close to their breeding territories, which implies that, to some extent, Pennsylvania's wintering kestrel densities also reflect regional breeding densities and thus the overall species status. The two annual winter surveys, CBC and WRS, detect many more American Kestrels in Pennsylvania than does the annual breeding season survey, the BBS. Since 1970, the range in kestrel numbers annually detected in these surveys in Pennsylvania is 553-1766 (CBC), 265-699 (WRS), and 27-95 (BBS). As it is usually becomes easier statistically to detect trends as the sample size increases, this likely applies for assessing American kestrel trends.

Despite the recent declines in American Kestrels, Pennsylvania contains much suitable habitat for the species. The Susquehanna Valley provides good wintering habitat because it is of relatively low elevation and has extensive farmland with a high proportion of pastures and hayfields. These farmland characteristics are common to locations where higher number of American Kestrels were found in Pennsylvania's second breeding bird atlas: the Susquehanna Valley; the area around Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's

nest-box program, centered in Berks County, in Somerset, Bedford, and Blair counties, in Westmoreland and Indiana counties, and in the northwestern counties from Lawrence to Erie.

Pennsylvania is an important state for a number of bird species, providing key habitat for those species' continuing well-being. The American Kestrel is one such species. The data indicate that, east of Ohio, Pennsylvania has one of the highest breeding and wintering concentrations of American Kestrels. One action that Pennsylvania could take to enhance the species' prospects is to continue implementing nest-box programs. New Jersey can serve as a model. There, a statewide nest-box program is concentrated in habitat identified as possessing high value for breeding kestrels (Smallwood et al. 2009b). To improve the success of restoration efforts, further research is needed to assess what life history component (reproduction, survival, growth) kestrel population trends are most sensitive to and what we can do to positively change that.

#### Acknowledgments

We thank the many volunteers who have made the observations summarized here. This is Hawk Mountain Sanctuary contribution to conservation science number 255.

Nick Bolgiano  
711 W. Foster Avenue  
State College, PA 16801  
nickbolgiano@gmail.com

Jean-François Therrien  
Senior Research Biologist  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary  
410 Summer Valley Road  
Orwigsville, PA 17961  
therrien@hawkmtn.org

Greg Grove  
9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road  
Huntingdon, PA 16652  
gwg2@psu.edu

#### References

Bird, D.M., and R.S. Palmer. 1988. American Kestrel. Pages 253-290 in *Handbook of North American birds. Vol. 5: diurnal raptors. Part 2.* (Palmer, R.S., Ed.). Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut.

Bolgiano, N.C. 1999. The story of the Ring-necked Pheasant in Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds* 13:2-10.

Bolgiano, N.C. 2000. A history of Northern Bobwhites in

Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds* 14:58-68.

Brauning, D.W. 1982. The role of cavity availability and cavity temperatures in nest site selection of the American Kestrel. M.S. Thesis. The Pennsylvania State University.

Brown, J.L., M.W. Collopy, and J.A. Smallwood. 2014. Habitat fragmentation reduces occupancy of nest-boxes by an open-country raptor. *Bird Conservation International* 24: 364-378 doi:10.1017/S0959270913000415

Inzunza, E.R. 2008. Raptor-migration watchsite descriptions. Pages 279-302 in *State of North America's birds of prey* (Bildstein, K.L., J.P. Smith, E.R. Inzunza, and R.R. Veit, eds). Nuttall Ornithological Club, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and The American Ornithologist's Union, Washington, D.C.

Ellison, W.G. 2010. American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Pages 118-119 in *Second atlas of the breeding birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia* (W.G. Ellison, ed). The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland.

Farmer, C.J., and D.T. Hussell. 2008. The Raptor Population Index in practice. Pages 165-177 in *State of North America's birds of prey* (Bildstein, K.L., J.P. Smith, E.R. Inzunza, and R.R. Veit, eds). Nuttall Ornithological Club, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and The American Ornithologist's Union, Washington, D.C.

Farmer, C.J., and J.P. Smith. 2009. Migration monitoring indicates widespread declines of American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) in North America. *Journal of Raptor Research* 43:263-273.

Farmer, C.J., and K.L. Bildstein 2012. American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Pages 156-157 in *Second atlas of breeding birds in Pennsylvania* (A.M. Wilson, D.W. Brauning, and R.S. Mulvihill, eds). The Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park, Pennsylvania.

Gahbauer, J.A. 2007. American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Pages 190-191 in *Atlas of the breeding birds of Ontario, 2001-2005* (M.D. Cadman, D.A. Sutherland, G.G. Beck, D. Lepage, and A.R. Couturier, eds). Bird Studies Canada, Environment

Canada, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ontario Nature, Toronto.

second atlas of breeding birds in New York state (K.J. McGowan and K. Corwin, eds). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York.

declining in North America? Evidence from nest-box programs. *Journal of Raptor Research* 43:274-282.

Grove, G., and N. Bolgiano. 2012. Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania – 2001-2011 Results. *Hawk Migration Studies* 37(2):4-10.

Raptor Population Index. 2014. www.rpi-project.org.

Smallwood, J.A., P. Winkler, G.I. Fowles, and M. Craddock. 2009b. American Kestrel breeding habitat: the importance of patch size. *Journal of Raptor Research* 43:308-314.

Grove, G. 2014. The 2014 Winter Raptor Survey in Pennsylvania. *Pennsylvania Birds* 28:23-26.

Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, J.E. Fallon, K.L. Pardieck, D.J. Ziolkowski, Jr, and W.A. Link. 2014. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2012. Version 2.19.2014. USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

The Pennsylvania State Climatologist. 2015. <http://climate.psu.edu/data/>

Hawkcount. 2014. www.hawkcount.org

Wheeler, B.K. 2003. Raptors of eastern North America. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.

Medica, D.L., R. Clauser, and K.L. Bildstein. 2007. Prevalence of West Nile virus in a breeding population of American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) in Pennsylvania. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* 43:538-541.

Smallwood, J.A., and D.M. Bird. 2002. American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), The Birds of North American Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North American Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/602> doi:10.2173/bna.602

National Audubon Society. 2014. The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results [Online]. Available <http://www.christmasbirdcount.org> 2014.

Smallwood, J.A., M.F. Causey, D.H. Mossop, J.R. Klucasaris, B. Robertson, S. Robertson, J. Mason, M.J. Maurer, R.J. Melvin, R.D. Dawson, G.R. Bortolotti, J.W. Parrish, T.F. Breen, and K. Boyd. 2009a. Why are American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) populations

NOAA National Climatic Data Center. 2015. <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/>

Nye, P.E. 2008. American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Pages 206-207 in The

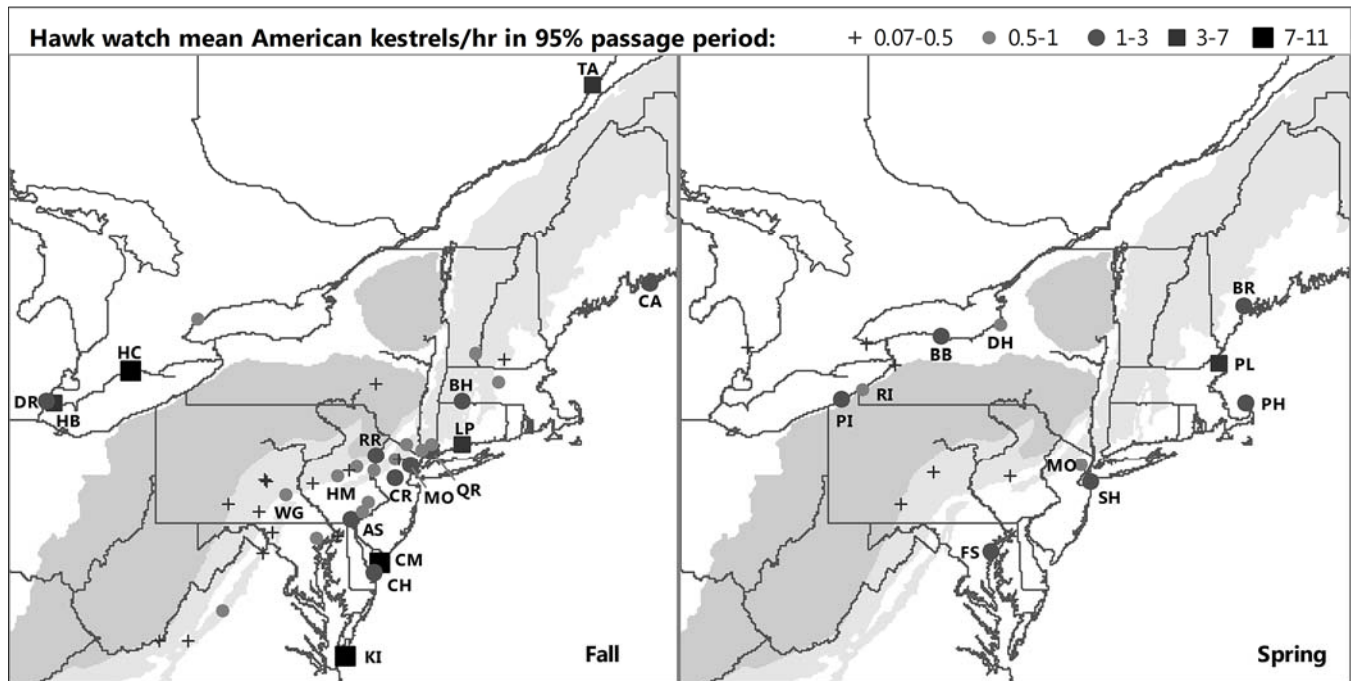


Figure 1. Map of eastern hawk watches, with symbols representing the average number of American Kestrels tallied in fall (left) and spring (right). Shaded areas represent mountainous or upland physiographic provinces. Data are 10-year (2005-2014) mean 95% passage period count/hour, except that Tadoussac data from 1995-2004. Labeled sites are **Connecticut**: QR=Quaker Ridge; **Delaware**: Ashland, CH=Cape Henlopen; **Maine**: BR=Bradbury Mt; **Maryland**: FS=Fort Smallwood; **Massachusetts**: PH=Pilgrim Heights, PL=Plum Island; **Michigan**: DR=Detroit River; **New Jersey**: RR=Raccoon Ridge, CM=Cape May, CR=Chimney Rock, MO=Montclair, SH=Sandy Hook; **New York**: BB=Braddock Bay, DH=Derby Hill, RI=Ripley; **Ontario**: HB=Holiday Beach, HC=Hawk Cliff, **Pennsylvania**: HM=Hawk Mt, PI=Presque Isle, WG=Waggoner's Gap; **Québec**: TA=Tadoussac; Virginia: KI=Kiptopeke.



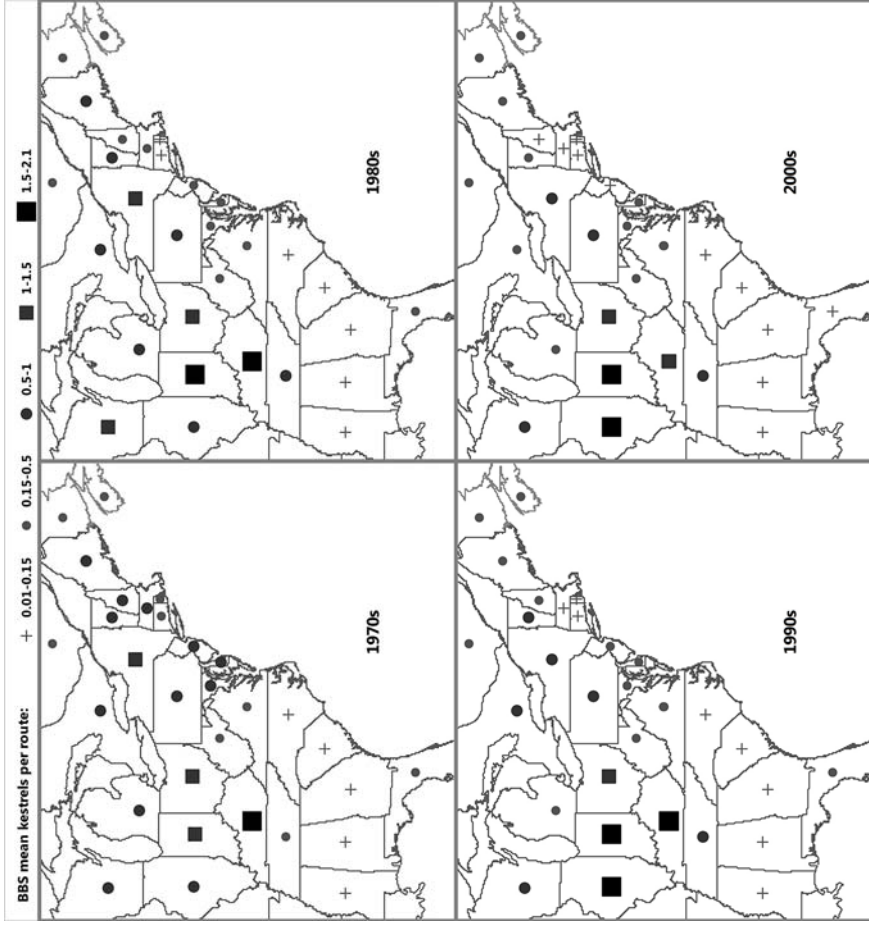


Figure 2. BBS maps of mean American Kestrels per route, during each of four decades, 1970-2009.

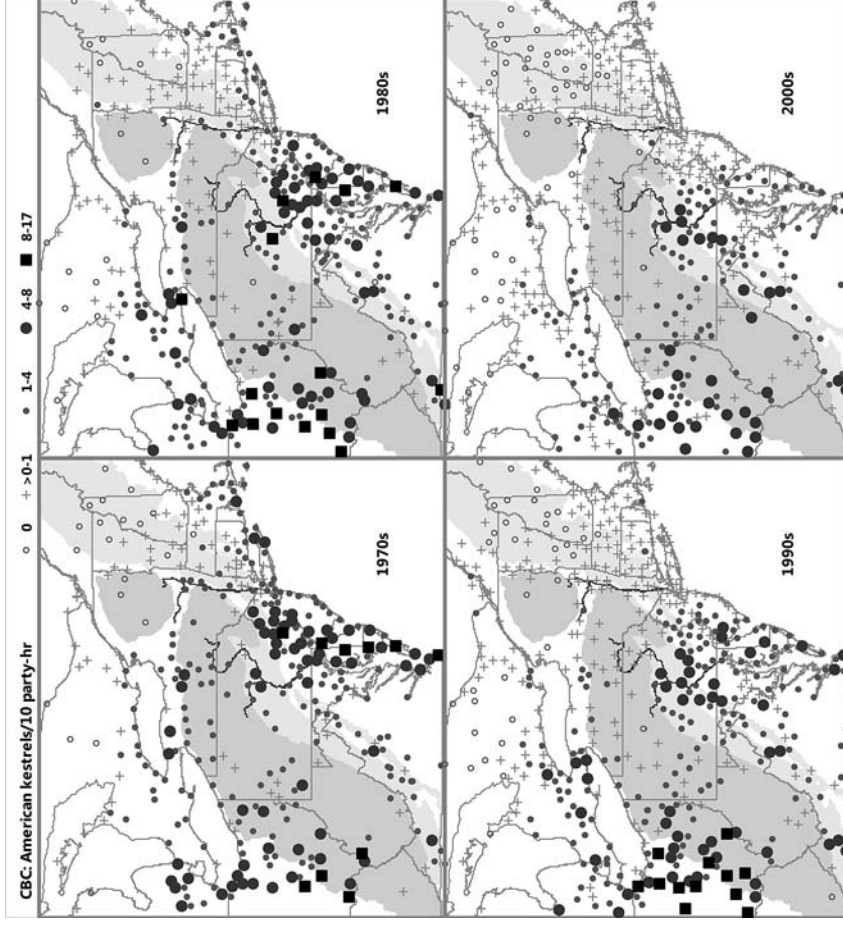


Figure 3. CBC maps of mean American Kestrels per 10 party-hours by site, during each of four decades, 1970-2009. Shaded areas represent mountainous or upland physiographic provinces.

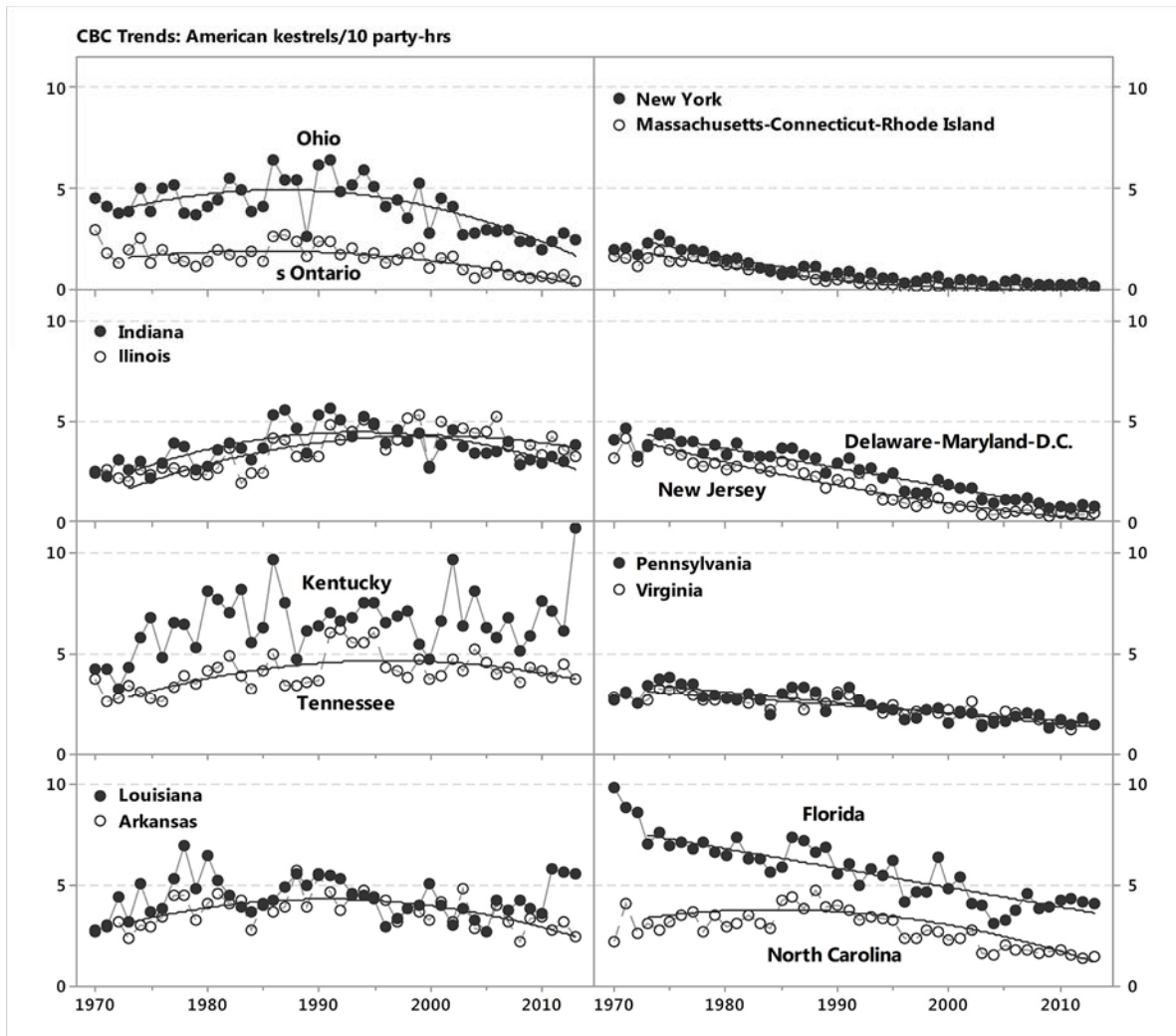


Figure 4. Mean CBC counts of American kestrels per 10 party-hours, from sixteen regions, for sites with 20 or more party-hours. Lines represent statistically significant regression fits for 1973-2013 data; statistically significant fits were not found for Kentucky or Louisiana data.

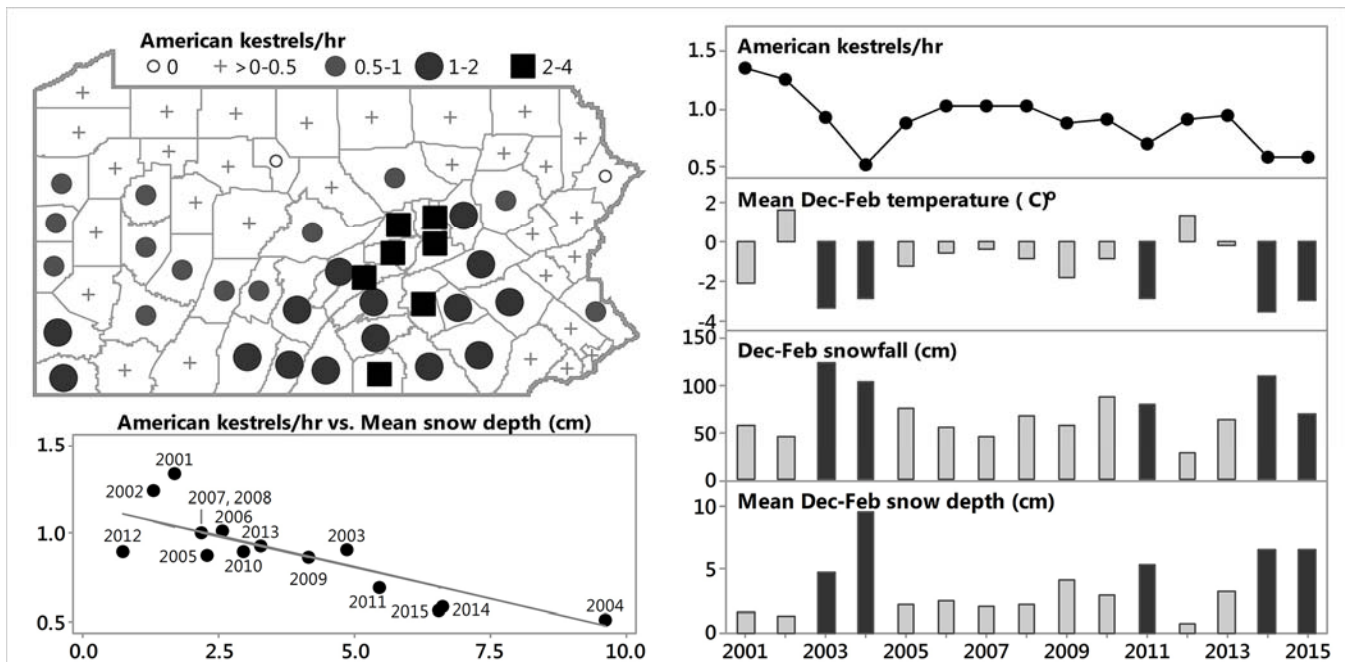
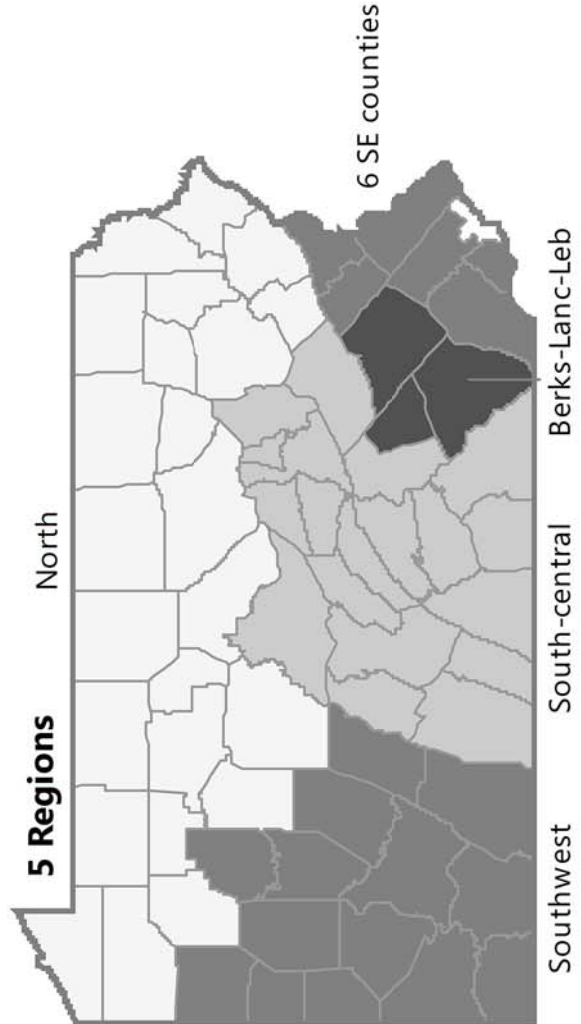
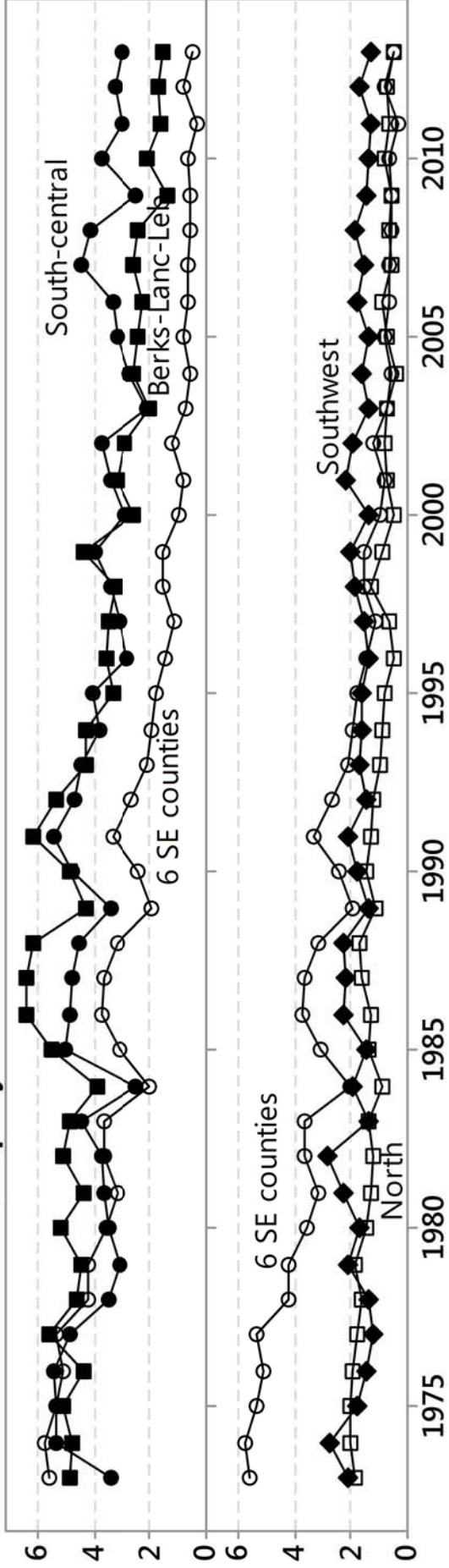


Figure 5. Map of mean WRS American kestrels/hour, 2001-2015 (top left); the statewide trend of American Kestrels/hour (top right); bar charts of three weather variables from Williamsport, PA, with dark bars representing years with the combination of mean temperature < 2C, snowfall > 65 cm, and mean snow depth > 4.5 cm (right); and plot of annual American kestrels/hour versus mean snow depth (cm) (bottom left), with regression fit.

**CBC: American kestrels/10 party-hrs**



**WRS: American kestrels/hr**

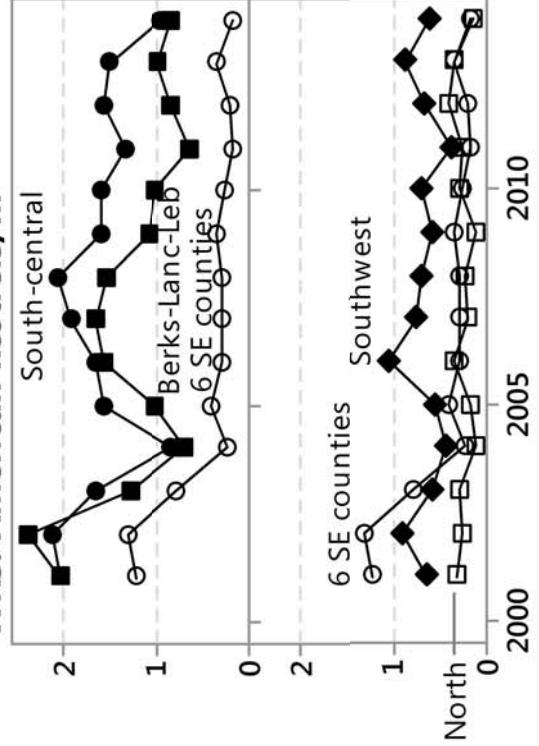


Figure 6. CBC American kestrels per 10 party-hours from each of five regions, 1973-2013, top. Regions are shown bottom left. WRS American kestrels per hour from each of five regions, 2001-2014, bottom right.

# Raptor Migration Summary – Spring 2015

Laurie Goodrich

Early March felt much like January for most Pennsylvania watchers and daily raptor counts were negligible through mid-month. Record-setting April showers deluged the southern states and seemed to delay, disperse or divert many late spring northbound migrants into our region. South winds were scarce during April as well adding to the challenges for northbound hawks. Despite the weather an average to above-average statewide count was recorded for many species.

## Migration Summary

Four watchsites conducted spring counts in 2015, two fewer than 2014. The four sites recorded an above-average total of 24,770 northbound hawks, a rate of 21.8 hawks per hour statewide and the third highest count on record, 37% higher than the ten-year average (Table 1, 3). The largest number of migrating raptors was Presque Isle's 21,454, where Lake Erie forms a natural barrier to northbound migrants (Table 1). Mountain sites contributed several thousand migrants including most of the eagles statewide (Table 1, 3).

Early season raptors were likely delayed by lingering winter cold and storms as very few were spotted in February and early March. April migrants were likely delayed or dispersed by relentless rain and wind in the southern states and persistent north winds across the region. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported below normal temperatures in northeastern states during early spring and above-average precipitation for February through May in Texas and through the southern Appalachians (<[www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip)>). Record precipitation was recorded for Texas alone.

**Table 1:** Pennsylvania watch-sites reporting for spring 2015

Site	Hrs.	Total	per hr
Allegheny Fr.	272	819	3.0
Hawk Mtn.	269	943	3.5
Presque Isle	214	21454	100.4
Tussey Mtn.	380	1554	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1135</b>	<b>24770</b>	<b>21.8</b>

Statewide counts for several species were below average, but a new state record was set for spring Bald Eagles with 263 among the four watchsites, 42% higher than the 10-year average. Notable counts also were tallied for Rough-legged Hawk, 37, 50% above the 10-year average, and for Turkey Vulture, 16,659, 85% above the 10-year average. Both counts were the second highest spring

count statewide. Above-average counts also were observed for Merlin, 29, up 21%, and Golden Eagle, up 2% compared to 10-year average (Table 3). Below-average counts statewide were recorded for most other raptors, including Osprey, 221, 41% below-average, Cooper's Hawk, 150, 35% below-average, and Northern Harrier, 119, 17% below the 10-year average, among others (Table 3).

Pennsylvania is known for its spring Golden Eagle flight, and 2015 did not disappoint with many sighted during March. The day to be watching was 13 March, as the shift in weather that day brought peak flights of a combined 95 to both Allegheny Front and Tussey Mountain (Table 2). Most the Golden Eagles statewide were recorded by these two sites—only one other Golden Eagle was spotted at Hawk Mountain. Peak counts of Turkey Vultures occurred also on 13 March for both central Pennsylvania sites, a combined total of 68 vultures. Presque Isle observed its peak flight of 3,687 Turkey Vultures 29 March; Hawk Mountain sighted 17 Turkey Vultures 1 April, its season high daily total (Table 2).

Two rarities were counted in spring 2015, both at Presque Isle. On May 9, southwest winds brought a morning parade of Turkey Vultures and Broad-winged Hawks punctuated by Osprey, Bald Eagles and smaller hawks. At 09:18, a lone Swallow-tailed Kite sailed past the watchsite, less than 200 feet above the ground. On 25 May, a high-flying Mississippi Kite was spotted circling in a kettle with five Broadwings, two Turkey Vultures and an immature Bald Eagle. Both sightings represented the second records of these species for the site.

## Site Highlights

**Allegheny Front (Somerset/Bedford)** – Winter conditions delayed access to the site until 12 March, limiting early season counts and overall hours in 2015. On the second day of the count, 13 March, welcome southeast winds ushered 51 Golden Eagles past the Front, tying the second-highest one-day count on record (Table 3). In addition to the Golden Eagles, 10 Bald Eagles, a season peak count, 21 Red-tailed Hawks, and 37 Turkey Vultures, a season peak count, were among 131 raptors spotted for the day. The peak Broad-winged Hawk flight of 62 occurred 13 April, which were accompanied by 12 Red-tailed Hawks, 11 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 2 Golden Eagles among the 98 migrants.

The 2015 season total was 819

hawks counted in 272 hours between 12 March and 3 May. Hours were 31% below average and the total count dipped by 48% (Table 3). Most species showed below-average counts except the 6 Merlin, which was slightly above the ten year average (Table 3). The Golden Eagle total of 66 was close to the ten-year average of 69, with most passing by 13 March (Table 2).

Flights waned quickly in late April with only one migrant recorded in early May, a Cooper's Hawk.

**Hawk Mountain (Berks/Schuylkill)** – Hawk Mountain counters launched daily coverage 1 April and recorded 943 hawks in 269 hours from 23 March to 15 May, matching the 10-year average for the site. Three days in March were covered, which contributed 103 migrants to the total, including 34 Red-tailed Hawks and 5 Bald Eagles. A peak March count of 72 raptors was recorded on 27 March and included a season high count for Black Vulture, 10. Early April brought the most migrants per day with northwest winds on 1 April carrying 79 raptors past the ridge, the one-day high count for the season. Other totals that day included 16 Turkey Vultures, 6 Bald Eagles, one Golden Eagle, and 6 American Kestrels. The following day another 17 Turkey Vultures sailed north, a peak count for the species for the season (Table 2).

In 2015, new spring season records were set for Turkey Vulture at 82 and for Bald Eagle at 56, and above-average counts were recorded for Black Vulture (41), Sharp-shinned Hawk (108), Red-shouldered Hawk (13), Red-tailed Hawk (150), American Kestrel (41), and Merlin (6). However, the most numerous raptor for the site historically, Broad-winged Hawk, was 50% below-average at 197, with daily counts never surpassing 100 birds. Flights ebbed during May, with a total of 95 migrants passing between 1 and 15 May, including 17 Bald Eagles.

**Presque Isle (Erie)** – The Lake Erie watchsite tallied an above-average 21,454 raptors in 214 hours between 1 March and 31 May, despite frequent north winds. The total represented the third highest count for the site. Turkey Vultures were the most numerous migrant, totaling 16,213, 75% of the flight. Presque Isle counters endured a week of counts before recording their first migrant, a Red-tailed Hawk 7 March. The first notable count occurred 13 March, which included 207 Turkey Vultures, 18 Red-tails, a lone Rough-legged Hawk, one Merlin, and one Bald Eagle. Counts accelerated through late

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

Site	Golden Eagle		Turkey Vulture	
	Count	Date	Count	Date
<b>Allegheny Front</b>	51	3/13	37	3/13
<b>Hawk Mountain</b>	1	4/1	17	4/2
<b>Presque Isle</b>	-	-	3687	3/29
<b>Tussey Mtn.</b>	44	3/13	31	3/13

March into April with hundreds of vultures parading north on many days. A new one-day record for vultures was set 29 March as 3687 cruised along the lake shore (Table 2). Broad-winged Hawk counts were below average with a disappointing peak count of just 1453 20 April, and a season total of 2891 (Table 3). Presque Isle usually observes more Rough-legged Hawks than other Pennsylvania spring sites; 26 were counted in 2015, with a season peak count of 5 heading north 16 March, all light morph birds.

**Tussey Mountain (Centre)** – Tussey counters covered the central Pennsylvania watchsite for the 15th consecutive year in 2015 and recorded 1,554 hawks in 60 days and 380 hours. Tussey watchers set a new season record for Golden Eagle at 239, 14 higher than prior record of 225 set in 2008. Golden Eagles were unusually late in 2015 with none spotted in February despite 30 hours of counts. The first eagles were seen 3 March when four flew past. The peak eagle day occurred 13 March when 44 Golden Eagles sailed north along the ridge along with six Bald Eagles (Table 2). Forty-nine more Golden Eagles were counted 15 and 16 March. Tussey also set a new record for Bald Eagle at 65, compared to their prior record of 56 set in spring 2011. Numbers of both Rough-legged Hawk (11) and Merlin (9) were more than double the 10-year average, 5 and 4 respectively. Red-shouldered and Sharp-shinned hawks also were counted in slightly above-average numbers, 58 and 178 respectively (Table 3). In contrast, counts of most other raptors were below the 10-year average, most notably Cooper’s Hawk, 30, 51% below average, Black Vulture, 16, 42% below average, Osprey, 51, 31% below average, and Red-tailed Hawk, 282, 31% below average (Table 3). A late day flight of 94 Broad-winged Hawks 10 April proved to be the season’s

high one-day count for the species, which were accompanied by 2 Red-tailed Hawks, 2 Osprey, 2 Turkey Vulture, one Northern Harrier and one Bald Eagle. Broadwings were seen consistently during through the last count day 25 April, but the total of 377 broadwings was 19% below average.

**Conclusions**

Despite challenges of adverse weather, above-average counts were recorded for several species in 2015 and a new record was set for spring Bald Eagles statewide. Turkey Vultures were the most numerous species statewide in 2015 principally due to spectacular flights at Presque Isle, representing 75% of the Presque Isle spring count, a five-year average of 14,014 vultures. Both Bald Eagle and Turkey Vulture have been on the upswing so their healthy flights were not surprising. A surprise in 2015 was the above-average count of 37 Rough-legged Hawks, a species we see less and less of in Pennsylvania, and the above-average count of 23 Merlin for the three ridgetop watch sites, among the 29 sighted for the spring. Overall, spring 2015 provided excitement at all the Pennsylvania watchsites with close eagles and falcons on the ridges and a migrant parade punctuated by rarities including Roughlegs and a kite along the lakeshore.

**Acknowledgements**

I thank site compilers, Nick Bolgiano, Jerry McWilliams, Dan Ombalski, Gizem Yilmaz, and Bob Stewart for sharing their observations and interpretations as well as the HawkCount.org database manager, Jason Sodergren, and the sponsoring organization, Hawk Migration Association of North America, for access to HawkCount.org site reports. I also thank the stalwart spring hawk counters for manning Pennsylvania lookouts to collect these data. David Barber provided the map of watchsites and Heather Smith helped to compile data tables. This is Hawk Mountain contribution number 254.

*Acopian Ctr. for Conservation Learning  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association  
410 Summer Valley Road  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961  
goodrich@hawkmountain.org*

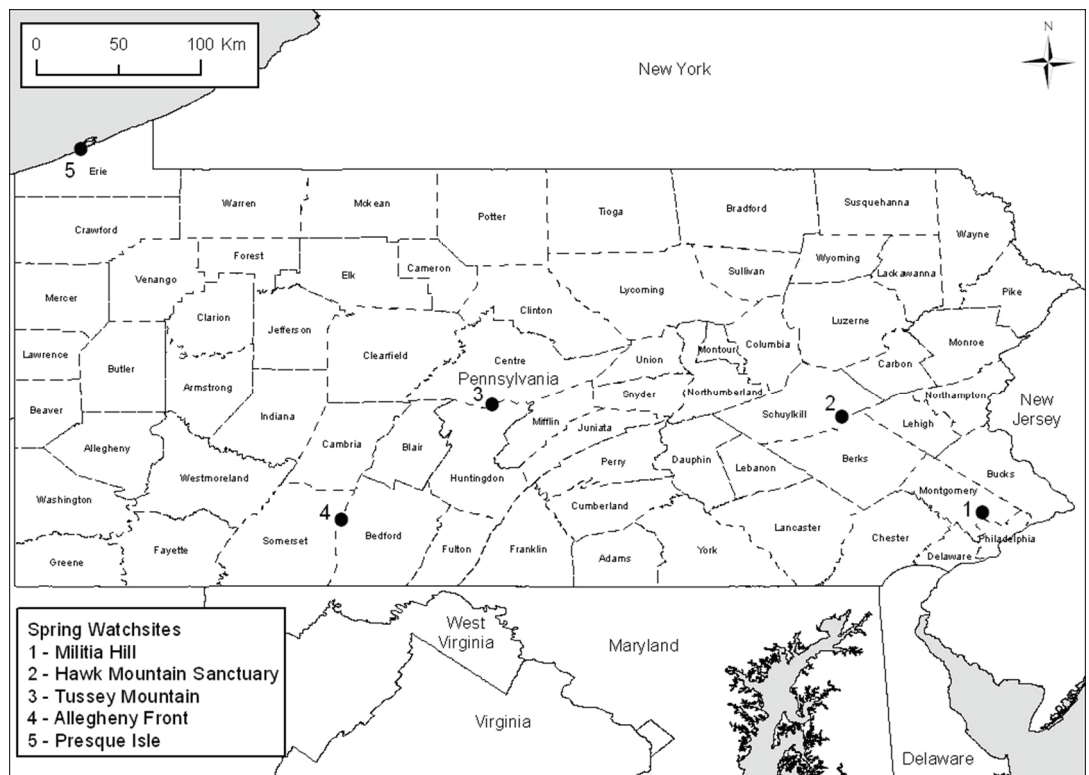


Table 3. Spring 2015 migration count results for Pennsylvania watchsites

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	STKI	MIKI	UNID.	TOTAL
March	20	101.75	10	173	0	12	3	11	6	1	8	0	64	0	57	4	0	0	0	0	14	363
April	30	162.25	6	45	10	2	9	48	17	0	6	197	77	0	9	7	6	0	0	0	16	455
May	3	7.75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>271.75</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>819</b>
Total/hr.		0.06	0.80	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.22	0.09	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.72	0.52	0.00	0.24	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	3.01
% Flight		1.95	26.62	1.22	1.71	1.47	7.20	2.93	0.12	1.71	24.05	17.22	0.00	8.06	1.34	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.66	100.00
Average	62.6	394.4	13.4	271.1	89.0	19.1	21.2	145.2	60.4	5.2	47.6	380.2	345.7	1.1	69.1	23.5	4.3	2.2	0.0	0.0	71.2	1569.5

**HAWK MOUNTAIN (Berks and Schuylkill) - Laurie Goodrich, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	STKI	MIKI	UNID.	TOTAL
March	3	12.5	10	10	1	5	0	14	11	0	3	0	34	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	8	103
April	30	166.25	31	70	74	34	14	80	32	1	10	148	97	0	1	37	4	1	0	0	111	745
May	15	90	0	2	6	17	1	14	2	0	0	25	19	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>268.75</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>943</b>
Total/hr.		0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	3.5
% Flight		4.28	8.55	8.45	6.57	1.56	11.26	4.69	0.21	1.36	18.04	15.95	101.2	0.3	1.8	23.8	4.3	1.7	0.0	0.00	13.35	100.00
Average	45.1	244.4	38.7	36.2	95.2	28.5	23.3	99.2	44.1	0.7	9.5	347.5	101.2	0.3	1.8	23.8	4.3	1.7	0.0	0.2	87.3	943.5

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	STKI	MIKI	UNID.	TOTAL
March	31	80.75	0	8663	0	31	5	22	16	0	133	0	277	11	0	22	1	1	0	0	16	9398
April	30	81	0	5840	42	43	43	666	24	0	56	262	310	14	0	173	5	1	0	0	14	9493
May	31	52	1	1510	37	54	20	212	11	0	629	65	1	0	0	12	0	3	1	1	6	2563
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>213.75</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16213</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>2891</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>21454</b>
Total/hr.		0.0	75.9	0.4	0.6	0.3	4.2	4.2	0.2	0.0	0.9	13.5	3.1	0.1	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	100.4
% Flight		0.00	75.57	0.37	0.60	0.32	4.20	4.20	0.24	0.00	0.88	13.48	3.04	0.12	0.00	0.96	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.17	100.00
Average	68.8	231.6	1.0	14013.6	101.0	138.4	85.2	1070.6	97.6	0.6	276.8	3710.6	729.0	27.8	2.2	319.8	13.4	10.2	1.0	0.4	46.2	20645.2

**TUSSEY MOUNTAIN (Centre) - Dan Ombalski and Nick Bolgiano, co-compilers**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	STKI	MIKI	UNID.	TOTAL
February	4	30	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14
March	31	205	3	119	1	41	10	60	15	1	53	0	191	8	225	11	3	2	0	0	25	768
April	25	145.25	5	26	50	24	14	118	15	1	4	377	91	0	14	14	6	0	0	0	13	772
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>380.25</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1554</b>
Total/hr.		0.0	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	4.1
% Flight		1.03	9.40	3.28	4.18	1.54	11.45	11.45	1.93	0.13	3.73	24.26	18.15	0.71	15.38	1.61	0.58	0.13	0.00	0.00	2.51	100.00
Average	54.7	393.9	28.2	195.5	74.3	37.7	30.5	168.7	62.0	1.8	50.4	466.1	409.2	4.9	226.6	31.3	4.2	2.0	0.0	0.0	32.5	1799.3

**2015 TOTALS FOR ALL WATCHSITES**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	STKI	MIKI	UNID.	TOTAL
February	4	30	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14
March	85	400	23	9165	2	89	18	107	48	2	197	0	566	19	282	41	7	3	0	0	63	10632
April	115	554.75	42	5981	176	103	80	912	88	2	76	2984	575	14	24	231	21	2	0	0	154	11466
May	49	149.75	1	1512	43	71	21	226	14	0	0	654	84	1	0	12	1	3	1	1	14	2659
<b>Total</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>1134.5</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>16659</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>1245</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>3638</b>	<b>1225</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>24770</b>
Total/hr.		0.1	14.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	3.2	1.1	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	21.8
% Flight		0.3	67.3	0.9	1.1	0.5	5.0	5.0	0.6	0.0	1.1	14.7	4.9	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	100.0
Average	226.0	1268.3	95.6	8997.1	376.2	184.7	142.9	1199.3	254.4	9.2	283.5	4309.1	1359.7	24.0	298.7	316.8	24.1	12.8	0.2	0.3	232.1	18052.2

**THE PASSENGER PIGEON** by Errol Fuller, 61 black and white and 55 color figures, including a stunning aquatint title page of an adult Passenger Pigeon pair by John James Audubon, prologue, appendix, acknowledgments, further reading, index, 7 x 9 ½ in., 184 pp., Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2015, hardcover, \$29.95.

September 1, 2014 marked the centennial memorial of the death of Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon on earth. Once numbering in the billions, flocks of this species were so large and dense that they blackened the skies. Yet, by the end of the 19th century, the most common bird in North America had vanished from the wild. And by 1909, there were only two individuals left in captivity, a number that dwindled to one in 1910. Finally that number dwindled to zero in 1914 when Martha died in a cage at the Cincinnati zoo.

In *The Passenger Pigeon*, leading extinctions scholar, artist, and writer Errol Fuller presents a beautifully illustrated memorial to Martha and her species. Drawing upon more than 100 illustrations, photographs, scientific specimens, poems, music, ornithological journal articles, and historical accounts, the author creates a comprehensive sketch of the passenger pigeon. But as Fuller states in his Introduction (p. 10): “This work is not intended as a textbook or a detailed monograph covering every aspect of Passenger Pigeon research and every known piece of information about the species. The present book is simply a celebration (perhaps an inappropriate term in the circumstances) in both words and pictures, of the former existence of the Passenger Pigeon, produced around the time of the 100th anniversary of the death of the last known individual. It is hoped that it will serve as an intriguing memorial to a species that was once so important to the ecology of North America, and will help to bring awareness to just how fragile the natural world can be.” Fuller’s many books include *Lost Animals: Extinct and the Photographic Record*; *Extinct Birds*; and *Dodo: From Extinction to Icon*.

Before dealing with the Passenger Pigeon, however, the author introduces general comments about *The Annals of Extinction* (pp. 2-19). All six of the species illustrated in two color photographs (pp. 12-13)—Great Auk, Labrador Duck, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Carolina Parakeet, Heath Hen, and Eskimo Curlew—were once plentiful inhabitants of North America, and with the possible exception of the Labrador

Duck, were common when Europeans arrived in the Americas. It should be mentioned that an avian species is only declared extinct once there is no reasonable doubt that any individuals exist either in the wild or in captivity. Thus the Great Auk became extinct in 1852, the Labrador Duck in 1875, and the others managing to survive into the twentieth century: the Carolina Parakeet until 1910, and the Heath Hen to 1932, while the Eskimo Curlew and Ivory-billed Woodpecker still await official declaration of extinction. Each of these species has its own story but there is one that stands out from the rest, the Passenger Pigeon. As the author states: “It is a tale that has everything: great drama, tragedy, intrigue, violence, mystery...This is almost a modern tale, and its events recent enough to have come down to us in great detail.”

“Imagine”, the next chapter of the book, gripped my attention. Although the scene could be anywhere in the eastern parts of North America early in the 19th century, Fuller chose at random a Pennsylvania farm and you, the reader, as a farmer-owner standing in a field surrounded by deciduous forests. Suddenly, you hear a strange, far-off, unfamiliar, almost imperceptible sound that grows louder by the minute, akin to distant thunder but with this significant difference, it is a continuous wall of sound surrounding you and your farm.

Quick flying pigeons appear overhead, followed by more and more, revealed as the source of the deafening noise. Gradually the multitude forms one dark solid mass that blots out the sun. Then the pigeons land in the forests and atop your orchard trees and a new sound, the splitting of tree limbs, is heard. The weight of so many birds is too much for the trees, so branches brake and crash to the ground. This repeated occurrence is depicted on an amazing overleaf watercolor sheet titled *Falling Bough* by Walton Ford (2002, pp. 24-25). After two or three days of occupation, the pigeons mysteriously vanish leaving behind total disarray. The growing crops are destroyed, buds eaten or trampled, orchards wrecked, the well fouled. An entirely new start will be needed, if that is, you can survive the next few months and the winter that will follow.

It was inevitable that the species could not survive in the kind of numbers that existed in the 19th century. Yet, what almost no one could have predicted was the utter annihilation of the species or that this would happen in little more than a century. One exception, it should be noted, was a rare early hint of doom

for the species in 1856 by Benedict Henry Revoil, who bluntly stated: “Everything leads to the belief that the pigeons, which cannot endure isolation and are forced to flee or to change their way of living according to the rate at which North America is populated by the European inflow, will simply end by disappearing from this continent, and, if the world does not end this before a century, I will wager. . .that the amateur of ornithology will find no more wild pigeons, except those in the Museums of Natural History” (p. 30). Unfortunately, Revoil’s prediction was only slightly off its mark. A fourteen-year-old lad named Press Clay Southworth had the dubious distinction of killing the last wild pigeon on March 4, 1900 near Sargents, Pike County, Ohio.

The following chapter, “The Bird”, positively illustrates via many color photographs how beautiful the Passenger Pigeon was (pp. 28-29 and pp. 32-33). Recent DNA analysis suggests that its kinship lies with pigeons of the genus *Patagioenas* but science has bestowed the name *Ectopistes migratorius* meaning “migratory wanderer” on the species. Its brief scientific description is clearly written (p. 31) with many ornithologists believing that the Passenger Pigeon was quite possibly the most elegant and stylish of all the pigeons in the world. It was clearly designed for speed and endurance when on the wing, enhanced by lovely yet subtle feather coloring. The birds were nomads, forever on the move in search of the vast quantities of food needed to support their huge population. Seeds and fruits made up most of their diet, but hard mast of acorns, beechnuts, and chestnuts was their favorite foods. Certainly the American chestnut blight that quickly spread throughout Appalachia beginning in 1905 would have caused a critically damaging decline in pigeons, but by then the wild flocks were gone forever.

Such variable staples, however, do pose a question: How did the birds know where to go to find them? We will never know. And there is still disagreement among ornithologists, despite the wealth of written evidence, about certain other aspects: Did the birds regularly lay one or two eggs? Did they nest just once per year or multiple times? Did their vast numbers protect them in some way against predatory assaults? The chapter presents some plausible answers.

Subsequent chapters delve into ornithological, literary, and historical texts to uncover what early explorers like Jacques Cartier, colonial residents like Thomas Dudley, and of course early

American ornithologists like Alexander Wilson and John James Audubon made of this species. These early accounts express awe at the sheer number of birds and attempt to quantify both the sound and size of the flocks, but they quickly gave way in the 1870s to stories of overhunting and fears that the pigeon was in danger of being lost. Warnings and laws that were enacted to protect the bird came too late. Three simultaneous forces combined to annihilate the Passenger Pigeon: the sheer ferocity of the human onslaught, the wholesale destruction of its forest habitat, and a lifestyle that left the species utterly defenseless against the requirements of the continent's new human arrivals: food and land. The bird's very abundance and survival in vast colonies brought about disaster (p. 72). The Passenger Pigeon and *Homo sapiens*, it turned out, were

simply incompatible.

Readers are warned ahead of time that "The Last Captives" and "Martha" chapters (pp. 90-121) are graphically and word-wise disturbing, especially since the bird's extinction is so thoroughly documented, down to the minute detail of what Martha ate on her final day of life, and the surplus of photographs, which we have been spared for most other avian extinctions in North America.

Gone and nearly forgotten in our collective memory, the Great Auk, Labrador Duck, Carolina Parakeet, Passenger Pigeon, and Heath Hen have left a hole in the American landscape, each with its own real and visceral story. But has humanity learned its lesson? Ponder some current ornithological statistics: over the past 400 years, some 109 bird species have become extinct in the world. Measured every 50 years since

1600, the number of extinctions becomes dramatic: 1600-1800 a total of 25 species were lost; 1800-1959 a total of 78 species were lost in little more than 150 years; 1950-2000 the rate of extinction reached two species every three years; and since 2000 the world is losing one species per year. In the United States of America, one state (Hawaii) has the ignominious distinction of being called the Extinction Capital of the World, for losing about 70% of the its endemic avian species. Indeed, *The Passenger Pigeon*, hopefully, will raise consciousness about preserving birds throughout the world. "Forgetting is another kind of Extinction."

513 Kelly Blvd.  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145  
genewilhelm@aol.com

---

## Summary of the Season: Spring 2015

Mike Fialkovich

After the extended frigid conditions of the past winter, birders were all eager for spring. But many compilers commented that early spring was still held tight in the cold grip of winter. Ice cover remained on lakes and rivers well into March, preventing a good waterfowl showing in some cases, while patches of open water attracted and held waterfowl in good variety in other places. Birders living near major rivers like the Susquehanna and the three rivers of Pittsburgh benefited by the number of waterfowl that found open water on the flowing water, instead of ice locked lakes. *Lancaster* and *Allegheny* reports included many waterfowl highlights on the rivers. Several interesting hybrid waterfowl were observed this season. Observers carefully recorded information on banded birds in several counties and supplied their observations to researchers, providing insight about the movements within and outside of the state.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** is annual but still notable and local in the state. When this species occurs away from the expected southeast, it's met with high interest. The only western county that reported them was *Bedford*; two in *Monroe* provided a first county record. **Snow Goose**, recorded in 19 counties, is another species that is met with excitement away from the southeast. In the northwest, *Crawford* saw its largest flock in a long time, if ever, and even more unusual, the majority of birds in the flock were blue morph. A large flock of 200 were observed in migration from the Erie Hawk Watch, a bonus for those searching for raptors,

and *Wyoming* observers recorded a large flock feeding in a field. A report in *Centre* was a rare event. With an exploding population in recent years, reports may continue to increase statewide. Observers in *Montgomery* noted banded birds and submitted the band numbers; read the county report to discover the origins of these birds. A **Ross's Goose** in *Monroe* was a first and a rare blue morph was in *Northampton*. A **Snow x Ross's Goose** was an interesting find in *Montgomery*. **Cackling Goose** was reported in 11 counties. A **Barnacle Goose** continued from the winter in *Lehigh*. Invasive **Mute Swans** were in nine counties. **Trumpeter Swan** reports are becoming regular as introduced populations become established. Observers are also becoming better skilled at identifying this species with its increased presence in the state, moreover many individuals stay in the same place during the winter months and allow prolonged study. A banded bird in *Centre* was struck by a car and taken to a rehabilitator. A banded **Canada Goose** in *Bucks* was another tagged bird reported to researchers; check the *Bucks* report for details.

Waterfowl were in great variety in the early part of the season where there was open water. Numbers of some species were higher than normal and there were some interesting hybrids. Large numbers of **Northern Pintails** were in *Bedford*, *Bucks*, and *York*. **Eurasian Wigeon** appeared as they often do in spring and were reported in five counties. *Lancaster* was the hotspot with four reports from different locations. Males are obviously relatively easy to

find among the American Wigeon but one wonders how many females are also present and overlooked due to the difficulty in separating them from female American Wigeon. Careful observation in the future may add more females to our state records. Speaking of careful observation, a **Common (Eurasian) Teal** was found once again this spring in *Lebanon*, furnishing a second county record there. A very interesting and striking peach-faced **American Wigeon** (a plumage variant also known as the "Storm Wigeon") was studied and photographed in *Lancaster*. **Common Mergansers** continued to expand as a breeding species in the state; *Allegheny* recorded its first breeding record this spring and a pair bred in a second location in *Butler*. Several interesting hybrid waterfowl included a **Gadwall x Mallard** in *Berks*, the fairly common **American Black Duck x Mallard** in four counties, and a **Redhead x Ring-necked Duck** present for nearly a week and well photographed in *Allegheny*. A female **Harlequin Duck** graced the Allegheny River in *Warren* where it was photographed. All three species of scoters were present with **Black Scoter** in only five counties. **White-winged Scoters** were widespread (21 counties) for the second early spring in a row; high counts were made in *Centre* and *Chester*. **Long-tailed Ducks** were in impressive numbers in *Armstrong*, *Butler*, *Dauphin*, and particularly *Mercer*. **Bufflehead** appeared in high numbers in *Allegheny*, *Armstrong*, *Beaver*, and *Butler*. A localized fallout occurred in western Pennsylvania in late April as *Allegheny*



and *Butler* had high counts on the same day. A fallout in *Beaver* occurred in mid-April. A female **Barrow's Goldeneye** in *Northampton* continued from the winter into the early part of this season and was observed and photographed by many. **Hooded Mergansers** bred for the first time in *Greene*.

Released **Northern Bobwhites** were reported in three counties. Visiting some of the last strongholds for this species in *Chester* during the PSO Meeting was sobering, knowing they are extirpated and once thrived in those areas.

**Red-throated Loons** were in 18 counties; a group of 17 was notable in *Dauphin*. Though **Common Loons** are regular migrants, large concentrations are rare in the state. Fallouts occurred on different days at Shenango Reservoir in *Mercer* where 150 were counted and in *Somerset* where 61 were tallied at the Quemahoning Reservoir. A raft of 35 in *Butler* provided an excellent count. There was a minor invasion of **Red-necked Grebes** this year with reports in 21 counties, compared to last year's extensive invasion when they were reported in 36 counties. The high count of 9 came from *Lebanon*. Five reports of **Eared Grebe** were submitted. In addition to the high number of Common Loons in *Mercer*, a great count of 100 **Horned Grebes** was recorded at the underbirded Lake Wilhelm at Goddard State Park.

A very interesting white-crested **Double-crested Cormorant**, two of them, actually, were noted in *Bucks* in April. Readers are referred to the *Bucks* report for more details on this intriguing record, which may well result in a change to the eBird database's list of field identifiable forms for this species. *Bucks* and *Delaware* contributed their annual **Great Cormorants** for the season along the Delaware River. Some very happy PSO members were fortunate to spot an **Anhinga** while attending a field trip at John Heinz Refuge in *Philadelphia*. In addition, many in the group had cameras and were able to capture some of the best photographs of this rarity in the state. A single **American White Pelican** was in *Erie* appropriately during The Festival of Birds weekend, and 2 were in *Lancaster*.

Herons and egrets were well represented. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were detected in 12 counties. They provided rare records in *Allegheny* and *Blair* and only the second known record in *Cambria*. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** returned to the breeding site in Harrisburg and were in five other counties. The secretive **Least Bittern** was in seven counties. Although regular in spring, **Snowy Egrets** followed the typical pattern of few reports. Three were in *Bucks* and one in *York*. The only **Little**

**Blue Heron** was in *York*. Two **Cattle Egrets** were found this spring: one in *Bucks* and one in *Westmoreland*, the latter during the PAMC. Nine counties reporting **Glossy Ibis** included at least 10 in *Berks* and one that remained in *Crawford* for four days, the only one found in the western part of the state.

**Black Vultures** continue to be seen with increasing regularity in southwestern Pennsylvania. Reports this season were made in *Bedford*, *Fayette*, *Greene*, *Somerset*, and *Westmoreland*. Northern tier birds were seen in *Erie* and *Susquehanna*. A banded bird was spotted in *Bucks*. **Golden Eagles** were reported in 15 counties, many at hawkwatches. One was photographed by a trail cam in *Lebanon*, and *Venango* recorded its third ever. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was observed at the hawkwatch in *Erie*, the second at that location. *Chester* continues to be the **Mississippi Kite** magnet for reasons that are not completely clear; five reports included six birds at the Bucktoe Creek Preserve for the season. One was at the Erie Hawkwatch, 2 were in *Lancaster* and single birds were in *Cumberland*, *Delaware*, and *York*. **Northern Goshawks** were reported in five counties including an unexpected bird in *Delmont*, *Westmoreland*. All the other reports were from the higher elevations and forested north. A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** continued in western *Allegheny*.

**Common Gallinules** were reported locally in only five counties, and **Sandhill Cranes** were in 17 counties.

Although fall is the best season for shorebirds in Pennsylvania, the spring often has its share of highlights. **Black-bellied Plovers** pass through in small numbers in spring, drifters from their main migration route up the Mississippi River. Even more unlikely in spring due to their main passage through the Great Plains were two **American Golden-Plovers** in *Erie*. A **Wilson's Plover** was photographed at Gull Point. An exceptional find, it represented the fifth record for *Erie* and the first state record since 1976! According to the *Annotated List of the Birds of Pennsylvania, Second Edition* by Frank and Barb Haas, there are only ten records from the 20th century. Unfortunately it only remained for a day. **Semipalmated Plover** is a regular migrant, but a flock of 105 in *Somerset* was quite notable. A **Piping Plover** was also at Gull Point this season; this species has been an annual visitor to the area in recent years. The restoration and management of the point to preserve and protect shorebird habitat has certainly had a positive effect. Perhaps the Piping Plover will return as a breeding species in the future. Two **Black-necked Stilts** were reported, one in *Bedford* and one in *York*, the first since

2013. Six **American Avocets** were in *Westmoreland*. **Willetts** were in five counties with an amazing 65 in *Somerset* 5/5, tying the total of 65 at that location in 2014. That total also surpassed all other double figure counts that include 17 in *Venango* in 2004, 16 in *Allegheny* in 2006, 41 in *Centre* in 2008, 14 in *Clarion* in 2010, 15 in *Lancaster* in 2010, 48 in *Lebanon* in 2010, 11 in *Erie* in 2012, 30 in *Indiana* in 2014 and 23 in *Erie* in 2014. Another Willet in *Bucks* 4/21 was quite possibly of the eastern subspecies, which has never been confirmed in the state before. That record is under PORC review. **Upland Sandpipers** were found in just six counties, and are regular breeders in three of those. Six **Whimbrels** were seen migrating over *Chester* and one was in *Somerset*. A **Marbled Godwit** was an exciting find in *Somerset*. There are only eight spring records for the state since 1992. **Ruddy Turnstones** away from Lake Erie were in *Bedford*, *Crawford* and *Somerset*, as well as in *Chester*, where impressive flocks were noted in migration over the Bucktoe Creek Preserve and over West Chester, apparently having lifted off from their staging grounds along the Delaware Bay to continue migrating north. Similarly, **Sanderlings** are regular along the Lake Erie shore, so reports from *Bedford* and *Washington* were unusual. **White-rumped Sandpipers** were in four counties and **Baird's Sandpipers** were reported in one, another unusual spring migrant. A banded **Semipalmated Sandpiper** in *Centre* was reported to the banding lab; read the county report for its origin. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were in 10 counties including a great count of 17 in *Laurence* and 14 in *Crawford*. Rare in spring with only five records since 1992, a **Long-billed Dowitcher** spent a few days in *Crawford* where it was photographed. **Wilson's** and **Red-necked Phalaropes** were in four counties each.

**Black-headed Gulls** moved through along the Susquehanna as usual this spring. Reports lasted for over a week in *Dauphin* and one was in *Lancaster*. **Little Gulls** follow a similar pattern and were in *Dauphin* and *Lancaster* where up to 8 were seen. Two separate sightings provided second and third records in both *Allegheny* and *Beaver*, and 5 was the season total in *Erie*. Single reports came from *Lycoming*, *Somerset*, and *Venango* (second county record). **Thayer's Gulls** were reported only in *Erie*. **Glaucous Gulls** were in seven counties with *Lycoming* and *Washington* recording their firsts for this species, a consequence of the harsh winter. **Great Black-backed Gulls** were also more widespread than usual in the early part of the season as the winter

conditions lingered. One bird on the Monongahela River 3/6 provided both a second county record in *Washington* and a first in *Westmoreland*. **Iceland Gulls** followed a similar pattern and resulted in a first for *Lycoming*, *Washington*, and *Westmoreland*. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were in 15 counties. *Bucks* provided the high count once again, 397. Three in *Crawford* was a great total for that county, 14 were in *Erie* on a single day, and *Lycoming* and *Venango* observers recorded them for the first time.

The striking **Black Tern** was in 11 counties and **Common Terns** were in 12. Once again **Common Tern** attempted to nest in *Erie*. A **Parasitic Jaeger** was an exciting find in *Bucks* and quite unusual for spring.

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** were in four counties and continued to be regularly seen in *Franklin*.

**Barn Owls** were in seven counties, most were reported at known breeding sites. **Snowy Owls** were not widespread this winter; only birds in *Berks* and *Erie* lingered into March. **Long-eared Owls** in four counties were also holdovers at winter roosts in most cases. **Short-eared Owls** were in 10 counties and **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were in eight.

For the sixth consecutive year, the returning **Chuck-wills-widow** in *Lebanon* keeps hoping to find a mate. The site fidelity must be strong for this bird, which is believed to be the same individual returning every year. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were in 16 counties including an impressive count of 34 in *Lebanon*. The striking **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found in 21 counties. **Merlins** nested again in *Bradford*, *Erie* and *Luzerne*.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were perhaps under reported with only eight county reports. A **Say's Phoebe** was photographed in *Tioga* and entered into ebird. An interesting apparent **Eastern x Western Kingbird** was photographed in *Berks*. **Fish Crow** continued in small numbers in counties away from the southeast, such as *Allegheny* and *Indiana*. Two in *Bradford* were unusual. **Northern Shrikes** were only in three counties and all were holdovers from the winter season. **Marsh Wrens** were in 10 counties.

The amazing and well documented **European Robin** from the winter in *Bucks* continued into early March.

**Snow Bunting** and **Lapland Longspur** are two species strongly associated with windswept snow fields in winter, but they do often hang on into March—and this March was still snowy and windswept—so they made the spring reports for several counties. A high count of 40 **Lapland Longspurs** was reported in *Mercer*.

The trend for the neo-tropical migration was repeated in the county reports: a good start early in May and a very slow remainder of the season. The slowness made for a PAMC that had observers looking hard for migrants. Nevertheless, our dedicated volunteers were undaunted and contributed much valuable data for the count. Although most states dropped this project, Pennsylvania remains of the few states with such dedicated participation. Although it's not a national activity as it once was, it's still an important set of data that can now be archived in eBird and this journal and used to track and tabulate migrant and resident birds.

Nesting **Prothonotary Warblers** are concentrated in the southeast and a few are in the northwest. A few counties reported migrants such as *Allegheny*, *Beaver*, *Cumberland*, *Delaware*, and *Juniata*. Uncommon in spring, **Orange-crowned Warblers** were found in *Mercer* and *Montgomery*. **Golden-winged Warblers** were in 15 counties. The only **Connecticut Warbler** was reported in *York* this year. **Brewster's Warblers** were in five counties and **Lawrence's Warblers** were in two.

**Clay colored Sparrows** returned to the usual breeding sites in *Clarion*. Migrants were in *Erie*, *Lancaster* and *Lycoming*. Another unusual spring migrant, a **Nelson's Sparrow**, was found in *Huntington*. The **Harris's Sparrow** that wintered in *Northampton* remained into the first few days of May. There was an eBird report of another Harris's (with photos made available by request) in *Tioga* in early May. A **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** that wintered in the same *Northampton* location as the Harris's Sparrow also continued into the spring season. A female **Dark-eyed Junco** found dead in *Berks* was wearing a band—check the *Berks* report for more details.

A male **Summer Tanager** visited a feeder in *Berks* and a pair was noted at another *Berks* location most of May. One was photographed at Presque Isle State Park in *Erie* and one in *Lebanon* provided that count with its fourth record. An orange variant **Scarlet Tanager** was in *Adams*.

**Blue Grosbeaks** were in 11 counties. Reports of **Dickcissel** were a bit unusual in that three of those were via detection of nocturnal flight calls, those in *Allegheny*, *Chester*, and *Montgomery*. They were found at two locations in *Chester* in May and were enjoyed by PSO Annual Meeting attendees during field trips at a grassland preserve. Single birds were also found at two locations in *Lancaster*.

**Rusty Blackbird** high counts included 200 in *Crawford*, 180 in *Lancaster*, at least 50 in *Lebanon*, and 88

in *Luzerne*. A female **Brewer's Blackbird** visited a feeder briefly in April in *Allegheny* but unfortunately didn't return. The **Bullock's Oriole** wintering in *Montgomery* remained into mid-April and a **Baltimore Oriole** wintered in *Bucks*. Amazingly, another **Baltimore Oriole** was in *Bucks* in late March, either an extremely early migrant or another wintering bird.

There was a subdued northern finch invasion this past winter that included **Pine Siskins** and **Common Redpolls**. Both species remained into the spring period and were widespread in small numbers; however there were a few impressive flocks. **Pine Siskins** were in 34 county reports, but were likely found in nearly every county in the state this past winter and spring. Large flocks included more than 200 in *Dauphin* and 200 in *Montgomery*. As if often the case following these invasions, some remained to breed, this year in *Chester* at least. In *Crawford*, birds were observed gathering nesting material. In several counties this species lingered into May. **Common Redpolls** were not nearly as widespread, reported in 16 counties. Most were observed at feeders and most were single birds. Five were in Altoona in *Blair*, 20 were in *Crawford* at the Erie National Wildlife Refuge, 37 was the top count at one location in *Bradford* and 36 visited a feeder in Northeast in *Erie*. There were two **Red Crossbills** reported, one in *Centre* in March and one in *Clarion* in early May.

Reports were submitted from 49 counties. As always we thank our hard working county compilers for all they do!

805 Beulah Road,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235  
mpfial@verizon.net

## Birds of Note – March through May 2015

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.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – *Bedford*: 3 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 3/18-20 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: one at Hilltown Twp. 3/11 (August Mirabella); *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 3/15 (Andrew Leidig); *Dauphin*: three in Derry Twp. 3/8 (Chris Moyer *vide* Alex Lamoreaux), one at Wildwood Lake 3/16 (Lauren Shaffer), one at West Fairview 3/17 (Ed Bernot, Alex Lamoreaux), and one in Hershey 3/22 (Paige Morabito); *Lancaster*: one at Muddy Run 3/8 (Tom Raub); *Lycoming*: one in Pennsdale 3/15 (David Brown, Eric Hartshaw, Maddi Dunlap, Jean Klotz); *Monroe*: 2 at Weir Lake 3/25-26 (Jason Horn, ph. Rich Rehrig); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 3/22-23 (Kenneth Rieker, Ken Orner); *Northampton*: one in Hanover 4/15 (Ed Vermillion).

**Ross's Goose** – *Berks*: 2 at Lake Ontelaunee 3/19 (Rudy Keller); *Chester*: one at Chambers Lake 3/13 (Rick Robinson); *Lancaster*: a few at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/14 (Chad Kauffman); *Lebanon*: 2 at Campbelltown 3/15 (Timothy Becker), one at Meadow Lane and Forney Road Area 3/16-17 (Randy Miller, Mike Dale), and one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 3/22 (Bruce Carl); *Mercer*: one at Shenango Wildlife Area 3/14-28 (Mark Vass, m.ob.), and possibly the same bird was at Lake Wilhelm 3/19 (Neil Troyer); *Monroe*: one at Cherry Valley 3/23 (Rick Wiltraut, ph. Mike Schall), first county record; *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 3/18-27 and 2 there 3/24 (August Mirabella, m.ob.); *Northampton*: a blue morph in East Allen Township 3/22 (ph. Dustin Welch).

**Snow Goose x Ross's Goose** – *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 3/18-27 (August Mirabella, m.ob.).

**Barnacle Goose\*** – *Lehigh*: one at the Tillage Road vernal pond 3/17 (Chris Hugosson, Jason Horn, *no doc*).

**Trumpeter Swan** – *Bedford*: 2 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 3/18-19 (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: one Lake Towhee Park 5/3 (Paul Teese); *Centre*: one at Milesburg continued from winter into the spring season; *Clinton*: one at Lock Haven 5/18 (Jeannine Lipez); *Crawford*: one in the Pymatuning Area 5/2 (Randy Stringer); *Erie*: one around Presque Isle Bay through the season (m.ob.); *Huntingdon*: one at Raystown Lake for most of April (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 3/21 (Mike Epler); *Mercer*: one at Tieline Road 4/21 and probably the same bird at Williamson Road 5/30 (Neil Troyer); *Somerset*: one on the Youghiogheny River 3/9 (Anthony Marich); *Venango*: one at Wyattville Pond 3/18 (Jerry Stanley).

**Eurasian Wigeon** – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/21-4/12 (Steve Fordyce, et al.); *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek State Park 3/22 (Holly Merker, m.ob.); *Crawford*: one near the Pymatuning Hartstown Project 3/24-4/14 (Shawn Collins, Andy Kiester); *Erie*: one and Edinboro Lake 3/31 (Randy Stringer); *Lancaster*: one at Riverfront Park 3/16-27 (Mike Epler, Larry Bernhardt, Meredith Lombard, m.ob.) was

joined by another 3/22 (Meredith Lombard), one at Middle Creek WMA 3/18-21 (Toby Petersheim, Peter Saenger, Barb Ritzheimer, m.ob.), and one at the Conejohela Flats 3/22 (Meredith Lombard); *Mercer*: one at Shenango Wildlife Area 3/21-4/1 (Richard Nugent).

**Gadwall x Mallard** – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/23-4/6 (Rudy Keller).

***Green-winged (Common) Teal*\*** – *Lebanon*: one at Reistville and Prescott Road Ponds 4/1-2 (Stan Stahl, *no doc*), second county record.

**Redhead x Ring-necked Duck** – *Allegheny*: one at Duck Hollow 3/25-31 (ph. David Poortinga).

***Harlequin Duck*\*** – *Warren*: one on the Allegheny River in Warren 3/14 (Stephen Dowlan, *doc submitted*).

**Black Scoter** – *Allegheny*: one at the Point in Pittsburgh 3/6 (David Yeany), and one in Sharpsburg 3/17-31 (Bill Brown, m.ob.); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle SP 4/27 (Joe Verica); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Causeway 4/4 (Ronald Leberman); *Dauphin*: on the Susquehanna River 4/20-21 (Deuane Hoffman, Ian Gardner, Ed Bernot); *Lycoming*: 2 at Rose Valley Lake 4/20 (Andy Keister); *Northampton*: 10 at Minsi Lake 4/17 (Scott Angus).

**Barrow's Goldeneye\*** – *Northampton*: one continued from the winter to 3/9 (Todd Fellenbaum, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

**Northern Bobwhite** – *Bedford*: heard below the Allegheny Front for three weeks in April (*vide* Tom Dick); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (Bruce Carl) and 2 there 5/9 (Jonathan Campbell); *York*: one at Fairview Twp. 5/1 (Dean Newhouse) and one at Carroll Twp. 5/20-21 (Georgia Kagle).

**Eared Grebe\*** – *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 4/20-21 (Ed Bernot, Nancy Juris, Carl Juris, et al., *doc submitted*) and one there 5/10 (Nancy Juris, Carl Juris, *no doc*); *Erie*: one at the foot of East Avenue 4/6 (Bob Grubbs, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek Management Area 4/11-15 (Randy Miller, Bruce Carl, Ted Nichols II, Pamela Fisher, Michael Gardner, *no doc*); *Mercer*: one at Lake Wilhelm 4/11 (Jeff Brinker, *no doc*); *York*: one probable at Lake Redman 3/24 (Chuck Kling, *no doc*).

**Double-crested Cormorant (white-crested)** – *Bucks*: a white-crested individual at Peace Valley Park 4/7 (Ray Hendrick) and 4/11-14 (ph. August Mirabella, Judy Mirabella, *doc submitted*), with a second bird joining the first 4/14.

**Anhinga\*** – *Philadelphia*: one flying over John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge during a PSO field trip 5/30 (Annette Mathes, George Armistead, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

**American White Pelican** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/9 (George Armistead); *Lancaster*: two at the Conejohela Flats 4/11-13 (Bruce Carl, et al.).

**Least Bittern** – *Cumberland*: one at Huntsdale Hidden Pond 5/13 (Vern Gauthier, Ted Nichols); *Dauphin*: one at

Wildwood Lake 5/21 (Ed Bernot); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 5/18 (Al Guarente); *Erie*: one at Niagara Pond at Presque Isle State Park 5/18 (Russ States); *Juniata*: one at Kratzers Ponds 5/2 (Chad Kauffman, Ramsay Koury, Annette Matthes, Aden Troyer); *Northampton*: one at the Gremar Road Ponds 5/17 (Matt Sabatine); *Philadelphia*: at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge beginning 4/30 (Mike Rosengarten); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 5/14 (Mike Lanzone).

**Snowy Egret** – *Bucks*: 3 at Bristol 5/9 (Stephen Boyle); *York*: one at Lake Redman 4/26-27 (Dick Cleary, Kathryn Grasso, Carolyn Mathur, Ted Nichols).

**Little Blue Heron** – *York*: one at Ski Roundtop 5/19 (Carolyn Hoffman).

**Cattle Egret\*** – *Bucks*: one at Oxford Valley Park and Lake Caroline 5/1 (Jessica Pellen, *doc submitted*); *Westmoreland*: one at Crabtree 5/9 (Mark McConaughy, *doc submitted*).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Bucks*: one probable heard at Quakertown Swamp 4/2 and 2 there 5/3-7 (Devich Farbotnik); *Cumberland*: one at West Fairview 5/9 (Stefan Karkuff) and 3 there 5/24 (Ted Nichols); *Dauphin*: nested again in midtown Harrisburg beginning 4/1 (Ian Gardner, Ted Nichols, m.ob.); *Lancaster*: one at Ephrata Hospital 4/15-5/22 (Adrian Melck, Bruce Carl, Zach Millen, m.ob.); *Lebanon*: one at Mt. Gretna 4/25 (Evelyn Hostetter, Sid Hostetter); *Montgomery*: one at Norristown Dam 5/16 (Michael Tanis, Stephen Kacir, Michael Lyman).

**Glossy Ibis** – *Berks*: one at Gotwall's Pond 4/10-12 (Steve Fordyce, m.ob.), and 10-15 flying along Rte. 222 near Leesport 5/25 (Steve Ferreri); *Bucks*: 2 at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/16 (Devich Farbotnik, Billy Weber); *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 5/14-18 (m.ob.); *Dauphin*: one in Marysville 5/10 (Ian Gardner) and 2 flying up the Susquehanna River north of Harrisburg 5/23 (Ed Bernot); *Franklin*: one near Exit 20 on I-81 near Scotland 4/20 (Vonnie Barnhart); *Lancaster*: 9 at the Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands 4/12-13 (Chris Markiewicz, Mark Markiewicz, Brian Harris) with one apparently injured bird remaining to 5/2; *Lebanon*: one at Reistville and Prescott Road Ponds 4/6-12 (Randy Miller, Bruce Carl, Fritz Heilman, Jim Fiorentino, Deuane Hoffman, m.ob.); *Northampton*: one at Green Pond 5/4 (Dave DeReamus); *Philadelphia*: flocks of up to 9 at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 5/13-23 (Frank Windfelder, Damon Orsetti, et al.);

**Swallow-tailed Kite\*** – *Erie*: one at the Presque Isle Hawkwatch 5/9 (Jerry McWilliams, *no doc*).

**Mississippi Kite\*** – *Chester*: up to 6 at Bucktoe Creek Preserve in May (Larry Lewis, et al., *no doc*), one at Longwood Gardens 5/20 (Larry Lewis, Laura Wagner, *no doc*), one at Nottingham County Park 5/30 (Scott Stoleson, et al., *no doc*), one at the Gordon Tract of West Chester University 5/30 (Mike Lanzone, Trish Miller, Nick Biss, *no doc*), and one at Nottingham County Park 5/31 (John Fedak, et al., *no doc*); *Cumberland*: one flying over Big Spring 4/13 (Vern Gauthier, *no doc*); *Delaware*: one over Swarthmore 5/30 (David Eberly, *no doc*); *Erie*: one at the Presque Isle Hawkwatch 5/25 (Jerry McWilliams, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one over Lloyd Roland Park 4/25 (Bruce Carl, *doc submitted*) and one over Peach Bottom 5/1 (Bob Schutsky, *no doc*); *Northampton*: one subadult at the Koch Property 3/31 (Arlene Koch, *no doc*); *York*: one over Arcona 4/29 (Deuane Hoffman, *no doc*).

**Northern Goshawk** – *Bedford*: one tallied for the season at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (Tom Dick); *Jefferson*: one in Clear Creek State Forest 5/23 (Steve Gosser); *Schuylkill*: one at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary 4/7 (Laurie Goodrich); *Somerset*: one at Hidden Acres Farm 4/25 (Sally Dick); *Westmoreland*: one in Delmont 3/29 (Ken Byerly).

**Common Gallinule** – *Bedford*: one at Dunning's Creek

Wetlands 5/22 (Tom Dick); *Bradford*: one at Mount Pisgah State Park 5/8-9 (Lewis Frederick); *Crawford*: one at State Game Lands 277 from 5/5-15 (Randy Stringer, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow, Rob Hodgson); *Luzerne*: one at Susquehanna Riverlands 4/7 (Rick Koval), one at Plymouth Flats 4/26 (Kevin Ripka); *Lycoming*: up to 3 at State Game Lands 252 from 4/29-5/17 (David Brown, Deb Brown, Bobby Brown); *Northampton*: one at the Gremar Road Ponds 5/17 (ph. Matt Sabatine).

**Black-bellied Plover** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/9 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: one at the Linesville Fish Hatchery 5/9 (Bruce Kiester, Barbara Kiester); *Dauphin*: one nocturnal migrant heard in South Hanover Township 5/9 (Ian Gardner); *Somerset*: 3 at Somerset Lake 5/13 (Nick Biss, Mike Lanzone) and one remaining 5/15 (Carolyn Payne, Jeff Payne).

**American Golden Plover** – *Erie*: one or 2 at Presque Isle State Park 5/9 and 5/12 (Shannon Thompson, Mary Birdsong).

**Wilson's Plover\*** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/26 (Mary Birdsong, m.ob., *doc submitted*), fifth county record.

**Piping Plover\*** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle State Park 5/4-14 (Mary Birdsong, *no doc*).

**Black-necked Stilt\*** – *York*: one at Lake Redman 3/26 (Dick Cleary, *doc submitted*).

**American Avocet** – *Westmoreland*: 6 at Beaver Run Reservoir 4/27 (ph. Mark McConaughy).

**Willet** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 4/21 (August Mirabella) was possibly of the eastern subspecies (*doc submitted*), fourth county record; *Erie*: one at Gull Point 5/5 (Mary Birdsong) and one at Lake LeBoeuf 5/21 (Bonnie Ginader); *Somerset*: 65 at Somerset Lake 5/5 (Mike Lanzone) and 7 at Somerset Lake 5/12-13 (Mike Lanzone, Jeff Payne); *York*: one at Lake Redman 5/18 (Dick Cleary).

**Upland Sandpiper** – *Butler*: 2 at State Gamelands 95 on 4/25 and 3 at the Barkeyville Grasslands 5/29 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Clarion*: returned to Mt. Airy 4/25 (Carole Winslow, m.ob.); *Crawford*: 2 in the Pymatuning Area beginning 4/8 (Nancy Anderson, m.ob.); *Montgomery*: one at the Graterford Grasslands 4/22 (Paul Driver); *Somerset*: present at Fort Hill 5/9 (Margaret Higbee) and 2 in the northeastern county 5/9 (Jeff Payne, Alan Peterson, Chris Payne, Kim VanFleet); *Venango*: first noted at Barkeyville 4/24 (Gary Edwards).

**Whimbrel** – *Chester*: 6 in flight over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/27 (Larry Lewis, et al.); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 5/27 (Mike Lanzone, Jeff Payne, Andy McGann).

**Marbled Godwit** – *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 5/5 (Mike Lanzone, ph. Jeff Payne, Andy McGann).

**Ruddy Turnstone** – *Chester*: a flock of 150 over Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Larry Lewis, et al.) and a flock of 83 over West Chester 5/29 (Holly Merker); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Causeway 5/9 (Bruce Kiester, Barbara Kiester); *Erie*: recorded around Presque Isle 5/16-30 (m.ob.); *Somerset*: 3 at Somerset Lake 5/13 (Nick Biss, Jeff Payne).

**Red Knot** – *Chester*: a flock of 27 over West Chester 5/29 (Holly Merker).

**Sanderling** – *Erie*: one or 2 at Gull Point 5/10-17 (Geoff Malosh, Jerry McWilliams, et al.); *Washington*: 2 at Bentleyville 5/31 (Roy Ickes).

**White-rumped Sandpiper** – *Berks*: one at School Road Fleetwood Pond 5/5 (Ken Lebo, Mike Slater); *Centre*: one at Coyer Lake 5/17 (Mark Bonta); *Lebanon*: one at Snitz Creek Park 5/8 (Randy Miller, Chuck Berthoud).

**Baird's Sandpiper** – *Franklin*: one at Long Lane Pond 5/23 (Carl Garner).

**Long-billed Dowitcher** – *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 4/19-25 (Randy Stringer, Clare Nicolls, Walt Shaffer).

**Wilson's Phalarope** – *Bucks*: a female at Bradford Dam 5/16 (ph. August Mirabella); *Crawford*: 3 at Marsh Road 4/18 (Ron Leberman), one at Miller Ponds 5/18 (Mark Vass, ph.

Geoff Malosh); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 5/6 (Ed Bernot); *Lawrence*: one at Black Swamp 5/22 (Dave Inman).

**Red-necked Phalarope** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/31 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 5/9 (Eric Witmer); *Lycoming*: one at Mill Street 5/11 (ph. Eric Hartshaw); *Montgomery*: one at Dixon Meadow Preserve 5/28 (Bill Murphy, m.ob.).

**Black-headed Gull\*** – *Dauphin*: one at Marysville 3/27-4/10 (Ted Nichols, Vern Gauthier, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna River 4/11 (Mike Epler, *no doc*).

**Little Gull** – *Allegheny*: 2 adults at Dashields Dam 3/16 and one second summer bird there 4/27 (ph. Geoff Malosh), second and third county records; *Beaver*: same birds as in *Allegheny* that flew over the county line into *Beaver*, second and third county records; *Bucks*: one at Morrisville 4/12 (Mark Gallagher), seventh county record; *Dauphin*: one at West Fairview 3/27 (Jason Horn, Matt Sabatine) though 4/15; *Erie*: a season total of 5 from 4/23-5/8 (Jerry McWilliams, George Armistead); *Lancaster*: up to 8 on the Susquehanna River 3/12-4/12 (m.ob.); *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 4/17 (David Brown); *Northumberland*: one on the Susquehanna at Port Treverton 4/9 (Brandon Martin); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 5/5 (Mike Lanzone); *Venango*: one at Wyattville Pond 4/27 (Jerry Stanley), second county record.

**Thayer's Gull\*** – *Erie*: up to 3 at Presque Isle State Park 3/15-18 (Jerry McWilliams, *no doc*).

**Glaucous Gull** – *Allegheny*: continued from the winter to 3/11 (Amy Henrici, Pat McShea); *Bucks*: eight reports through 5/2 (m.ob.); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Causeway 3/27 (Ron Leberman) and one at Pymatuning 4/16 (Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke); *Erie*: a total of 18 for the season through 5/2 (Jerry McWilliams, et al.); *Lancaster*: one on the Susquehanna River 3/7-10 (Rob Dickerson, Ian Garner, Chad Kauffman, m.ob.); *Lycoming*: one at Williamsport 3/24 (David Brown); *Washington*: one at Charleroi 3/6 (Roy Ickes), first county record.

**Parasitic Jaeger\*** – *Bucks*: one at Bradford Dam 5/31 (ph. Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** – *Berks*: 2 at Shartlesville the entire season; *Chester*: one at Marshallton 5/30 (John Fedak); *Cumberland*: one north of Newville 4/27 (Vern Gauthier, Ted Nichols), 2 there 5/13 (Annette Mathes, Susan Strassner) and one near Short Lane 5/12 (Deuane Hoffman, Ted Nichols); *Franklin*: regularly seen in the Shady Grove area, Waynesboro, and Newcastle (Dale Gearhart).

**Barn Owl** – *Bucks*: one found dead 3/19 (Devich Farbotnik) and one heard 3/20; *Chester*: one in an undisclosed location (Kevin Fryberger) and one heard in the Unionville area 4/12 (Kelley Nunn); *Dauphin*: three active nests during the season at Milton S. Hershey School campus (Nate McKelvie); *Franklin*: returned to a nest box near St. Thomas 3/25 (Dale Gearhart); *Lebanon*: one in the Lawn area 5/8 (Gordon Dimmig); *Lycoming*: nesting at White Deer Valley (Andy Keister); *Somerset*: one at Buffalo Creek (Alan Peterson, Chris Payne, Jeff Payne, Kim VanFleet).

**Snowy Owl** – *Berks*: one in Hamburg 3/11 (David Hughes) and 3/26 (Terry Shaffer); *Erie*: one in Union City from the winter season to 3/3 (Donna Peters).

**Long-eared Owl** – *Bucks*: present from the winter to 3/16 at Peace Valley Park (August Mirabella); *Chester*: reported from East Pikeland Twp 3/16 (Holly Merker), Great Marsh 3/15 (Mike Coulter), Waterloo Mills Preserve 3/23 (Kevin Fryberger) and Longwood Gardens 3/30-4/2 (m.ob.); *Delaware*: one heard at Drexel Hill 3/24 (Bill Roache); *Erie*: 2 at Presque Isle State Park 4/11 (Roger Donn); *Northampton*: one at Martins Creek 3/29 (Michael Schall, Corinne Campbell Schall); *Philadelphia*: up to 5 at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge 3/8-19 (Vincent Nicknadowicz, Kim Gruener, et al.).

**Chuck-wills-widow\*** – *Lebanon*: one returned for the sixth year at Fort Indiantown Gap 4/29 (Tom Johnson, Kathy Becker, Timothy Becker, Ted Nichols, *doc previously submitted*).

**Say's Phoebe\*** – *Tioga*: one at Marsh Creek Road 4/12 (Lisa Sumner, ebird, *no doc*).

**Eastern x Western Kingbird\*** – *Berks*: one photographed at State Game Lands 106 on 5/10 was possibly a hybrid (Thomas Buehl, Jr., Jaimee Buehl).

**Northern Shrike** – *Allegheny*: present from the winter up to 3/18 (Mike Fialkovich); *Crawford*: one at the Linesville Fish Hatchery 3/14 (Ron Leberman) and one at Erie National Wildlife Refuge 3/19 (Randy Stringer); *Lancaster*: one from the winter to 3/22 at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (Bruce Carl, Jim Fiorentino).

**European Robin\*** – *Bucks*: one continued from the winter season to 3/7 in Lower Makefield Twp. (Pam Newitt, *doc submitted*).

**Orange-crowned Warbler** – *Mercer*: one at Nicklin Lane 5/7 (Neil Troyer); *Montgomery*: one at Evansburg State Park 5/7 (W. Brian Henderson).

**Connecticut Warbler** – *York*: one at Rocky Ridge County Park 5/9 (Jean Prescott).

**Brewster's Warbler** – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 5/9 (Sarah Hungerford); *Centre*: one at Scotia Barrens 5/9-26 (Jordan Hillsley, et al.); *Dauphin*: one at Stony Creek Valley 5/9 (Ian Gardner); *Lebanon*: one at State Game Lands 145 on 4/30 (Timothy Becker); *Venango*: single birds at two locations 5/4 (Meg Kolodick, Russ States).

**Lawrence's Warbler** – *Allegheny*: one at Boyce-Mayview Park 5/4 (Ryan Tomazin); *Berks*: one at State Game Lands 106 on 5/2 (David Hughes, Matt Wlasniewski).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** – *Clarion*: up to 4 at Curlsville Strips in May and single birds at Mt. Airy and Mt. Zion beginning 5/16 (Carole Winslow, m.ob.); *Erie*: one at the Ranger's Station at Presque Isle State Park 5/9 (Dave Janetski) and one at the East Pier in Erie 5/14 (Kevin Parsons, Kelly Parsons); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area 5/23 (Bruce Carl, m.ob.); *Lycoming*: one at the Susquehanna River Walk at Williamsport 5/9 (Joe Yoder, Meredith Lombard, Jean Klotz, Maddi Dunlap).

**Nelson's Sparrow** – *Huntingdon*: one at Old Crow Wetland 4/15 (David Kyler).

**Harris's Sparrow\*** – *Northampton*: one continued from the winter at the Koch residence to 5/5 (Arlene Koch, m.ob., *doc previously submitted*), *Tioga*: one just west of Mansfield 5/8 (*vide* Lisa Sumner, *no doc*).

**White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparrow\*** – *Northampton*: one continued from the winter at the Koch property to 3/13 (Arlene Koch, *no doc*).

**Summer Tanager\*** – *Berks*: a male visited a feeder in Birdsboro 5/8 (Harold Lebo, *no doc*) and a male singing near Reading 5/6-31 (Jay Drasher, *no doc*); *Erie*: one imm. male at Presque Isle State Park 5/10 (ph. Geoff Malosh, *doc submitted*); *Lebanon*: one near the Meadow Lane and Forney Road area 5/4 (Mike Dale, *no doc*).

**Dickcissel** – *Allegheny*: singles detected by nocturnal flight calls over Moon Twp. 5/18 and 5/28 (vr. Geoff Malosh); *Chester*: 4 in the Doe Run Region 5/25 (Zoe Warner), 2 at Runnymede Farm 5/15-31 (Barry Blust, m.ob.), and one heard on nocturnal migration in Unionville 5/29 (Kelley Nunn); *Lancaster*: one at Pilgrims Pathway 5/3 (Carlton Groff) and one on Umbletown Road 5/9 (Pamela Fisher); *Montgomery*: one detected by nocturnal flight calls over Elkins Park 5/8 (Paul Driver).

**Bullock's Oriole\*** – *Montgomery*: one that wintered in Gilbertsville for the fifth year remained to 4/12 (Mary Ache, *doc previously submitted*).

**Red Crossbill** – *Centre*: one at Sinking Creek 3/16 (Larry Ramsey); *Clarion*: one at SGL 72 on 5/5 (Mike Weible).

## Photographic Highlights



**American Wigeon (*Anas americana*).** This rare variant “white-cheeked” American Wigeon, also known as a Storm Wigeon, was among a flock of normal-looking kin at Riverfront Park, Lancaster 16 March 2015. (Meredith Lombard)



**Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*).** Always a treat to see and certainly always difficult to photograph well, this fine portrait of our state bird was made at Buzzard Swamp, Forest 16 March 2015. (Alyssa Karmann)



**Redhead x Ring-necked Duck.** This apparent male hybrid of Redhead and Ring-necked Duck (note the pattern of the back and the exaggerated black and white tip of the bill, on a bird with a red head) was present at Duck Hollow, Allegheny from 25 (here) to 31 March 2015, probably the first of its kind for Allegheny. (David Poortinga)



**Common Loon (*Gavia immer*).** This unfortunate loon found dead in a tree in Central Park, Bucks 24 April 2015 probably wrecked while trying to land at a nearby pond in bad weather, yet one more reminder of the harsh world birds must endure. (Tom Fahie)



**Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*).** This flock of 14 at Marsh Creek State Park, Chester 21 April 2015 was a good count for that county and date; Long-tails showed quite well again this spring in Pennsylvania following the very harsh winter. (Holly Merker)



**Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*).** This bird on the Allegheny River in downtown Pittsburgh 8 (here) to 11 March 2015 marked the second year in a row that a Red-throated appeared in the heart of the Steel City in late winter. (Glenn Koppel)



**Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*).** This bird with white crests was at Peace Valley Park, Bucks 7 to (here) 13 April 2014, and was joined by a second white-crested bird 14 April. Much discussion of this bird ensued as to whether it was of the western *albociliatus* subspecies or a rare variant white-crested bird of the expected eastern subspecies *auritus*. See the Bucks report for more information. (August Mirabella)



**Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*).** This fine adult Snowy Egret was a highlight of a field trip to John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia during the PSO Annual Meeting 30 May 2015. (Wayne Laubscher)



**American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*).** Recorded in the state in 13 of 15 years since 2001 but often no more than twice per year, white pelicans could be considered a "regular vagrant" to Pennsylvania. This spring saw two records; these 2 were at the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster 11 to 13 April 2015. (Eric Witmer)



**Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*).** Always elusive, the Northern Goshawk is one of Pennsylvania's rarest breeding species. This adult was nicely photographed at Clear Creek State Forest, Jefferson 23 May 2015. (Steve Gosser)



**Great Egret (*Ardea alba*).** This image of a Great Egret well out of its element on ice with Lesser Black-backed and Herring Gulls at Peace Valley Park, Bucks 25 March 2015 neatly encapsulates the very harsh and persistent late winter and early spring in the state this year. (August Mirabella)



**Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*).** Also a summer denizen of thick woodlands, the Broad-winged Hawk is not nearly as rare as the Northern Goshawk but can be quite difficult to photograph well nonetheless; this excellent image was made at Downingtown, Chester 4 May 2015. (Holly Merker)



**Sora (*Porzana carolina*).** Sora is a rare breeder in the Glaciated Northeast, in which most of *Bradford* lies, yet the species was not confirmed breeding in that county during the second breeding bird atlas. This adult was photographed at Canton Marsh 4 May 2015, just outside of the species' safe dates but close enough to be intriguing. (Lewis Frederick)



**Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*).** This bird, which arrived a bit early at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 21 April 2015 following a day or two of strong east wind, and which departed to the east after only a few minutes of observation, raised much discussion and disagreement among experts as to which subspecies it represented. The record is under PORC review. There are no accepted records of the eastern (nominate) subspecies for Pennsylvania. (August Mirabella)



**Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*).** Very surprising considering the brutal weather in March, or perhaps in some way because of it, this Black-necked Stilt at Lake Redman, *York* 26 March 2015 set a new earliest spring date for Pennsylvania by about a month. (Anne Muren)



**Dunlin with Wilson's Phalarope.** This flock of Dunlin at the Miller Ponds, *Crawford* 15 May 2015 contained 48 birds in wonderful breeding plumage, as well as a Wilson's Phalarope (center, bottom) and a Least Sandpiper (leftmost bird). (Geoff Malosh)



**Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*).** A long-time fixture at the Barkeyville Grasslands, *Venango*, Uppies returned there this year by 24 April. This cooperative bird was photographed there 1 May 2015. (Geoff Malosh)



**Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*).** The understated beauty of the Semipalmated Sandpiper is perhaps a bit unappreciated by birders in general. This excellent image made at Presque Isle, *Erie* 23 May 2015 captured this individual at its finest. (Matthew Juskowich)





**Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*).** This sharp adult of the *hendersoni* subspecies was one of three at the Miller Ponds, Crawford 20 May 2015. Birders identified both *hendersoni* and *griseus* subspecies in the state this spring. (Jeff McDonald)



**Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*).** Twelve years of patient scanning of Bonaparte's Gull flocks at Dashields Dam, Allegheny finally paid off this spring, when Little Gull was recorded at last at the dam in April. This second summer bird (at center) 27 April 2015 represented the second of two records this spring. (Geoff Malosh)



**American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*).** Normally furtive, American Woodcocks are at their boldest when they first arrive on territory in early spring. This adventurous individual walked across the road at Bald Knob, Allegheny 20 March 2015, allowing a rare unobstructed look. (Mark Vass)



**Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*).** It was an outstanding spring for Little Gull across the state, with reports from 10 counties. This somewhat late second summer bird was at Gull Point, Erie 8 May 2015. (George Armistead)



**Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*).** This gorgeous female at Black Swamp, Lawrence 22 May 2015 was one of seven individuals found in the state this spring. (Dave Inman)



**Apparent Ring-billed Gull.** This strange gull on the Susquehanna River, Lancaster 2 April 2015 with mottled gray, white, and black mantle and primaries, and a black bill with a yellow tip, was assumed to be an aberrant Ring-billed Gull. (Meredith Lombard)



**Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*).** The historic gull invasion into southwestern Pennsylvania resulted in some good county birds elsewhere as the hordes moved back to the north from Pittsburgh. This bird at Justus Lake, *Venango* 3 April 2015 represented a first for that county. (Gary Edwards)



**Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*).** Continuing a theme of species that are not often photographed particularly well, this image of an adult Great Horned Owl was nicely captured at Stevensville, *Bradford* 29 April 2015. (Kevin Raymond)



**Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*).** Common Terns attempted to nest again at Gull Point, *Erie*; this bird is shown here 27 May 2015 on one of at least eight nests that were active this summer. Unfortunately none of the nests were successful, but the growing number of summering terns is surely a hopeful sign that they may again nest successfully at Presque Isle someday soon. (Jeff McDonald)



**Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*).** This handsome bird at Longwood Gardens, *Chester* 30 March (here) to 2 April 2015 was one of four reported in *Chester* this spring. Statewide they were reported in five counties. (Nick Pulcinella)



**Black Tern (*Rynchops niger*).** It was a pretty good season for Black Tern across the state, with reports in eleven counties. This fine adult was photographed at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 24 May 2015. (Eric Witmer)



**Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*).** Short-ears persisted from the winter season in several counties, as usual. This bird was photographed 6 March 2015 at Turbotville in underbirded and underappreciated Northumberland. (Wayne Laubscher)



**Brewster's Warbler.** The more frequently encountered of the "winged-warbler" hybrids, Brewster's Warblers were noted in five counties. This bird was very nicely photographed in Oil City, Venango 4 May 2015. (Meg Kolodick)



**Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*).** Longspurs held on into March in several counties this year, as winter held on into March too. This bird was at North Cornwall Township, Lebanon 15 March 2015. (Alex Lamoreaux)



**Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*).** Normally the quintessential "warbler neck" bird, this male at Raccoon Creek State Park, Beaver 2 May 2015 broke form and foraged wonderfully low to the ground, allowing a rare eye-level photo op. (Geoff Malosh)



**Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*).** It was a wonderful season for this species in southwestern counties, especially Allegheny, where this bird at the Great Allegheny Passage Trail 26 April 2015 was one of five for the season for the county. (Todd Hooe)



**Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*).** Migration at Presque Isle, Erie was perhaps a bit off this year, but there were still plenty of birds to enjoy in May. This beautiful male Bay-breasted Warbler taking flight was photographed at Fry's Landing 17 May 2015. (Geoff Malosh)



**Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*).** Despite the persistent cold in March and generally miserable start to April, this Pine Warbler was nonetheless eager to press on north anyway. It was photographed at Downingtown, Chester 7 April 2015. (Holly Merker)



**Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*).** Quite a surprise at the Niagara Boat Launch on Presque Isle, Erie was this immature male Summer Tanager that was foraging with two or three of its Scarlet cousins 10 May 2015. (Geoff Malosh)



**Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*).** Certainly one of Pennsylvania's finest nesting species, this singing Canada Warbler was quite artistically photographed at Clear Creek State Forest, Jefferson 23 May 2015. (Steve Gosser)



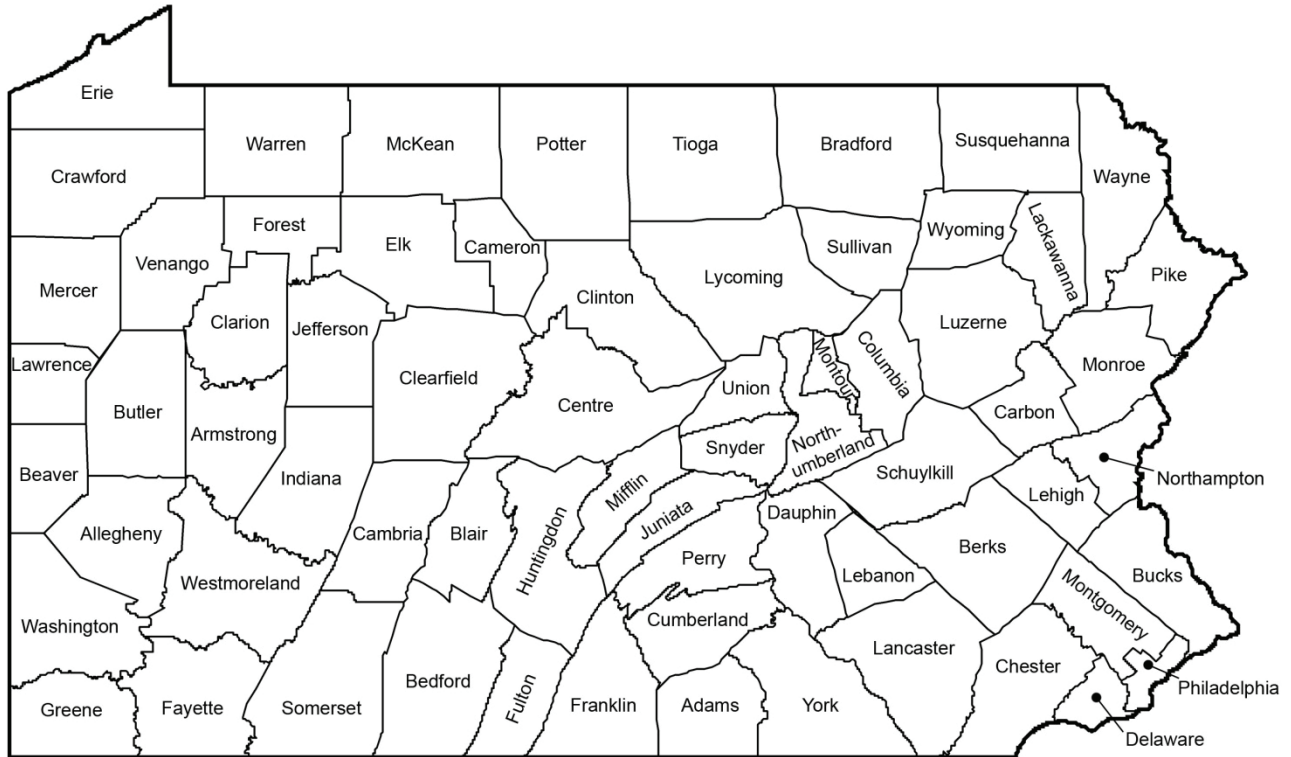
**Purple Finch (*Haemorhous purpureus*).** It was a good winter for Purple Finches in Pennsylvania, with many counties reporting them into the spring. This immature male was very nicely captured at Berlin, Somerset 11 April 2015. (Josh Jones)



**Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*).** Very difficult to find in spring in Pennsylvania away from its few nesting grounds, this Clay-colored was a very nice find (and photo) on the Susquehanna River Walk, Williamsport, Lycoming 9 May 2015. (Meredith Lombard)



**Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*).** Pine Siskins were widespread, recorded in at least a large majority of Pennsylvania counties this spring, if not all of them. Many stayed deep into May but breeding was confirmed only in Downingtown, Chester, where this juvenile was photographed 30 May 2015. Breeding was suspected in Crawford. (Holly Merker)



**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 2015)

**Adams County**

Locations: Freedom Township (FREE), Gettysburg (GBG), Gettysburg College (GC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Kay (LK), Lake Meade (LM), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Michaux State Forest (MICH), Mountain Road (MTN), State Game Lands #249 (SGL).

Winter's grip eventually weakened mid-March and bird reports for the spring period were similar to 2014. Warblers were tough to come by with only 19 species reported. The 5/9 PAMC compiled by Mike O'Brien produced 91 species over a fairly confined area of the county.

Nice counts of **Snow Goose** included 40 at Peach Glen 3/13 (BO) and 18 along Germany Rd 3/17 (WD). A late trio was at Crooked Creek Wetland 5/4 (AW). **Mute Swan** is found in most periods; there were two reports this spring. **Tundra Swans** were reported 3/3-27 with high counts of ~300 along Germany Rd 3/23 (PK) and Ridge Rd 3/24 (ED). After a very strong winter for **American Black Duck**, their enigmatic nature was in evidence with only two reports in the spring. Two were at LK 3/3 (AW) and one was seen

during the PAMC. Single **Blue-winged Teal** were at LM 3/16 (ED) and on the PAMC. A pair of **Canvasback** was at LK 3/3-15 (m. ob.), and LK also held **Redhead** 3/3-24 (m. ob.) with a high count of 22 on 3/3 (AW). A half dozen **Greater Scaup** were at LM 3/16 (ED). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at LK 4/1 (JSD) and 3 were at LPRR 4/14-5/1 (IC, PK, AW). **Ruddy Ducks** were found at LPRR 5/1-4 (MB, AW) and a pair were at LM 3/16 (ED). LPRR held a pair of **Common Loon** 4/3-5/11 (m.ob.). Four **Horned Grebe** were at Carbaugh Res. and a single was at LPRR 4/4 (PK).

A pair of **Ring-necked Pheasants** was at LM 3/15 (JV). A **Ruffed Grouse** was along Birch Run Rd. 4/6 (MB). There were ten reports of **Wild Turkey** with a high count of 5 along Emmitsburg Rd. 5/11 (AW). The only report of **Great Egret** came from Crooked Creek Wetland 5/4 (AW). There were six reports of **Northern Harrier** during their typical spring window; high count was 5 at FREE 3/13 (BS). A harrier highlight was a lingering bird at SGL 5/6-9 (DJG). *Adams* enjoyed the winter invasion of **Rough-legged Hawk** which continued until 3/15 (TN, MB, SS, AW) at FREE and GNMP.

Shorebirds were limited as is typical. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at LM 5/23 (JV) and a vernal pool at MICH held a **Semipalmated Sandpiper**

4/30 (MB). GC held a pair of **Least Sandpipers** 5/14-15 (AW). A **Wilson's Snipe** was at Possum Hollow Rd 3/13-20 (PK) and the PAMC produced one. **American Woodcock** remain reliable at MTN with sightings of up to 3 this season spanning 4/1-14 (RDS). LPRR produced ~200 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 4/12 (MB), a great count for *Adams*. Eighteen were over GC 4/13 (AW). The only report of **Herring Gull** was 3 at LM 3/16 (ED).

In frequently reported, a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at SGL 5/17 (DJG). The three reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** included a pair on the PAMC and singles at GNMP 5/15-18 (BP) and SGL 5/28 (AW). The county's regular sites for **Short-eared Owl**, **FREE** and GNMP, had peak counts of 6 and 5, respectively, 3/7 (SS, JH). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard along Shippensburg Rd 5/17 (MB). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at GBG 4/21 (NL) was somewhat early. All resident woodpecker species were well reported. The 15 reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a very strong showing. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at MTN 3/12 (RDS) and GNMP 3/29 (TN); a bird at GNMP 5/15 (BP) was running late.

Flycatchers continued on a positive trend for this period while vireos were typical. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found on the PAMC and **Acadian** and **Willow Flycatchers** were reported six and seven times, respectively. A single **Least Flycatcher** was at GNMP 5/17 (KC, PG). The LPRR location that held 2 **Blue-headed Vireo** 5/25 (DZ) is a historic breeding area for this species. There were seven reports of **Purple Martin** with the GC colony producing the high count of 20 birds 5/28 (AW). The total of seven reports of **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was much higher than normal and all were from the western half of the county. Six **Bank Swallows** were at GNMP 5/15 (BP). A **Cliff Swallow** quartet was at Franklin Twp. 5/18 (KC) and GNMP produced a pair 5/8 (JL).

**Brown Creeper** was found at Shippensburg Rd. 3/17 (MB) and at SGL 4/12 (DJG). A single **Winter Wren** was at a tree farm in Hamiltonban Twp. 4/22 (IC). There were four reports each of **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** with a nice high count of 9 ruby-crowned at Waynesboro Reservoir 4/14 (PK). The limited reports of *Catharus* thrushes came from elevations of over 1100 feet. A **Veery** was at MICH 5/21 (BO), single **Hermit Thrushes** were at LPRR 4/20 (MB) and Shippensburg Rd. 4/20 (MB), and a pair was at MTN 4/12 (RDS). Eleven **American Pipits** were in the fields along Possum Hollow Rd 3/20 (PK). An amazing 124 pipits were on the ice of the frozen quarry pond at GC 3/20 (AW). Seven reports of **Cedar Waxwing** were headed by 30 at Peach Glen 4/29 (BO).

The low numbers of warblers were probably a combination of actual lower numbers and with minimal birding at the height of migration. There was anecdotal evidence from neighboring York that what peak there was may have passed by 5/7, immediately prior to the PAMC. Minimal reports were made in *Adams* 5/1-7. Nevertheless there were some highlights. A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was along Plantation Rd. 5/4 (RDS). Three reports of **Prairie Warbler** came from MICH 5/6 (BO), the PAMC, and MICH 5/27 (RGTS). MTN produced a **Palm Warbler** 5/3 (RDS). Six reports of **Blackpoll Warbler** were made in the confined period of 5/15-23 (KC, DJG, PG, JP, TS, AW), with five of the six reports within three miles of each other at GBG and GNMP. A **Canada Warbler** was at SGL 5/20 (DJG).

A bright orange **Scarlet Tanager** was at Conewago Creek Campground 5/10 (JV). **American Tree Sparrows** at MTN 4/2 (RDS) and GNMP 4/5 (LH) were somewhat late. A **Vesper Sparrow** along Pleasant Valley Rd. 5/9 (PM) was a good find. The majority of the four reports of **Grasshopper Sparrows** were made at GNMP 5/2-17 (KC, PG, JHe, PM). A pair of **Fox Sparrows** was at MTN 3/24 (RDS) and a single was at the tree farm in Hamiltonban Twp. 4/2 (IC). The only **Swamp Sparrows** were 2 at SGL 4/12 (DJG). **Dark-eyed Junco** was last reported at MTN 5/2 (RDS).

It was a good period for **Eastern Meadowlark** with fourteen reports. High counts were 30 at FREE 3/18 (TR) and 23 on the PAMC. The four reports of **Bobolink** were made 5/7-17 (KC, PG, AW) and were confined to the FREE and GNMP areas. Single **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Fairfield Station Rd 3/13 (IC), at MTN 3/20 (RDS), along Emmitsburg Rd 4/4 (CC), and at Straban Twp 4/6 (KH). Six reports of **Orchard Oriole** were more than normal. The five reports of **Purple Finch** from 4/12-5/3 (NL, MN, PK, RDS, JV) spanned their typical migration period. High counts were 6 at East Berlin 4/16 (PK) and 8 at GBG 4/21 (NL). As was the case in many parts of the state, **Pine Siskins** lingered longer than normal. Of the six reports, the high count was 25 at MTN 3/20 (RDS) and a pair at the same location 5/8 provided the last report.

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, John Berkheimer, Chuck Berthoud, Mike Bertram, Mark Bonta (MBo), Karen Carbiener, Ian Clarke, Conan Crocker, Jon Dale, Michael David, Eli Depaulis, Josh & Susan Donaldson (JSD), Wendy Dunlap, Ron George & Tracy Snyder (RGTS), Don & Jennifer Gilbert (DJG), Paul Grabe, Terry Grover, Timothy Grover, Kevin Hall, Lynn Hamilton, Jonathon Heller (JHe), John Hoff (JHo), James Hoyson, Rebecca Jarvis, Nancy Locher, Jack Lupo, Henry McLin, Linette

Manberger, Peter Morgan, Ted Nichols II, Melissa Nieves, Mike O'Brien, Bill Oyler, Karen Pasquinelli, Peter Perlman, Joseph Pescatore, Bonita Portzline, Trevor Redding, Tammy Schwabb, Santosh Shamuga, Ralph & Deb Siefken (RDS), Brandon Swayser, Andrew Taylor, Jason Verdier, Andy Wilson, David Zmoda.

## Allegheny County

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

The gull invasion continued into March and waterfowl variety was high as northern lakes remained frozen. Pine Siskins continued in numbers from the winter. Gull and tern migration was lackluster but did produce a rarity.

Two flocks of **Tundra Swans** were reported over the county 3/13: an unknown number over Hampton Twp. (DN) and 80 over Pine Twp. (PL, SL). A single bird was in Oakmont 3/1 (AH, PM) and a flock of 11 were at IMP 3/20 (MV). A **Mute Swan** was at Woods Run on the Ohio R. 3/9-4/23 (DYE, et al.) and one was at Duck Hollow on the Monongahela R. 4/29-5/4 (MJ, JS, SS). **American Wigeon** are rather uncommon here, moving through every year but in small numbers. Three were at Brunots Island 3/9 (KC), 3 were at BMP 3/18 (FK), 5 were at Sharpsburg 3/22 (TH, AH, PM), 7 were in Findlay Twp. 3/9 with one remaining to 3/25 (MV) and two were at Duck Hollow 4/1 (MJ). Waterfowl variety remained high into March. Some high counts included 75 **Greater Scaup** at Emsworth Dam 3/3 (PB), 40 **Lesser Scaup** at Woods Run 3/9 (DYE), 60 **Bufflehead** at Duck Hollow 4/27 (JS, SS, TH), 34 **Common Goldeneye** at Emsworth Dam 3/3 (PB), and 35 **Canvasback** and 30 **Redhead** at the Point in Pittsburgh 3/7 (DYE, MW). A lingering **Ring-necked Duck** was at Duck Hollow 4/20-5/8 (JS, SS, MJ).

Other migrant waterfowl of interest include two **Gadwall** continuing from last season at WP 3/1 (RM, BB), up to 11 at IMP 3/18-22 (MV, MF), 5 at Sharpsburg 3/22 (TH), 7 at Duck Hollow 4/1, with two lingering 5/5 (MJ) and 11 at DASH 4/7 (GM). Two **Northern Pintail** continued from last season at WP up to 3/21 (m.ob.). One was at Wood's Run 3/11 (MJ), 2 were at DASH 3/13 (GM) and one was at IMP 3/22 (MV). Two **Northern Shovelers** were at the Point in Pittsburgh 3/6 (BC), and 2 at Duck Hollow 3/8 (JHa) were followed by 8 there 3/31 (JHa). A single bird was at IMP 3/19-4/5 (MJ, et al.). A pair was at WP at the late date of 5/23 (ST).

**Long-tailed Ducks** were reported at various locations. Four were at the Point 3/5-7 (DYE). Five were there 3/8 (GC) and 6 on 3/11 (ST). Two were just downriver at Woods Run 3/9 (DYE) and 6 were there 3/15 (JHa). Four were at DASH (MV) and two at Sharpsburg (TH) 3/1. Two were at the Natrona Dam on the Allegheny R. 3/2 (DY) and 3 were at the Emsworth Dam on the Ohio R. 3/3 (PB). A nice count of 8 stopped at Duck Hollow 4/7 (TM, NM). Two **Surf Scoters** were at Woods Run 5/1 (PB). **White-winged Scoters** continued from the winter season and were widespread in March on all three major rivers. A **Black Scoter** was at the Point 3/6 (DYE) and a single was in Sharpsburg 3/17-31 (BB, m.ob.). A female **Common Merganser** was observed entering a hole in the structure of the Tarentum Bridge 5/11 (RP). Continued observations revealed a female with 8 ducklings at the site 5/23 (RP), the first confirmed breeding in the county. Some rather late **Ruddy Ducks** appeared at DASH 4/29-5/5 (MF, et al.), and one was in Harmar Twp. 5/3 (AH, PM). An interesting duck photographed at Duck Hollow 3/25 appeared to be a hybrid **Redhead x Ring-necked Duck** (DP). It remained until 3/31 (m.ob.).

A **Red-throated Loon** was found and photographed near the Point 3/8 (GK) where it remained until 3/11 (m.ob.). A bird downriver at Woods Run 3/12 (MJ) was very likely the same bird. This was only the second spring record. There were two late **Common Loons** reported: one at Duck Hollow 5/13 (JHa) and one on the Allegheny R. at Harrison Hills Park 5/17 (JV, PH). A **Horned Grebe** in Harmar Twp. 5/3 (AH, PM) was a bit late. **Red-necked Grebes** continued to mid-March (m.ob.). A late bird was on the Youghiogheny R. at Boston 5/2 (TK, JK). Migrant **Double-crested Cormorants** were noted flying past DASH in April (GM); notable counts included 46 on 4/4, 119 on 4/11, and 78 on 4/12.

An **American Bittern** was reported in Wilkinsburg 4/27 (JD, eBird). It was described and the identification seemed to be correct. The bird was in inappropriate habitat; however, it was near Frick Park which does have wetlands. Two established **Great Blue Heron** rookeries remain active. One at Harmar Twp. was greatly reduced this spring with only 3 birds observed at nests (AH, PM). The other held the usual numbers along Big Sewickley Creek in Leetsdale (GM). **Great Egret** reports include a bird at a pond in Findlay Twp. 4/4 (GM), two migrating past DASH 4/9 (GM) and another 5/5 (MV) and one at WP 5/14 (ST). An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a great find at Duck Hollow 3/27-28 (MK, et al.).

A **Black Vulture** was reported in Ohio Twp. 5/31 (eBird). **Northern Harriers** continue to hang on at IMP, though with the continuing

construction, how long they can remain to be seen. One was seen flying over Mount Washington in Pittsburgh 3/19 (KSJ). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported from the usual locations the entire season including Beechwood Farms (m.ob.) and Pine Twp. (PL, SL). One in North Park 3/29 (AH, PM), one at Sewickley Heights Park 4/17 (GM) and one in Natrona Heights 5/5 (PH) rounded out the reports. **Broad-winged Hawks** were also well reported. Four were at DASH 4/12 (GM), one was at Knob Hill Park 4/18 (KD), one at Walker Park in Sewickley 4/26 (SC) and one was at Dead Man's Hollow in Boston 5/2 (TK, JK). Birds returned to established breeding sites at Sewickley Heights Park 4/17 (GM) and Pine Twp. 5/3 (PL, SL). The leucisitic **Red-tailed Hawk** in the IMP area was seen at its usual location in Findlay Twp. 3/9 (ph. GM). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted at the Pittsburgh International Airport 3/29 (GM). **Bald Eagle** news was rather negative this spring. Pairs at the nest in the Hays section of Pittsburgh and Harmar Twp. were unsuccessful. Both eggs at the Hays nest were cracked. The pair in Crescent Twp. does not receive the media attention that the others do, but I think the pair there was successful this spring.

Single **Semipalmated Plovers** were at IMP 5/9 and 5/16 (MV) and one was at Duck Hollow 5/13 (MJ). There were just two reports of **Greater Yellowlegs**, both at IMP: one 3/27 (MV) and three 4/14 (JHa). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at the small pond at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 4/10 (MJ). Two were at IMP 4/12 (GM, TH) and two were at Duck Hollow 5/5 (MJ). There were only a few **Solitary Sandpiper** reports that include one at IMP 4/14 (JHa), two at Sewickley Heights Park 5/1 (GM), two heard flying over Moon Twp. 5/16 (GM) and one at Duck Hollow 5/26 (DK). Five **Least Sandpipers** were at IMP 5/9 followed by 4 on 5/16 (MV). A single **Pectoral Sandpiper** was reported from IMP 4/6 (GM) to 5/16 (MV) and a **Dunlin** was there 4/12 (ph. TH). **Wilson's Snipe** were reported at IMP from 3/13-4/8 (m.ob.) with a high count of 26 on 4/8 (GM). **American Woodcock** were first heard displaying at IMP (GM) and in Jefferson Hills (JHa) 3/11.

The gull invasion continued into March, but as in previous years it quickly came to an end. Last dates included an **Iceland Gull** and 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** in Pittsburgh 3/11 (ST), a **Glaucous Gull** at Fox Chapel 3/11 (AH, PM) and a **Great Black-backed Gull** in Fox Chapel 3/28 (AH, PM). High counts for March at the Point included 10 **Iceland Gulls** 3/6 (BC), 5 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** 3/7 (m.ob.), 73 **Great Black-backed Gulls** 3/6 (GM), and 6 **Glaucous Gulls** 3/6 (GM). **Bonaparte's Gulls** migrated through with most seen at DASH the first half of April (GM). The max there was 379 birds on 4/12 (GM), but overall numbers were low this year; most daily counts were of less than 20 birds. Good counts came from elsewhere this year including 40 at Duck Hollow 3/27 (JHa) and 74 at Oakmont 4/12 (AH, PM). Extremely rare here, 2 adult **Little Gulls** migrated past DASH 3/16 (GM), providing the second county record (the first was in 1973). Astonishingly, another (a second summer bird) flew past DASH 4/27 (ph. GM). A migrant adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was there 4/27 (GM).

Two **Black Terns** stopped by DASH 5/20 (MV, ph. GM) but did not linger. A **Common Tern** flew past 4/12 (GM) and 12 migrated past 5/6 (GM, MV). **Forster's Tern** is the most common migrant at the dam and following the lead of the poor Bonaparte's Gull turnout this spring, numbers were lower than normal. Sightings included one 4/10, two 4/12, one 4/20 (all GM), two 5/2 (MV) and five 5/6 (GM, MV). One was at Duck Hollow 4/18 (AP), two were there 5/1 (TM) and 5/25 (DK). **Caspian Terns** were also in low numbers at the dam with four 4/3 (GM), 5 on 4/10 (GM) and one 4/29 (MF).

**Barred Owl** was reported through the season at Sewickley Heights Park (GM, KSJ, JC, AP). One was also at North Park 4/13 (DN). Two **Short-eared Owls** were on airport property in Findlay Twp. 3/15-16 (GM). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was banded at Sewickley Heights Park 3/26 (BMu). The **Red-headed Woodpecker** that wintered in Homewood Cemetery was last reported 4/25 (MS). A **Merlin** in Homewood Cemetery 3/4 (JC) may have been the individual that was present all winter.

News varied regarding the **Peregrine Falcon** nests in the county. The long established nest at the Cathedral of Learning in Oakland gave observers a surprise. The thought was the aging female's breeding activity has ended, however the nest cam revealed four eggs in the nest and a single chick hatched. The chick appeared to have developmental problems and was being monitored (BMu, KSJ) as of this writing. The pair at the Tarentum Bridge on the *Westmoreland/Allegheny* border apparently did not breed successfully this year. The male was not seen this spring; however a new (but immature) male is present. The pair at the Westinghouse Bridge on Turtle Creek produced five eggs with two hatching. The pair at the McKees Rocks Bridge still eludes observers in terms of nesting. The birds have been observed carrying food but an actual nest has not been found yet. The pair in downtown Pittsburgh is not using the long established nest box on the Gulf Building. They produced four eggs and three chicks at their alternative nest site. A pair at the Neville Island Bridge produced three chicks that were banded 5/29 (fide KSJ). A single bird was seen at the Elizabeth Bridge 3/14 and one was at the Glennwood Bridge 3/26 (JHa).

Rare here, an **Alder Flycatcher** was seen and heard at BMP 5/19

(FK); the first since 2012. The **Northern Shrike** that wintered at IMP was last reported 3/18 (MF). A **Common Raven** was in the IMP area in late March (GM, MV). One was seen in the Barking Slopes area of Plum in late March and through April (AH, PM, TH) and one was in Leetsdale 5/2 (AP, JC). The nest at IMP was not occupied this year however sightings of the species were made a few times in the spring in the vicinity of the Pittsburgh International Airport (GM), suggesting the possibility that the IMP birds (or another pair) established a territory somewhere on the airport property. Reports of **Fish Crow** came from the east end of Pittsburgh (m.ob.). The only report away from that area was one at Wood's Run 3/11 (MJ).

The first reported **Purple Martin** was at one of the few colonies in the county at Yough Country Club 3/31 (fide MJ), which was early. A new colony was finally established this year at Harrison Hills County Park (KK, fide PH), an exciting reward for the efforts of the Purple Martin Preservation Alliance that worked to establish a colony at the park. Single **Bank Swallows** were reported from Jefferson Hills 4/22 (JHa), McKees Rocks 4/28 (MJ), and IMP 5/16 (MV). The only **Cliff Swallow** reported was at DASH 4/27 (GM). The **Marsh Wren** that overwintered at WP was present into late April (ST, et al.). The only **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** reported were small numbers over Moon Twp. 5/16-25 detected by nocturnal flight calls (GM), and one singing in Schenley Park 5/23 (KSJ). Single **American Pipits** were reported at IMP 4/5 (JM, GM), 4/11 (MV) and 4/12 (GM).

A total of 34 species of warblers were reported this spring. A great count of 3 **Worm-eating Warblers** was made at Dead Man's Hollow in Boston 5/2 (TK, JK). This was the first report from this area along the Youghiogheny River known; but they probably have been breeding here for years. One was at Sewickley Heights Park 5/15 (GM). They have been known to breed in that general area, however this was believed to be a migrant. Two were at Harrison Hills Park 5/31 (AH, PM); another regular breeding site. **Northern Waterthrush** reports were more numerous than usual. One was along the Great Allegheny Passage Trail 4/25 (TH, OL). One was singing at DASH 4/29 (MF) and 5/1 (GM). One was at Schenley Park 4/30 (KSJ) and 5/1 (OL), one was at WP 5/14 (ST) and one was at BMP 5/24 (FK). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a nice find at Sewickley Heights Park 5/7 (GM). A **Lawrence's Warbler** was at BMP 5/4 (RT), the first since 2009. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was a great find in Bridgeville 5/4 (ST), the first since 2007. Two **Mourning Warblers** were reported: one just outside Sewickley Heights Park 5/15 (DN) and one at North Park 5/17 (VM). The only **Cape May Warblers** reported were single birds at Frick Park 5/6 (TM, NM) and Sewickley Heights Park 5/7 (GM). A **Northern Parula** was at Sewickley Heights Park 4/17 and 4/26 (GM). Reports of **Palm Warbler** included single birds at Pine Twp. 5/3 (PL, SL), BMP 5/4 (FK) and Frick Park 5/6 (JC). **Pine Warbler** is regular but very uncommon. Reports (all single birds) came from BMP 4/14 (RT), Frick Park 4/16 (DWe), WP 4/25 (TH) and Knob Hill Park 4/29 (KD). Single **Canada Warblers** were at BMP 5/11 (FK) and Beechwood Farms 5/23 (OL). Five were detected on nocturnal migration over Moon Twp. 5/16 and one call was noted 5/25 (GM). The only **Wilson's Warbler** reported was at Sewickley Heights Park 5/7 (GM). **Lincoln's Sparrow** reports include single birds at Frick Park 5/6 (JC), Schenley Park 5/15 (DP) and Beechwood Farms 5/23 (OL). Five **White-crowned Sparrows** were found in Findlay Twp. 3/8 (DYe, MV), one visited a feeder in Natrona Heights 5/4 (PH), one was in Pleasant Hills 5/5 (SSn), 2 were in Pine Twp. 5/6 and one continued 5/7-8 (PL, SL).

Single **Dickcissels** were heard and captured on recordings during nocturnal migration over Moon Twp. 5/18 and 5/28 (GM). **Rusty Blackbird** reports were all in March. Three were in Jefferson Hills 3/11 (JHa), four were at WP 3/14 (AP), two were at North Park 3/15 (AH, PM), four were at IMP 3/15 (GM) and one was at WP 3/21 (DYe). What was thought to be a female **Brewer's Blackbird** was seen briefly in Plum 3/14, however better views were desired (AH, PM). A female was also seen at Beechwood Farms 4/20 (BSh) and despite the effort, photos were not able to be made. Unfortunately neither bird remained very long at either location.

**Purple Finches** were in Pine Twp. the entire season with a high count of 5 on 4/15 (PL, SL). A few were at Sewickley Heights Park 4/17-5/2 with a high count of 5 on 5/1 (GM). Up to two were in Harmar Twp. in March and last seen 4/1 (JV), one was in Hampton Twp. 3/26 (DN), one in Harrison Hills Park 4/19 (PH, JS, SS), and one in Natrona Heights 4/19 followed by two 4/21 (PH). Other reports included 2 in Franklin Park 4/22 (OM), one in Pleasant Hills 4/22 (SSn) and one in Frick Park 4/26 (AP) and 4/30 (JS, SS).

**Pine Siskins** were widespread following the small invasion this past winter. Two that wintered at a feeder near Sewickley were last reported 5/13 (JT). A flock of 12 were at North Park 3/28 (KC, DYe) and 15 were at Frick Park 5/8 (FI). There were scattered reports from eight other locations during the season. A **Common Redpoll** that visited a feeder in Hampton Twp. since Dec. was last reported 3/13 (JA, fide DYe).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**; JoAnn Albert, David Amamoto,

Michael Auda, Adrienne Block, Bill Brown, Cathy Brown, Paul Brown, Kyle Carlson, Jack Chaillet, Shawn Collins, Ben Coulter, Sheree Daugherty, Michael David, Karyn Delaney, Jeanne Drennan, John English, Leslie Feree, John Flannigan, Donna Foyle, Steve Gosser, Mike Hamburg, Jim Hausman (JHa), Amy Henrici, Deb Hess, Paul Hess, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Dan Hinnebusch (DH), Joyce Hoffmann, Todd Hooe, Frank Izaguirre, Tim Johnson, Matthew Juskowich, Fred Kachmarik, Dave Kerr, Margie Kern (MKe), Michelle Kienholz, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Glenn Koppel, Ken Kostka, Oliver Lindhiem, Patrick Lister (PLI), Geoff Malosh, Ryan McDermott, Jeff McDonald, Pat McShea, Virginia McQuown, Oscar Miller, Nancy Moeller, Tom Moeller, Bob Mulvihill (BMu), Dick Nugent, Kevin Parsons, Brad Peroney, Aidan Place, David Poortinga, Rob Protz, Theo Rickert, Kate St. John (KSJ), Meg Scanlon, Sam Sinderson (SSn), Mike Smith, Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Julia Tebbets, Steve Thomas (STh), Sue Thomas (SuT), Steve Tirone (STI), Ryan Tomazin, Catherine Tulley, Jim Valimont, Bob VanNewkirk (BVN), Mark Vass, Matt Webb, Dan Weeks (DWe), Dan Yagusic, David Yeany (DYe).

## Armstrong County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Armstrong Trail (AT), Crooked Creek (CC), Creek Road (CR), Cochran's Mill (CM), Elderton (ELD), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Lock & Dam (L&D), Parks Industrial Park (PIP), Polka Hollow (PH), Rosston (RT), Worthington (WT).

First 2 **Tundra Swans** appeared 3/12 (MVT) at CC, the only location with swans this season; top count of a mere 14 occurred 3/20 (TR) and last singleton was spotted 4/1 (TR). High **Gadwall** count was 14 at KR 4/7 (MH, RH). Five **American Wigeons** arrived at RT 3/11 (TR). Top **Mallard** count was 40 at KT 3/7 (TR). Two **Blue-winged Teal** on the AR n. of L&D 8 on 3/29 (TR) and one at KR 4/17 (LC) were the only ones noted. **Northern Shoveler** reports mentioned 2 near Hyde Park 3/17 (JB), 6 at RT 3/11 (TR), and 13 at KR 4/7 (MH, RH). Four **Green-winged Teal** arrived at CC 3/24 (MVT); the AT n. of L&D 8 harbored one on 3/29 (TR) and 2 on 4/2 (MH, RH). Away from the AR, the only **Canvasback** report noted 2 at CC 3/28 (TR). The AR at L&D 5 yielded 14 **Redheads** on 3/8 (MK, GK); 2 visited CC 4/1 (TR). RT hosted the first returning **Ring-necked Duck** 3/11 (TR) and PIP harbored one on 3/20 (MVT). More than the usual number of **Greater Scaup** were reported with counts of 12 at KT 3/5 (MH, RH) and 31 at L&D 5 on 3/8 (MK, GK); last noted was one at CC 3/28 (TR). **Lesser Scaup** continued on the AR with 2 found at KT 3/5 (MH, RH); high tallies included 14 at CC 4/1 (TR) and 44 at KR 4/7 (MH, RH). Single **White-winged Scoters** appeared at KT 3/5 (MH, RH) and at KR both 4/10 (MH, RH) and 4/17 (LC). A high count of 84 **Long-tailed Ducks** at KR 4/7 (MH, RH) was the highest count on record since 3/26/2003 when 168 were noted at KR; 2 were present at KR 4/17 (LC). KR produced the best **Bufflehead** tallies with counts of 66 on 4/7 (MH, RH) and 63 on 4/17 (LC); 2 lingered on the AR n. of L&D 8 to 5/2 (TR). **Common Goldeneyes** continued on the AR through 3/8 (MK, GK) when 12 were listed at L&D 5; 6 stopped at CC 3/24 (MVT) and 2 visited KR 4/7 (MH, RH). L&D 7 produced the first 4 **Hooded Mergansers** 3/7 (TR) while PIP's first 4 occurred 3/20 (MVT); top CC count was 8 on 4/1 (TR). **Common Mergansers** continue to be widespread with high of 60 at CC 4/1 (TR). Top **Red-breasted Merganser** tallies included 43 at KR 4/8 (LC) and 12 at CC 4/3 (MVT). The only **Ruddy Ducks** reported were 39 at KR 4/17 (LC).

Only one **Ruffed Grouse** was reported this season—one along Nicholson Run 3/12 (MVT). No large **Wild Turkey** flocks were reported; maxima included 6 near WT 3/19 (MVT) and 7 at Mahoning Dam 3/26 (MVT). First **Common Loons** arrived at CC 4/1 (TR) and at KR 4/7 (MH, RH); last noted were 12 at KR 5/17 (LC). Single **Pied-billed Grebes** first appeared at CC 4/1, 3, 10 (TR), at Altmeyer's Pond 4/2 (MH, RH), and at KR 4/8 (LC); KR numbers built to 6 on 4/17 (LC). First 2 **Horned Grebes** arrived at RT 4/2 (TR); KR hosted 27 on 4/7 (MH, RH). **Double-crested Cormorants** moved through the county between 3/27 (TR) when first was sighted at RT and 5/23 (KP) with one listed at Murphy's Bottom; 28 at KR on 4/8 (LC) was the highest tally with most reports single digits. A **Green Heron** was spotted near LB 5/9 (MVT); this was the only one reported.

First 2 **Turkey Vultures** were observed near WT 3/16 (MVT). **Osprey** returned 4/3 at both CC (TR) and on Ice Pond Road (MVT). One **Northern Harrier** was listed 3/26 (MVT) s. of Dayton. Only 2 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and 4 **Cooper's Hawks** were mentioned (m.ob.). An amazing 10 **Bald Eagles** at CC 3/16 (MVT) included only one adult; an adult was on a nest 4/10 (MH, RH) at KR. A gorgeous dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was photographed near WT 3/12 (MVT); it was last sighted 3/16 (MVT).

Only three reports of **American Coot** were received: one at KR 4/8 (LC), 2 at PIP 4/12 (MVT), and one at the latter location 4/24 (MVT). Four **Killdeer** near WT 3/12 (MVT) and a **Spotted Sandpiper** at CC 4/17 (TR)

were first arrivals. A **Solitary Sandpiper**, found s. of New Bethlehem 4/30 (MM), comprised the entire report for this species. First **American Woodcock** was listed 3/18 (TR) near SGL 247; 4 were still displaying near ELD 5/9 (MH, RH).

**Bonaparte's Gull** included one at CC 3/28 (TR) followed by 156 there 4/3 (MVT) and one at KT 4/24 (MH, RH). **Ring-billed Gull** maxima included 30 at RT 3/12 (TR) and 20 at CC 3/15 (TR). Twelve at RT 3/11 (TR) was the best count of **Herring Gulls** this season. Two **Forster's Terns** visited KR 4/7 (MH, RH).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were sighted at five locations this spring with 5/9 (m.ob.) the earliest date. **Eastern Screech-Owls** were found only near Roaring Run, and **Great Horned Owl** was confirmed when a nest with two owlets was found near N. Apollo 4/28 (TB). **Barred Owl** was listed only at CC between 3/20-4/10 (TR). First 2 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were noted near LB 5/5 (MVT). The lone report, a male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found 3/8 (TR) at CC. A **Merlin** was a nice find near WT 3/19 (MVT). A **Peregrine** was heard at KT 5/19 (TM) and subsequently (m.ob.); a pair was observed 5/27 (DV).

First **Eastern Wood-Pewee** and **Acadian Flycatcher** were listed 5/9 (MVT) along CR. **Willow Flycatcher** and **Least Flycatcher** were first found in the ELD area 5/23 (DG, GG). **Eastern Phoebe** had returned to RT by 3/28 (TR). **Great Crested Flycatcher** was calling steadily 5/24-25 (TR) near SGL 247. First **Eastern Kingbird** was found 5/9 (MH, RH) near ELD. First dates for vireos were 5/1 (MVT) at CC for **White-eyed Vireo**; 5/2 (SG), both at CC and along CR, for **Yellow-throated Vireo**; 5/2 (SG) at PH for **Blue-headed Vireo**; 5/2 (SG) along CR for **Warbling Vireo**; and 5/7 (JB) along Roaring Run for **Red-eyed Vireo**. At least 300 **Horned Larks** were still present near WT 3/5 (MH, RH). Only 2 **Purple Martins** were noted at the Wood's Pond colony 4/10 (MH, RH), but by 5/9 (MH, RH), at least 16 were present. At least 5 **Tree Swallows** had returned n. of L&D 8 by 4/2 (MH, RH). First **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were spotted near the intersection of Rts, 128 and 28 on 4/18 (MVT). A **Cliff Swallow** near ELD 5/9 (MH, RH) was the only one listed. First **Barn Swallows** were spotted near ELD 4/15 (MVT). Last **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported near LB 3/2 (MVT), but single migrants were spotted at CC 5/2 (SG) and at Yatesboro 5/9 (ED, CH, SL).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** arrived at CC 4/10 (TR). On 4/21 (MVT) the first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was sighted at CR. By 5/31 (TR) 4 **Veeries** were noted at SGL 247. The only **Swainson's Thrushes** were found 5/17 (LC) at KR and 5/21-23 (GF) on a farm near Spring Church. **Wood Thrush** returned to CC by 5/1 (MVT). First **Gray Catbird** appeared n. of L&D 8 on 5/2 (TR). **Brown Thrasher** returned to CC 4/14 (MVT). CC harbored an **American Pipit** 3/20 (TR) and 3 on 3/28 (TR). Sixty-five **Snow Buntings** remained near WT 3/5 (MH, RH), but by 3/7 (TR) only 14 could be found.

**Ovenbirds** returned 5/2, both at PH (SG) and at CC (DJ). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was a nice find at CC 5/23 (DG, GG) and was relocated 5/25 (MVT). First 2 **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were spotted along Roaring Run 4/5 (JK, TK). A **Northern Waterthrush** was spotted at CC 5/23 (DG, GG). Warbler dates of return included: 5/2 (SG) for **Blue-winged Warbler** at CC; and 5/2 for **Black-and-white Warbler** at CC (SG), CR (SG), PH (SG), and n. of L&D 8 (TR). A **Tennessee Warbler** near Spring Church 5/22 (GF), a **Nashville Warbler** 5/9 (TR) at CC, and a **Kentucky Warbler** near Spring Church 5/24 (GF) were the lone reports for these three species. Other first dates included 5/2 (SG) for **Common Yellowthroat** at CC and CR; 5/2 (TR) for **Hooded Warbler** n. of L&D 8; and 5/2 for **American Redstart**, both n. of L&D 8 (TR) and at CR (SG). **Cerulean Warblers** were listed at only 2 locations with first report along CR 5/2 (SG). **Northern Parula** arrived 5/2 (SG) at CR. The only 2 reported **Magnolia Warblers**, one at CC (TR) and one at CR (MVT), and the only **Blackburnian Warbler** at CC (TR), were all noted 5/9. The first **Yellow Warbler** appeared 5/1 (MVT) along CR. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were not seen before 5/9 (GM, TR, MVT), and were listed at only four locations. Three **Palm Warblers** on 5/2 (TR) n. of L&D 8 were the only ones recorded. The one and only **Pine Warbler** was listed at CR 4/21 (MVT). Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were sighted at CR 5/1 (MVT) and 15 were along the AT n. of L&D 8 on 5/2 (TR); amazingly these were the only Yellow-rumps reported. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were observed at CR 4/19 (MVT), at CC 5/2 (SG), and at CM both 5/9 (MVT) and 5/23 (DG, GG). The first **Black-throated Green Warblers** appeared 5/2, both at PH (SG) and along the AT n. of L&D 8 (TR). The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** noted was observed at SGL 247 on 5/31 (TR).

First **Eastern Towhee** was spotted 3/29 (TR) along the AT n. of L&D 8. Last 2 **American Tree Sparrows** lingered along the AT n. of L&D 8 on 4/2 (MH, RH), the same date and location that the first **Chipping Sparrow** appeared. First **Field Sparrow** was spotted 3/29 (TR) near SGL 247. One **Savannah Sparrow** and one **Grasshopper Sparrow** were singing near ELD 5/9 (MH, RH). A **Fox Sparrow** along the AT n. of L&D 8 was the only one noted. Last **White-throated Sparrow** lingered at SGL 247 on 5/9 (TR).

CC yielded the first **Scarlet Tanager** 5/2 (SG); LB, the first **Rose-**



**breasted Grosbeak** 5/4 (MVT); and the Roaring Run Trail, the first **Indigo Bunting** 5/7 (JB). A total of 11 **Bobolinks** were found 5/9 (TR, MVT) in the WT area, which produced the first **Eastern Meadowlark** 3/19 (MVT). **Rusty Blackbirds** moved through *Armstrong* between 3/12 (MVT) and 5/2 (DJ, TR); high tally was 75 at CC 4/5 (KSJ). First **Common Grackle** appeared 3/12 (TR) at RT and first 2 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, 4/6 (MVT) at CC. First **Orchard Oriole** appeared w. of W. Kittanning 5/1 (RM) while **Baltimore Orioles** were first sighted the next day (SG) at three county locations. A Ford Cliff feeder still harbored 5 **Pine Siskins** 5/9 (LR).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee**, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, (724) 354-3493, [bcoriole@windstream.net](mailto:bcoriole@windstream.net), Jessica Botzan, Tony Bruno, Lee Carnahan, Erma Dovenspike, Guy Foulks, Steve Gosser, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Carol Hall, Roger Higbee, David Janetski, Mary Ann Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Tom Kuehl, Janet Kuehl, Sally Labino, Gregory McDermott, Tricia McIntire, Reva Miller, Kelly Parsons, Lynn Ramage, Theo Rickert, Kate St. John, David Valasek, Marge Van Tassel.

### Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Dashields Dam area (*Allegheny/Beaver* line) (DASH), Economy Borough (ECON), Independence Marsh (IND), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rochester (RCH).

A **Mute Swan** on the Ohio R. at Vanport 5/20 (GR, DR) was unusual for *Beaver* but part of an abnormally high number of sightings in southwestern Pennsylvania since last fall. Many of these may have of been the same few birds, however. **Gadwall** were in good supply for much of Mar with sightings in at least six locations; the last 11 passed by DASH 4/7 (GM). A few **American Wigeon** lingered at RCH to 3/27 (m.ob.). **American Black Ducks** were scant despite the good winter season for them; just a few were reported around RCH to 3/27 (m.ob.). Three **Blue-winged Teal** at RCH 4/13 (AK) and 4 at RCH 5/3 (MV) were the only ones reported. **Northern Shovelers** were at Vanport occasionally in Apr, but a flock of 14 at RCH on the late date of 4/27 was quite unusual (GM). **Green-winged Teal** were hard to come by, with 10 at IND 3/22 (MV) and 2 there 4/11-13 (CD, GR) the only representatives. Up to 46 **Canvasback** remained at RCH from late in the winter season until about 3/7, but small numbers persisted to 4/3 after the bulk had moved on (m.ob.). One late bird was at RCH 4/26 (MV). Similarly for **Redhead**, up to 35 remained until 3/14 (m.ob.), though the last birds—2 at IND 3/22-24 (MV)—were more timely in their departure. The March masses of **Ring-necked Ducks** seemed to miss *Beaver* (and *Washington*) this year; top counts were just 13 at RCSP 3/22 (CB) and at AR 4/4 (GM). **Greater Scaup** were still around at RCH to 4/3 (m.ob.); after milder winters this species seems to depart sooner so perhaps the late ice to the north kept these birds around longer. **Lesser Scaup** had a pedestrian showing, culminating with 6 passing DASH 4/18 (GM). Two **White-winged Scoters** that passed DASH and headed into *Beaver* 3/15 (GM) were the only ones reported despite another good late winter for them elsewhere. **Long-tailed Ducks** were a little more in evidence; one was at RCH 3/9-11 (MH, RH), 2 were at Vanport 3/20, and 7 were at Vanport again 3/24 (GR). There was a significant fallout of **Bufflehead** 4/12. In the morning, counts of 48 and 54 were made at IND and RCSP, respectively (MV), while another 22 flew past DASH (GM). In the afternoon there were at least 74 on the Ohio River between RCH and Monaca (MV). Up to 7 **Common Goldeneyes** lasted until 3/10 at RCH (GR, et al.) but were quickly gone. **Hooded Mergansers** were well reported through 4/4, when 13 were at IND (GR). They are often seen into May, but not this year. **Red-breasted Merganser** is an increasingly frequent Mar and Apr migrant and that trend continued, though none were seen after one at Monaca 4/12 (MV). Fourteen **Ruddy Ducks** at RCSP 4/25 (RT, et al.) was a nice count for the park.

An adult **Common Loon** was at Darlington Lake 3/28 (MV), a spot that receives next to no coverage, but which might be worth more effort in early spring. Top count of **Horned Grebe** was 8 at Monaca 4/12 (MV). The only **Double-crested Cormorants** recorded were those passing DASH in Apr (GM), top counts there were 119 on 4/11 and 78 on 4/12. A **Great Egret** was periodically sighted at IND 3/28-4/4 (TH, TJ, KJ, GM), and 2 passed DASH 4/9 (GM).

The only **Osprey** nest of four known historical sites that was reported on this period was the Aliquippa nest, which had the attention of a returning adult as early as 3/12 (DR). One or two were seen at RCSP and IND through the season. It's possible these were the Aliquippa birds, or perhaps there is another nest yet to be discovered somewhere in the southern county not on the Ohio R. Two **Bald Eagles** were back at Montgomery Dam 5/20 (MV) where they nested last year. **Red-shouldered Hawks** probably nested again in Center Twp. (CA); others were seen in Aliquippa 4/15 (BW) and RCSP 5/16 (TJ).

The only migrant shorebirds noted for the season were 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** at RCSP 4/25 (RT, et al.) and one at IND 5/1-11 (GR). Wintering **Wilson's Snipe** persisted at the Seibel Farm in Independence Twp. to 3/13 (MV). Gulls more than made up for the shortcomings of the shorebirds, however. The county's second and third records of **Little Gull** were provided by two adults 3/16 (GM) and one second summer bird 4/27 (ph. GM) that passed DASH and were tracked carefully into *Beaver* airspace after they had passed the watchpoint at *Allegheny*. Top count of a fair season for **Bonaparte's Gull** was 379 passing DASH 4/12 (GM). Last were 30 on the river at RCH 4/27 (GM) a few hours after the Little Gull flew past DASH earlier that morning, but the Little was not among them. As usual the highest numbers of **Ring-billed Gulls** were noted mid-Mar, with top counts provided by 312 on 3/13 and 402 on 3/16 passing DASH (GM). Up to 10 **Herring Gulls** were seen variously around RCH to 4/8 (m.ob.) but not thereafter. Another **Iceland Gull** was at RCH 3/7 (MV), the sixth and last Iceland during this year's invasion. Nine **Great Black-backed Gulls** were with the Iceland 3/7 (MV), and two late birds were there 4/8 (GR), wrapping up the most remarkable season for gulls in county history. Most terns for the season were birds passing DASH. Five **Caspian Terns** 4/10 (GM) and one **Common Tern** 4/12 (GM) were the only ones of their kind tracked into the county from DASH, though there were reports of migrants of both species on the move at DASH later in the season. A few **Forster's Terns** flew past DASH though 4/20 (GM), 3 were at RCH 4/27 (DR), and 3 were at Vanport 5/4 (GR).

Reports of the increasingly uncommon **Black-billed Cuckoo** were limited to singles at IND 5/6 (CD) and RCSP 5/8 (GM). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was seen from winter throughout the spring to 5/26 at IND (m.ob.). A **Barred Owl** was noted at RCSP 4/25 (RT, et al.). The only report of **Common Nighthawk** was one at ECON 5/8 (KD). An early **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at ECON 4/18 (KD). Very nice was a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at a Center Twp. yard 5/8 (CA). There were just two reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** for the season, a poor showing. **American Kestrels** were still in wintering areas (and possible breeding areas) at Fombell to 3/15 (DK) and Little Blue Lake to 4/5 (GR, DR, TJ) but neither location received much coverage after those dates. Another was seen off the Pennsylvania Turnpike near Beaver Falls 5/16 (MO, LZ). **Peregrine Falcons** were sighted around the bridges of RCH again this spring, but no report was made of their nesting attempt by season's end. An update will appear in the summer report.

**Least Flycatchers** were at RCSP 5/6 (GM) and IND 5/8 (GM). The first **Eastern Phoebe** was at RCSP 3/21 (MD, PL). **Blue-headed Vireo** was noted only at RCSP 4/18-5/16 (m.ob.). The pair of **Common Ravens** that attempted to nest on the Rochester-Beaver railroad bridge was noted through mid-Apr (GR, et al.) but was not seen thereafter; the fate of the nest was unknown. There was a good amount of disturbance at the site due to the railroad operations, and the area Peregrine Falcons probably didn't help either. That said, it is possible young could have fledged by late Apr but in that event they probably would have been spotted, so it's most reasonable to assume the nest failed. **Bank Swallows** were noted at RCSP 4/25 (RT, et al.) and at RCH 4/27 and 5/5 (GR, DR). The only **Cliff Swallow**, a species not known to breed in the county, was at RCH 4/27 (GM). A very rare breeder this far south is **Brown Creeper**; singing birds were still at the RCSP wildflower reserve 5/4-11 (GR, CD) and another was on the Lake Trail at RCSP 5/8 (GM), both late enough to suggest these males were trying to attract mates to these sites.

The first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was a shade early at ECON 4/8 (KD). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at IND 5/22 (GR) was the only one reported. **Swainson's Thrush** was noted at four locations 5/5-26 (m.ob.). The only **Hermit Thrush** was at RCSP 4/4 (CD). A transect of productive areas in Hanover Twp. from the PBBA days produced 21 **Gray Catbirds** 5/8 (GM), 15 of which were along Hanover-Kendall Road, which was just as dense with catbirds in the PBBA years too.

Eager **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were back at RCSP 4/6 (GG). **Northern Waterthrush** is detected less than annually, so four reports made for an outstanding season: one at IND 4/17, 5/11, and 5/26 (GR), and one at IND 5/8 (GM) which might have been the same bird as the 5/11 sighting. **Black-and-white Warbler** was noted at RCSP on four dates 5/6-20 (m.ob.). Close to accidental as a migrant, the rarest warblers of the season were surely the two singing male **Prothonotary Warblers** at IND 5/6 (ph. GR), part of a 15-warbler species fallout there that morning. Reports of **Tennessee Warblers** were widespread 5/6-20 (m.ob.). One **Kentucky Warbler** was on territory at RCSP 5/6 (GM), and two were singing in Hanover Twp. 5/8 (GM), one of which was in the exact same spot as during the PBBA. **Cerulean Warbler** was plentiful at RCSP as usual (GM, et al.) but one at IND 5/22 (GR) was not in breeding habitat and thus very late for a migrant. It also likely represented the only record of the species at IND. Reports of **Magnolia Warbler** were surprisingly thin, reported only at RCSP and at IND during the 5/6 fallout. The only **Bay-breasted Warbler** was also

at IND during the 5/6 event (GR). The first **Yellow Warbler** was early at IND 4/13 (ph. GR). Common migrants **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Blackpoll Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** were all rather poorly reported but were all present. Up to four **Palm Warblers** were at IND 5/1-7 (GR). **Pine Warblers** sometimes slip through unnoticed, so three reports were nice: one at IND 4/17 (GR), one at Sahli Nature Park 4/17 (GR), and one at RCSP 5/2-4 (GM). **Black-throated Green Warbler** was well reported especially at RCSP as usual. One was still in Brady's Run Park 5/25 (TJ), late enough to suggest yet another possible breeding location for the species in the county. They were confirmed breeding at Pine Run in 2011 and, with the Brady's Run sighting, have now been found in five other locations in very late spring or summer in the past eight years, though not confirmed breeding in any of those. A male **Canada Warbler** was nicely photographed at IND during the 5/6 fallout (GR), and a **Wilson's Warbler** was at Hanover Twp. 5/8 (GM).

It was an unremarkable season for sparrows, and the few county locations for open grassland species like Grasshopper and Henslow's were not checked. A **Savannah Sparrow** at IND 4/11 (MV) was rare for that location. **Fox Sparrows** showed well, with reports of one at RCSP 3/15 (MV), one in an ECON yard 3/28-4/17 (KD), and 3 at RCSP 3/28 (TJ, KJ).

Four **Bobolinks** were in a traditional area in Hanover Twp. 5/8 (GM), a spot that unfortunately is frequently subject to early mowing. **Eastern Meadowlark**, uncommon and local in the county, was in the same area. Reports of the uncommon and declining **Rusty Blackbird** were three at Independence Twp. 3/13 (MV), 3 at IND 3/28 (TH), and one or two at IND 4/6-27 (GR, et al.).

The feeders at the RCSP park office attracted the attention of many birders throughout Mar and Apr following the discovery of **Pine Siskins** there in the winter season. Up to 3 **Purple Finches** reported at the feeders 3/28-4/25 (MV, et al.). Purple Finches were also at ECON to 5/3 (KD), and 3 were in Center Twp. 4/8 (CA). A **Common Redpoll** was quite unexpected at a feeder in Vanport 3/15 (ph. DR). **Pine Siskin** was last seen at the RCSP feeders 5/1 (MV), when 4 were present. A small, mostly single-digit flock of siskins also persisted at ECON to at least 5/9 (KD). Interesting was a sudden late-season spike of 12 siskins in ECON (KD) and 17 at Center Twp. (CA) 5/3, which were gone as suddenly as they appeared. Notable was a tally of 54 **American Goldfinches** at the RCSP feeders 4/5 (MV).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Cheryl Abel, Cathy Brown, Michael David, Casey Davidson, Karyn Delaney, Mike Fialkovich, Gigi Gerben, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Todd Hooe, Karena Johnson, Tim Johnson, Deb Kalbfleisch, Andy Keister, Patrick Lister, Tom Moeller, Nancy Moeller, Richard Nugent, Michael O'Brien, Dan Rubino, Gina Rubino, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass, Bill Walbek, Louise Zemaitis.

## Bedford County

Locations: Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Allegheny Front (AF), Bedford Co. at Large (BAL), Dunnings Creek Wetlands (DCW), Shawnee State Park (SSP), White-tail Wetlands (WTW).

The weather for March was cold with most lakes completely frozen. April was cold with much rain that kept impoundments and lakes full. The saturated soil kept streams, lakes, and impoundments high through May. The PAMC contributed many species and significant numbers. Interesting birds were Greater White-fronted Geese, Trumpeter Swans, Black-necked Stilt, and Blue Grosbeak.

Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** lingered at DCW's Teal Lake 3/18-3/20 among the 2800 **Canada Geese** with only 40% open water. Two **Trumpeter Swans** are now yearly regulars at DCW, however this year they lingered only 2 days at Teal Lake 3/18-19. These Trumpeter Swans had no neckbands. A total of 650 **Tundra Swans** settled in with this group 3/18, making it somewhat difficult to follow the Trumpeters. Most of the following ducks were from DCW 3/18: 757 **Wood Ducks**, 95 **Gadwall**, 98 **American Wigeon**, 50 **American Black Ducks** 3/23, 570 **Mallards** 3/18, 28 **Blue-winged Teal** 5/2, 32 **Northern Shovelers** 3/21, 125 **Northern Pintails** 3/21, and 50 **Green-winged Teals** 3/18.

With some exceptions most of the diving ducks were at SSP. Sixteen **Redheads** were seen at SSP 4/8, 108 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at DCW 4/6, and 8 **Greater Scaup** and 3 **Lesser Scaup** were at DCW 3/31. Two **Surf Scoters** were at SSP 4/8, and 2 **Long-tailed Ducks** and 35 **Buffleheads** were at SSP 3/31. Sixty **Hooded Mergansers** settled into Teal Lake at DCW 3/18. SSP had a great show of 270 **Common Mergansers**, 40 **Red-breasted Mergansers** and 8 **Ruddy Ducks** 3/23. The high for **Double-crested Cormorants** was 310 at SSP 4/8.

Gallinaceous birds survived another tough winter. Both male and

female **Ring-necked Pheasants** were observed. **Ruffed Grouse** were hard to find, even in good habitat along the AF where they are more common. **Northern Bobwhite** was heard below the AFHW in late April for approximately 3 weeks, according to the counters.

**Common Loons** reached their peak at 35 at SSP, 8 **Pied-billed Grebes** was the high on 3/31 (DCW) and 11 **Horned Grebes** were observed at SSP 4/16. **Double-crested Cormorants** peaked at 310 on 4/8 at SSP. Two **American Bitterns** were flushed at WTW 4/19 and lingered for 5 days. Four **Great Blue Herons**, 3 **Great Egrets**, 2 **Green Herons**, and a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were seen 4/19 flying back and forth between DCW and WTW.

West winds dominated at the AFHW and produced the lowest numbers in 15 years with only 819 raptors. A nice perk was the observation of one of our local **Northern Goshawks** killing and devouring a rabbit on the AF. Unfortunately, when the AFHW had favorable east winds, they were accompanied by rain and fog. Still they brought the following: 16 **Black Vultures**, 218 **Turkey Vultures**, 10 **Osprey**, 14 **Bald Eagle**, 12 **Northern Harriers**, 59 **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 24 **Cooper's Hawk**, one **Northern Goshawk**, 14 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 197 **Broad-winged Hawks**, 141 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 66 **Golden Eagles**, 11 **American Kestrels**, 6 **Merlins**, and 30 **unidentified raptors**. **Bald Eagles** have been on the rise; at least 3 nests were close to SSP this season.

Two **Soras** and a **Common Gallinule** were within a marshy area on Teal Lake at DCW 5/22. The peak of 65 **American Coots** was seen at SSP 4/8. One **Sandhill Crane** lingered from 3/31 to 4/2 in Bittern Pool at DCW. Sandhill Crane annual, suggesting it's the same bird yearly.

Bittern Pool has a cozy overlook building, thanks to Jeff Payne et al, and allows close views without disturbing sandpipers. Most of the shorebirds were seen at DCW unless noted otherwise. Bittern Pool is drawn down slowly from late April through May to make mudflats for shorebirds. The following shorebirds were counted there: 5 **Semipalmated Plovers** 5/18, 4 **Killdeer** 5/21, a **Black-necked Stilt** 5/22, 6 **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/23 at SSP, 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/19, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** 5/22, a **Willet** 5/22, 6 **Spotted Sandpiper** 5/22, 2 **Ruddy Turnstone** 5/22, 2 **Sanderling** 5/22, 6 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/22, 3 **Western Sandpipers** 5/21, 5 **Least Sandpipers** 5/22, 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 5/18, 3 **Baird's Sandpipers** 5/18, 4 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 5/22, 5 **Dunlin** 5/18, and 6 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/22. Lastly, 15 **American Woodcock** and one **Wilson's Snipe** were seen on the AF 4/1 (SD, TD). Six **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 210 **Ring-billed Gulls**, and 2 **Herring Gulls** visited SSP 4/8. The terns were 2 **Common Terns** at DCW 4/6, 3 **Forster's Terns** at SSP 4/10, and 7 **Black Terns** at DCW 4/11. The terns were surprisingly early this year.

Four owls were heard at BAL all on 4/24: one **Eastern Screech-Owl**, 2 **Great Horned Owl**, 2 **Barred Owl** and one **Short-eared Owl** seen at WTW. Unfortunately, Barn Owls are no longer at WTW; however this could change in the future. Three **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were singing on the AF 5/15. On the PAMC the following woodpeckers were seen: one **Red-headed Woodpecker**, 4 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**, one **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 3 **Northern Flickers**, and 3 **Pileated Woodpeckers** (DB, SD, RM).

The following flycatchers were seen at DCW 5/18: 9 **Eastern Phoebe**, one **Alder Flycatcher**, 2 **Willow Flycatchers**, 2 **Least Flycatchers**, along with a **Great Crested Flycatcher** and 2 **Eastern Kingbirds**. On the PAMC the following vireos were seen: 2 **White-eyed Vireos**, one **Yellow-throated Vireo**, one **Warbling Vireo**, and 31 **Red-eyed Vireos**. Only one **Horned Lark** was found on the PAMC. Swallow counts for the PAMC were: 28 **Tree Swallows**, 22 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, 16 **Bank Swallows**, 17 **Cliff Swallows** and 14 **Barn Swallows** (DB). The following were seen at WTW and DCW: a single **Brown Creeper**, a **Carolina Wren**, 5 **House Wrens** and a **Marsh Wren** on 5/9 (DB, TD, CH, SD). Among thrushes were only the following: one **Veery**, 3 **Hermit Thrush**, 8 **Wood Thrush**, and 86 **American Robins** (DB). Twenty-eight **Gray Catbirds**, 4 **Northern Mockingbirds** and 3 **Brown Thrashers** were all counted 5/12 (SD, RM).

Warblers arrived in small numbers, but with good diversity, with the following species 5/9: 3 **Blue-winged Warblers**, one **Golden-winged Warbler**, one **Tennessee Warbler**, 7 **Northern Parula**, 21 **Yellow Warblers**, 7 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, one **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, 5 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, one **Blackburnian Warbler**, 2 **Palm Warblers**, 6 **Cerulean Warblers**, 3 **Black-and-white Warblers**, 18 **American Redstarts**, 3 **Worm-Eating Warblers**, 49 **Ovenbirds**, one **Louisiana Waterthrush**, one **Kentucky Warbler**, 46 **Common Yellowthroats**, 3 **Hooded Warblers** and lastly and most difficult, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at DCW (DB, TD, SD, CH, LJ, MJ).

Most of the following birds were counted on the PAMC: 7 **Scarlet Tanager**, 38 **Eastern Towhee**, 2 **American Tree Sparrows**, 29 **Chipping Sparrows**, 18 **Field Sparrows**, one **Vesper Sparrow** 5/30 on AF (TD), 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows**, one **Henslow's Sparrow**, 21 **Song Sparrows**, one **Swamp Sparrow**, 2 **White-throated Sparrows**, 2 **White-crowned**

### **Sparrows, 9 Scarlet Tanagers, and 5 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.**

A nice find was a **Blue Grosbeak** at WTW (DH, TD) on the PAMC. Two **Bobolinks** were seen on PAMC. **Bobolink** nesting in hay fields makes them vulnerable to agricultural mowing, however, strip mowing doesn't. In this scenario plowing 75 yards strips followed by 75 yards of grass for hay seems to work well for the farmer and the Bobolinks. In one farm observed, Bobolink reproduction was exceptional (TD). **Rusty Blackbirds** high number was 7 on 3/21 at DCW (TD). Six **Orchard Orioles** and 13 **Baltimore Orioles** were counted at WTW on the PAMC. **Pine Siskins** were present, but sporadic at thistle feeders.

Observers: **Tom Dick, Hidden Acres Farm, 123 Hummer Lane, Cairnbrook, PA 15924, (814) 754-5727, Thomasd102.d@gmail.com,** Deb Bodenschatz, Sally Dick, Bob Gorsuch, Ed Gowarty, Connie Hunt, Laura and Michael Jackson, Rosemary McGlynn, Jim Rocco, Bob Stewart.

### **Berks County**

Locations: Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Brenneman's Quarry (BQ), Exeter Scenic River Trail (EXST), Glen Morgan Lake (GML) Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HMS), Kernsville Dam Recreation Area (KDRA), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), Lake Ontelaunee West Shore Drive (LOWS), Peter's Creek (PC), Shartlesville Farm Pond (SFP), School Road Fleetwood Pond (SRFP), Skyline Drive, Mount Penn (MP). The official spring migration season at HMS is 1 April to 15 May.

The frigid temperatures of February were slow to relent, and migrating waterfowl adapted to the plentiful ice by staying over in fields and less-used sections of Lake Ontelaunee, e.g., West Shore Drive and Bailey's Creek. In general, waterfowl were lower overall in March as the birds flew over the frozen areas. **Snow Geese** peaked at 37,000 at LOWS 3/19. This flock included 2 **Ross's Geese** and 332 blue **Snow Geese** (RK). High numbers of flying waterfowl were counted at KDRA 3/17 (KD): 7629 **Snow Goose**, 5114 **Canada Goose**, 166 **Northern Pintail**, and 18 **Common Merganser**. A season-high 32 **Tundra Swans** were on LO 3/18 (KI, VM). A lone **Eurasian Wigeon** lingered at LOWS 3/21-4/12 (SF, m.ob.). An unusual **Gadwall x Mallard** was found among 130 **Gadwall** at LO 3/23 and remained until 4/26 (RK). The bird interacted primarily with **Gadwalls** and even performed a vigorous courtship display for a few female **Gadwalls** (RK). A single **Mallard x American Black Duck** was seen at two locations: BQ 3/15 (HH) and LO 2/23 (RK). Late Mar and early Apr brought more open water to LO and BML. The usual waterfowl stopped over but not in large numbers. Exceptions were the 44 **Redheads** found at LO 3/29 (MS) and the 271 **Ring-necked Ducks** at LO 4/1 (RK). Four **Common Goldeneye** stopped over on LO 3/16 (RK). A single **White-winged Scoter** was found at both LO and BML 4/21 (KL, MSI) and 14 **Long-tailed Ducks** were counted at BML on the same date (KL) after a storm the day before. The high count reported for **Common Merganser** was 700 at LO 4/5 (RK) and 14 for **Red-breasted Merganser** LO 4/26 (RK).

Two **Red-throated Loons** were reported from LOWS 4/11 (DY, MS). There were no large fall-outs of **Common Loons** this season. The season high was 11 on 4/11 at LO (RK). A total of 33 **Horned Grebes** were at LO 4/14 (MS). Six **Red-necked Grebes** spent the day at LO 4/22 (MS). A more average number of **Red-necked Grebes**, 4, spent the day at LO 4/27 (RK). LO hosts the largest number of **Double-crested Cormorants** during spring migration; 480 were there 4/8 (RK).

In contrast to 2014, marsh birds were rare this season. Single **American Bitterns** were reported at only two locations: PC 4/22 (DA) and KDRA 4/29 (MW). The **Least Bittern** that excited birders last year at KDRA was not found despite hours of diligent searching. A lone **Great Egret** foraged with a flock of **Canada Geese** and **Snow Geese** near Fleetwood 4/2 (RK). The earliest **Black-crowned Night-Heron** appeared at Gotwall's Pond in Oley 4/11 (SG). There were no reports of rookeries received this season. A single **Glossy Ibis** was at Gotwall's Pond 4/10-12 (SF, m.ob.). An unusually high count of 10-15 **Glossy Ibis** flying along Route 222 near Leesport was a lucky find 5/25 (SFe). Another high count in *Berks* history was 50 over Nagy's farm in Eckville 5/23/1973 (Margie Compton).

**Osprey** arrived at LO 3/26 (RK) and at KDRA 3/28 (MW). Single **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported countywide throughout early Mar, with the latest a lingering bird at the Pheasant Valley Farm in Robesonia 3/16 (RK) where as many as 3 were reported in February. HMS reported an average season of 943 raptors and a new spring record of 56 **Bald Eagles**. The **Broad-winged Hawk** total of 173 was below average (LG). **Golden Eagle** was reported twice: 3/15 at KDRA (DA) and 4/1 at HMS (LG).

The only rail was a **Virginia Rail** at PC 4/23 (KL). **Sandhill Cranes** are becoming more common each spring; this season five birds were reported: one 3/29 at an undisclosed location (NL), two 5/12 at KDRA (KG), and two

5/24 in Wernersville (EH). Shorebird sightings were light due to the combination of a lack suitable habitat and few weather fronts to ground migrants. Highlights included: **Semipalmated Plover** at SRFP 5/20 (PW, JW); 5 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at BMA 5/19 (MW); **White-rumped Sandpiper** at SRFP 5/5 (KL, MSI), and 5 **Dunlin** at SRFP 4/21 (KL).

The first report of **Bonaparte's Gull** was 3/29 at BML (PS) and the high count of 10 was reported 4/14 at LO (MSI). An **Iceland Gull** was at BQ 3/9 (MD). Two **Lesser-black Backed Gulls** appeared at two locations 3/26: the turnpike pond near Morgantown (FH) and LO (RK). The only report of **Great Black-backed Gull** was one at BML 3/15 (LC). Single **Caspian Terns** were at LO 4/10 (RK) and 4/26 (MS), Water Street 4/21 (KL) and BML 4/21 (MSI). **Black Terns** are uncommon migrants; only one was reported, at LO 5/5 (MSI, KL). Also flying alone were **Common Terns** at LO 4/11 (RK) and at BML 4/14 (KL, RH, MSI). Single **Forster's Terns** were reported at LO 4/10 (KL) and 4/26 (RK).

The sightings of probable breeding **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continued throughout the period in Shartlesville, including 2 at SFP—the farthest point east along Old Route 22 to date. On 3/11, DH reported a **Snowy Owl** was seen in flight in Hamburg 3/11 (DH). Another was photographed perched on a traffic sign at the intersection of Rte. 61 and I-78 in Hamburg 3/26 (TS). The last over-wintering **Short-eared Owls** were in Blandon (KH) and Robesonia (KK), both 3/7. **Common Nighthawk** migration was sparse this spring with only two sightings, both 5/19: one at KDRA in Hamburg (MW) and 3 at a Hamburg residence (KG). The only **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was at SGL110 North Gap 5/22 (KG). Returning **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were noted 4/24-5/10 from several nesting sites. The **Peregrine Falcons** fledged four young in Reading. The banded birds were the offspring of a new female, a three-year old from nearby Columbia, Lancaster. Her mate has been at this site since 2007.

A single **Alder Flycatcher** was along the Kittatinny Ridge northeast of Little Gap 5/23 (KG). There have been no recent breeding confirmations. A possible **Eastern x Western Kingbird** was photographed at SGL106 on 5/10 (TB, JB). At this time, positive identification has not been confirmed.

**Common Ravens** were confirmed as nesting in Reading 5/6 (JD, DK) when the nest was discovered along the Schuylkill River watershed. Four birds were fledged and observed making the begging call as they pursued the adults. Sightings of **Common Ravens** in areas other than the traditional ridges have increased in recent years. Possible nesting behavior was reported in Hamburg 3/11 at KDRA (KG) but no site was found. Sightings of **Common Ravens** in KDRA continued throughout the period. Traditional **Purple Martin** colonies continue to flourish with the exception of one in Shartlesville on Mill Hill Road. The first report of **Purple Martins** at the Centerport gourds was made 5/5 (LC). The Hanes & Kibblehouse mining operation near Hay Creek remains the only nesting site for **Bank Swallows**; 10 were there 5/20 (MS). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scarce this past fall and winter and only two reports were received for spring: 4/29 at SGL110 (KL) and 5/20 in Birdsboro (PM).

Thrushes were typical with a high count of 16 **Wood Thrush** at EXST 5/11 (RK), **Gray-cheeked Thrush** also at EXST 5/16 (KL), and **Swainson's Thrush** there 5/16 as well (KL, AK, BH). Three **Lapland Longspurs** were found in a flock of **Snow Buntings** in the farm country around Robesonia 3/8 (RK). The latest **Snow Bunting** was at Leesport 3/21 (SF); a flock of 151 birds was reported from Mertz Rd, Fleetwood 3/13 (TD).

Birders reported 32 species of warblers plus the two 'winged warbler' hybrids. Numbers of warblers remained low as the anticipated waves of migrants bypassed this area. However, EXST gave birders excellent looks at hard-to-find species. A singing **Prothonotary Warbler** was present in good nesting habitat at EXST from 5/9 (MSI, RH, m.ob.) until 5/31 (KL). The only **Mourning Warbler** was also at EXST 5/16 (BH). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers**, rare here, was observed at EXST 4/15-5/1 (RH, m. ob.). A **Brewster's Warbler** was at BML Old Church Road Access 5/9 (SH). The more unusual **Lawrence's Warbler** made a brief appearance for a group of birders on a HMS warbler walk at SGL 106 (DH, MW). **Kentucky Warblers** sang on territory at the usual ridge sites. On 3/3, 15 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were strangely feeding on the ice in the Schuylkill River at KDRA (KG). Single **Yellow-breasted Chats** appeared on territory at the nearby Trout River Sports Complex 5/15 (JT) and Neversink Mountain 5/26 (AK).

A lingering **American Tree Sparrow** appeared at a feeder in Leesport 4/5 (PW, JW). The first **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported 5/5 at BML (PM). A **Dark-eyed Junco** found dead in *Berks* in early April turned out to have been banded 10/4/2011 on Bond Portage Island, Nova Scotia (BB). The distance is approximately 870 miles by land, or less if the bird flew across the Atlantic Ocean and made landfall around Cape Cod. Two reports of **Summer Tanagers** were of a male at a sunflower feeder on Buck Hollow Rd, Birdsboro 5/8 (HL) that flew off after a few minutes without feeding, and another male began singing on Neversink Mountain near Reading 5/6 and was still present 5/31 (JD). At this writing, a female **Summer Tanager** had been observed at the same location.

**Blue Grosbeak** sightings continue to increase in the countryside. A male was seen 5/24 on Virginville Rd. (MSI). Twelve **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported from Union Meadow Park 4/21 (RK). Large numbers of blackbirds at KDRA 3/16 included 2300 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 14,600 **Common Grackles**, and 2250 unknowns (KG).

**Purple Finches** came to feeders in numbers as high as 20 throughout the area but were most frequent and numerous along the ridges, especially HMS where as many as 30 were often at the feeding station. Likewise, **Pine Siskins** nomadically appeared at many feeding stations in varying numbers. On 3/20, 63 **Pine Siskins** were at a home feeding station (PW, JW). On 3/30, 61 **Pine Siskins** occupied the feeders at HMS (DR). The last reported **Pine Siskin** was on New Holland Road, Reading 5/21 (MSI).

Observers: **Matt Wlasniewski, 21 Scenic Drive, Hamburg, PA 19526, (610) 463-8845, martind28@comcast.net**, Dan Altif, Ed Barrell, Bill Barber, Jaimee Buehl, Thomas Buehl, Jr., Liz Cates, Michael David, Todd Deininger, Jay Drasher, Catherine Elwell, Steve Ferreri (SFe), Steve Fordyce, Laurie Goodrich & HMS Volunteers/Staff, Scarlett Gotwalls, Kerry Grim, Frank Haas, Ken Haas, Holly Hartshome, Brian Henderson, Elaine Hendrick, Daniel Hinnebusch, Russell Hoffman, David Hughes, Sarah Hungerford, Karin Isett, Rudy Keller, Kathy Klusman, Arlene Koch, Dave Kocher, Edward Komito, Harold Lebo, Ken Lebo, Nathan Lewis, Vicky Mahmoud, Holly Merker, Peter Montgomery, Zack Moyer, Patrick O'Donnell, Dave Reiger, Michael Schall, Paul Serridge, Terry Shaffer, Joan Silagy, Mike Slater (MSI), Matt Spence, Jaime Thomas, Bill Uhrich, Duane Wendling, Jane Wolfe, Peter Wolfe, Sue Wolfe, Doug Wood, David Yeany II, Art Zdancewic.

## Blair County

Locations: Canoe Creek SP (CCSP), Monastery Rd. Impoundment (MRI).

Information for this report was obtained 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 across Blair and will not be discussed further in this report: **Spotted Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher, Common Raven, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, and Pine Siskin.**

The same day **Mute Swans** were noted at two locations in Centre, one was also spotted in Blair at Reese Pond 4/7 (MBo). There were three reports of **Blue-Winged Teal** scattered across the county. Six were found at CCSP 4/3 and 4 were at Reese's Pond 4/9. On 4/28 the MRI hosted 2 (all MBo). Area birders found 5 **Northern Shovelers** at Reese's Pond 4/14 (L&JC, MN). A **Redhead** was present in the Skelp Mtn. area 3/17 (J&KB) and up to 4 were present 4/10-11 at CCSP (L&JC, MN, JR). Between 2-8 **Greater Scaup** stopped at CCSP 3/18-4/15 (TA, L&JC, MN). One or 2 **Lesser Scaup** were also present at CCSP 3/12-4/15 and at Roaring Spring dam 4/15 (both TA). A single bird also stopped at the PSU Altoona campus 4/15 (MBo). Also at CCSP, a **Long-tailed Duck** was spotted 4/3 (MBo) and a **Common Goldeneye** was observed 4/11 (JR).

A rare **Red-throated Loon** was at Reese's Pond 4/10-12 (L&JC, MN). **Horned Grebes** made a spring appearance at CCSP 4/3-17 (MBo, et al.); a high of 20 was present 4/10 (L&JC, MN). One or 2 were also identified at Reese's Pond 4/12-17 (MN). Another rare migrant, a **Red-necked Grebe**, stopped at CCSP 4/17 (MBo).

The Albemarle Nature Trail was the site of an **American Bittern** observation 4/28 (MN), and a rare **Great Egret** was at CCSP 4/10-12 (L&JC, et al.). Up to 2 **Green Herons** were noted 4/17-5/13 at CCSP (MBo, et al.) and MRI 5/22 (MBo). A rare immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at CCSP 5/6 (TA). This species is only casually found in the region.

Only one **Black Vulture** was reported, at the Harmony Horsemanship Center 4/18 (J&KB). Single **Ospreys** were observed 4/10 at Big Maple Wetlands (IG), 4/26 at Reese's Pond (L&JC, MN), and 4/28 at MRI (MBo). As many as 5 were present at CCSP 4/11-5/6 (TA, et al.). Coincidentally the same number of **Northern Harriers** was in the Skelp Mtn. area 3/17 (J&KB). One was also noted along I-99 near Tyrone 4/28 (MBo). Two **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were reported—one on SR 4015 near Asbury Ln. 3/25 (MBo) and the other 3/29 at CCSP (TA). Single **Cooper's Hawks** were present 4/3-17 at CCSP (MBo), 5/2-16 at Frosty Hollow (LB), and 5/22 at the PSU Altoona campus (MBo, IM). A **Bald Eagle** was observed 3/17 in the Skelp Mtn. area (J&KB), and another was spotted 4/11 and 5/1 at CCSP (JR, MBo, IM). One or two were on the Lower Trail 4/26-5/3 (JD).

A lone **Virginia Rail** was at CCSP 4/15 (LP). All shorebird observations were from MRI. A single **Solitary Sandpiper** was present 5/22 (MBo), and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen 5/2 (MBo, IM). Three **Least Sandpipers** were observed 5/22 (MBo), and a few **Wilson's Snipe** lingered

4/28-5/2 (MBo, IM). Five **Bonaparte's Gulls** paused at Reese's Pond 4/9, and another was at CCSP 4/17 (both MBo). A flock of 50 **Herring Gulls** were noted 4/3 at CCSP (all MBo).

A few **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported 5/11-29 on the Albemarle Nature Trail (MN). Another was at CCSP 5/22 (MBo), and an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was at SGL 166 on 5/1 (MBo, IM). A scattering of **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported. One each was present 3/4 at Ft. Roberdeau Co. Pk. (JB), 4/10-11 at the Big Maple Wetlands (IG, MBo), 4/15 on the PSU Altoona campus (MBo), and 4/17-25 at CCSP (MBo, JD).

A few **Acadian Flycatchers** included single birds 4/18 at the Harmony Horsemanship Center (J&KB) and 4/25-5/3 on the Lower Trail (J&KB, JD). Two were present on the north end of Brush Mtn. 5/9 (MB), and one was noted 5/11 at the Bellwood railroad underpass (MBo). **Least Flycatchers** were noted on the Lower Trail 5/2 (MBo, IM) and on Brush Mtn. 5/12 (MBo). Two were seen 5/24 at Frosty Hollow (LB), and one was observed 5/28 at CCSP (TA). **Great Crested Flycatchers** included one 5/3 and 5/24 at Frosty Hollow (LB), and 3 at different locations on Brush Mtn. 5/9-12 (MB, MBo). One was at MRI 5/22 (MBo). One **Yellow-throated Vireo** was on the Lower Trail 4/26 (JD), and up to 5 **Warbling Vireos** were at CCSP 4/26-5/22 (L&JC, MN, TA, MBo). One **Warbling Vireo** was at Seminar Forest 4/29 (MBo), and two were on the Lower Trail 5/2 (MBo, IM).

**Fish Crows** are uncommon in Blair. One was heard in Sinking Valley 4/6 (MBo), and another was reported at CCSP 4/12 (TA). A few uncommon swallows were present. A few **Purple Martins** were at CCSP 5/28 (TA). Seventeen **Bank Swallows** were at Kittanning Reservoir 4/25 (ToA), and 5 **Cliff Swallows** were at MRI 4/25 (MBo). A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at SGL 166 on 4/17 (MBo), and one **Brown Creeper** was at Big Maple wetlands 4/6 (MBo, IM). Another Brown Creeper was present 5/22 at CCSP (MBo). A **Swainson's Thrush** was at Frosty Hollow 5/24 (LB), and 10 **American Pipits** were in Canoe Valley 5/2 (MBo, IM).

Twenty-six warbler species were identified, including 11 that are common or abundant; two uncommon species were distributed widely. Many uncommon warbler species were also reported in limited numbers. Single **Worm-eating Warblers** were present 4/28 at MRI (MBo) and 5/4 at Frosty Hollow (LB). Five were at the north end of Brush Mtn. 5/9 (MB). The only sightings of **Blue-winged Warblers** and **Tennessee Warblers** were at Frosty Hollow. One of the former was present 5/3-4, and one of the latter was observed 5/16 (both LB). A **Hooded Warbler** was also present at Frosty Hollow 5/2-24 (LB), and 5 were reported at two locations on Brush Mtn. 5/9-12 (MB, MBo). As many as 5 **Cape May Warblers** were at the PSU Altoona campus 5/21-22 (MBo, IM). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were noted on the Lower Trail 5/2 (MBo, IM), and another was on Brush Mtn. 5/11 (MBo). An additional bird was present at CCSP 5/13 (TA). Two **Northern Parulas** were on the Lower Trail 5/2 (MBo, IM). One or two **Bay-breasted Warblers** were at Frosty Hollow 5/15-16, where a few **Blackburnian Warblers** were also present 5/3 and 5/16 (both LB). Single **Palm Warblers** were noted 4/17-5/1 at CCSP (MBo, IM) and 5/1 at the Bald Eagle Sportsmen Cooperative Nursery (MN). Two were observed at Frosty Hollow 5/2-3 (LB). **Pine Warblers** were also present, with single birds spotted 4/17 in SGL 166 (MBo) and 5/2 at Frosty Hollow (LB). Two were at CCSP 4/17 (MBo). A single **Prairie Warbler** was at Frosty Hollow 5/2, and two days later, a **Canada Warbler** was there as well (both LB).

**White-crowned Sparrows** were at different locations on Brush Mtn.; 22 were spotted 3/16 (MBo), and one was reported 5/9 (MB). Two were present at Frosty Hollow 5/6 (LB) and was also noted at CCSP 5/6 (TA).

Three uncommon Icterids were present, with **Eastern Meadowlark** the most frequently reported. One was spotted 4/2 on Silver Barn Rd. (MBo), and one or 2 were present 4/6-5/2 in Sinking Valley (MBo, IM). Up to 3 were observed 4/17-5/1 at CCSP (MBo, BM, IM, PB), and one was noted 5/22 at MRI (MBo). The first **Rusty Blackbird** was at Plummers Hollow 3/20 (MB). One was at CCSP 4/3 (MBo), and 15 were counted at the Big Maples Wetland 4/11 (IG, MBo). An **Orchard Oriole** was on the Lower Trail 5/2 (MBo, IM), and one or 2 were at CCSP 5/6-22 (TA, MBo).

A **Purple Finch** was at CCSP 4/26-5/28 (L&JC, MN, TA). Five **Common Redpolls** were at the PSU Altoona campus 3/3 (MBo).

Observers: **N.J. Butkovich, 550 Toftrees Ave. #248, State College, PA 16803, (814) 234-6086, njbutkovich@verizon.net**, Tina Alianiello, Tony Arnold (ToA), J. & K. Benefield (J&KB), Jerod Benefield, Marcia Bonta, Mark Bonta (MBo), Lowell Burket, Linder & John Carter (L&JC), Jim Dunn, Ian Gardner, Megan McElwee (MeM), Bryan McGinley, Ian McGregor, Mark Nale, Linda Palmer, Brad Peroney, Justin Raymond.

## Bradford County

Locations: Browning Pond, Spring Hill (BRP), Canton Twp. (CAN), Canton Marsh (CMA), Echo Beach Rd. (EBR), Edwards Rd, Stevensville (ERS),

Glen Rd. N. of Wysox (GLR), Graham Rd., Canton (GRR), Guthrie Ponds, Sayre (GUP), Hess Farm Equipment pasture (HEPA), Lake Nephawin (LNE), Mount Pisgah State Park (MPSP), Mud Pond, Barclay Mt. (MUD), Peck Hill (PEH), Riverfront Park, Towanda (RFP), Seeley Rd. (SEE), Stephen Foster Lake, MPSP (SFL), Stevensville area (STE), Susquehanna River (SUR), Trudy Gerlach farm near New Era (TNE), Taylor Rd. Marsh (TRM), Taylor Road (TRD), Ulster Boat Access (UBA), Upper Mt. Rd. (UMR), Wysox River Access (WRA), Woods Road (WRD).

Spring came a bit late this year, but brought quite a lot of rain when it arrived. Sadly, the emerald ash borer continues to make inroads on the ash trees, and the wooly adelgid continues to plague the hemlocks. The expansion of this report reflects the welcome growth in numbers of observers in *Bradford*. Individual PAMC observers are listed at the end of the observer list rather than throughout the report.

Spring brought a nice mixture of waterfowl. Fifty **Snow Geese** were at Sheshequin 3/6 (DA, NA); 75 were over ERS 3/16 (KR); subsequently they were reported five times through 4/7 (m.ob.). Sixteen **Tundra Swans** were near Wilawana 3/6 (MD); some were on the Ulster flats 3/12 (DA); 30 were at Ulster 3/13 (KR), and 23 were at Welder Lane, Monroeton 3/17 (LF). Two **Gadwall** were at TRM 4/3 (LF). Two **American Wigeon** were observed at HEPA 3/17 (LF) and one was at HEPA 3/21 (NF). Two **American Black Ducks** were at HEPA 3/21 (NF). Three **Blue-winged Teal** were at TRM 4/3, one was at MPSP on 4/13 (LF), 4 were at TRD 4/18 (NF), and one was at TRM 4/18 (KR). A **Northern Pintail** was at HEPA 3/17 (LF). Six **Green-winged Teal** were at TRM 4/3, and singles were at SFL 4/6 (AJ) and 5/2 (LF). Two **Redheads** were at RFP 3/11 (LF) and 6 were at Towanda behind the courthouse (SR). Two **Ring-necked Ducks** were at VFW Rd. 3/21 (SR) and one was at HEPA 3/24 (LF). A **Long-tailed Duck** was at RFP 3/11 (LF). **Bufflehead** sightings included 2 at RFP 3/17 (LF) and a pair at BRP 4/9 (KR). A **Hooded Merganser** was reported eight times 3/11-5/24 (m.ob.). One **Ruddy Duck** was at BRP 4/21 (KR).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at Sawmill Rd. Wyalusing 4/4, a male and female were at Spring Hill Rd. 4/21 (KR), and one was seen E. of Camptown 5/18 (HK). A **Common Loon** was at BRP 4/11 (KR) and one was at MPSP 4/18 (LF). Delightful were three grebe species: a **Pied-billed Grebe** was at GUP 4/7 (DL) and 4/27 (IW) and at LNE 4/27 (LF). Seven **Horned Grebes** were at TRM 4/3 (LF), 10 were at GUP 4/7 (DL), one was at BRP 4/15, and one was on Clapper Hill Rd, Stevensville 4/29 (KR). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at BRP 4/21 (KR).

Raptor sightings included a pair of **Black Vultures** at Cedar Ledge 4/2 (LF) and 2 were at ERS 4/5 (KR). A good number of **Osprey** were noted: one at ERS 4/6 (KR), one at LNE 4/21 (LF), one 5/2, 5/4, and 5/5 at PEH (AV, GV), one at ERS 5/3 (KR) and one on the PAMC 5/9 in the Sayre vicinity. As of 4/1 numerous **Bald Eagle** nests were active (m.ob.) and there were several sightings through the season. A **Northern Harrier** was feeding along Rte. 6 berm, oblivious to traffic, between Rummerfield and Claverack 3/6 (AM). One was at ERS 4/21 (KR) and one was at PEH on the PAMC. First **Broad-winged Hawk** was at GRR 4/19 (LF). A juvenile **Golden Eagle** was flying around a beaver pond at TNE 4/24 (TG).

Three **Virginia Rails** were at TRM 4/18 (LF) and 2 were there 5/2 (LF, KR), and 2 were noted on the PAMC in CAN 5/9. An unusual **Sora** was at CMA 5/2 (LF) and one was at TRM 5/24 (DH). **Common Gallinule** was noted twice: at MPSP 5/8 (LF) the same one again on the PAMC at MPSP 5/9. Also unusual, an **American Coot** was at Tozers Landing 3/15 (IW). A **Sandhill Crane** was on Oak Hill 3/23 (KR), 2 were near New Era 4/9 (TG), and 3 were found during the PAMC at the New Era and Oak Hill vicinities.

A **Semipalmated Plover** was seen on the PAMC in the Sayre area. Three **Solitary Sandpipers** were at SEE 5/7 (LF) and 6 were on the PAMC in CAN 5/9. Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were present ne. of Canton 4/14 (LF) and 2 were on the PAMC at SGL 239. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at TRM 5/2 (LF). **Wilson's Snipe** were noted at CMA 4/9 and 5/2 (LF). The first **American Woodcock** was at TNE 3/17 (TG). Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at BRP 4/21 (KR).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at GRR 5/16 (LF) and a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at PEH 5/18 (AV, GV) and at WRA 5/21 (LF). A **Great Horned Owl** nest on Jennings Rd. 3/9 (LF) was a marvelous find. The first **Eastern Whip-poor-will** in years in the county was heard 5/6 near Iron Bridge Rd. (MG). A **Merlin** was at ERS 3/16 (KR), a pair was defending an old crow's nest in Athens 4/9 (DA), a pair was nest building in Sayre 5/4 (CH), and 2 were observed on the PAMC in the Sayre area.

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was singing on the PAMC at TNE and was heard there through the season. A **Willow Flycatcher** was observed on the PAMC in the Sayre area. One was at TRM 5/15 (LF) and again 5/25 (DH). Quite unusual, a **White-eyed Vireo** was found during the PAMC in the Sayre area. **Yellow-throated Vireo** sightings included one at GRR 4/30 (LF), one at Cold Creek Rd., Stevensville 5/7 (KR), and 5 on the PAMC at Sayre/Athens and STE. A **Blue-headed Vireo** was heard 4/4 and 5/4 at

TNE (TG). They were also recorded at TRM 4/25, at GLR 5/6, at GRR (LF) 5/24, at UMD 5/24 (DH), and at WRD 4/30 (CM). Eight were on the PAMC at CAN, Sayre, Troy and STE. Unusual, two **Fish Crows** were at UBS 5/24 (DH). There were numerous sightings of **Horned Larks**: 60 on 3/2 at the intersection of County Bridge and Bowling Alley Rds., Wyalusing (KR); 23 at PEH 3/7, some on 3/10 at CC Allis Rd. (KR, SA), 18 at CC Allis Rd. 3/10 (KR), several hundred at SEE 3/21 (LF), and 3 on the PAMC in CAN. Five **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at MPSP 4/13 (LF), 12 were noted 5/9 on the PAMC in CAN and the Sayre/Athens area, and 4 were at UBA 5/24 (DH). Twenty-four **Bank Swallows** were observed on the PAMC in the Sayre/Athens area, and 3 were at TRM 5/24 (DH). Four **Cliff Swallows** were found on the PAMC in the Sayre area and 12 were at UBA 5/24 (DH). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was a daily visitor from 3/1-4/21, with a second one appearing 3/29 at ERS (KR). Two **Marsh Wrens** were at TRM 3/17, one 5/17 (LF), and 5/25 (DH).

Seven **Northern Mockingbirds** were seen on the PAMC in CAN, the Sayre/Athens, New Era and Troy areas, and at WRD. Four **American Pipits** were at RFP and several were at HEPA 3/20, 7 were at HEPA 3/21 (LF), 6 were on the PAMC in the STE, and 4 were at RFP 5/20 (LF). A **Snow Bunting** was at HEPA 3/21 (NF).

It was a wonderful spring for warblers. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at Lanning Creek 5/4 and on Dry Run Rd. 5/8 (LF). Two were on the PAMC on Dry Run Rd. and one was on Tip Top Rd. 5/28 (LF). Three **Northern Waterthrushes** were observed on the PAMC in CAN and the STE, at TRM 5/17 (LF), and at MUD 5/19 (TG, LH). Almost never reported, a **Golden-winged Warbler** was at PEH 5/12 (AV, GV). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at Old Sawmill Rd. 5/4, 4 were at GLR 5/6 (LF) and at Woodside Rd. 5/7 (SR), 7 were on the PAMC in the Sayre/Athens and Troy areas, and one was at SGL 239 on 5/24 (DH). Three **Black-and-white Warblers** were seen at GRR 4/30 (LF); one was at WRD 5/3 (CM); 2 were on the PAMC in CAN and EBR, and one was at MUD 5/19 (TG, LH). A **Tennessee Warbler** was found on the PAMC at SGL 239, 2 were at TRD 5/17, and one was at WRA 5/22 (LF). Nine **Nashville Warblers** were seen on the PAMC, and 4 were on CCC 5/24 (DH). Two **Hooded Warblers** were at UMR 5/16 (LF). A total of 32 **American Redstarts** were tallied on the PAMC county-wide. A **Cape May Warbler** was noted at WRD 5/6 (CM), at UMR 5/8 (LF), and during the PAMC in the STE. A **Northern Parula** was at both TRD and TRM 5/17 (LF). **Magnolia Warbler** was noted five times 5/9-21 (m.ob.). Unusual, a **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at Millcreek Rd., Stevensville 5/14 (KR). There were 4 **Blackburnian Warblers** on the PAMC in CAN and Barclay Mt. and at MUD 5/19 (TG, LH). **Blackpoll Warbler** was noted frequently (m.ob.). Five **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were observed on the PAMC in CAN, Barclay Mt., and the STE, and 4 were at MUD 5/19 (TG, LH). A **Palm Warbler** was at MPSP 4/13 (LF) and at TRD 5/2 (LF, NF). Four **Pine Warblers** were at GRR 4/19 (LF) and at UMR 5/24 (DH). Four **Prairie Warblers** were at GLR 5/4 (LF) and 8 were on the PAMC in CAN, PEH and the Sayre area. **Canada Warbler** sightings included 5/8 at Laquin, (LF), 6 on the PAMC in CAN and Barclay Mt., and four 5/19 at MUD (TG, LH). The most unusual sighting of the season was a **Yellow-breasted Chat** on S. Main St., Athens, near the Chemung River 5/6 (NM).

A **Savannah Sparrow** was seen west of Rome 4/16 (LF), on the PAMC in the Rome area, at Laquin 5/11 (LF), and at TNE 5/25 (TG). Three **White-crowned Sparrows** were at SEE 5/7 (LF) and 9 were on the PAMC. Becoming more rare, a **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at GLR 5/14 (LF). Quite unusual, a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at ERS 5/15 (KR). Also unusual, an **Orchard Oriole** was seen on the PAMC in CAN. A first year male was at BRP 5/22 (KR) and one was at Crane Swamp near Wilmot 5/24 (DH).

There were plenty of **Purple Finches** reported 4/12-5/22 (m.ob.). There were numerous sightings of the irruptive **Common Redpoll**: 3 on 3/1, 12 on 3/8, and 24 on 3/15 at GRR (LF); two 3/1, one 3/13, two 4/5 and one 4/6-7 at ERS (KR); four 3/3, six 3/5, ten 3/9, 12 on 3/26, 37 on 3/27, 24 on 3/28, and 12 on 3/30 and 4/3 at PEH (AV, GV); 20 at East Smithfield 3/18 (RG); many on Falsey Hill Rd. 3/21; and one 3/29 and two 4/1 in Towanda (SR). **Pine Siskins** persisted countywide until at least 5/24 (m.ob.).

Observers: **Trudy Gerlach, 6907 Wyalusing New Albany Rd, Wyalusing, PA 18853, (570) 746-9270, tgswoods@epix.net**, Dick Allyn, Nan Allyn, Susan Armitage, Carol Brotzman, Mike Deming, Lewis Frederick, Norwood Frederick, Michelle Georgescu, Trudy Gerlach, Rich Gulyas, Liz Hart, Carolyn Harris, Deuane Hoffman, Amy Johnson, Helen Kramer, Dana LaVanture, Alice Matson, Charlene Miller, Kevin Raymond, Sharon Richards, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Inga Wells, Ron Young. **PAMC Observers:** Dick Allyn, Susan Armitage, Nancy Baker, Marty Borko, Phyllis Chaffee, Scott Chaffee, Jim Covey, Lewis Frederick, Norwood Frederick, Michelle Georgescu, Trudy Gerlach, Rich Gulyas, Carolyn Harris, Chet Harris, Liz Hart, Charlene Miller, Dan Natt, Karen Natt, John Palmer, Marilyn Palmer, Kevin Raymond, Pat Ronsvalle, Phyllis Rosencrance, Al Smith, Anne Vivino-Hintze, George Vivino-Hintze, Jenny Walker, Randy

## Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Lower Makefield Township (LMT), Maple Knoll Farms (MKF), Morrisville (MVL), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Quakertown Swamp (QTS), State Game Land #157 (SGL#157), Silver Lake Park (SLP).

The average temperature for March was 5°F below normal. April was 2.1°F above and May was 6°F above. Precipitation was 0.2 inches above normal for March, 1.04 inches below for April, and 3.74 inches below for May, making May one of the driest on record. The deep freeze caused the Delaware River to be mostly frozen by mid-February and area lakes did not completely thaw until April. The result was a delayed waterfowl migration. Gulls also staged later. There were some shorebird highlights, but despite dry conditions, no major gatherings. Passerines also lingered or arrived late and continued to dribble through to the end of May. In general, the warbler migration by all accounts was the worst anyone could remember. The season total of 236 species was 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 one was later.

The county participated for the 23rd year in the PAMC 5/9, with 63 participants in 30 parties. It certainly ranked as one of our worst. Taking only the previous 13 years which had similar numbers of participating birders, the total of 147 species this year compares to the previous average of 158. The count of individuals of 11,172 was the worst in 14 years, and compares to the previous 13 year average of 19,042. Removing one very high year still results in an average of 16,606.

Historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson (1998) and subsequent updates 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. Bird observations entered in eBird have been reviewed for this report.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Hilltown Twp. 3/11 (AM ph.) provided the only report. **Snow Geese** were tallied at 17 sites (m.ob.), with the highest counts 3/10-13 at PVP and nearby farms (KA, SGo, KI, VM, RMc, AM). The high at PVP was a conservative estimate of 1960 on 3/13 (AM). Four birds there with neck collars were all tagged at Bylot Island or nearby Pond Inlet, Nunavut, Canada. The only **Cackling Goose** reported was at Aquetong Lake 3/25 (HD), setting a new late spring date by over a week. A **Canada Goose** near PVP 3/16 (AM), with collar Y2R7 was banded 6/28/2012 as a juv. at Boucherville, Quebec, Canada. The **Trumpeter Swan** that provided our first county record 12/15/2013 and was seen again in the fall of 2014 reappeared at Lake Towhee Park 5/3 (PTE). It may have been there earlier, but the observer had been away. **Tundra Swan** was only reported from two sites on six dates (m.ob.), with the only high count being 20 at NSP 4/9 (DFa). As usual, the high count of 27 **Mute Swans** came from Warner Lake at PWT where 27 were seen 3/7 (MG).

Both dabbling and diving ducks provided an extended migration period as ice retreated slowly on area lakes. High numbers of **Wood Ducks** arrived and lingered, with the peak counts as follows: New Britain Twp. water retention dam 57 on 3/13 (AM), Giving Pond 63 on 3/16 (EB), PVP 31 on 3/19 (AM), Uhlertown 42 on 3/20 (PC), SLP 27 on 3/22 (MG), MKF 77 on 3/28 (RSm), and Pine Run Dam 37 on 3/29 (KR). A noteworthy but modest peak count of 37 **American Wigeon** was tallied at Pine Run Dam 3/19 (KR), and the PVP peak count was 25 on 3/22 (DFa). The standout high single site counts for **Mallard** were 193 at New Hope 3/7 and 187 at New Britain Twp. 3/10 (both AM). **Blue-winged Teal** made a poor showing with only five sites reporting a total of only 9 birds (DFa, SGr, GJ, MN, MRT, PTa). Peak counts of **Northern Pintail** were 61 at New Britain Twp. 3/16 (AM) and probably the 55 at PVP 3/17 were part of the same group (SGo). Establishing late dates for ducks is difficult since over time almost all appear at odd times beyond normal migration windows. A late **Northern Shoveler** was such a case and lingered at Core Creek Park to at least 5/31 (DFa). At least once one was found in mid-Jun in the past. Otherwise, most reports this spring were in the low single digits, with 10 at Bristol 3/2 (RFe) and 10 at Upper Makefield 3/16 (MG) being the exceptions. BRD again produced the high count for **Green-winged Teal**—46 on 4/4 (KR).

**Canvasbacks** were reported from 10 sites (m.ob.). The large number on the lower Delaware River continued from late Feb through the first half of Mar, with the highest single site count of 150 on 3/8 at Neshaminy State Park (RSm, VS). **Redhead** was reported from 11 sites (m.ob.), with counts of 21 at an Upper Makefield Twp. pond 3/12 (AM, JMi, DMo, VD) and 19 at PWT 3/15 (GD, CD) being the standouts by far. **Ring-necked Duck** often

gathers in large numbers during migration, but high counts were modest this year. The high reports were 120 at PWT 3/1 (ST), 150 at PVP 4/1 (AR), and 150 at New Hope 4/1 (BHo). **Greater Scaup** was noted at 11 sites (m.ob.), with the standout high count being 51 at Quaker Penn Park 3/1 (MG). **Lesser Scaup** continued in low numbers, with a high report of only 15 4/11 from Tullytown (ML). Another case of abnormal timing, after no reports later than mid-Apr, a pair appeared at PVP 5/30 and at least the male stayed through the end of the month (AM). At least 26 **White-winged Scoters** were reported from five sites (m.ob.). The high count was 12 at Bristol 3/1 (MG). At least 15 **Long-tailed Ducks** were noted, with the high counts 5 at NSP 4/7 (DFa) and 5 at PVP 4/21 (AM, KR). The **Common Goldeneye** high count was 75 4/17 (MG) at LMT. **Hooded Merganser** was suspected of nesting at the QTS area in recent years. A female with 4 juvs. a short distance from the swamp 5/20 (DFa) confirmed the county's first known breeding. Hundreds of **Common Mergansers** lingered right into the first half of Apr, with the high an estimated 1000 at PVP 4/3 (AM) and an estimated 400 still there 4/9 (ML). **Red-breasted Merganser** again was more obvious and lingered through Apr, with 16 sites reporting mostly low to mid-single digit counts (m.ob.). The exceptions were peak counts of 16 at PVP 4/7 (AM) and 11 at NSP 4/12 (PC). **Ruddy Duck** was scarce with only eight sites reporting (m.ob.). The high count was only 18 at PVP 4/6 (KR). A bird flushed twice by a birder but former grouse hunter was believed to be a **Ruffed Grouse** at PVP 3/31 (RD). Considering other recent reports, it cannot be ignored as surprising as it is.

Loons and grebes were reported in low to modest counts. **Red-throated Loon** was at Bristol 3/1-12 (RFe, MG, AM, JMi, KR.), with a high of 2 there 3/2 (TA ph.). The only other report was one at NSP 4/22 (BE). **Common Loon** generally was in low single digit counts, with the last report 5/16 (DFa, BW). The exceptions were very modest highs of 15-20 at NSP 4/9-12 (DFa, AM) and 10 at PVP 4/11 (AM). Surprisingly, one was found dead stuck high in a tree in a wooded area at Central Park in Doylestown Twp. 4/22 (TF ph.). It was independently noticed 4/25 while leading a bird walk there and recovered by township workers a couple of days later (RHe, vt.). It was suggested the bird crashed in bad weather trying to land on a nearby pond (SW), which was supported by weather records indicating heavy rain and wind a few days earlier. **Horned Grebes** were reported through 5/5 at 12 sites with counts mostly in the low to mid-single digits (m.ob.). Higher counts came from NSP 4/7-27, with a high of about 30 on 4/7 (DFa) and PVP with 10 present 4/14 and 4/21 (AM). **Red-necked Grebe** was in low numbers compared to the huge movement last winter, but they lingered through early May. Only seven sites had reports. Almost all reports were of one bird, and the total number of birds reported may have been as low as only 12 (m.ob.). The first migrant was at PVP 3/6 (KR), and the last was there 5/5 (AM). The only reports of 2 were at PVP 4/21 (AM, KR) and New Hope 3/25 (BHo). **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported throughout the season. The highest report was 258 at PVP 4/17 (AM). To my knowledge, no one has ever reported a "**White-crested**" **Double-crested Cormorant** subspecies in the county. Reports of one at PVP started 4/7 (RHe). It was relocated 4/11-13 (AM, JMi, ph.), and 2 were together 4/14 (AM ph.). There are two subspecies of Double-crested Cormorant that typically show white crests: *albobiliatus* of western North America, which is occasionally seen inland to Nevada, Montana, and New Mexico, and *cinnatus*, which breeds in Alaska and winters on the Pacific coast. Pictures of the PVP birds closely matched *albobiliatus*, which is somewhat smaller and with generally shorter crests than *cinnatus*. However, according to Pyle's *Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part II* (2008), *auritus*, the eastern subspecies that occurs north of Florida and the one that is regular in Pennsylvania, may also occasionally show white crests. Palmer's *Handbook of North American Birds, Vol 1* (1962) also mentions that eastern birds may have "occasional white or partly colored plumes, especially in mid-continent populations." Apparently the white-crested variant is very rare in the east at any rate. There were only four previous entries of "Double-crested Cormorant (White-crested)" in eBird away from the western North America, one on Cape Cod (photo) and three on the eastern Great Lakes. As a result, I submitted my pictures to the eBird project leaders for help with identification and classification in eBird. They in turn sent them to experts in the west. To date, I have no definitive comments regarding the identification of the subspecies at PVP. Surprisingly, my question has also led to the possible elimination in eBird of "Double-crested Cormorant (White-crested)" as a checklist choice, which is in keeping with eBird's policy of not providing choices that are not field-identifiable. In other words, out of range *albobiliatus* may not be separable from variant *auritus* that show white crests. Thus, from Pyle and the response from Cornell, it is possible the birds at PVP were just odd white-crested *auritus*, which are apparently rarely noted here. However, *albobiliatus* cannot be ruled out by the PVP photos. **Great Cormorant** was reported regularly through 4/10 on the lower Delaware River (m.ob.), with the high count of 25 at Bristol 3/7 (MG). Two were getting late at Rohm and Haas, Bristol 5/2, and maybe the

same 2 were still at Mud Island 5/31 (both DFa).

**American Bittern** was reported at QTS 4/2-5/2, with 13 seen migrating out (DFa). The only other report was one at Washington Crossing Park 4/11 (MN, SA). **Great Egret** was scarce, with six sites reporting a total of only 9 birds 3/25-5/16 (m.ob.). The first arrived to a partially frozen lake at PVP 3/25 and joined the gulls sitting on the ice (AM). It stretched out its body, neck, and bill multiple times and probed the ice. One can only guess why, but it seemed like it was thinking, why can't I get to the water and what is this stuff? Three **Snowy Egrets** at Bristol 5/9 (SB) provided the only report. A rare **Cattle Egret** was at Oxford Valley Park and Lake Caroline 5/1 (JP, ph.). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** again was scarce, with SLP having one 4/16-18 (RFe, MG), and 3 5/16 (DFa, BW). Singles were at East Rockhill Twp. 5/1 (HR, JR), and Churchville Park 5/23 (HD), with 2 a surprise at Newtown 5/31 (PS ph.). They must be breeding near SLP since they are regular there. The last reported breeding was at Brick Tavern near Quakertown in the early 1980s, where a large colony existed for decades. A probable heard only **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at QTS 4/2, and 2 were there 5/3-7 (DFa). Two **Glossy Ibis** were at PWT 5/16 (DFa, BW) for the only report.

A **Black Vulture** banded (wing tag 27) as a nestling 7/15/2014 in a horse barn at Malvern, Pennsylvania was with a roosting group at Washington Crossing in Mar (MRu). A new **Osprey** nest was reported south of Upper Black Eddy (EB). The new Marshall Island nest of last year was not rebuilt (DA). Not surprising, the PAMC **Bald Eagle** count set a new record at 17, compared to the previous 12. A **Rough-legged Hawk** continued at Bedminster Twp. until at least 3/1 (DFa), and one flew over Giving Pond 3/11 (EB). A rare spring **Golden Eagle** was in Tinicum Twp. 3/7 (PC). A **Virginia Rail** was at BRD 4/23 (GJ) and QTS 4/26 (DFa). Two were first noted at LaSalle College, Newtown 4/25 (MG), and they plus possibly a third reported 5/2 (JMe), continued to at least 5/16 (m.ob.). The county's 12th known **Sandhill Crane** was spotted at MKF (RSm, VS).

Sixteen shorebird species were reported, with numbers generally low. A **Black-bellied Plover** 5/9 at PWT (DFa) was the first recorded for a PAMC and the only report this spring. **Semipalmated Plover** was reported at PWT 5/9-17 (DFa, MG), with the high count of 7 5/16 (DFa, BW). They were at BRD 5/13-28 (GJ, m.ob.), with a high of 7 5/16 (AM). The fourth documented county record for **Willet** occurred at PVP 4/21 (AM, ph.). The observer suspected the eastern subspecies due to the early date, the plumage, structure, and the fact it left flying east. However, this subspecies has never been documented in the state. A **Dunlin** at PWT 5/9 (DFa) was the only report. **Least Sandpiper** was the only species with a sizable count on the ground, with a high of 71 at BRD 5/16-17 (AM, MG). Only one to 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were detected on the ground at PWT and BRD (DFa, AM, BHe, BW). A flock of 213 flying north over PVP 5/29 (DFa) was the only report of late evening migrants this spring. Single **Short-billed Dowitchers** stopped at PWT 5/16 (DFa, BW) and BRD 5/20-21 (AM ph.), with a different bird at BRD 5/26 (AM ph.). A female **Wilson's Phalarope** at BRD 5/16 provided only the 15th known report for the county (AM ph.). A **Red-necked Phalarope** was at PWT 5/31 (DFa).

**Bucks'** first-ever **Parasitic Jaeger** was photographed at BRD 5/31 (DFa, ph.). This was an extremely rare spring find for the state. *Birds of Pennsylvania* (2000) only lists three spring reports. Nine species of gull were reported. **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported from nine sites, with site high counts of 32 at Erwinna 4/7 (PC), 50+ at NSP 4/7-8 (DFa), 60 at MVL 4/12 (MG), and 30-35 at PWT 4/19-26 (DFa). A **Little Gull** at MVL 4/12 (MG, ph.) provided the seventh county record, all since 2001. The first **Laughing Gulls** were reported at Falls Twp. Park 4/1 (BC). **Iceland Gull** was reported at six sites (m.ob.), with the last report 5/16 at PWT (DFa). The high counts were 4 at MVL 3/12 (BC), 4 at Falls Twp. Park 3/13 (BC), and 4 at PWT 4/19 (DFa). The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** high count was 397 at PVP 3/16 (DFa), and at least one bird continued to 5/16 at PWT where a few usually spend the summer (DFa). Only the third **Glaucous Gull** in the PVP records was found 3/15 (DFa). It is likely, but there is no way to be certain, that the same bird was also there 3/22 (AM ph.) and 4/4 (SS, RSc), and last reported 4/7 at NSP (PC ph.). Single birds were at Bristol 3/4 (MG, ph.), MVL 3/13 (BC), and Franklin Cove, Tullytown 4/10 (RFe). Two were still at PWT 5/2 (DFa). Terns were scarce. A **Caspian Tern** was at NSP 4/21 (DFa, PC), PWT had 2 4/26 (DFa), and one was late at PWT 5/31 (DFa). Two **Common Terns** were at NSP 4/14 (DFa), and a **Forster's Tern** was there 4/11 that provided a new spring early date (PC).

A dead **Barn Owl** 3/19 at last year's successful nest box probably succumbed to the extreme winter (DFa). Its presumed mate was heard the next day by the landowner. The last **Long-eared Owl** was reported at PVP 3/16 (AM). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported at four sites. The breeding site at Buckingham Twp. first noted one 5/5 (DS), and the breeding site at SGL 157 had 3 5/7 (EB). A bird in Tinicum Twp. 5/9 (MG, PC, JMe) and one in Warminster 5/10 (DMc) were probably migrants. The **Peregrine Falcon** resident pair at the Pennsylvania Turnpike Bridge was replaced by

new birds that successfully hatched 3 juvs. The original female reported in last season's summary as being taken for rehabilitation due to being emaciated died in captivity (*vide* HE). It is unknown what happened to the original male. The resident pair reported in the winter season along the Delaware in northern **Bucks** was confirmed to be breeding (KB). The first nest failed in about a week, but incubation of a second attempt started about 5/7 (KB). The site was the last known natural breeding site for the original wild birds in the county during the 1950s.

Less frequently reported flycatchers were even more so this year. **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SGL 157 on 5/16 (DFa, BW) and 5/23 (DFa, AM). Another was at Tyler State Park 5/19 (DMo). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at PVP 5/20-22 (JB, CC). **Alder Flycatcher** was at SGL 157 5/23 (DFa). Only 5 **Least Flycatchers** were reported this year at four sites (EC, PC, BHe, AM). Unexpected and surprising was the report of 2 **Philadelphia Vireos** together for PAMC (SF). **Common Raven** continues to be reported regularly now, with 11 sites entered in eBird (m.ob.). A **Horned Lark** near MKF 4/20 (RSm), and 2 to at least 5/23 in LMT (MG) add to recent reports that indicate breeding may still occur in the county. The latter date if not breeding birds would provide a new late date for spring migrants. The high site report was 131 at MKF 3/1, with 52 still there 3/28 (RSm). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported only at six sites (BB, LW, CH, KI, AM), with 5/16 the last date (DFa, BW). Most were just one day sightings of migrants. The **Carolina Wren** PAMC count of 67 matched the previous lowest in 15 years. Last year the number was 89 and the previous year 150. It appears the two cold winters have taken a toll as would be expected. As reported in the winter season, the **European Robin** continued and was seen 3/5-7 at LMT (PN doc. ph.). The count of 44 **Eastern Bluebirds** on the PAMC was for the second year well below average suggesting another winter impacted species. The pass through late migrant **Catharus** thrushes peaked in the second half of May in probably normal numbers (m.ob.). The single site high report for **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was 2 at SGL 157 on 5/23 (DFa, AM). The **Swainson's Thrush** high counts were 4 at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 5/17 (DFa) and 6 at PVP 5/21 (AM). The 168 **Wood Thrushes** tallied for PAMC was second lowest only to last year looking at 15 years of history and far below the average. Time will tell if the downward trend and lower counts in recent years is the new norm. Likely also winter related, the **American Robin** (685), **Northern Mockingbird** (39), and **Cedar Waxwing** (25) were all among the very lowest PAMC counts for the species and way below average for the second year in a row. One **Snow Bunting** was at MKF 3/1 (RSm), 4 were at Van Sant Airport 3/1 (PC), and one was at Hilltown Twp. 3/3 (AM), all providing unusual season reports.

A total of 34 warbler species was reported. Orange-crowned Warbler and Connecticut Warbler are unexpected in spring and were not reported. The PAMC total of 807 warblers of 21 species compared to 2290 of 32 last year pretty much defined this year's warbler migration in general. Low counts of species and individuals were the rule on outings. Of the PAMC total, relatively common local breeders **Ovenbird** (146), **Common Yellowthroat** (258), **Yellow Warbler** (196), and **Prairie Warbler** (59) totaled 659 individuals or 82%. These were the exception to the extremely low numbers. Clearly, other migrant warblers were completely missing or in very low numbers. In general throughout May, daily single site warbler species tallies were at best only in the low teens and the majority of reports even lower. Even an all-day countywide search 5/16 only resulted in 23 species including several singles of known residents (DFa, BW). A **Northern Waterthrush** 4/21 at SLP was one day earlier than any previous first spring reports (RFe). **Prothonotary Warbler** nested for the fifth year in a row at PVP. The male was first noted 5/4 (SA, MN), with the female 5/8 (AM). The vinyl nest boxes placed in recent years (DFa) were taken over by swallows last year or in one case this year by House Wren. Vinyl pipes had been placed horizontally many years ago under the bridge over the Neshaminy Creek by the late Steve Farbotnik to attract Rough-winged Swallows, but all except one had been washed away by high water. That one is now used by Tree Swallows. More were mounted a few years ago (AM) and surprisingly one of those was this year's nest site. Placing nest boxes under bridges over water near willow trees may be a good way of expanding the breeding range of this glamour species in the region. The species was also detected at PWT 5/9 (DFa) and Point Pleasant 5/16 and 5/24 (PC). **Golden-winged Warbler** was at SLP 5/12 (RFe) for the only report. **Hooded Warbler** was scarcely reported. Singles were reported at PWT 5/2 (DFa) and Neshaminy State Park 5/20 (DBe). SGL 157 is a breeding site and had 3 5/5 (SGo). A **Cerulean Warbler** was at PVP 5/2 (PH, ZM), for what is now a rare sighting. A **Pine Warbler** 3/20 in Langhorne was believed to be one wintering and first detected 2/10 but not seen for a few weeks (GD, CD). The multi-year wintering bird at LMT continued to at least 3/27, but the site was not monitored after that date (CF). **Yellow-throated Warbler** returned 4/18 to a historic breeding site at Washington Crossing Park where it has not been regular since 2001 (JMI,

AM). To my knowledge no female was reported. This was the only report of a formerly more common breeding species along the Delaware River. **Mourning Warbler** was reported from five sites (PC, DFa, BW, AM). Only one **Kentucky Warbler** was reported at SGL#157 starting 5/16 (DFa), our only regularly reported site for the species. **Yellow-breasted Chat** is rare here now, so 2 at NSP starting 5/19 (DFa) were a surprise.

**Vesper Sparrow** was at the MKF area 4/2 and 4/28 (RSm) for the only reports. The only reports of **Grasshopper Sparrow** were at Van Sant Airport starting 5/7 (DFa). Scarce in spring, single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at MKF (RSm) and PVP (AM) 5/7. Singles were also at Warrington Twp. (RFR), and SGL 56 (PC) on 5/8. **White-crowned Sparrow** seems to be scarcer in spring in recent years, with only four sites reporting a total of 8 birds (DA, DFa, RSm, BW, AM). One to 2 **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported at MKF starting 5/10 (RSm) and 5 were at PWT 5/9 where they are regular (DFa). The **Rusty Blackbird** high counts were 44 at SLP 3/29 (MG) and about 50 at QTS 4/25 (PC). A **Baltimore Oriole** paid a one day visit to a feeder in New Britain Borough 3/29 (LS ph.). Whether migrant or wintering bird no way to know. A wintering bird at Upper Makefield Twp. was still present to at least 3/21 (LM, BM). The two males wintering in Middletown Twp. were last seen 4/26 (DP), just one day before the first spring migrant report 4/27 at BRD (GJ). After being very scarce this winter, **Purple Finch** began moving north starting 4/11 (RHi) and continued until 5/3 (RFe, LW). Some of the higher counts were 18 at BRD 4/23 (GJ), 10 at Buckingham Twp. 4/23 (LT), 18 at Doylestown Twp. 4/24 (BG), and 12 at Tyler State Park 4/27 (MN). Seemingly perennially rare here now, single **Common Redpolls** were in Riegelsville 3/5 (DBr) and Solebury Twp. 3/8 (MRT). The **Pine Siskins** that became fairly widespread in Feb continued with the last report one at Doylestown Borough 5/26 (WM). Most counts were in the low to mid-single digits (m.ob.). Some higher site counts were 15 at Riegelsville 3/1 (EB), 14 at Langhorne 3/20 (GD, CD), 10 at Yardley 4/11 (MG), and 10 at Buckingham Twp. multiple days in Mar (BK). Six sites had birds continuing into May, but no breeding was detected.

**EXOTICS: European Goldfinch** has been reported over the years and always assumed to be releases or escapes. One was at Feasterville 3/25-26 (KKo, ph.).

Observers: **August Mirabella, 1443 Wheaton Lane, North Wales, PA, 19454, (215) 368-0594, augustinmirabella@aol.com**, Kris Ahlquist, Diane Allison, Tom Ashford, Seth Asubel, Alana Balough, Karen Rankin-Baransky, Dave Belford (DBe), Barbara Bennett, Erich Boenzli, Stephen Boyle, David Brandes (DBr), Jean Burch, Paul Cooper, Chuck Crunkleton, Elaine Crunkleton, Bob Cunningham, Henry D'Alessandro, Vince DeAntoniis, Chris Dewaghe, Gerry Dewaghe, Ron Duck, Howard Eskin, Bill Etter, Connie Fairchild, Devich Farbotnik (DFa), Tom Fahey, Robert Ferguson (RFe), Doug Filler (DFi), Ron French (RFR), Sharon Furlong, Mark Gallagher, Scott Godshall (SGo), Bill Graham, Sean Greene (SGr), Cindi Hassrick, Brian Henderson (BHe), Ray Hendrick (RHe), Paul Heveran, Robert Hills (RHi), Bill Hoehne (BHo), Mike Homel, Karin Isett, Gail Johnson, Kelly Joslin, Bill Keim, Ken Kitson (KKi), Kris Koch (KKo), Mike Lyman, Vicky Mahmoud, Many Observers (m.ob.), Wendy Margolis, Robert McGarry, Dawn McGhee (DMc), John Miller (JMe), Judy Mirabella (JMi), Dwight Molotsky (DMo), John Morgan (JMo), Bob Mousley, Lois Mousley, Zach Moyer, Pam Newitt, Mary Normandia, Jessica Pellien, David Pentland, Ann Rhoads, Ken Rieker, Hart Rufe, Jewel Rufe, Megan Rusnak (MRu), Margie Rutbell (MRt), Rob Schuyler (RSc), Steve Shreiner, Lucy Siegfried, Diane Smith, Richard Smith (RSm), Vicky Smith, Barbara Stollsteimer (BSt), Phillip Stollsteimer, LeRoy Tabb, Patrick Taylor (PTa), Paul Teese (PTe), Shannon Thompson, John Tramontano, Billy Weber, Scott Weidensaul, Lesley Weissman-Cook.

## Butler County

Locations: Barkeyville Grasslands (BG) 528 Boat Launch (528 BL), Bear Run Boat Launch (BRBL), Butler Freeport Trail (BFT), Butler Township (BT), Clay Township (CT), Cranberry Township (CrT), Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO), McDanel's Boat Launch, Moraine State Park (MSP), South Shore (SS), South Shore Day Use Area (SSDA), State Game Lands 95 "The Glades" (SGL 95), Upper Boat Launch 528 (UBL528) Waterfowl Observation Area (WOA). Note: Barkley Road, BL 528, BRBL, LA, McDanel's Boat Launch, SS, SSDA, UBL 528, Watts Bay, WOA are all located in Moraine State Park.

March came in like the proverbial lion with more snow, and lakes and ponds, still locked in ice, stalled the northward movement of waterfowl. After a brutal February featuring temperatures below zero on 12 nights, it dipped below zero again during the first week of March. In some years, by the second week of March, Lake Arthur is host to a variety of waterfowl. This year the lake was frozen solid as late as 3/9.

The spring thaw started 3/10 with rain and temperatures in the 40s. By 3/20 Lake Arthur was still frozen except for small areas of open water at the WOA and where the stream enters at the SSDA. LO was still mostly frozen except for small areas of open water at the upper end of the lake. March went out like a lion too, with night time temperatures in the teens on the last weekend of the month. On 4/1 there were still small snowdrifts that hadn't melted in northern *Butler* and the lakes were still 90% frozen. As a result, waterbird sightings were scarce until the end of March and most waterfowl reports began in earnest the first week of April. Early April saw nighttime lows still in the 20s.

This year's PAMC was held 5/9 but unfortunately the weather was sunny, mild, and calm, not the kind of weather that brings a fallout like 2014. Twenty-five participants in 9 parties covered more of the county than ever before, recording 132 species and 3,474 individuals in 28 party hours and 126 party miles. Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were a pleasant surprise after many years absence, as was a singing male **Golden-winged Warbler** at SGL 95. A lone introduced **Chukar** was the most surprising species for the day, having roamed a block of Slippery Rock Borough since 5/1. A local farmer raised **chukars** in 2013 but not since. Of course, it was not officially counted for the day (GW).

**Canada Goose** populations remain high with 50 seen near Meridian 3/13, 29 juveniles with 33 adults at LA 5/2, and 81 reported during the PAMC 5/9 (m.ob.). A single **Mute Swan** was on a farm pond just south of Saxonburg along Rte. 228 on 5/9 (GK, MAK). **Tundra Swan** was reported six times 3/10-4/4 including 14 over a frozen Glade Dam Lake 3/10 (DH); the high was 25 near Fenelon Road 3/23 (WZ). **Gadwall** was reported in small numbers through the season beginning 3/30, all reports coming from LA, with the high of 10 at WOA 4/12 (OM). The first **American Wigeon** was a single at the WOA 3/22 (RN, DK), followed by 8 at MSP 3/24 (RH), 10 at Stoughton Golf Course 3/31 (BBa), and one at SGL95 4/18 (GK, MAK). There were seven reports of **Blue-winged Teal**, all in Apr (m.ob.), with a high of 6 at SGL95 on 4/26 (BBa). **Northern Shoveler** consisted of a single male at WOA 4/2 (OM, JG), a pair at WOA 4/12, and 8 seen near Harmony 4/12 (MH, RH). Four **Green-winged Teal** were at MSP North Shore 4/4 (GK, MAK) and 2 were at SGL95 on 4/26 (BBa).

The only **Canvasback** were 7 at the 528 BL 4/8 (GK, MAK). **Redhead** was only reported twice, one at MSP 3/16 (AC) and one at WOA 3/22 during a Three Rivers Bird Birding Club outing (m.ob.). **Ring-necked Duck** made a fine showing beginning with 10 at Barkley road 3/22 (DK), and 4 at WOA 3/22 (RN, DK). There was a nice movement of Ring-necks at the end of Mar with 48 at MSP 3/30 (RN), 59 at SGL95 (OM), and 20 at LA 4/1 (OM). Smaller numbers were reported through the second week of May (TR, GK, MAK, DW). **Lesser Scaup** was reported much more frequently than **Greater Scaup**. Most reports came from MSP with high counts of 50 along the North Shore Bike Trail 4/5 (TR) and 47 in Muddy Creek Twp. the same day (TF). The only scoters were a pair of **Surf Scoters** at MSP 4/25 (RS) and 2 at the 528 BL 4/27 (GK, MAK). The only report of **Long-tailed Duck** was from SGL95 on 3/10 when 58 birds in 3 flocks of 17, 35, and 6 were tallied (DH).

**Bufflehead** was the most widely reported water bird with sightings from 10 different locations (m.ob.) and an amazing high count of 117 at SGL95 on 4/27 (GK, MAK). All three merganser species began appearing 3/20 with 2 pairs of **Hooded Merganser**, 2 pairs of **Common Merganser**, and a single **Red-breasted Merganser** at LO despite (OM). **Hooded Merganser** was widely reported through the season (m.ob.). **Common Mergansers** were widespread across *Butler* including a high count of 40 at SS 4/24 (TR). Reflecting the southern expansion of their range, breeding was confirmed in eastern *Butler* when a female and 13 young were observed along Buffalo Creek 5/10 (JGI). During the second Breeding Bird Atlas, the only confirmed breeding records of this species were from the northwest in the Slippery Rock/Wolf Creek area. **Red-breasted Merganser** was reported mostly at LA (m.ob.). High counts included 63 at the 528 BL 4/8 (GK, MAK) and 30 at SS the same day (SG). **Ruddy Duck** was well represented with sightings from seven locations including 60 at the North Shore Bike Trail 4/5 (TR), and 25 at SS and 35 at Watts Bay 4/11 (both BBa), 2 near Harmony 4/12 (MJ), 10 at SGL95 on 4/25 (BBa), 18 at SGL95 on 4/29 (GK, MAK), 2 at Squaw Valley Woodlands 5/3 (DW), and one very late bird at LO 5/22 (MJ).

There were nine sightings of **Ring-necked Pheasant** from Clay Twp., Jennings, Karns City, Seven Hills Road, and SGL95 (m.ob.). **Ruffed Grouse** continues to be scarce with just 2 reports, one heard drumming at Jennings 4/14 (RN) and one at SGL95 on 5/17 (MJ).

**Common Loon** made a very nice appearance with 14 of 16 reports coming from LA including amazing high counts of 34 at Watts Bay 4/4 (GK, MAK) and 35 at MSP 4/5 (CA). Ten loons were seen at Lake View Beach 4/4 (GK, MAK) and the last one was lingering at LA until at least 5/9 (OM, JG, DW, DN). **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported six times, all from LA (m.ob.). **Horned Grebe** made a nice showing; the first one was at WOA



3/22 (RN, DK). Thirteen of 15 sightings were from LA, the other two from SGL95 (m.ob.). High counts included 15 at SS 4/7 (DK), 14 at SGL95 on 4/29 (GK, MAK) and 11 at North Shore Bike Trail 4/5 (TR). Last was at North shore 5/8 (TRI). **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported 23 times, 15 from LA, 7 from SGL95 and once from LO. High counts included an impressive 105 at MSP 4/5 (TRI), 25 at Watts Bay 4/11 (BBa), 12 at SS 4/11 (SG), and 150 at MSP 4/18 (GK, MAK). **Great Egret** was spotted twice with a single bird at SS 4/24 (TR) and one at UBL528 5/4 (GK, MAK). The first **Turkey Vulture** was seen over Kiester House Road 3/13 (CRe).

The following report was submitted by GW: Having been in south Texas the months of February, March, and April the past ten years prevented me from witnessing early spring migration in *Butler*. Thus, the late afternoon mass movement of 325-375 Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) in kettles over Slippery Rock Borough 3/25 was a pleasant surprise. From 17:00 to 18:49, vultures began diving out of kettles and landing in a two-acre, tall, 50-year old black spruce forest in my backyard. Several people witnessed this event from the Giant Eagle Plaza one-half block away, counting 153 vultures. However, dense fog that night persisted until mid-morning 3/26 that kept the flock flightless until three vulture scouts discovered a deer carcass in a field one-quarter mile north of the roost.

The first **Osprey** report was 2 at LA 3/29 (KD). Osprey was also seen at SGL95 on 5/25 (GK, MAK). **Bald Eagle** was seen regularly through the season at LA and SGL95, both confirmed nesting areas (m.ob.). Another was at LO 5/24 (KB). Lone **Northern Harriers** were seen at SGL95 on 3/10 (DH), 4/1 (OM) and 4/15 (BBa). The first **Broad-winged Hawks** were 2 at the 528 BL (GK, MAK) and one at Butler Freeport Trail 4/13 (MH, RH). **Virginia Rails** were confined to SGL95 with counts of 3 on 4/25 (SG), 4 on 5/2, and one 5/3 (JB). Single **Sora** was heard at SS 4/11 (BBa) and one was at SGL95 4/25 (GK, MAK). Another was there 5/3 (JB). **American Coot** high count was 30 at Watts Bay 4/11 (BBa). **Sandhill Crane** was reported seven times from three locations including a flyover of 4 at SGL95 4/1 (GK, MAK), 11 at Muddy Creek Twp. 4/5 (TF), 2 at the 528 BL 4/11 (GK, MAK), 3 at SGL95 on 4/26 (BBa), and one at SGL95 on 4/29 (GK, MAK) followed by 2 there 5/2-3, possibly the same birds (JB).

Spring shorebird sightings are usually scant in *Butler* due to limited habitat. This season continued that trend. **Upland Sandpiper**, listed as a probable breeder in *Butler*, was spotted twice: 2 at SGL95 on 4/25 and 3 at the Barkeyville Grasslands 5/29 (BBa). A lone **Semipalmated Plover** was at LO 5/17 (MJ). A lone **yellowlegs** sp. was at SS 4/7 (DK). **Solitary Sandpiper** was reported three times: one at WOA 4/24 (TR), one at Squaw Valley Woodlands 5/3 (DW), and 2 at Glade Run Lake (which was drained due to issues with the dam) 5/9 (GK, MAK). Two **American Woodcock** were reported from SGL95 on 4/1 (GK MAK) and 3 were at Clay Twp. 4/27 and 5/3 (both BBa).

Four species of gull showed up at LA, including a rarely seen **Great Black-backed Gull** at the 528 BL 4/4 (GK, MAK). **Bonaparte's Gull** was well represented with ten reports 4/2-5/8 including high counts of 19 at SS 4/4 and 18 at the 528 BL 4/17 (both GK, MAK). **Ring-billed Gull** was reported from 3/16 through May, all from LA (m.ob.). Reports of **Herring Gull** are increasing at LA; there were six reports starting 3/16 with a high count of 20 that day (AC) as well as 17 at the 528 BL 4/4 (GK, MAK). **Caspian Tern** stopped at LA 4/4 and 5/4 (GK, MAK). They have been reported in each of the past 5 years, but were reported in only three of 10 years before that. **Forster's Tern** was seen 6 times including 11 at SGL95 on 4/22 (DH). The other five reports came from LA 4/21-5/7 (m.ob.).

**Black-billed Cuckoo** was at UBL 528 on 5/4 and 5/9 (m.ob.). **Yellow billed Cuckoo** was at Clay Twp. 5/27 (BBa). SGL95 produced **Great Horned Owl** 5/2 and 5/9 (JB). **Barred Owl** was at SGL95, Jennings, Lancaster Twp., and the Butler Freeport Trail (GK, MAK, RN). The only report of **Common Nighthawk** was 2 over Jennings 5/11 (BBa).

Two **Great Crested Flycatchers** were observed entering a nest hole at Jennings 5/25 (MB). The first **Eastern Kingbird** was at SGL95 4/30 (GK, MAK). All of the expected vireo species were reported including one **Philadelphia Vireo** at BL 528 on 5/8 (GK, MAK). **Common Raven** is indeed becoming "common" in western Pennsylvania with eight sightings through the season (m.ob.), the first from Lancaster Twp. 3/22 (RN). **Purple Martin** returned to MSP and BG (m.ob.). There was just one sighting of **Bank Swallow**, at SS 5/17 (ST). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, confirmed as breeding in only one location in *Butler*, was at SGL95 on 4/25 and at Butler Twp. 4/30 (both GK, MAK). Numerous reports of **Carolina Wren** in early Mar showed that they survived another brutal winter (m.ob.). Only one **Winter Wren** was reported, at SGL95 on 4/25 (SG). A single **Marsh Wren** was there 4/26 (BBa). The first **Veery** were 2 at UBL 528 5/25 (GK, MAK). **Swainson's Thrush** was reported five times from five locations 5/6-23 (m.ob.). The first **Hermit Thrush** was seen at Jennings 3/29 (BBa). The first **Wood Thrush** reported was at Butler Freeport Trail 3/28 (RN). The only **American Pipits** were 5 near Hilliards 3/11 (DH).

An amazing total of 31 warbler species were reported. Highlights

included maximum counts from PAMC day 5/9 for **Ovenbird** 50, **Louisiana Waterthrush** 9, **Tennessee Warbler** 35, **Common Yellowthroat** 29, **Hooded Warbler** 43, **American Redstart** 21, **Cerulean Warbler** 10, and **Yellow Warbler** 61, among 21 species (BD, JG, GK, MAK, OM, DN, BW, GW, DW). **Golden-winged Warbler** is always a highlight; one was at McDaniel's Boat Launch 5/3 (KD), a singing male was at SGL 95 on 5/9 (BD, BW, GW), and a female Golden-winged was following a **Blue-winged Warbler** at SS 5/17 (ST). A single **Northern Waterthrush** stopped at Jennings 5/23 (AB). **Tennessee Warbler** was seen in 2 locations at MSP 5/7 and 4 were there 5/8 (GK, MAK). Single birds were reported from Jennings 5/9 (RN), at Clay Twp. 5/10 and 5/12 (BBa). The last was at UBL 528 on 5/20 (GK, MAK). **Nashville Warbler** was at SGL95 on 4/25 and at UBL 528 on 5/4 (GK, MAK), 2 were feeding among birch catkins at Center Twp. 5/4 (MB), and one was at the 528 BL 5/12 (JF). **Northern Parula** was found at BFT 4/28 (RN) and 2 were there 5/9 (GK, MAK). Two were at Jennings 5/23 (AB) and one at Clay Twp. 5/25 (BBa). **Yellow Warbler**, **Chestnut sided Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Ovenbird**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Hooded Warbler** were widely reported (m.ob.). Large numbers of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** moved through SGL95 at the end of Apr with 25 on 4/25 (SG), 25 on 4/26 (BBa) and a remarkable 75 estimated there 4/29 (GK, MAK). **Magnolia Warbler** was reported from two locations in MSP 5/8 (GK, MAK) and one was there 5/12 (JF). A **Cape May Warbler** was in CT 5/12 (BBa). Single **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were reported from MSP, Jennings, and CT (m.ob.), and **Black-throated Green Warbler** was reported nine times from four different locations 4/25-5/24 (m.ob.). **Blackburnian Warbler** was reported as singles at UBL 528 on 5/6 (GK, MAK) and 5/9 (RN), followed by 2 at CT (BBa). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen four times at BFT 4/11-5/9. Five reports of **Pine Warbler** all came from SGL95 from 4/18-29 (m.ob.). **Prairie Warbler** was at SGL95 on 4/25 (SG) and 4 were at Jennings 5/23 (AB, CW). **Palm Warbler** was reported five times from SGL95 with a surprising high count of 14 there 4/29. Single **Bay-breasted Warblers** were at the 528 BL 5/8 (GK, MAK) and at CT 5/10 and 5/15 (BBa). **Blackpoll Warbler** was reported six times with a very nice high count of 5 at Jennings 5/23 (AB). **Cerulean Warbler** was at BFT 4/28 (RN), 3 were at the 528 BL on 5/4 and 5/8 (GK, MAK), and two were there 5/12 (JF). A lone **Cerulean** was reported from the same location 5/20 (GK, MAK). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was reported only from BFT and Wolf Creek Narrows (m.ob.), including high counts of 8 at BFT 4/13 where mating behavior was noted (MH, RH). **Kentucky Warbler** was noted 3 times, all at MSP 5/8-25 (GK, MAK). A single **Wilson's Warbler** was at UBL 528 on 5/6 (GK, MAK) and one was nicely photographed at the 528 BL 5/20 (JD). One **Canada Warbler** was at UBL 528 on 5/20 (GK, MAK) and only one **Yellow-breasted Chat** was observed, at Squaw Valley Woodlands 5/24 (DW).

BG is the place for grassland sparrows. **Vesper Sparrow** was reported 4/14 (RN). **Savannah Sparrow** was there 4/14-5/29 (RN, BBa). One **Grasshopper Sparrow** was observed at the grasslands 5/7 (ST) with a high count of 6 on 5/29 (BBa). First **Henslow's Sparrow** was there 4/22 (DH). **Fox Sparrow** moved through in late Mar with one at Seven Hills Road 3/28, one at Jennings 3/30 (RN), and a nice count of 7 at Jennings 3/31 (BBa). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was very late at Center Twp. 5/29 (MB). BG produced 6 **Bobolink** 5/7 (ST) and a very nice total of 14 on 5/29 (BBa). One **Bobolink** was at Kildoo Road 5/11 (RN). The first **Eastern Meadowlark** showed up at SGL95 on 4/1 (GK, MAK) and 10 were at BG 5/29 (BBa). Sightings of **Rusty Blackbird** included 5 at WOA 4/8 and 5 at UBL 528 on 4/11 (both GK, MAK). The high count was 8 at SGL95 4/25 (SG). Two were at UBL 528 on 4/27 (GK, MAK) and 2 were at SS 5/2 (RN).

**Purple Finch** was noted at Clay Twp. through the season (BBa) with a high count of 12 on 4/27. They were also noted at near Jennings 4/8 (CR) and at SGL95 on 4/25 (SG). A very nice surprise was a single **Common Redpoll** well described at a feeder in Zellenople 3/4 (DK). Continuing from the winter season, **Pine Siskin** continued visiting a feeder in Butler Twp. almost every day including a high count of 22 on 5/5 and 14 on 5/6. The last siskins seen were 8 on 5/7 (GK, MAK) and 3 during the PAMC 5/9 (GW).

Observers: **Oscar Miller, 2406 Marble Lane, Sewickley, PA 15143, (412) 855-0483, aoscarmiller3@gmail.com**, Cheryl Abel, Diane Aiken, Anonymous, Brendyn Baptiste (BBa), Beverley Barnett, Bill Barnett, Debby Bell, Alex Bernzweig, Kimberly Berry, Jessica Botzan, Bill Brown, Larry Brown, Marcia Brown, Kyle Carlson, Alexander Clifford, Donnie Cratty, Jeff Dale, Bobbie Davis, Robert Davis, Barbara Dean, Karyn Delaney, James Fletcher, Kim Getz, Jayme Glover (JGI), Candy Gonzalez, Steve Gosser, James Gray, Jim Gray, Barb Greigger, Cheryl Hartshorne, Ray D. Hoffman, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Daniel Hinnebusch, Matthew Juskowich, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Mary Alice Koenke, Glenn Koppel, David Koren (DKo), Henry Lenz, Linda Lenz, Geoff Malosh, Jeff McDonald, David Neely, Richard Nugent, Sigurdur Petursson, Jacqueline Quast, T. Regaspi, Chad Rensel, Curtis Reynolds (CRe) Theo Rickert (TRI), Dan Roenigk, Cathy

Setzer, Linda Shaffer, Paula Slomer, Kate St. John, Randy Stringer, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Robert Walczak, Barbara Walwik, Dan Weeks, Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm, Christopher Williams, Debbie Wunsche, William Zemaitis.

### Cambria County

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

Up to 300 **Tundra Swans** were at PG during late Mar and early Apr (DG, JS). Waterfowl were in good numbers but some early arrivals were missed due to lingering ice. **Gadwalls** and **American Wigeon** were at PG 4/2 (JS). A pair of **American Black Ducks** was very late at PG 5/16 (DG). **Hooded Mergansers** were very plentiful this spring. **Ruddy Ducks**, which are usually very numerous, were seen only a few times in small groups. **Horned Grebes** were in good numbers. **Great Egrets** were at EB and PG (DG, JS). An immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at PG 5/14 (JS). This was one of only two sightings in *Cambria* since I have been keeping records. A single **Norther Harrier** was at PG during the period (BG). A **Virginia Rail** was at PG 5/14 (JS). Shorebirds at PG included **Spotted, Solitary, and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Dunlin** (DG, JS). A flock of 150 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was at PG 4/6 (DG). **Forster's and Caspian Terns** were at PG from late Apr through early May (DG). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were at STL 5/9 (DG). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at a feeder near EB 5/9 (JS).

**Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos** were at PG 5/9 (BG). **Purple Martins** returned to their two nesting sites in Apr (DG). The warbler migration was over quickly. The weather went from cold with snow in the last two weeks of Apr to 80°F or higher in the first week of May. This was the first year large flocks of migrants were not noted. A few birds noted 5/9 were **Nashville Warbler, Palm Warbler, Cape May Warbler, and Black-and-white Warbler** (DG, BG, JS). A pair of **Orchard Orioles** was near Patton 5/9 (DG). **Pine Siskins** continued at feeders throughout the period.

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

### Cameron County

All sightings are from Sinnemahoning S.P. unless noted. Notable waterfowl counts included 34 **Tundra Swans** 3/22 and 36 on 4/1. A good total of 34 **Horned Grebes** was noted 4/8. Rare in the county, a **Great Egret** was south of Emporium 4/8. Eight **Wilson's Snipe** were at the Sterling Run Strip Mine area 4/20. Gulls are not feature birds in Cameron, so 10 **Herring Gulls** made for a rare observation.

No compiler. If interested in compiling for *Cameron* please contact the chief editor. Observer: Mark Johnson (all sightings).

### Carbon County

No compiler.

### Centre County

Locations: PSU Arboretum (ARBOR), Bald Eagle S.P. (BESP), BMSP Shannon S.P. (BMSP), Colyer L. (COL), PennDOT remediation ponds on Rte. 220 west of Julian (JUL), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (MMNC), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO).

County birders spent 28.5 hours driving 378 miles during the 2015 WRS routes. They identified 129 raptors and vultures (GG). On 5/9, 32 birders identified 5013 individuals of 148 species in *Centre* during the 2015 PAMC (NK). Information for this report was obtained from the State College Bird Club listserv and eBird, with background and status information from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove (B&G, 2010).

The following uncommon or rare species were reported in five or more locations and will not be discussed further in this report: **Snow Goose** (rare), **Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Horned Grebe, Great Egret** (rare), **Green Heron, Black Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Spotted**

**Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, Black-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Merlin, 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, Winter Wren, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, American Pipit, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Northern Parula, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Canada Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin.**

Bird banding efforts at ARBOR are starting to produce some recaptures of birds banded there in previous years (NK). The following table shows the results; birds banded and recaptured in 2015 were not included.

Species	Initially Captured	Recaptured
<b>Blue Jay</b>	9/3/2010	4/25/2015
<b>Black-capped Chickadee</b>	10/15/2013	4/2/2015
	4/1/2014	4/4/2015
	9/22/2014	4/23/2015 (2 birds)
<b>Wood Thrush</b>	4/23/2013	4/30/2015
	5/1/2014	5/5/2015
	9/9/2014	5/5/2015
	9/9/2014	5/6/2015
	9/10/2013	5/8/2015
<b>American Robin</b>	4/23/2013	4/1/2015
	4/18/2014	4/21/2015
	4/28/2012	4/23/2015
	4/9/2011	4/27/2015
	4/10/2014	4/27/2015
	5/3/2014	4/29/2015
<b>Gray Catbird</b>	4/23/2013	5/8/2015
	9/10/2013	5/5/2015
	9/5/2010	5/8/2015
	5/5/2012	5/8/2015
	10/8/2013	5/8/2015
	5/1/2014	5/8/2015
<b>Brown Thrasher</b>	5/6/2014	5/8/2015
	9/17/2013	4/15/2015
	4/17/2014	4/23/2015
<b>Eastern Towhee</b>	9/17/2013	4/29/2015
	9/10/2013	4/30/2015
<b>Song Sparrow</b>	5/6/2014	4/4/2015
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>	4/3/2014	4/9/2015
	4/8/2013	4/15/2015
	9/26/2014	4/1/2015
<b>Northern Cardinal</b>	10/8/2014	4/1/2015
	3/29/2012	4/15/2015
	3/31/2012	4/21/2015
	9/9/2012	4/27/2015
<b>American Goldfinch</b>	9/26/2014	5/5/2015

This was a good spring for migrating waterfowl with many uncommon or rare species being reported widely throughout the county. According to B&G, 2010, most **Mute Swans** in this region are domestic or feral. However, the species was reported in two locations this season: 7 at BMSP 4/12 (DB) and a single at BESP the same day (CE, KE). *Centre's* second **Trumpeter Swan** in Milesburg continued briefly into the spring season. Unfortunately, the swan was hit by a car and taken to the local wildlife rehabilitator, where the bird was found to have had lead poisoning in addition to an injured foot. A 3/11 post on the State College Bird Club list indicated the swan was undergoing treatment at Centre Wildlife Care (RG). Since the bird had wing tags, a report was turned into the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Bird Banding Laboratory. It was banded as a hatch-year bird in Burlington, Ontario, in LaSalle Park on 11/3/2012 (MR).

A pair of **Surf Scoters** was at BMSP 4/14 (NiB), but BESP was the scoter hotspot. One or 2 Surf Scoters were reported there 4/9-29 (BA). As many as 10 **White-winged Scoters** were noted 4/7-20 (JV, et al.), and a single **Black Scoter** was present 4/27 (JV). Surf Scoters and Black Scoters are considered casual visitors to the region (B&G, 2010). **Common Goldeneyes** were also reported; a single at the Axemann Rd. pond 3/1-9

(CE, et al.), up to 3 at the Duck Pond 3/1-15 (BA, et al.), up to 8 at BESP 3/8-28 (BC, et al.), and one in Milesburg 3/9 (MaB, IM).

Rare **Red-throated Loons** were seen 3/28-4/17 at BESP, with most observers reporting 3 or less (MR, et al.); however, those observing on 4/7 hit the jackpot, when up to 73 were noted (JV). Nearby in Howard, they were observed 4/7-13 (CE, KE, DeH). **Red-necked Grebe** is a rare, casually occurring species; this spring there were reports of as many as 3 at BESP 4/4-21 (MR, et al.). Two were observed 4/10 in Howard (BS), and one was present 4/12 at BMSP (DB). **American Bitterns** included one at the Fairbrook wetlands 3/24-25 (MR, et al.) and one at the same location 5/1 (MR). One was also demonstrating the origin of its "thunder pumper" nickname at JUL 4/19-26 (JV, et al.).

A few migrating **Golden Eagles** included up to 8 at Jo Hayes Vista 3/8-13 (BC, AuC, RD), singles 3/6 and 3/12 along I-99 around State College (DaP, JC), and 3/13-4/2 near Port Matilda (PWS, DoB).

Single **Virginia Rails** were heard at JUL 4/5-5/30 (JV, et al.) and at MMNC 4/13-5/4 (JD, RD). Two were observed 4/25 at the Muddy Paws Marsh (JaB). Only two **Sora** were reported, one each at Yeager Hollow Pond 4/15 (MaB) and JUL 4/26-5/9 (CE, et al.). Two rare migrating **Sandhill Cranes** were at Muddy Paws Marsh 3/22 (MN).

Shorebirds were present in low numbers. Three to 6 **Semipalmated Plovers** were observed 5/17-23 at COL (MaB, et al.) and two were at BESP 5/24 (MaB). Half a dozen rare **Dunlin** were at BESP 4/13 (DeH), and another one was seen there 5/23 (L&JC, MN). A single rare **White-rumped Sandpiper** was observed 5/17 at COL (MaB). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were spotted at Fairbrook Wetlands; one was present 3/30-4/3 (JV) and the other 5/5-6 (MaB, MR). One was also seen 5/17 at COL (MaB). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were also present. Up to 5 were noted 5/17-22 at COL (MaB, MR, RD), and one was observed 5/18 at BESP (JV, BrS). In a follow-up to a report from the 2014 *Centre* spring migration report, one of the birds in a flock of 22 Semipalmated Sandpipers seen 5/21/2014 in the flooded field along Tadpole Rd. had a readable band number. The report from the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Bird Banding Lab indicated this was the first time that bird had been identified since it was banded 1/31/2013 in Coroa dos Ovos, Maranhao, Brazil (JV).

Several gulls and terns were present this spring. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at BESP 4/3-29 (NiB, et al.), with a high of 146 on 4/4 (JV). Many were also present in mixed flocks of gulls in a field adjacent to Curtin wetlands 4/4-15, with up to 92 noted 4/10 (JV, et al.). Five were at BMSP 4/6 (AR) and 2 were in Howard 4/7 (CE, KE). **Herring Gulls** were also present, with as many as 21 noted 3/16-5/31 at BESP (BA, et al.), and 2 at COL 3/20 (JV). Up to 10 were in the Curtin wetlands field 3/24-4/10 (KyC, et al.), and 2 were in Unionville 4/5 (DO). A rare second winter **Great Black-backed Gull** was observed 3/31 at BESP (ph. NiB, JD). The species is a casual visitor to the region (B&G, 2010). Up to 6 **Caspian Terns** were reported 4/7-5/31 at BESP (CE, et al.). A kayaker at BMSP spotted a rare **Black Tern** flying and feeding over the lake 5/24 (MB). **Common Terns** were present at BESP where up to 3 were observed 5/3-24 (BA, et al.). A few **Forster's Terns** were also at BESP 4/10-21 (BC, et al.); 2 were seen in Howard 4/10 (CE).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard at SCO 3/23-4/11 (JD, JV), and an area birder in Stormstown was serenaded by a pair of males early on the morning of 4/8 (DoB). **Common Nighthawks** were few and far between this spring. Two were reported at different locations in State College 5/11-12 (JV, JaC), and one was in Axemann 5/24 (AW). Four **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed in *Centre* 5/9 during the PAMC (NK).

A single **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted in Grays Woods 3/26 (JSK). Another bird was not so fortunate; an adult male was turned into Centre Wildlife Care 5/24 with a damaged wing caused by a gunshot. The bird's injuries were severe, and the bird was euthanized (RG).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** made its presence known at BESP 5/15-25 (MaB, WC). Another was observed 5/23 at COL (MR). The species is rare in this region. There was one report of a **White-eyed Vireo**, 5/9 during the PAMC (NK). A rare **Philadelphia Vireo** was at SCO 5/13-25 (JV, BC, MR). Birders reported a few **Bank Swallows**, with a few spotted 5/20-22 at COL (MR, RD). Seven were seen 5/24-26 at the Hansen Quarry overlook (JV, MaB), and 2 were along Bald Eagle Cr. near Milesburg 5/30 (BrS).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** was noted 5/18 in State College (CE). This species is rare in *Centre*. **Northern Mockingbirds**, though common throughout most of *Centre*, are uncommon on the Allegheny Plateau (B&G, 2010), where at least two were reported. One was observed 5/9 near Clarence (MaB) and the other on 5/26 from the N. Fork of Beech Cr. (DH).

Thirty-three species of warbler, of which 11 were common to abundant and 15 were uncommon but widely reported. A **Brewster's Warbler** was seen at SCO 5/9-26. It was singing a Golden-winged Warbler's song (Joh, et al.). Three rare warblers were identified. Area birders located **Mourning Warblers** at three locations: one at BESP 5/10 (L&JC, MN), one at ARBOR 5/10 (MT), and one at the Benner Spring State Fish Hatchery 5/24 (NW). Two **Kentucky Warblers** were also present, one on Steele Hollow Rd. 5/9

and the other at SCO 5/18 (both JV). The first **Yellow-throated Warblers** of the season were spotted 4/12-5/2 in Unionville, where one or 2 were present (DO, et al.). One was also present 4/26 at the Duck Pond (NB), and one or 2 were seen 4/28-5/11 at SCO (JV, RC). The fourth observation was a single bird reported 5/4 at BMSP (RSq). An uncommon species, **Yellow-breasted Chats** included one at SGL 333 on 5/16 (CE) and one at BESP 5/15-23 (MaB, et al.). One or 2 were seen and heard at SCO 5/16-30 (JV, et al.).

Up to 9 rare **Henslow's Sparrows** were at the German Settlement Grasslands (SGL 100) 5/2-24 (JD, et al.). **Lincoln's Sparrows** are uncommon; single s were at four locations: 4/30-5/18 at SCO (JV, TA), 5/3 at BESP and 5/7 at MMNC (both BC), and 5/16-17 in SGL 333 (CE, MaB). A single rare **Red Crossbill** was spotted on Sinking Creek 3/16 (LR).

**Observers:** N.J. Butkovich, 550 Toftrees Ave. #248, State College, PA 16803, (814) 234-6086, [njbutkovich@verizon.net](mailto:njbutkovich@verizon.net), Tina Alianiello, Michael Antonishak (MiA), Bryant Atanasio, Bald Eagle SP eTT Data, Jason Beale (JaB), Anita Bear, Chuck Berthoud, Diane Bierly, Nick Bolgiano (NiB), Mark Bonta (MaB), Susan Braun, Margaret Brittingham, David Brown (DaB), Don Bryant (DoB), William Campbell, Linder & John Carter (L&JC), Audrey Chambers (AuC), Bill Chambers, Alyssia Church, Kyle Clark (KyC), Jack Cochran, Jason Collens (JaC), Robert Cook (RoC), Ron Crandall, Susan D., Clayton Delancey, Paul Dennehy, Rob Dickerson, Jim Dunn, Carl Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom, David Facey, Brenda Fischer-Dennehy (BFD), Ro Fuller (RoF), Ted Fuller, Jeffrey Gallo, Joe Geykis (JoG), Robyn Graboski, Debra Grim (DeG), Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Jordan Hillsley (JoH), Daniel Hinnebusch, Deuane Hoffman (DeH), Bob Howard, Charles Hoyer, Jon Kauffman, Nick Kerlin, Michael Kiernan, Nancy Ellen Kiernan (NEK), Jen Lee, John Mackin, Betsy Manlove, Ian McGregor, Jean & Craig Miller (C&JM), Mark Nale, Dan Ombalski, Alissa Pendorf (AIP), Dale Plumley (DaP), Julia Plummer (JuP), Tom Pluto, Joshua Potter (JoP), Randy Poulson, PSU Ornithology Lab, Larry Ramsey, Matthew Rockmore, Arouet Rousseau, Ron Rovanseck, David Ryan (DFR), Peggy Waggoner Saporito (PWS), Matthew Schenck, Brian Schmoke (BrS), Shawn Seeley (ShS), Cathy Sheeter, Ryan Shelmire (RyS), Jerod Skebo (JSK), Bob Snyder, April Sperflage, Robin Squier (RSq), Rob Stone (RoS), Chris Thomas, Matt Toenies, Joe Verica, Benjamin Vizzachero, Andy Weber, Nathan Weyandt, RIM White (RIW), Ann Wilken (AWi), Andy Wilson (AnW).

---

### Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP) Chambers Lake (CL), Exton Park (EP), Longwood Gardens (LWG), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP).

The spring season opened with a heavy dose of winter in the first week of Mar, when a thick blanket of snow fell throughout the region. Cooler temperatures persisted into early Apr., which delayed foliage and eventually aided birders as they attempted to pick out neotropical migrants foraging in the trees. Migration-conducive southerly winds did not occur in sync with the songbirds, and there were days in May where passage-migrant vacancies were noted throughout the region. Yet there were some bursts of migrant activity noted, and some interesting species were recorded. *Chester* was honored to host the PSO Annual Conference in the final days of May, and proudly showcased some of the more interesting habitats and diversity of birdlife. Overall highlights of the spring season in *Chester* included reports of **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Mississippi Kite**, **Whimbrel**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Red Knot**, **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, **Alder Flycatcher**, **Common Redpoll**, and breeding **Pine Siskins**.

Waterfowl were about average, with a good array of species noted throughout the county, especially where there was ice-free water available in the early part of the season. Some species lingered well into May, which is atypical. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was a nice discovery among a large group of geese at CL 3/15, and despite many encounters in winter, was the only record for this irregular spring migrant (AL). The large congregation of geese on CL also hosted a **Ross's Goose** 3/13 (RR). Several ducks lingering late into the season included a pair of **Gadwall** at HBWTP through 5/12 (m.ob.). A **Eurasian Wigeon**, an irregular find in spring, made an appearance on the lake at MCSP 3/22 (HM, m.ob.). Typically departing in April, a late **American Wigeon** on a golf course pond was a surprising sight 5/18 (DK, CM). Flooded farm fields in spring can be good for finding large groups of dabbling duck species. A presumed **American Black Duck x Mallard** was seen among such a group of dabblers in the Northbrook area 3/4 (KN). A drake **Blue-winged Teal** was not a species expected to be found on a visit to MCSP 5/13, but was photographed foraging there among other waterfowl and shorebirds (HM). A **Canvasback** lingered at CL through 4/23, the location where this species could be found in small numbers reliably through the end of Mar. (m.ob.). A pair of **Surf Scoters** was spotted at MCSP 4/14 (HM, NP), and a single

**Surf Scoter** was there 4/21 (HM). A very nice high count of 7 **White-winged Scoters** came from Struble Lake 4/20 (SS, NF). An imm. drake White-winged was at MCSP 4/27 (HM). An exciting yard bird was a nocturnal flyover **Long-tailed Duck**, recorded yodeling as it passed over with a microphone setup in Kennett Square 4/6 (KN). A very good high count of 14 **Long-tailed Ducks** occurred 4/21 at MCSP (HM). Though not documented as a breeding bird in *Chester* in recent years, a **Hooded Merganser** at the Great Marsh IBA during the PSO conference weekend the final two days of May raised suspicions (m.ob.).

A **Red-throated Loon**, an irregular migrant, dropped in for an extended visit at Struble Lake, 4/4-20 (BQ, m.ob.). A long-staying **Red-necked Grebe** at Atwater Quarry, continued to be found there through 3/15 (m.ob.). **American Bitterns** were recorded from several spots around the county during their typical migration window in Apr (m.ob.), but up to two were found regularly at EP as late as 5/22 (m.ob.). This is a location where, last year, suspicions of breeding could not be confirmed, but were certainly suspected due to behavior and timing of sightings.

BCP is the only reliable location in Pennsylvania where **Mississippi Kites** are seen each spring. This season 6 were spotted there, most of identified as sub-adult birds. The species has not been confirmed as breeding in the state, so its annual appearances in May and into early Jun. are mysterious. This traditionally southern kite species was also noted in a few other locations in the county, including: one seen at LWG 5/20 (LL, LW), one spotted during a PSO field trip at Nottingham County Park 5/30 (SSn, m.ob.), a kite flying over the Gordon Tract area of West Chester University 5/30 (ML, TM, NB), and another kite reported from Nottingham CP 5/31 (JF, m.ob.). May encounters recorded at BCP were on the following dates: 5/20, 5/24, 5/26, 5/28, and 5/31 (LL, m.ob.). It had been a good winter for finding **Rough-legged Hawks** and reports of this species continued through 3/11. Two adult males, one light and the other dark, were photographed along Marsh Rd. in the Elverson region, 3/2 (HM, KS). An imm. light morph was also seen in that area 3/3 (HM). The adult male dark morph was found for a few days in the same region (HM, SS, NF). An adult female was found in the same vicinity 3/7 -8 (KS, JW, BR). Another light morph was seen hunting in the Doe Run region 3/11, marking the last report of this species for the season (LL). The **Bald Eagle** nest in Guthriesville was not successful this spring, despite positive early indications from incubating adults (GT, DH, m.ob.). A new nest discovered near the Great Marsh was thought to be successful, when adults were seen incubating for several weeks. Results of the hatching success of this pair were not known (KS, HM, MC). Another nest, in the Pocopson region, was said to be successful, as was another near Chatam, but nestling details were not obtained from either nest (m.ob.).

**Virginia Rails** were noted in the expected larger wetlands, including EP, Great Marsh, and ChesLen Preserve (m.ob.). Late May reports likely indicated breeding at Great Marsh 5/30 (m.ob.) and ChesLen Preserve 5/26 (HM, MiC). **Sora** was reported from Great Marsh 5/26 (MCoulter, NP), ChesLen Preserve 5/9 (JMcN), and EP 4/26-5/15 (m.ob.). A late-season **American Coot** was at LWG during the PSO field trip 5/30 (m.ob.).

The lake at Westtown School Property was drained for a restoration project, creating suitable habitat for migrant shorebirds at the peak of migration. A nice collection of 13 **Semipalmated Plovers** was first noted 5/13 in this location (BQ, NS, BR, MH), and that number grew to 16 by 5/16 (NP). Other reports of this species were of 3 in Northbrook 5/13 (KN) and one at Octorara Res. 5/20 (MG). During the annual Kite and Shorebird Watch at BCP, a group of 6 **Whimbrels** were reported in flight heading north 5/27 (LL, m.ob.). A mass-exodus of shorebirds occurred in the early evening of 5/29 along the Delaware Bayshore, and was witnessed and reported by shorebird researchers in *Delaware*. This strong movement of migrant shorebirds was noted at BCP, where birders gathered for such a spectacle. On that evening, more than 2000 shorebirds were tallied there. Most were too distant to be identified, but 150 **Ruddy Turnstones** stood out while on the wing. Simultaneously, a quick visit to the parking lot of the conference center during the PSO Annual meeting, held the fortuitous sighting of a string of shorebirds heading north, 83 of which were easily identified as **Ruddy Turnstones** by photo analysis (HM). In this same flock, 27 **Red Knot** were revealed in the photo, as they accompanied the turnstones in their epic northward journey (HM). Two hundred **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were also identified in the mass movement 5/29 over BCP (LL, KN, m.ob.). The Westtown Lake dredge held a single Semipalmated Sandpiper 5/15-16 (m.ob.).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** made appearances at area lakes throughout April, their expected window of occurrence in spring (m.ob.). Unusual was a group of 10 reported flying over a yard in Kennett Square 4/12, which was also the seasonal high count for the species (KN). **Caspian Tern** is an uncommon migrant through *Chester* in spring, and was found only twice, and included 2 at MCSP 4/12 (DH), and one at CL 4/28 (RR). No other terns were reported.

Since it is a rarely encountered species in *Chester*, a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** sitting on a wire in Marshallton 5/30 was an intriguing report

(JF). Attempts to relocate this dove were met with failure, unfortunately. This species is known to be expanding its range, making all reports of interest. One was photographed at a private farm in 2014 but there were no reports before that for several years. Both species of cuckoo were widely reported this season, which is not always the case in some springs. There were numerous **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** around the county, starting in early May (m.ob.). Some years, encounters with **Black-billed Cuckoos** are rare, but this season, these encounters happened on four occasions, which is above average. Reports came most consistently from EP, where the habitat is good for this species (m.ob.), and were made 5/7 and 5/20. Others were 2 heard through a nocturnal listening microphone in Unionville 5/6 (KN), one along the Schuylkill R. in the Towpath Park 5/9 (RB), and another heard in a yard in West Chester 5/9 (NP).

For the second time in 2015 **Barn Owl** was reported in *Chester*. This species was considered extirpated from the county, so all new reports are of great significance. A single bird was observed in a private area reported previously in fall, and is presumed to be a year round resident (KF). Another was heard calling repeatedly through a nocturnal microphone in the Unionville area 4/12 (KN). **Long-eared Owls** were reported from East Pikeland Twp. 3/16 (HM), Great Marsh 3/15 (MC), Waterloo Mills Preserve 3/23 (KF). Another Long-eared quickly rose to stardom at LWG, being seen by hundreds as it roosted daily in a tree in the Main Garden, 3/30-4/2 (m.ob.). A **Short-eared Owl** was found standing statuesque in open country Amish farmland 3/3, shocking the fortunate observer (GT). This species has shown a marked decrease in *Chester* in recent years. The last stronghold for **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** in *Chester* continues to be the Serpentine Barrens in the Nottingham region. Fortunately this year was no exception, and these goatsuckers were back on territory singing at dawn and dusk. Birders found them reliably at Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens 5/15 (m.ob.) and 5/24 (NP).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a surprise guest at the bird feeder in the St.Peter's area beginning 5/6 through the period. An intriguing report of this rare woodpecker came from BCP 5/24 (LL), and yet another unusual location where this species was reported was LWG 5/25 (KN). This species has not been confirmed as a breeding bird in the past few years, but late records like these are certainly curious.

Rare for *Chester*, an **Alder Flycatcher** was heard by many observers attending a PSO field trip at the Great Marsh property 5/30 and 5/31 (m.ob.). Surprisingly, there was only one report of **Least Flycatcher**, from the Downingtown area 5/8 (HM). Though uncommon in *Chester*, this tiny flycatcher is typically reported a handful of times during the spring migration. The upswing in reports of **Common Raven** continued with multiple sightings. The quarry in Downingtown where nesting was first confirmed in 2014 held a nest with young this spring. Four nestlings were photographed there 5/2 sitting in a nest on the previously used ledge (BB, LG).

Fall and winter of 2014 and 2015 were not interruption years for **Black-capped Chickadees**. Yet a few of these were identified in various locations. An Avondale yard hosted one 3/3-10 (WBH). One was also found at CL 3/8 (BR), and another was seen in a West Chester yard 3/9 (NP). A possible Black-capped was reported on a few occasions from EP, but birders reported that this bird seemed to wear features of both species (m.ob.). Only a faint irruption of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was noted regionally this winter, and most reports during spring came from the expected site: Nottingham County Park (m.ob.). This also included a late heard-only encounter by several participants on the PSO field trip there 5/31 (CF, m.ob.). Other records came from a yard south of Coatesville 4/21 (MG), a yard in Berwyn 4/25 (MC), and Black Rock Sanctuary 4/25 (LT). A **Marsh Wren** singing at EP 4/16-4/22 (NP) was a nice find.

There were six reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, including one seen by many on a birdwalk at MCSP 5/6 (LL, LW, m.ob.). Another was found in the woods at the Great Marsh 5/17 (MC). One was photographed at Hibernia CP 5/18, and another found in a yard 5/19 (AL). The Pickering Creek Trail hosted another sighting, 5/23 (m.ob.). A Gray-cheeked was spotted on a birdwalk at BCP 5/24 (JMG, LL, m.ob.). There were a few late records of **Hermit Thrush**, a species that typically vacates the county by early May. One lingering individual was seen at MCSP 5/14 (HM), and another late observation was on Templin Rd. 5/17 (RR).

Field birds such as **Lapland Longspurs** were combed out of the **Horned Lark** flocks along the Amish farmlands in Honey Brook into the first week of Mar. (m.ob.). The same held true with **Snow Buntings**, also reported from the same location. Reports of the buntings continued through 3/10, with a high count of 11 noted on that date (MG, m.ob.).

Birders look forward to spring migration with great anticipation of lots of warblers to be encountered, especially the passage migrants that drop in only briefly for refueling. This spring seemed a letdown for most, with peak dates offering few migrants to enjoy, and prompting birders to double-check their calendars to be sure it wasn't really June instead of May. Yet there were some hints of migration even as fallouts did not occur. A total of 32

species of warbler were reported this spring, which is the average. Cerulean Warbler was not reported, a grim result after many previous years of confirmed breeding, and a sign of the times for this warbler in precipitous decline. **Golden-winged Warblers** are becoming increasingly scarce in Pennsylvania, and are rarely encountered in Chester. A female type was described from the Struble Trail 5/6 (JMCC). An uncommon migrant, the **Tennessee Warbler** was found 5 times, which is about average for this species in spring (m. ob.). **Nashville Warblers** were reported infrequently 5/1-16 from multiple locations around the county (m.ob.). A fantastic capture in the mist nets at Rushton Farm's Banding Station was an adult male **Mourning Warbler** 5/21 (DM, WS, m.ob.). During some spring periods, **Kentucky Warbler** are absent. This spring was a nice exception, with multiple reports coming from Warwick CP 5/13 (JT) and 5/8 (RM), Crow's Nest Preserve 5/10 (SS, NF), Peacedale Preserve, where they are suspected of breeding, 5/15 (m.ob.) and 5/22 (NP), and the Pickering Creek Trail 5/23 (BQ, MH, CP, MD). **Cape May Warblers** are always a treat to find in spring, as they are less commonly encountered. This spring held five reports, three of which occurred 5/6: one in the Kimberlon area (VS), another at Waterloo Mills Preserve (KF), and another at Harmony Hill Preserve (HM). A good find during a Big Day was a female spotted along the Pickering Creek Trail (BQ, NS, BR, MH). There were only two reports of **Bay-breasted Warbler** this spring, which is fairly typical for this low-density migrant. One was spotted in a West Chester yard 5/8 (NP), and another seen in a Berwyn yard 5/15 (MC). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** returned to Kerr Park in Downingtown as early as 4/21, and continued there through the reporting season. This species is thought the breed in this location (m.ob.), which is the only known breeding site in the county. Other sightings were at White Clay Creek 4/13 (SR, TF), French Creek Trail 4/27 (RK), Chadds Ford 4/14 (HD), and Westtown Lake 5/24 (BR). A few **Wilson's Warblers**, uncommon migrants, were discovered this spring. One was seen at the Ashbridge Preserve 5/6 (AL, MD), another was found at LWG 5/15 (CM, RM), and one discovered at EP 5/20 continued through 5/21 (BQ, m.ob.).

**Lincoln's Sparrows** are typically harder to locate during spring migration, but two turned up this season. One was spotted in Kimberlon 5/2 (VS), and another was caught in the mist net at Rushton Farm 5/20 (DM, WS, m.ob.) **Dickcissels** are an uncommon species to find in any season in the county, yet are suspected to be nesting in the Doe Run region, where bountiful preserved pastureland stretches for miles. A researcher doing field bird surveys on a private farm in this area found 4 separate **Dickcissels** 5/25, which was encouraging in the promise of breeding (ZW). The close by Runnymede Farm has traditionally hosted this species in summer, and featured up to 2 singing Dickcissels from 5/15-31 (BB, m.ob.). A nocturnal flight call from a **Dickcissel** was recorded 5/29 in Unionville (KN).

A moderate showing of **Purple Finches** continued through early May from all corners of the county (MP, m.ob.). A good high count of 20 **Purple Finches** were found at the Ashbridge Preserve 4/25 (BQ, CH, MH, CP). A surprise guest at a feeding station in Berwyn was a **Common Redpoll**. This species is an irregular visitor, and always a treat for local birders. The redpoll visited 3/28-4/2, offering great looks as it fed with goldfinches (MC, m.ob.). It was a good irruptive year for **Pine Siskins** in our region, and reports flooded in for the entirety of the season. Some siskins lingered at feeders into late May, arousing suspicion of breeding, which was ultimately confirmed. Three recently fledged young were noticed visiting a feeder 5/30 in Uwchlan Twp., and were documented by photo and video. This was the first record of breeding of this species known in the county since 2008, and something to be on the lookout for after a good irruption of this species.

Observers: **Holly Merker, 520 Baintree Run, Downingtown, PA 19335, (610) 733-4392, HCYbelle@aol.com**, Diane Allison, Ellen Bacino, Chuck Berthoud (CBe), Nick Biss, Barry Blust, Carol Blye, Rob Blye, Susan Braun, Brian Byrnes, Steve Cottrell, Mike Coll (MiC), Mike Coulter, Alan Crawford, Julia Crawford, Molly Daly (MDa), Hank Davis, Mike Defina, Jarrod Derr, Barb Elliot, John Fedak, Mike Fialkovich, Chris Fischer, Pamela Fisher, Nikki Flood, Judy Ford, Tim Freiday, Kevin Fryberger, Michael Gardner, Ian Gardner, Vern Gauthier, Louise Gensemer, Peter Gibb, Blake Goll, Hannah Greenberg, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Al Guarente, Bill Haldeman, Denice Hardtmann, Jen Harned, Michael Hartshome, Mary Ellen Heisey (MEH), W.Brian Henderson (WBH), Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Jerry Howard, Marjorie Howard, Chad Hutchinson, Liam Hutchinson, Peter Hughes, Laura Jackson, Mike Jackson, Tom Johnson, Chad Kauffman (CKa), Bill Keim, Dale Kendall, Rick Keyser, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Karol Kuniholm, Kathy Kutchwara, Sherri LaBar (SLa), Mike Lanzone, Wayne Laubscher, Andrew Leidig, Larry Lewis, Gary Lockerman, Sandy Lockerman, Sarah MacLellan, Carol Majors, Ron Majors, Annette Mathes, Mark McConaughy, Jim McConnell, Andrew McGann (AMc), Doris McGovern, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, John McNamara (JMcn), Rob Megrav, John Mercer, Patrick Millar, Craig Miller, Jean Miller, Trish Miller, Ted Nichols II, Kelley Nunn, Aidan Place, Andrew Place (AnP), Chris Pugliese, Nick Pulcinella, Brian

Quindlen, Debbie Rabin, Brian Raicich, Anne Reeves, Joan Renninger, Ken Rieker, Rick Robinson, Tim Schreckengost (TSc), Joe Sebastiani, Win Shafer, Sam Sinderson, Vince Smith, Marilyn Smith, Thyra Sperry (TSp), Kim Steininger, Arthur Steinberger, Tim Sterrett, Scott Stoleson (SSn), Scott Stollery, Sue Stassner (SSr), George Tallman, Lisa Tull, Andy Urquhart, Laura Wagner, Linda Wagner (LiW), R.J. Wagner (RJW), Jeff Wahl, Zoe Warner, Drew Weber, Patty Werth, Carole Winslow, Ellie Wolf, Richard Wolf.

## Clarion County

Locations: Curlsville (CV), Mt. Airy (MA), Mt. Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330 (MZ), Rimersburg (RI), Sarah Furnace (SF).

This spring there was an unusual report of a **Snow Goose**, a single bird present on a small farm pond in Fryburg during the first week of Apr (PD). A **Common Loon** was in New Bethlehem near the small dam in town 4/1 (JK, MM) and another late-season bird was on the Allegheny River at Redbank 5/8 (MH, RH, FM).

The first migrant **Osprey** was noted at a farm pond in Fryburg during the first week of Apr (PD), and later single birds were noted at CV strips 5/19 (CB) and Helen Furnace 5/25 (BFD, PD). These later birds were present into breeding season but there is no known nesting site in the county. **Bald Eagles**, however, continue to increase their presence with a new nesting site located this spring along Redbank Creek on the southern border of Clarion outside of New Bethlehem. A nest reported in Apr was checked 4/29 and found to have one young bird. The site remained active through the end of May with an apparently healthy chick on its way to successfully fledging (MM, CW). Another regular nest site along the Clarion River in the middle of the county was active again this year with one young bird appearing healthy and active as of 5/9 (CW). **Northern Harriers** seem to be having a successful year again in the county as well, with three different areas reporting activity. A single bird was at MA 4/26 (MM) and 2 birds were seen both 5/24 and 5/25 (AB, CH). At MZ, a pair was seen regularly throughout May in one of their regular breeding areas (AB, CH, ChW, CW, DW). CV strips had the most reports of a pair seen also throughout May (m.ob.)

Shorebird sightings are always a little slim for Clarion, so any received are always worth a mention. Three **Lesser Yellowlegs** were spotted in flooded hay fields on MA 4/25-26 (RN, CW). One was also spotted at Beaver Creek wetlands 5/9 along with a single **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and **Solitary Sandpiper** (CW). **Upland Sandpipers** once again returned to their stronghold at MA, first seen 4/25 (CW). Two birds were regularly reported there through the end of the season (m.ob.). A single **Least Sandpiper** was seen along the banks of Redbank Creek 5/15 (MM). **American Woodcock** made a rather late return for the year, likely due to lingering snow and colder temperatures. They were near CV 3/16, with 3 birds calling and displaying (CW). A nice total of 7 birds were flushed from this same area 3/28 (MW). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard in the early morning hours 5/5 south of Clarion along Rock Pit Rd (MW). Records for this owl in Clarion are scarce. The only **Short-eared Owl** sighting was 2 birds at the CV strips site at dusk 4/11 (CW).

**Yellow-throated Vireo** is still not a common bird for the county, and this year they were first noted back at SF and Phillipston Rd. 5/2 with two birds singing (CW). They continued at this regular breeding location 5/15-21 (GK, MK, CW). Along Redbank Valley Trail near Redbank, 2 birds were also seen 5/8 (MH, RH, FM). In early spring, there continued a large flock of **Horned Larks** along New Bethlehem-Curlsville Rd. near CV, with 200 or more through the week of 3/9 (VA, KN). At CV, a possible breeding pair was present with the male singing 5/9, utilizing some large areas of bare earth where drilling work had been ongoing in previous months (CW). A male **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was singing in a large pine plantation area outside of Cook Forest along Breezemont Dr. 5/9 (CW). Though scarce in the rest of the county the past two years, the area in and around Cook Forest has been a known nesting location in the past.

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found on a birding walk at Riverstone Estate in Foxburg 5/16 (JH, ML, CW, et al.) Along with the Horned Larks mentioned previously, large numbers of **Snow Buntings** continued at a regular wintering site outside of CV through the week of 3/9, with numbers reaching an impressive 400 or more (VA, JK, MM, KN).

Located along the Armstrong Trail at the southern border of the county along the Allegheny River, SF remains a reliable spot to find breeding **Worm-eating Warbler** in Clarion. This species was first reported this year 5/2, with up to three singing males along the trail throughout the month of May (JC, DI, GK, MK, CW). Also along the southern border on Redbank Creek at Redbank, 2 birds were seen 5/8 (MH, RH, FM). **Louisiana Waterthrush** is another regular species in the southern edges of the county. They were first reported 4/14 along Sarah Furnace Rd. (CW). At least one

was also reported regularly along Armstrong Trail at SF 5/2-5/21 (GK, MK, RN, CW). On Rider Rd. near SF, a singing male **Kentucky Warbler** was first noted 5/9 at an area here that has been fairly regular for this uncommon species over the past ten years (CW). At another area along Redbank Creek near RI, a single bird was reported 5/21 and 5/26 (DH). A singing male was also singing in appropriate habitat at a new location near CV (CW). Unfortunately, it was not relocated over the next several weeks. **Cerulean Warbler** is another still-notable species; 2 were near Redbank on Redbank Creek 5/8 (MH, RH, FM), and also along Redbank Creek near RI 5/21 (DH). Up to 2 were in their regular location at SF 5/9-5/26 (JC, GK MK, CW). At a Scots pine planting along Breezemont Dr. outside of Cook Forest, a possible nesting location with appropriate habitat, a singing male **Pine Warbler** was found during PAMC 5/9 (CW). Good habitat is also present at MZ, and this species has been there in past years and again this season with a singing male found 5/23 (ChW). A single **Yellow-throated Warbler**, one of the most uncommon breeding warblers in *Clarion*, was near RI along Redbank Creek 5/21 (DH).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** was first reported rather late into the season 5/16, with two singing males at CV strips (CW). Up to 4 were then seen regularly at that site through the end of May (m.ob.). A single report of a bird at MA was made 5/25 (CH) and also at MZ 5/24 and 5/26 (CH). Both of these last sites have had observations in the past several years with appropriate habitat present. **Vesper Sparrow** continues to be the least common of the grassland sparrows and this year continued that trend. A very early report of one was made at the Rankin Rd. area near CV 3/28 (MW). Another report of one was made at Wyman Rd. near MZ 5/25 (CH). A new early arrival date for **Henslow's Sparrow** was established this year with 3 singing males at MZ 4/12 (CW). They were then present in their usual grassland locations and in good numbers through the end of the season.

**Purple Finches** continued regularly at a location in RI that has feeders out year round and appropriate habitat surrounding it, including tall Norway spruce. Numbers ranged as high as 13 throughout the season (MM). A great sighting was a single male **Red Crossbill** calling and seen in a white spruce at SGL 72 outside of Clarion 5/5 (MW). This site has stands of mixed spruce and pine near older reclaimed strip mine fields, and has had both species of crossbill present in past invasion years. Only one report of **Common Redpoll** was received for the season, a single seen at close range at a window feeder hosting purple finches in RI 4/6 (MM). **Pine Siskins** had another year of big numbers at multiple sites. They were last seen in RI 5/13 where up to 75 had been seen during the season (MM). Seven persisted at feeders near CV to 5/6 (CW).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjnal@windstream.net**, Vicki Aspenberg, Alex Bernzweig, Chuck Berthoud, Susan Braun, Paulette Colantonio, Pete Dalby, Brenda Fischer-Denney, Paul Denney, Rob Dickerson, Elyse Fuller, Tom Glover, Jeff Hall, James Hausman, Mal Hays, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Daniel Hinnebusch, Claus Holzapfel, Dave Inman, Matt Juskowich, Chad Kauffman, John Keener, Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke, Mike Leahy, Patrick Lister, Flo McGuire, Mark Moore, Ken Nicholson, Richard Nugent, Kelly Parson, Kevin Parsons, Daniel Weeks, Mike Weible, Christopher Williams (ChW).

---

### Clearfield County

No compiler.

---

### Clinton County

Locations: Bald Eagle Creek (BEC), Lock Haven (LH), McElhatten (ME), Mill Hall (MH), and Susquehanna River (SR).

There were few areas of open water for most of March. BEC remained open, and as a result many waterfowl were found on the creek from south of LH to MH and beyond. An assortment of ducks were observed on BEC through at least 3/31 including **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Redhead**, **Canvasback**, **Bufflehead**, **Northern Pintail**, both **Scaup sp.**, and **American Wigeon** (m.ob.). A **Long-tailed Duck** was found on BEC at MH 3/4 (MA). Up to 5 **White-winged Scoters** were observed in open water on the SR near ME from 3/8 to at least 3/29 (m.ob.). A wing tagged **Trumpeter Swan** was seen on the SR at LH 5/18 (JL). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was observed hunting east of LH 3/29 (SLF). The resident pair of **Peregrine Falcons** successfully hatched 2 young on or about 5/16 near ME (WL). **Pine Siskins** were reported in the Woolrich area through at least early Apr (SLF, CCH).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven,**

**PA 17745, (570) 748-7511, wnlaubscher@comcast.net**, Mervin Allgyer, Skip and Linda Frye, Charles and Carol Hildebrand, Jeannine Lipez.

---

### Columbia County

No compiler.

---

### Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL), Erie National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR), McMichael Road (MMR), Pymatuning- Causeway (PC), Pymatuning-Hartstown Project (PHP), Pymatuning-Miller Ponds (PMP), Sandy Lake (SL), Tamarack Lake (TAM).

A great find of 12 **Snow Geese**, 11 of which were blue morph, was made at PHP 3/24 (MJ). The flock grew to 30, a remarkable 25 of which were blue, by late afternoon of the same day (SC). The flock was last reported 3/29 with 29 birds, 26 of which were blue (GK, MAK). Two **Cackling Geese**, an infrequent species in *Crawford*, were found in the Rundelstown area 3/19 (AT) and two more were at PHP 3/29 (TN, KP). A **Trumpeter Swan**, increasingly frequent but still notable, was observed in the Pymatuning area 5/2 (RS).

A good count of 295 **Gadwall** was made at Pymatuning 4/25 (RL, IF). **Eurasian Wigeons** were reported in good numbers in nw. Pennsylvania this season; one was in *Crawford* near PHP 3/24 (SC) and was observed as late as 4/14 (AK), with many sighting in between those dates (m.ob.). **Northern Pintail** were found in high numbers at TAM, with a high count of 548 on 4/11 (RL, IF). A late pair of **Green-winged Teal** was at PMP 5/17 (m.ob.) and a single individual was observed at MMR 5/17 (m.ob.). A late **Ring-necked Duck** was in the Conneaut Marsh area 5/24 (MJ). A nice flock of 987 **Lesser Scaup** was observed at Pymatuning 4/4 (RL). A male **Surf Scoter**, very rare here, was at SL 4/14 (RE) and a male/female pair was at SL 4/27 (RE). Five female **White-winged Scoters**, a good find and count, were reported at SL 4/27 (RE). An excellent observation of a **Black Scoter** occurred at PC 4/4 (RL). **Long-tailed Ducks** were relatively scarce this season compared to prior years, but a nice flock of 30 was at SL 4/7 (RE). Additional reports included 3 at Geneva Marsh 3/23 (BVN, SD), one at PC 4/6 (RH), 3 at SL 4/14 (RE) and 8 at CL 4/29 (RL, IF). Two late **Ruddy Ducks** were at the Pymatuning Spillway 5/29 (MV).

Single **Red-throated Loons** were observed twice this season, one at PHP 5/3 (RL) and a presumed second individual in the Pymatuning area 5/7 (RL). A good count of 16 **Common Loons** was made at CL 4/29 (RL, IF). A remarkable 400 **Horned Grebes** were observed at SL 4/27 (RE). A single **Red-necked Grebe** continued at CL from the winter season to 3/8 (BS).

A single **Black-crowned Night Heron** was at Custards 4/30 (SC) and another was at the Fish Hatchery 5/7 (RL). An **American Bittern** was spotted flying over PMP 5/17 (m.ob.). The most notable bird of the season was a single **Glossy Ibis** at PMP 5/14 (m.ob.). The bird would occasionally fly to other locations in the Pymatuning area but continued to be frequently observed at PMP through 5/18 (m.ob.).

**Rough-legged Hawks** were observed throughout the county in good numbers, with the last observation being a single individual at PMP 4/10 (GM). A **Golden Eagle**, a notable find, was observed in the Pymatuning area 4/25 (RL). A single **Virginia Rail** and a single **Sora** were at MMR 4/8, an earlier than expected date (SC). A **Common Gallinule** was at SGL 277, a new location for the species, 5/5 (RS) and 5/15 (TN, KP, RH).

A **Black-bellied Plover** was at the Fish Hatchery 5-9 (B&BK). **Greater Yellowlegs** were present in good numbers at PMP, with the high count being 101 on 4/10 (MV). Two **Upland Sandpipers** were observed in the Pymatuning area 4/8 (NA), an early date for this rare but expected species in the area, and continued to be observed throughout the season (m.ob). Infrequent for *Crawford*, a **Ruddy Turnstone** was at PC 5/9 (B&BK). Two early **Least Sandpipers** were observed 3/31 at PMP (TN). A good count of 48 **Dunlin** was reported at PMP 5/15 (RL, GM). Fourteen **Short-billed Dowitchers**, a fairly high count for the county, were observed at TAM 5/16 (RH). A single **Long-billed Dowitcher** was at PMP 4/19 (RS), and was seen again on 4/21 (CN) and 4/25 (WS). A good count of 8 **American Woodcocks** were observed in the Woodcock area 4/18 (TN, KP, RH). Three **Wilson's Phalaropes** were observed at Marsh Road 4/18 (RL) and a single individual was at PMP 5/15 (MV, ph. GM).

An early **Bonaparte's Gull** was at the Pymatuning Spillway 3/15 (SC). The species was then seen throughout the season, with a high count of 1900 at PC 4/29 (RL, IF). Three **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, a great bird and count here, were at PC 4/6 (RH). Singles were also at PC 3/29 (NA), near the Jamestown Dam at Pymatuning 4/12 (GK, MAK, TN, KP), and at PC 4/14 (AK). A single **Glaucous Gull**, an excellent bird for the county, was at PC 3/27 (RL) and another was reported at Pymatuning 4/16 (GK, MAK).

A notable **Great Black-Backed Gull** was south of PC 4/4 (RL). A good count of 6 **Forster's Terns** was made at Woodcock Lake 5/22 (TN, KP).

**Common Nighthawks** seem to be becoming less frequent during the spring season. Three were observed flying and roosting at MMR 5/13-17 (m.ob). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported at MMR 4/18, an early date for them at this expected location (RL). A single **Peregrine Falcon** was at TAM 3/22 (RL) and again 4/30 (KP).

Rare in *Crawford*, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at ENWR 5/30 (KP). **Northern Shrikes**, expected but still notable, were reported twice: one at the Fish Hatchery 3/14 (RL) and one at ENWR 3/19 (RS). A great count of 416 **Purple Martins** was at CL 4/29 (RL, IF). A late **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was observed in the Woodcock area 5/9 (RH, TN, KP). A single **Sedge Wren** occurred at Mumford Road 5/16 (SC). A late **Swainson's Thrush** was at ENWR 5/24 (RE). A single **Northern Mockingbird**, still a good bird for the county, was reported in the Meadville area 5/21 (RL, IF) and another single was at Custards 5/22 (RL, IF). A good count of 40 **Snow Buntings** were observed in the Rundletown area 3/3 (AT).

A single **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Mike Wood Road 5/9 (SC) and again 5/26 (CN). Four **Prothonotary Warblers**, a good count for this expected but notable bird, were recorded at Custards 5/5 and two were observed at ENWR 5/25, a new location for this species (SC). A good count of 10 **Tennessee Warblers** was reported at Custards 5/16 (SC). Single **Cape May Warblers** were observed at ENWR 5/4 (RE), at Custards 5/6 (KP, RH) and at Ford Island 5/15 (RL). **Cerulean Warblers** were observed in the expected locations in the county this season, but individuals were found at two new locations this year. Two individuals were observed at the West Vernon Gamelands 5/17 (TN), and three were found at the same location later that same day (ST). Two were also at ENWR 5/25 (SC). A single **Northern Parula** was at MMR 5/3 (KP, RH) and at a private residence 5/3 (TN). Single **Bay-breasted Warblers** were at Custards 5/5 (SC) and at a private residence 5/10 (RH). An early **Yellow Warbler** was at Geneva Marsh 4/19 (DI). A good count of 12 **Blackpoll Warblers** was made at Ford Island 5/30 (RL). Two **Pine Warblers**, an infrequently recorded species here, were near the Jamestown Dam 4/14 (RL, IF) and a single individual was in the same area 4/26 (TN, KP, RH). A single **Wilson's Warbler** was at SGL 277 5/15 (TN, KP, RH) and 5/20 (BS).

Four late **American Tree Sparrows** were at SGL 277 on 4/14 (BS). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at Mumford Road 5/16 (SC). A good count of 25 **White-crowned Sparrows** was made at Custards 5/5 (SC).

**Rusty Blackbirds** were plentiful this season, particularly at MMR where a high count of 200 was found 4/12 (TN, KP, RH). Ten late birds were at Towpath Road 5/22 (RL, IF). **Orchard Orioles**, infrequently reported, were observed at Pymatuning, Marsh Road and ENWR (m.ob.).

An excellent observation of 20 **Common Redpolls** was made at ENWR 3/8 (RS). **Pine Siskins** were observed in good numbers throughout the season, particularly at feeders (m.ob.). Two were at a private location gathering nesting material 5/3 (RL).

Observers: **Rob Hodgson, 709 Alden Street, Meadville, PA 16335, (515) 708-0603, robhodgson888@gmail.com**, Katie Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Shawn Collins, Sheree Daugherty, Rich Eakin, Isaac Field, Dave Inman, Matthew Juskowich, Andy Kiester, Bruce and Barbara Kiester, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Ron Leberman, Geoff Malosh, Clare Nicolls, Todd Nichols, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow, Walter Shaffer, Bob Scribner, Randy Stringer, Shannon Thompson, Andy Troyer, Bob Van Newkirk, Mark Vass.

### Cumberland County

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

Waterfowl of most interest included 2 **Snow Geese** at BSCP 3/4 (TG), one at the BS Mill Pond 3/6 (VG), 20 at the Pond on Zion Road 3/18-20 (PB), and a flock of 300 migrating over Silver Spring Presbyterian Church 3/15 (SK). There was one **American Black Duck** at BSCP on 3/7 (DK), 2 at Enck's Mill Road 3/24 and one 4/1 (PB), and 2 in Mechanicsburg 4/26 (SK). There were 2 **Northern Shovelers** on Lisburn Road in Camp Hill 3/15 (SK) and 3 others at the pond on Brackbill Road Mechanicsburg 3/25 (PB). Good numbers of diving ducks from the late winter period continued into spring. There were many sightings of **Canvasbacks** from Shippensburg to Newville and Boiling Springs, to Mechanicsburg and Camp Hill to West Fairview boat launch at the mouth of the Conodoguinet Creek. Although **Redheads** were not quite as numerous there were still plenty to be found. Probably the best

waterfowl sighting for the season was the male and female **White-winged Scoters** on OL 4/20 (VG, DK). This made for the second year in the row for this species in *Cumberland*. There was also one **Long-tailed duck** on OL 4/2 (DK) and again 4/20 (VG, DK). An apparently injured bird was at BSCP 4/8-5/1 (PB, DK, m.ob.); its fate was unknown. **Red-breasted Mergansers** made a good showing throughout the county in small numbers.

Per usual **Ruffed Grouse** were reported along the ridges. One was at Meadows Road 4/18 (VG), another at Colonel Denning SP 5/3 (TN) and at nearby Elk Hill Road 5/9 (BF, LF), and still another at Camp Michaux 5/26 (BO). The only report of **Red-throated Loon** came from the quarry on Lisburn Road. Two were seen 3/14-15 (SK) and one was reported 3/16 (AL, EG). The only report of **American Bittern** was one at SGL 169 Cabin Road 4/15 and 4/17 (VG) and likewise one **Least Bittern** was at HHP 5/13 (VG, TN). One **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was along the CC at West Fairview 5/9 (SK) and 3 were at the same location 5/24 (TN). These were probably from the small rookery across the river in Harrisburg.

*Cumberland's* third **Mississippi Kite** was reported circling over the BS 4/13 heading from the southwest toward the northeast (VG). A few **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported, including one light morph on Rte. 944 east of Carlisle Springs, between Sherwood Drive and Mountain Road 3/1 (RF), and 5 (4 light and one dark) along MLR 3/7 (KC).

The only **Sora** for the period was at the SGL 169 MRM 4/27 (VG, TN). There was also a **Sandhill Crane** at that same location 5/5 (VG, PB, MW). Still close by the Cumberland County Landfill were 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** 3/16 (VG). **Eurasian Collared-Dove** showed up again north of Newville, one 4/27 (VG, TN) and 2 on 5/13 (AM, SS) at Meadows Road, and one on Rte. 997 near Short Lane 5/12 (DH, TN). Shorebird migration was poor in *Cumberland* with no species of interest to report.

There were three reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo**: at two different locations of SGL 169 on 5/5 (VG, PB), and one at the MSF 5/25 (BF, LF). Two reports of a **Merlin** were made at Meadows Road 4/11 and 4/18 (VG).

The only **Philadelphia Vireo** was at the Mount Holly Marsh 5/9 (EB), and likewise the only **Bank Swallow** and **Cliff Swallow** were one Bank at Stoughstown Pond 4/8 (VG) and 8 Cliffs at Pine Grove Furnace SP Laurel Lake 4/25 (BC, BCa). The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was on MSF Milesburn Road 5/14 (VG), and the only **Swainson's Thrush** at the Mount Holly Marsh 5/9 (EB). There were 70 **Snow Buntings** at MLR 3/3 (VG) and 27 there 3/7 (KC). One **Lapland Longspur** was also on MLR 3/3 (VG).

Warbler migration was fairly light. Normal numbers of breeders filtered in, but migrants were sparse. The only **Golden-winged Warbler** was at SGL 230 on 5/3 (RE). One **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen foraging at HHP 5/9 (PB, MM). A **Tennessee Warbler** was singing at Elk Hill Road 5/12 (VG). A **Kentucky Warbler** was reported in Mount Holly at Sheet Iron Road 5/9 (EB) and one was at Camp Michaux 5/11, 5/14, and 5/26 (VG, PB, BO). One **Cape May Warbler** was at Camp Michaux 5/3 (VG, TN), one was in Carlisle 5/5 (SS), and one was in Newville 5/9 (LF, BF). **Cerulean Warblers** returned to Elk Hill Road and Camp Michaux along the Appalachian Trail where they breed. One Cerulean was also reported at Mount Holly Marsh 5/9 (EB). It is not known if it was a potential breeder as Ceruleans have not been noted at that location in the past. A **Magnolia Warbler** was in Mount Holly 5/8 (PB), another was at Mount Holly Marsh 5/9 (EB), and still another was at Acorn Road Carlisle 5/11 (BFo). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was reported at SGL 230 (AM, SS, TN, RE) and 3 were at SGL 169 on 5/5 (VG). Single **Blackburnian Warblers** were reported as migrants at MSF Milesburn Road 5/3 (BF, LF), Mount Holly Marsh 5/9 (EB), and Camp Michaux 5/14 (PB). They were reported numerous times at Elk Hill Road / Colonel Denning area where the species normally breeds. One singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported a number of at West Fairview along the CC 4/18-5/24 (MM, CM, m. ob.). It was not known if it successfully found a mate. One **Canada Warbler** was along the northern ridge at SGL 230 on 5/3 (AM, SS, TN, RE), one was at Meadows Road 5/13, and one was at the MSF Milesburn Road, the only place in the county they regularly breed, 5/14 (VG) and 5/27 (BO). There was only one **Wilson's Warbler** reported, at Camp Michaux 5/9 (PB, MM). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported where they regularly breed at Meadows Road 4/18 (VG), and at SGL 169 Cabin Road 5/25 (VG) where habitat in the back field is improving for this species.

**Fox Sparrow** was reported at five locations; one in Newville 3/20 (BF, LF), one at West Fairview 4/4 (IG), 3 at Kings Gap 4/12 (DH), one at Mount Holly 4/12 (PB), and one at BSCP 4/15 (LW). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at the Mount Holly Marsh 5/24 (AW). **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported from a few locations throughout the county but the only places they are normally found in numbers higher than one or two are SGL 169 and HHP. The BS has not had them in large numbers ever since the stream habitat restoration was completed, which narrowed and deepened the creek. One **Blue Grosbeak** was at the corner of Rock Run and Hunter's Road north of Newville 5/12 (VG, DH, TN). **Pine Siskins** continued through the end of the period but there was no confirmed breeding.

Observers: **Vernon Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave, Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com**, Paul Banks, Ed Bernot, Bary Caver, Barbara Caver (BCa), Kay Cramer, Robert Eichelberger, Barbara Forney (BFo), Bill Franz, Linda Franz, Ron Freed, Thomas Galaskewicz, Ian Gardner, Elora Grahame, Deuane Hoffman, Stefan Karkuff, Dave Kerr, Alex Lamoreaux, Chris Markiewicz, Mark Markiewicz, Annette Mathes, Ted Nichols, Bill Oyler, Susan Strassner, Martin Wilson, L.K. Wright, Andrew Wolf.

### Dauphin County

Locations: Blue Mountain (BMT), Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (FIG), Harrisburg (HBG), Hershey (HER), Haldeman Island (HI), Hershey Important Bird Area # 45 (HIBA), Highspire Reservoir & Lisa Lake (HRL), Hummelstown (HUM), Lower Paxton Twp. (LPT), Milton S. Hershey School campus (MSH), Penn St. Ornithology Lab (PSOL), South Hanover Twp. (SHT), Susquehanna River (SR), SR at Fort Hunter (SRFH), SR at HBG (SRHB), SR at Middletown/Royalton (SRMR), SR from Marysville (SRMV), SR from West Fairview (SRWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

March "came in like a lion" with a continuation of the below normal temperatures that had been in place through most of January and all of February. February was the coldest on record for HBG, and March matched this depressing statistic. During the first week of March record lows were set on two days including the first sub-zero temperature ever recorded in HBG during March. The SR remained mostly ice covered until mid-March.

Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** were along Eby Rd. in Derry Twp. 3/8 (CMo, *fide* AL). Other reports included one at WL 3/16 (LS), one at SRWF 3/17 (EB, AL), and one with a small flock of **Canada Geese** along Rte. 322 in HER 3/22 (PM). The movement of **Snow Geese** and **Tundra Swans** began the second week of March. The first relatively large count of 75 northbound **Tundra Swans** was reported from Schiovani Park, Swatara Twp. 3/13 (IG). Clearly the highest count came from HI 3/22 when members of the PSOL estimated 6000 **Tundra Swans** (MB, et al.). More than 5000 **Snow Geese** had settled in fields along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA 3/15 (P&RW). Large flights of **Canada Geese** were reported from various locations in mid-Mar (m.ob.). Both **Canvasbacks** and **Redhead** were observed on the SR from various locations throughout Mar and Apr (m.ob.). Somewhat surprising was the presence of a drake **Canvasback** and a male **Lesser Scaup** at SRFH 5/29-31 (BD, IG). All three scoter species were observed on the SR this season. The earliest, beginning in late Feb, was **White-winged Scoter** which continued through much of Apr with counts sometimes reaching two to three dozen (4/20, DH). **Surf Scoter** was reported from SRFH 4/20 (DH) and from SRWF 4/21 (HP). **Black Scoter** was also at SRHB to SRFH 4/20-21 (DH, IG, EB). **Long-tailed Duck**, first reported in late February, continued at SRWF and other SR locations through 4/22 (m.ob.). A high count of 62 was tallied at SRFH 4/8 (DH).

The first **Red-throated Loon** was at SRWF 3/8 (DH). On 4/8 a record high count of 17 was recorded from SRFH (DH) and one or two continued near this location 4/10-11 (EB, RK, R&DH). The previous high count for any one location in *Dauphin* was six. An **Eared Grebe** was in the company of numerous **Horned Grebes** at SRWF 4/20-21 (EB, N&CJ, et al.). Possibly the same bird returned to this location 5/10 (N&CJ). **Red-necked Grebe** was present at various sites along the SR through much of Mar and Apr. The first observation was 3/1 from along the Wormleysburg waterfront (EG). Reports, often two or more, continued through 4/21 (m. obs.).

An **American Bittern** was at WL 4/12 (DH) and again 4/26 (LC). Another was reported 4/28-29 at FIG (JD & DM), and one was heard during a nocturnal vigil in SHT 5/15 (TJ). A **Least Bittern** was observed among the cattails near the Morning Glory discharge pool at WL 5/21 (EB). The **Great Blue Heron** nesting colony between E. Canal St. in SHT and the Swatara Creek continued to thrive, most noticeably the cluster of nests in trees right along the creek. The cluster in the middle of the woodland swamp declined possibly due to a pair of **Red-tailed Hawks** that were considering one of the Great Blue nests from last year. There were 15-20 active nests counted at various times from mid-April to early May (P&RW). The first **Great Egret** arrived at WL 3/23, about a week later than expected (SL). The annual spring Wade Island nest survey, conducted by the PGC since 1985, took place 5/7 and yielded 133 **Great Egret** nests and 34 **Black-crowned Night-Heron** nests (PB, DB). The **Great Egret** count was up from the 103 in 2014 but the **Black-crowned** count was much lower than last year's 48 nests. The **Double-crested Cormorant** nest count also was much lower, 69 this year compared to 103 last year. This was the third year of decline from the high of 188 nests in 2012. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** returned to their mid-town HBG nesting sites 4/1 (IG, TN). Reports of multiple birds and nests continued through the rest of the season (m.ob.). The PGC has also been

monitoring the Yellow-crowned nesting colony. At various times through May there were 10-15 active nests counted, including one this year in a sycamore tree on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion. A few nests were abandoned due to the possible presence of a **Red-tailed Hawk** and one was shot at with a paint gun. Another nest, on Hamilton St., was lost during a windstorm in mid-May (JK). A **Glossy Ibis** was observed from SRMV 5/10 (IG), and two were reported flying upriver north of HBG 5/23 (EB).

**Osprey** returned to their nesting site along Rt. 230 between Steelton and Highspire 3/25 (SH). Nesting behavior was noted through Apr and May and chicks were in nest the first week of Jun (KK, SH). Another Osprey was observed by an electrician who was servicing the Super Duper Looper in Hershey Park 4/16 (GK). In my 23 years as compiler I've never had an observation reported from the top of this popular ride. A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** continued in the HIBA the first week of Mar (CK, et al.) and two dark morphs were along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA 3/6 (TB). Three were along Clarks Valley Rd. 3/15 (BH) and one was observed from along the Pennsylvania Turnpike near mile marker 256 on 4/1 (EB).

At WL were a **Sora** 5/6 (EB) and another **Sora** and 2 **Virginia Rails** 5/14 (DH). Another report of **Virginia Rail** was made at SRFH 4/18 (EB).

A **Black-bellied Plover** was reported in SHT as a pre-dawn flyover 5/9 (IG) and a **Semipalmated Plover** was among on the mud flats at WL 5/7-15 (IG, LI, et al.). The best location for shorebirds continued to be WL. From the end of Apr to mid-May no less than a dozen species were reported, some regularly. These included **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary**, **Least**, **Semipalmated**, and **Pectoral Sandpipers**, and **Wilson's Snipe** (m.ob.). Not so solitary numbers of 17 **Solitary Sandpipers** 5/6 (EB) and 29 on 5/7 (IG) were good counts. Along with other shorebird species a single **Dunlin** was a noteworthy sighting 5/7 (IG) as were 5 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/14 (DH). The first **American Woodcock** of the season was in SHT 3/11 (JG). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were observed flying in to the wet fields along E. Canal Rd. in SHT 3/20 (P&RW), and 5 were observed 4/1 in the HIBA trying to evade a **Northern Harrier** (CK). Among the shorebirds along the North Boardwalk Trail at WL 5/6 was a **Wilson's Phalarope** (EB).

**Bonaparte's Gull** was first reported this spring 3/11 SRWF (AL, EG, IG). The presence of this species along the SR continued through 4/26 with the peak during the first two weeks of April when reports of 200-1000 from both SRWF and SRMV were common (m.ob.). The first report of **Black-headed Gull** was 3/27 at SRMV (TN, VG). Sightings of single birds continued through 4/10 at this location (m.ob.). The first **Little Gull** of the season was observed SRWF also on 3/27 (JH, MS). Observations of this annual migrant continued through 4/15 (m.ob.). One **Little Gull** was reported with more than 200 Bonaparte's on the SR from Port Treverton in *Northumberland* 4/9 (BM). An **Iceland Gull**, one of the more uncommon gulls of the SR, was observed at SRMV 3/29 (DH) and a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at the same location 4/5 (JB, EG).

**Caspian Tern** was first reported at the SRWF 4/17 (DH), and additional reports came the following week from SRWF and SRFH (DH, HP, EB). A late Caspian was along Front St., HBG 5/16 with 2 **Black Terns** (DH). Reports of **Common Tern** were made mid-Apr: 2 along Front St. HBG 4/14 (IG) and 4 at SRWF 4/17 (DH). During this same period **Forster's Terns** also were reported. Two were observed 4/8 (DH) and five 4/9 (BO) at SRFH, one was reported 4/10 at SRWF (RK), and one along the Wormleysburg waterfront 4/11 (LC). The latest report of **Forster's Tern** was 4/26 when two were found near the mouth of the Swatara Creek at Middletown (EC).

There were at least three active **Barn Owl** nests and five **American Kestrel** nests at the MHS campus in late May (NM). The first report of **Common Nighthawk** was of 15 the evening of 5/17 in LPT (LKK), and the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was noted 4/22 at feeders along Roundtop Rd. in Londonderry Twp. (M&SS). A nice count of 12 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** was made at White Oak Rd. in Weiser SF 5/27 (IG). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported at a known nesting site at FIG 3/31 (DM) and again 5/19 when 5 were recorded (IG). Another was observed flying along E. Canal Rd. near Rte. 39 in SHT 5/1 (TW), and one was observed in Clarks Valley 5/24 (RK, AM). A thriving population on the property of the Lake Tobias Wildlife Park near Halifax continued this season. The **Peregrine Falcons** nesting on the Rachel Carson building in downtown HBG had another good year. Four eggs were laid from 3/16 to 3/23. The first chick hatched 4/22 followed by two others 4/23. The fourth egg did not hatch. The banding event took place on 5/21 and all three nestlings were determined to be females. Fledging began 6/1 (SH). **Merlins** continued into the spring season with the last report from Susquehanna Twp. 4/12 (EB).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was near Williamstown 5/16 (DH) and another was at FIG 5/19 (JD, IG). The only report of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was of 2 in Stony Creek Valley 5/22 (DH). **Alder Flycatcher** was among the species observed at FIG 5/26 (IG) and one was reported near Williamstown 5/28 (DH). **Least Flycatcher** was observed on the grounds of the former State Hospital in HBG 4/30-5/11 (m.ob.) and one was



found along White Oak Rd. in Weiser SF 5/14 (DH).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** was first reported 5/6 in SHT (IG) and 2 were among the species tallied in SGL 246 on 5/21 (DH). The first **Swainson's Thrush** was noted 5/7 at WL (HP) and observations continued through the month (m.ob.). A nice count of 50 **American Pipits** was tallied along Crest Lane MHS campus 3/10 (AL); other observations in the HER area continued through 4/30 (m.ob.). Most of the other reports of **American Pipit** came from the west shoreline of the SR, technically in *Cumberland and Perry*.

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was in Stony Creek Valley 5/2 (TN) and one was in SGL 246 on 5/3 (DH). A **Brewster's Warbler** was noted along Hahn Rd. in Stony Creek Valley 5/9 (IG). **Mourning Warblers** included one on the State Hospital grounds 5/6 (IG), at SHT 5/13 (TJ), and at Williamstown 5/16 (DH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at the former State Hospital Natural Area, HBG 4/22 (HP, TN). Observations of one or two continued at this location through 5/19 (m.ob.). Another sighting occurred at HRL 4/25 (SH) and one was at WL 5/3 (HP) and 5/6 (RSk). There were 33 warbler species and one hybrid reported in the county this spring.

**Vesper Sparrow** was reported on three occasions from early to mid-Apr along Swatara Rd. in the HIBA (CK). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was among the species recorded 5/3 on a walk through SGL 246, 2 were observed near Williamstown 5/16, and another was in Stony Creek Valley 5/22 (DH).

**Blue Grosbeak** returned to FIG 5/19 (IG, JD) and were reported again at this location 5/26 (IG). They have been annual breeders at this location since 2010. **Bobolink** was observed along Parkway West near Linglestown 5/4 (DH), in the HIBA 5/5-6 (NM, IG), and in the grasslands around Gratz 5/14 (DH). **Rusty Blackbirds** made their first appearance at WL 3/9 (LI), and at least two were observed in a mixed flock of **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **American Robins**, and **Common Grackles** 3/11 (P&RW). **Rusty Blackbird** continued at various locations through 5/3 (m.ob.).

The season began with continued counts of 200+ **Pine Siskins** at the Borough of Dauphin, declining to about 100 by mid-March (DR). They remained in the county in smaller numbers to the end of the season (m.ob.). A few were still visiting feeders in Lower Paxton Twp. 5/21-27 (RSp).

Observers: **Richard Williams, 3 Parkside Dr., Hummelstown, PA 17036, (717) 566-6562, dickpatwilliams@yahoo.com**, Patricia Barber, Tim Becker, Joseph Bellehumeur, Ed Bernot, Scott Bills, Dan Brauning, Margaret Brittingham, Lou Carpenter, Ed Chubb, Jerod Derr, Bruce Deuel, Ian Gardner, Vern Gauthier, Jan Getgood, Elora Grahame, Al Guarente, Sue Hannon, Brian Harris, Robyn & Don Henise (R&DH), Deuane Hoffman, Jason Horn, Larry Imes, Tom Johnson, Nancy & Carl Juris (N&CJ), Lydia Kadar-Kallen, Gary Kinley, Joseph Kosack, Chandra Kotzatoski, Ramsay Koury, Karl Kugle, Alex Lamoreaux, Sandy Lockerman, Chris Markiewicz (CMk), Mark Markiewicz, Brandon Martin, Annette Mathes, Nate McKelvie, Dave McNaughton, Paige Morabito, Chris Moyer (CMo), Ted Nichols, Bill Oylor, Holger Pflücke, Chris Rebert, Deborah Rudy, Matt Sabatine, Lauren Shaffer, Rebecca Shirk (RSk), Mary & Stu Skinner (M&SS), Rosemary Spreha (RSp), Tal Wenrich, Patricia Williams, Sally & Rich Zaino.

## Delaware County

Locations: Brinton Lake (BL), Delaware River (DR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Marcus Hook Memorial Park (MHMP), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Rose Tree Park (RTP), Springton Reservoir (SR), The Willows (WILL).

The 2015 spring migration boasted an impressive 198 species in *Delaware*, two more than last spring. In addition to the 33 species of warbler, highlights included spectacular finds such as **Mississippi Kite**, a high number of **Gray-cheeked Thrushes**, and another successful year of breeding **Barred Owl**.

Numbers of **Snow Geese** are typically high at the beginning of the season and drastically reduce throughout Mar, Apr, and May. This year, the highest count of Snow Geese was birds at Fort Mifflin on the DR 3/11 (AG). One late flock was observed at RTP 4/5 (BR), 2 were in Essington 4/8 (AG), and 2 were at Crum Woods 5/3 (DE). The introduced **Mute Swan** was observed twice, 2 at JHNWR 4/25 (DO) and one at MHMP along the DR 5/23 (AG). Annually found along DR in spring, 4 **Tundra Swans** 3/17 (AG) represented the only record this spring.

**Gadwall** was most present at JHNWR 3/7-4/17 with the highest total of 10 (m.ob.). Four **American Wigeon** were at SR 3/11 (AG), and 6 were at JHNWR 4/26-4/30 (DE, AG). **American Black Ducks** and **Mallards** are common throughout the spring in *Delaware* but a less common find was an **American Black Duck x Mallard** at JHNWR 3/25 (DO). **Blue-winged Teal** are an uncommon spring migrant, a high total of 5 were observed at JHNWR 4/7-17 (AG, DO, MW). A regular but rare or uncommon migrant in spring, one **Canvasback** was observed on SR 3/11-13 (BB, AG, DO), and

one was on Crum Creek Reservoir 3/22 (BH). **Redheads** were observed in two locations with a high total of 8 on SR 3/11-3/12 (DE, AG) and a high total of 6 that spent almost two weeks between Glen Providence Park and Broomall's Lake 3/13-25 (m.ob.). One **Greater Scaup** was along the DR off of Marcus Hook Municipal Park 3/3 (LW). **Lesser Scaup** were only present in southern *Delaware*, 2 at JHNWR 3/7 (GA, TF) and 4 off Governor Printz Park along the DR 3/28 (DH). The only scoters this spring were a flock of 7 **White-winged Scoters** off MHMP along the DR 5/23 (AG). A female **Common Goldeneye** was observed in a small unfrozen spot on SR 3/4-21 (BB, AG, DO). Four **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on SR 3/18 (AG) and one drake was in Darby Creek at JHNWR 3/22 (BH).

An rare and irregular migrant, **Red-throated Loon** was present in both of their most expected locations in *Delaware*: one on SR 3/11-13 (BB, AG, DO) and one off Hog Island Road on the DR 4/20 (AG). A high total of 2 **Red-necked Grebes** were also observed off Hog Island Road on the DR 3/24 and 3/28 (AG). **Great Cormorants** continued along the DR with a high total of 3 under the Commodore Barry Bridge and Governor Printz Park 3/17-28 (AG, DH, DO, SW). **Least Bitterns** were present at JHNWR throughout May on the *Philadelphia* side of the refuge, but there was only one report from the *Delaware* side this season, on 5/18 (AG). An annual May occurrence the past five years, one **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was observed at MHMP 5/28 (AG).

Of the eleven birds of prey seen this season, the least common and most exciting highlight was a **Mississippi Kite** that was photographed flying over Swarthmore 5/30 (DE).

Solitary **American Coots** were present only in Mar at SR 3/11 (AG) and BL 3/28 (BB). Shorebirds were most numerous in southern *Delaware* this season. One **Semipalmated Plover** was at JHNWR 5/14-5/23 (VG, AG, NS). A high count of 15 **Lesser Yellowlegs** was made at JHNWR 4/25 (TB) along with individual birds 5/1-3 (DB, DH). **Least Sandpiper** were at JHNWR 5/1-23 (VG, DH, DO, NS), a group of 14 was at PHL 5/2 (AG), and one Least Sandpiper was an unusual find at Mineral Hill in Media 5/12 (TB). A pair of **Pectoral Sandpipers** at JHNWR 5/13 (TB) represented the only report of this species this season. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were also observed only once this season, 10 at JHNWR 5/18 (AG). **Wilson's Snipes** were noted throughout the season in southern *Delaware*, but the highest count was made at PHL when 29 birds were present 3/20 (AR).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were only on the DR with 21 off Hog Island Road 4/20 (AG) and 5 under the Commodore Barry Bridge 4/21 (TB). **Caspian Terns** were observed in southern *Delaware* 4/23-5/1 with a high count of 8 on the DR from Hog Island Road (AG) and individual birds at JHNWR (TB, DH, DO). **Forster's Terns** were observed in the same locations 4/20-5/1 with a high total of 3 from Hog Island Road on the DR 4/23 (AG).

Rare but regular, **Black-billed Cuckoos** were only in northern *Delaware* in May. Individuals were at RCSP 5/18-19 (NS, EW) and WILL 5/27 (HC). **Barred Owls** were in the greater RCSP region. Another successful breeding pair was with young in RCSP 5/10-30 (m.ob.), 2 were at Thornbury Township Trail 3/13 (JM), and one was heard at Barrett's Meadow 4/2 (BB). One **Long-eared Owl** was heard in the early morning hours at a residence in Drexel Hill 3/24 (BR). The only **Common Nighthawk** was a flyover at a private residence in Upper Darby 5/18 (RB). Individual **Merlins** were at WILL 3/4 (KG) and Crum Woods 4/12 (DE).

An irregular rare migrant to *Delaware*, one **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed on the Bridle Trail at RCSP 5/23 (AG). One **Least Flycatcher** was at Thornbury Township Trail 4/30 (JM). Occasional in spring, one **Alder Flycatcher** was heard on the Bridle Trail at RCSP 5/28 (AG). A remarkable yard bird this season was an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at a private residence in Springfield, which was a possible first or second property record 5/23 (SC). **Common Raven** sightings continued throughout *Delaware* this spring (m.ob.). Sightings were of single birds except for 2 at the Darlington Tract 4/15 (AG). **Bank Swallows** were observed only at WILL 5/2-6 with a high total of 2 (KG, DO). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at a private residence in Media 3/24 (AG) and at Taylor Memorial Arboretum 5/1 (DO). **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were plentiful in mid-May, with eight observations in *Delaware* 5/13-24 (AB, DE, AG, SJ, NS). A late migrant, one **Hermit Thrush** was at Smedley Park 5/15 (TB). An early **Gray Catbird** was a yard bird at a private residence in Wallingford 3/25 (DO). A **Brown Thrasher** on the Nature Trail at Bethel Springs Elementary School 2/18 was early (BQ).

Thirty-three species of warbler were observed in *Delaware* this spring season, and the majority of these were at RCSP. **Worm-eating Warblers** were observed twice with individual birds at Big Bend Farm 5/14 (NP) and RCSP 5/19 (AG). An irregular rare spring migrant, **Prothonotary Warbler** were also seen twice this season: one foraging along the creek at the Bridle Trail of RCSP 5/1 (DB) and another at Thornbury Township Trail 5/15 (JM). The only **Tennessee Warbler** was a single at RCSP 5/23 (AG, EW). Also, **Nashville Warbler** was only observed once this season, at Taylor Arboretum 4/23 (DO), which represented the first eBird record for the location. A regular rare migrant in spring, 2 **Mourning Warblers** were along

the Bridle Trail at RCSP 5/20-22 (DE, AG, NP, NS). **Kentucky Warblers** were found at the Bridle Trail at RCSP 5/13-30 (DG, DO). A **Cape May Warbler** was heard at RCSP 5/13 (DO), and another was at a private residence in Drexel Hill 5/5 (BR). One **Magnolia Warbler** was a yard bird at a private residence in Springfield 5/23 (SC). The **Cerulean Warbler** was at the Episcopal Academy in Newtown Square 5/1-5 (WS, MK, JP). An irregular rare migrant, one **Yellow-throated Warbler** was photographed at JHNWR 4/14 (DO). A high total of 2 **Wilson's Warblers** were observed at the Bridle Trail at RCSP 5/13-5/23 (DE, AG, NP, BR, NS, EW).

Of the nine species of sparrow observed this season, the most remarkable find was a lingering **White-crowned Sparrow** on the Episcopal Academy Campus 5/6 (WS).

Observers: **Brian Quindlen, 5 Winding Way, Malvern, PA 19355, (484) 356-8435, brian.quindlen@gmail.com**, George Armistead, Debbie Beer, Adrian Binns, Ryan Brown, Tom Bush, Brian Byrnes, Henry Cadwalader, Skip Conant, David Eberly, Todd Fellenbaum, Virginia Gardiner, Deborah Grove, Kim Gruener, Al Guarente, Brian Henderson, Deuane Hoffman, Derek Hudgins, Sheryl Johnson, Matt Kelly, John Mercer, Damon Orsetti, Jack Pacera, Nick Pulcinella, Ann Reeves, Bill Roache, Nathaniel Sharp, Laurie W, Marshall Walther, Eric Weislogel, Sharon West.

### Elk County

No compiler.

### Erie County

Ice remained on Presque Isle Bay well into late March with ice chunks still on the lake to mid-April, but **Red-breasted Merganser** numbers still climbed to five digits on Presque Isle Bay by late April. Frequent clear skies overnight through May suppressed significant fallouts of passerines. There were plenty of birds during the first half of May to keep birders busy, but the second half of the month was very slow, with very few *Empidonax* flycatchers or thrushes. Despite the lack of **Pine Siskins** through the winter period, there was a significant movement of them through April into mid-May. The following unusual birds were recorded from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

Small flocks of **Snow Geese**, mostly white morph, were reported 3/12-4/1 mainly along the lake. There were 200 or more **Snow Geese** over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 3/21 (JM, et al.). A group of five **Cackling Geese** flew past the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 4/2 (JM). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was a good find with **American Wigeons** at Edinboro Lake 3/31 (RS). A **Surf Scoter** on Lake LeBoeuf 4/1 (JH) was a rare inland sighting, and 2 were in Presque Isle Bay 4/8 (JM).

A **Red-throated Loon** in Presque Isle Bay 3/29-5/8 was rare for spring (m.ob.). A **Red-necked Grebe** was in Presque Isle Bay 3/28 (m.ob.), and another was there 4/8 (JM). A breeding plumaged **Eared Grebe** was at the foot of East Ave. in Erie 4/6 (BGr). An **American White Pelican** made a brief visit at Leo's landing 5/9 (GA). Only three **American Bitterns** were found this spring at Presque Isle, 4/9-5/10 (JM, MB, ST). The only report of **Least Bittern** was one at Niagara Pond 5/18 (RSt).

A **Black Vulture** over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch was a rare find 5/11 (RD, JM). This was the second May record for this species in the county. A single-day county record 3687 **Turkey Vultures** over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 3/29 was an impressive sight (JM, RSt). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** nearly slipped past the Presque Isle Hawk Watch before being spotted 5/9 (JM). A **Mississippi Kite** was photographed as it kettled with a small group of **Broad-winged Hawks** high over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 5/25 (JM). Small numbers of **Sandhill Cranes** were reported through the spring, mostly over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch (m.ob.).

Very rare in spring were the one or 2 **American Golden-Plovers** at Beach 7 and Gull Point 5/9 and 5/12, respectively (ST, MB). The find of the spring season was a **Wilson's Plover** at Gull Point 5/26 (MB). It was nicely documented with photos (MB, JM). A **Piping Plover** sporting leg bands was found on Gull Point 5/4 and was seen periodically through 5/14 (MB). A **Willet** was at Gull Point 5/5 (MB) and another was at Lake LeBoeuf 5/21 (BG), which provided the first *Erie* record away from Presque Isle.

A season total of five **Little Gulls** were around Presque Isle from 4/23-5/8 (JM, GA). Up to three **Thayer's Gulls** were on Presque Isle from 3/15-18 (JM). A season total of 18 **Iceland Gulls** were present around Presque Isle through 4/23 (JM, et al.), and a season total of about 18 **Glaucous Gulls** were present around Presque Isle through 5/2 (JM, et al.). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported through the period with a high of 14 in Presque Isle Bay 4/4 (JM). At least one pair of **Common Terns** were incubating eggs at Gull Point from 5/21 into the summer season (MB)—more on this in the summer report. Two **Black Terns** were flying high over

Niagara Pond after sunset 5/3 (JM), and 2 were at Edinboro Lake 5/6 (DS).

A **Snowy Owl** remained from the winter season in Union City to at least 3/3 (DP). Two **Long-eared Owls** were in the pines at Presque Isle 4/11 (RD). Up to three **Short-eared Owls** were at Gull Point 4/10-11 (RD, RSw). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found in the pines at Presque Isle 3/25 (RD) and probably another on 4/2 (RSt).

A single **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was along Sidewalk Trail 5/26 (SS). A **Common Raven** was near Edinboro 3/17 (JH) and 2, with one carrying a stick, were also near Edinboro the next day (DS). A rather late **Worm-eating Warbler** was heard 5/25 near Pine Tree Trail (RSt). A **Kentucky Warbler** was at Fry's landing 5/15 (EM) and 2 were heard near Pine Tree Trail 5/25 (RSt). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was a good find near the Ranger's station 5/9 (DJ) and one was at the east pier 5/14 (K&KP). An immature male **Summer Tanager** was spotted at the Niagara Boat Launch by Presque Isle S.P. 5/10 (GM) and was nicely photographed. The only spring report of **Common Redpoll** was a flock of up to 36 coming to a feeder in North East 4/7-14 (TL). **Pine Siskins** were fairly common from Apr to about mid-May, mainly along Lake Erie (m.ob.).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA, 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**, George Armistead, Mary Birdsong, Roger Donn, Bonnie Ginader, Bob Grubbs (BGr), Jamie Hill, Dave Janetski, Tim Lyons, Geoff Malosh, Ellwood Meyers, Kevin & Kelly Parsons, Donna Peters, Robert Scribner, Don Snyder, Russ States (RSt), Randy Stringer, Sam Stull, Ruth Swaney (RSw), Shannon Thompson.

### Fayette County

Location: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL).

The only report of **Tundra Swan** was 12 at GRL 3/20 (MF). GRL was the site of most reports of waterfowl as always, however numbers were low this spring, even on rainy days that often produce fallouts. A **Wood Duck** was there 3/26 (MF), 6 **American Wigeon** were at Bridgeport Reservoir 4/1 (CH), a **Northern Shoveler** was at GRL 4/30 (CH) and 4 **Canvasback** were there 3/13 (MF). Other waterfowl at the lake include 2 **Redhead** 3/13, 3/20, and 3/26 (MF), 9 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/13 and 3/20 (MF), 4 **Bufflehead** 3/13 (MF) and 6 on 4/25 (MJ). Two **Common Mergansers** were at Bridgeport Reservoir 4/1 (CH) and 2 were along Indian Creek 4/25 (TK, JK). Seven **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at GRL 3/20 (MF) and 22 were at Bridgeport Reservoir 4/1 (CH). **Ruddy Ducks** are normally numerous at GRL but 20 there 4/25 (MF) and two 4/30 (CH) were all that were reported. A **Long-tailed Duck** was at Point Marion 3/1 (AM), 2 **Surf Scoters** were at GRL 4/10 (EC), and a **White-winged Scoter** was at Point Marion 3/20 (JB, ebird).

A great count of 22 **Common Loons** were at Lake Courage in Wharton 4/2 (LD). A single was at GRL 4/25-5/21 (MJ, CH, JHa). **Horned Grebes** were at GRL 3/20-4/30 (MF, MJ, CH). The only **Osprey** was at Jacob's Creek Wetlands 4/11 (MJ). A **Black Vulture** was seen at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 4/11 (TB). After nesting was confirmed for the first time in 2013, this sighting indicated they are probably still in the area.

An **American Woodcock** was flushed at Jacob's Creek Wetlands 4/18 (MJ). Six **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at GRL 4/25 (MJ) and 16 **Ring-billed Gulls** were there 3/20 (MF). A **Caspian Tern** was filmed flying around Bridgeport Reservoir 5/21 (JHa).

Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were at Farmington 5/17 (LD). This species is rarely reported but is likely a breeder in the county. A **Barred Owl** was heard at Mountain Pines Campground 5/7 (GG). Although a resident in the county, there are very few reports. Also infrequently reported, single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were at Jacob's Creek Wetlands (MJ) and Friendship Hill National Historic Site (TB) 4/11.

Four **Cliff Swallows** were at Bridgeport Reservoir, 6 were at GRL 5/21, and 10 **Bank Swallows** were at Bridgeport Reservoir and GRL 5/21. Two **Purple Martins** were at GRL 5/21 (all JHa). Two **Golden-winged Warblers** were at SGL 51 on 5/30 (SC), a reliable location for them. Two or three **Brewster's Warblers** were also at that location that day (SC). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was singing at Mill Run Reservoir (MF, BM) and a **Black-and-white Warbler** was singing in the same area 4/25 (MF), a day that looked and felt more like February than April. A **Cerulean Warbler** was at SGL 51 on 5/30 (SC). A **Pine Warbler** and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** were at Friendship Hill National Historic Site 4/11 (TB). A **Wilson's Warbler** was a nice find at Bridgeport Reservoir 5/21 (JHa).

Grassland sparrows are widespread in *Fayette*, so a report from Farmington of 5 **Savannah Sparrows**, 6 **Grasshopper Sparrows** and 2 **Henslow's Sparrows** 5/17 (LD) was very welcomed. Two **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at Friendship Hill National Historical Site 4/11 (TB). Eight **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Jacob's Creek Wetlands 4/18 (MJ). A

**Purple Finch** visited a feeder in Juniata 4/18 (AJ) and one was singing at Mill Run Reservoir 4/25 (MF). **Pine Siskins** visited a feeder in Juniata 4/12-5/2 with a max of 3 birds (AJ).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, 805 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, 15235, (412) 731-3581, mpfial@verizon.net**, John Boback, Terry Bronson, Ellie Cochran, Shawn Collins, Larry Durgin, Gigi Gerben, Jim Hausman (JHa), Clyce Hess, Aleene Jones, Matthew Juskowich, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Bob Machesney, Andrew Matteson Kathy Saunders.

---

### Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Beaver Meadows (BM), Buzzard Swamp (BS), Cook Forest (CF), Tionesta Creek (TC), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake (TL).

More observers than usual in *Forest* yielded an abundance and variety of species; there were 144 species observed during the reporting period. A high count of 150 **Tundra Swans** was at BS 3/16 (AK). **Gadwall**, seldom reported in *Forest*, was seen 4/12 at TL (GE, RS) and 5/12 at BS (FM, JM). A **Surf Scoter** and a **Common Loon** at TL 4/12 (GE, RS) were both excellent finds. A **Long-tailed Duck** was at BS 4/9 (GE, RS).

There were scattered sightings of **Great Blue Heron** including 5 birds at a rookery 5/25 (DP, MN). This may be a new breeding record for the county. Two **Sandhill Cranes** were observed at BS 4/2 (FM, JM). The first county record for this species was 3/29/2014. The only shorebird reported was **Semipalmated Sandpiper**; five were at BM 5/24 (LP, BW). There was only one report of **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, 5/23 at ANF (ML, AJ).

**Alder Flycatchers** were noted 5/16 and 5/24 at BS (m.ob). **Willow Flycatcher** was at BS 5/16 (TR). The only sighting of **Yellow-throated Vireo** occurred 5/9 at Complanter SF (FM, JM). There were multiple reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, with a high of 8 at BS 3/16 (AK). **Swainson's Thrush** was noted at BS 5/16 (TR) and ANF 5/25 (FM, JM).

The warblers reported this period included some that are seldom seen in *Forest*. **Worm-eating Warblers** were at BM 5/24 (LP, BW) and at ANF 5/25 (DP, MN). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was noted at TC 5/9 (FM, JM), and a **Tennessee Warbler** was at BS 5/9 (DY, et al.). **Nashville Warblers** were seen at BM and BS 5/9 (DY, et al.), and 5/16 at BS (TR). A **Mourning Warbler** was noted 5/23 and 5/24 at ANF (ML, AJ). A **Cerulean Warbler** was at ANF 5/23 (AJ). Five **Bay-breasted Warblers** were seen 5/16 at BS (TR). A **Pine Warbler** was at BM 5/24 (LP, BW). A **Prairie Warbler** was at CF 5/9 (DY, et al.). **Pine Siskins** were noted at a few locations, particularly feeders near TI where a high count of 40 was observed 4/9. They remained until 5/9, though no evidence of breeding was observed.

Observers: **Flo McGuire, 609 Ponderosa Lane, Tionesta, PA 16353, (814) 755-3672, fmcguire1@verizon.net**, Bill Chambers, Paul Dennehy, Gary Edwards, Brenda Fischer-Dennehy, Andy Jones, Alyssa Karmann, Michele Leighty, Jim McGuire, Maranda Nemeth, Lauren Pardi, Dan Paul, Theo Rickert, Cynthia Smith, Russ States, Ben Wilson, Jim Wilson, David Yeany II.

---

### Franklin County

Locations: Bender's Pond (BP), Caledonia State Park Area (CP), Fayetteville Area (FA), Greencastle Reservoir (GR), Heisey's Orchard (HO), Kriner Road Holding Pond (KR), Long Lane Pond (LL), Shady Grove Area (SG).

A **Snow Goose** was reported along Mt. Zion Road 3/29 (CG) and a **Cackling Goose** was in with a skein of **Canada Geese** 3/22-24 at GR (CG, DG). Counts of 43 or more **Tundra Swan** were made at LL 3/17 (CG), at GR 3/22 (CG, DG) and at BP 3/24 (BO). **Wood Duck**, **American Wigeon**, **Canvasback**, many **Ring-necked Duck**, **Greater Scaup**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Hooded Merganser** and **Horned Grebe** were also at GR 3/24 (BO). **Blue-winged Teal** were on a pond along Grant Shook Road 4/4 (CG). The following waterfowl were at GR on the dates listed: **Gadwall** 3/22, **Northern Pintail** 3/18, **Canvasback** 3/13, **Redhead** 3/11, **Ring-necked Duck** 4/5, **Long-tailed Duck** 3/14, **Bufflehead** 3/15, **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/2, and **Greater Scaup** 3/14 (CG, BO, DG). Two **White-winged Scoters** and a **Double-crested Cormorant** were on a pond along Mt. Brook Road 4/20 (CG). Four **Double-crested Cormorants**, three **Pied-billed Grebes**, and one **Horned Grebe** were on the lake near Fannetsburg 4/20 (BO).

A **Red-throated Loon** was at KR 4/6, (CG) for a short time. A **Glossy Ibis** was seen in a drain area near exit 20 on I-81 (along Rte. 696) near

Scotland 4/20 (VBa). Unfortunately it did not stay very long and the original finder, a very experienced birder, was the only person to see it.

At least two pairs of **Bald Eagles** nested successfully, raising five eaglets—3 in the nest near Greencastle and 2 in the nest near Pleasant Hall. The eaglets at both sites were observed 4/14 (DG). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted in a field near Greencastle 3/1 (BO). An **American Coot** was present at the lake near Fannetsburg 4/20 (BO).

Shorebirds were not easy to find this spring as many wetlands were dry this spring. Four **Semipalmated Plover** were at KR 5/9 (CG), **Spotted Sandpiper** was at KR 4/17 (CG), a rare spring **Baird's Sandpiper** was at LL 5/23 (CG), **Dunlin** was at GR 4/11 (DG), and **Wilson Snipe** was observed at GR 3/13 (DG) and later. The first **American Woodcocks** were displaying in HO 3/9 (BK). The following gulls and terns were observed: **Bonaparte's Gull** at GR 4/3 (CG), **Common Tern** at LL 4/21 (CG), and **Forster's Tern** at GR 4/8 and at LL 4/17 (CG).

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** continue to be seen in new places in the county. Several nesting sites have been confirmed in SG (DG), Waynesboro, and Greencastle. **Barn Owls** returned to a nest box in a barn near St. Thomas 3/25 (DG). There were three **Great Horned Owl** nests monitored 3/10 (DG) and all were successful raising young. These were near SG, Duffield, and off Murray Road. Reports of **Common Nighthawks** were made near Chambersburg 5/6 (BO) and SG 5/15 (RC). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard near HO 4/13 (BK). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed carrying food to a nest site in SG 5/13 (DG).

**American Pipits** were reported beginning 3/8 with large numbers appearing later in areas of open fields at GR (BO, DG). A **Lapland Longspur** was among a large group of **Horned Larks** along Shinham Road 3/1 (BO). A seldom reported **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found in the Rhodes Grove Church Camp 4/11 (BK, CG, DG, BO). Another bird that is difficult to locate in *Franklin* is **Blue Grosbeak**; one was at Fort McCord Road 5/9 (CG) and another was along Marion Road 5/24 (CG). **Bobolinks** returned to their usual area along Portico Road west of Chambersburg by 5/3 (BO). **Pine Siskins** appeared throughout county in large numbers this year and remained longer than usual. At a feeder at CP, siskins were reported the entire period (VB) and were present to at least 6/29, suggesting nesting nearby (VB).

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

---

### Fulton County

No report.

Compiler: **Daniel Snell, PO Box 653, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 530-8313, dan\_snell@hotmail.com**.

---

### Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Enlow Fork (EF), Franklin Twp. (FT), Garards Fort Wetlands (GFW), Jackson Twp. (JT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Sycamore (SY), Wayne Twp. (WT).

In EV **Wood Duck** made their first appearance 3/16 and 7 continued to visit the feeder area throughout most of the period (M&JH). **Gadwall** and **Ruddy Duck** were in Perry Twp. 3/24 (DH). Eight **American Wigeon** were in WT 3/19 (MH, JC). More than 100 **Mallard** were found in a small area of the drained water dam in FT 3/22 (KK). **Blue-winged Teal** were last seen 3/19 in WT (JC, MH). **Green-winged Teal** was in FT 3/16 (MH). In EV a lone **Redhead** was found 3/22 (MH). A **Hooded Merganser** with young at GFW 5/9 (MJ) likely represented *Greene's* first breeding record (MJ).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was in Richhill Twp. 5/9 (DC). **Great Egret** was in Cumberland Twp. 4/3 (TC, SS) and was last reported at Ryerson SP 4/8 (AJ). **Black Vulture** is becoming more frequent in *Greene*; one was seen in Dunkard Twp. 3/1 (KKo) and at LCR 4/26 (MLP). **Osprey** and **Cooper's Hawk** were at EF 4/24 (DK, RN). Several sightings of **Bald Eagle** included 4/10 in FT (TC), 4/26 at EF (m.ob), 4/30 in Morgan Twp., and several sightings from the Alicia/Greensboro area. Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were together in FT 3/16 (MH). At the water dam in FT a lone **American Coot** was present 3/16 (MH). First **Killdeer** was at GFW 3/12 (DH). The only report of **Spotted Sandpiper** was made at FT 5/3 (KH). A lone **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Jackson Twp. 5/9 (RL, BD). **American Woodcock** with young was near Bell Farm 4/20 (DB).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was first heard at SY 5/2 (JC) and the first **Black-billed Cuckoo** wasn't reported until 5/9 in JT (MM). In EV 3/11 a red

morph **Eastern Screech-Owl** was found in a hole in a sycamore, and a few days later a gray bird was in the same hole (JH, MH). **Barred Owl** was heard in JT 5/9 (MM). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at LCR 4/19 (MLP). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was first sighted in Morris Twp. 3/23, at the same location where they have brought young to a suet feeder the past two years (CA). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at EF 4/21 (KSJ). A pair of **American Kestrels** visited a yard in Cumberland Twp. 5/9 (LDF).

The first **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was reported 5/12 in EV (TN, DH). **Acadian Flycatcher** was in WT 5/9 (LA, MH); on the same date the first **Willow Flycatcher** and **Least Flycatcher** were found in JT (MM). **Eastern Phoebe** was noted 3/16 at EV (MH). EF had the first **Blue-headed Vireo** 4/21 (KSJ), **Warbling Vireo** 4/24 (RN, DK), and **Red-eyed Vireo** 4/26 (m.ob.). A **Common Raven** flew by the observer at close range at LCR 4/28 (MLP). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was seen in FT 4/7 (KH). The Bell Farm was the location of the first **Purple Martin** 3/31, **Tree Swallow** 3/21, and **Barn Swallow** 3/31 (CDB, LB).

A **House Wren** was heard at SY 4/18 (JC). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was first sighted at EV 4/9 (MH). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was in FT 3/26 (KH) and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at EF 4/21 (KSJ). JT was the location of sightings of **Veery**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, and **Swainson's Thrush** during the PAMC 5/9 (RL, MM, BD). **Wood Thrush** was first reported at EF 4/24 (RN, DK). EV was the site of first **Gray Catbird** 4/22 and **Brown Thrasher** 3/26 (MH).

On 4/21, EF had the first **Louisiana Waterthrush**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **American Redstart**, **Northern Parula**, and **Yellow Warbler** (KSJ), **Hooded Warbler** 4/24 (RN, DK), and **Cerulean Warbler** 4/26 (m.ob.). The PAMC 5/9 saw the first reported **Black-and-White Warbler**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Kentucky Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Prairie Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler**. At Bell Farm **Blackpoll Warbler** was first heard 5/16 (m.ob.). First **Yellow-breasted Chat** was in FT 5/3 (KH).

**Chipping Sparrow** was noted at LCR 3/27 (MLP). The first **Field Sparrow** was reported 3/21 at the Bell Farm (CDB, LB). A **Savannah Sparrow** was in JT 5/9 (MM), and a **Swamp Sparrow** was there 4/28 (RL). Last **White-throated Sparrow** was at EV 5/12 (MH), last **White-crowned Sparrow** was at SY 5/2 (JC), and last **Dark-eyed Junco** was at SY 4/22 (JC). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at feeder in EV 4/22 (MH).

In Morgan Twp. **Bobolink** was a nice surprise 4/29 (KK). At LCR **Orchard Oriole** was first seen 4/30 (MLP) and **Baltimore Oriole** was at EF 4/26 (m.ob.). Three **Purple Finches** (BC) and a **Pine Siskin** (BD, RL, MM) were noted in JT 5/9 (BC).

Observers: **Marjorie Howard**, 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 852-3155, [birdwatcher108@comcast.net](mailto:birdwatcher108@comcast.net), Carol Andrew, Lyn Argent, Ron Argent, C. David Bell (CDB), David Bell (DB), Leah Bell, Jane Bonner, Judy Cholak (JuC), Al Churney, Jan Churney, Diane Clark, Terry Cole, Mike Cornell, Bobbi Cressey, Terry Dayton, Bill Deegan, Lucy DeFrank (LDF), Al Deynzer, Myra Gibson, Daniel Hinnebusch (DHi), Deuane Hoffman (DHo), Karen Holleran, Jerry Howard, Pat Hutcheson, Alan Johnson, Matt Juskowich, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Kathy Kern, Kelsey Korona (KKo), Rosanna Lane, Mary LaPlante (MLP), Angie Loring, Marjorie Moffatt, Ted Nichols II (TN), Richard Nugent, Alex Rush, Kate St. John (KSJ), Ellen Weekly, Jeanne Williams (JWi), Jerry Wolfe (JWo).

### Huntingdon County

Locations: Aitch Access at Raystown Lake (AA), Allison Road near Petersburg (ARP), Brumbaugh's Access at Raystown Lake (BA), Entriaken Overlook at Raystown Lake (ENT), Huntingdon (HU), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Lower Trail at Alexandria (LT), Marklesburg waterfowl area (MAR), McAlevys Fort (McF), Old Crow wetland (OC), Petersburg (PET), Raystown Lake (RL), Seven Points Rec. Area at Raystown Lake (SP), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Trough Creek Valley (TCV), Tussey Mt. (TM), Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch (TMHW).

It was a record-setting year for **Golden Eagles** at TMHW. Eagles begin moving early at that site, even in grim weather, and so the watch also begins early, usually 2/25, with most eagles already through by the third week of March. The total this year was 239, topping the previous high of 225. The average during 2001-2014 was 179. The high daily count was 44 on 3/13, the third-best ever. Counts of 24 and 25 were made 3/15 and 3/16, respectively. The official counter was Jason Bojczyk, with help from many others including site compiler Nick Bolgiano.

A single **Trumpeter Swan**, not tagged, was seen at several locations around the RL area through much of Apr (m.ob.). High counts of **Tundra Swans** were 78 at RL 3/17 and 60 at ARP 3/31 (both GD). Twenty-three

duck species were listed (missing only Black Scoter), but numbers were generally low. **American Black Ducks**, in particular, were especially scarce relative to normal. Thirty **Wood Ducks** provided a typical count at MAR 3/27 (LG). Eleven **American Wigeons** were at SP 3/17 (GD, ZA). The only report of **Northern Shoveler** was of 9 at LP 5/3 (JK). Two **Surf Scoters** were at ARP 4/17-18 (JK, DGr) and 2, perhaps the same, were at LP 4/24 (m.ob.). Four **White-winged Scoters** were found at Greenwood Furnace State Park 4/4 (RD) and up to 3 were at LP 3/26-4/22 (GD, ZA, m.ob.). The high count of **Long-tailed Ducks** was 11, at LP 4/2 (GG, JK). Unlike most ducks, mergansers were relatively plentiful. There were numerous reports in excess of 20 **Hooded Mergansers**. The high counts were at AA, with 53 on 3/19 (CY) and 65 on 3/26 (LG). The top **Common Merganser** total was 110 at AARL 3/17 (GD) and approximately 100 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were there 3/26-28 (GG, GD, ZA).

Two **Red-throated Loons** were at RL 4/14 (GD, ZA). High counts of **Common Loons** at RL were 17 on 4/9 (JK) and 20 on 4/11 (GG, DG). Not seen every spring, **Red-necked Grebes** were present this year because of the freeze-up of the Great Lakes. Two were at ENT 3/26 (CY), one was at SP 4/9 (GD, ZA), and up to 3 were at LP 4/14-25 (m.ob.). Unusually high numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** were found, with 40 at BA 4/25 (GG, DG) and 34 on the JR 4/26 (JK). At least 4 **American Bitterns** were reported in widely separated locations, all 4/22-5/6 (m.ob.). Up to 3 **Great Egrets** were at OC 4/14-30 (m.ob.) and a very late one was there 5/24 (GG). A **Sandhill Crane** passed over TMHW 4/2 (JK, NB).

As usual, there were few shorebirds. Six **Spotted Sandpipers** were at LP 5/4 (JK). A nice count of 7 **Lesser Yellowlegs** was made at OC 5/5 (LG). Up to 6 **Least Sandpipers** were seen during May on small mudflats at OC (m.ob.). As many as 7 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, not found every year, were in a wet field near Mooresville 3/26-31 (Jarod Skebo, m.ob.). At that same location, **Wilson Snipe** counts in excess of 20 were made through late Mar (m.ob.), but the highest snipe count was from ARP, with at least 32 on 4/10 (JK). Thanks to the cold season, **American Woodcocks** were late; first report was not until 3/16 when 2 were at HU (CM). The best gull of the season was **Huntingdon's fourth Lesser Black-backed Gull** at AA 3/26-28 (GD, m.ob.). **Herring Gulls** are not easy to find here, so counts of 33 at AA 3/26 (GD, ZA) and 26 at SPRA 4/3 (MB) were notable. The high count of **Bonaparte's Gull** was 50 at the LR dam 4/24 (DK, TK) and for **Ring-billed Gull** was 288 at AA 3/26 (CY), both fairly typical. **Caspian Terns** were seen at four different locations 4/22, with a high count of 8 (NB, LG). The only report of **Forster's Tern** was 2 at LR 4/7 (GD, ZA, LG).

There were only 3 reports of **Common Nighthawks**, in each case just a single: one in HU 5/14 (CM), one at SCEC 5/23 (JB), and one over TM 5/9 (JK). The only **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were 2 at the usual location near MF beginning 4/30 (ZA, GD, m.ob.). Single **Merlins** were at HU 3/16 (GD), at OC 4/15 (LG), and near Mooresville 3/31 (ZA).

**White-eyed Vireos** are uncommon in *Huntingdon*; one was at SCEC 4/25 (LG, JK), 2 were at PET 5/1 (JK), and one was at SGL 3/22 from 5/9-11 (LG, GD, ZA). The only known **Purple Martin** colony is on an Amish farm in Big Valley, where 25 were tallied 5/9 (DW). Nearly annual but still rare, a **Marsh Wren** was at OC 4/15-25 (LG, ZA, GD, JK); most reports in recent years have been from that location. Four **Snow Buntings** were quite late near PET 3/5 (GD, ZA).

There were 33 warbler species reported. Rare breeders, **Kentucky Warblers** were at LT 5/14 (NB) and near Cassville 5/25 (GG, DG). **Yellow-breasted Chats** are uncommon but can be found with enough searching of appropriate habitat in locations that vary from year to year. Perhaps the best area currently is in TCV, where about 4-5 were recorded 5/9 in a short time, but with very large areas of good un-birded habitat on private land (GG).

Quite unexpected in spring was a well-described **Nelson's Sparrow** at OC 4/15 (DK); this species has been found at OC in autumn twice in the previous three years. **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found at multiple locations, all 5/5-9 (GG, LG, ZA, JK). **Bobolinks** had returned to their established nesting site in TCV by 5/9 (GG). There were a number of **Rusty Blackbird** reported including several counts in the 20s (m.ob.).

Observers: **Greg Grove**, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road, Huntingdon, PA 16652, [gwg2@psu.edu](mailto:gwg2@psu.edu), Zachary Adams, Nick Bolgiano, Mark Bonta, Rob Dickerson, Gordon Dimmig, Deb Grove, Lewis Grove, Debra Grim (DGM), Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Crystal McNeal, Doug Wentzel, Chuck Yohn.

### Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Indiana (IN), Indiana University of PA (IUP), Lewisville (LV), Sheloceta (SH), Waterworks Conservation Area (WCA), Yellow Creek (YC).

Area lakes remained pretty much frozen through March. YC was estimated just 3 percent thawed by 3/21. Plans to clean the Wood Duck boxes via pontoon 4/7 were canceled as the lake was still iced over in places; but by 4/14 YC was completely thawed.

All waterfowl reports are at YC unless otherwise noted. **Tundra Swans** moved through between 3/19 (MC) and 4/6 (PF) with the high YC count of 510 on 3/24 (LC, TG, RN). First 4 **Wood Ducks** were noted 3/14 (LC, MH, RH) in a steady, drenching rain; high count was 17 on 3/31 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, TM). YC harbored 18 **Gadwalls** 3/17 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK) and last were 5 on 5/5 (LC, SD, PF, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL, JS). In the early hours of 3/17 (DL), three flocks of **American Wigeons** flew over Oakland Cemetery in IN, but only one flock was actually seen and 15 individuals were counted; 7 were in the open water at YC 3/17 (LC, TG, et al.); last report of 2 occurred 5/5 (LC, SD, et al.); all other reports involved small flocks of single digits. The respective high counts of **American Black Duck** and **Mallard** were 13 on 3/21 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL) and 58 on 3/24 (LC, TG, RN); 4 **Mallard** ducklings were first seen 5/2 (JT) at IUP; by 5/4 (JT) 10 had hatched. First 7 **Blue-winged Teal** arrived 3/31 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, TM), but this was the highest count all spring; 2 lingered through 5/19 (LC, MH, RH, JK, MS). **Northern Shovelers** migrated through from 4/4 (TR) and 5/5 (LC, SD, PF, et al.) with the top count of 8 on 4/14 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM, MS). Ten **Northern Pintails** were spotted at the Conemaugh boat launch 3/17 (DC), the same day (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK) 17 were noted at YC; pintails peaked at 30 on 3/21 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL). High **Green-winged Teal** count was 21 on 3/21 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL). After large flocks of diving ducks last spring, this year's high tallies of 20 **Canvasbacks** 4/4 (SR) and 61 **Redheads** 4/10 (LC) were disappointing. A drake **Canvasback** still present 5/5 (LC, SD, PF, et al.) tied the previous late date from 2001 (m.ob.). The high **Ring-necked Duck** count of 314 (MH, RH, 3RBC) was made 3/14; at least one drake remained on the lake through the end of the quarter (LC), the latest one has remained since 1998 (GC). **Greater Scaup** moved through YC between 3/21 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL) and 4/25 (PF) and **Lesser Scaup** were found regularly between 3/17 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK) and 5/5 (LC, SD, et al.); unusual was the late appearance of one again 5/26 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, JS, KT, EY). The previous late date had been 5/22/1990 (BB, GC, MH, GL). Five **White-winged Scoters** arrived at YC 4/14 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM, MS); 2 were seen on five other dates through 5/7 (DJ). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were spotted 3/24 (LC, TG, RN) and 11 on 4/14 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM, MS). **Buffleheads** peaked at 174 on 4/14 (LC). A **Common Goldeneye** on Crooked Creek near SH was unexpected 3/5 (MH, RH). Crooked Creek has a below-neutral pH, contains lots of solids, and is high in iron. Two goldeneyes also visited YC 4/4 (MH, RH, 3RBC). First 7 **Hooded Mergansers** were at the WCA 3/14 (SD); YC's top count was 25 on 4/14 (LC, TG). One to 3 **Common Mergansers** were at YC between 3/14 (LC, MH, RH) and 4/17 (Jka), one on Curry Run 4/7 (MH, RH) near SH was a first for this location, and the WCA yielded one 4/29 (LC, VG, TG, MH, RH, DM). **Red-breasted Mergansers** arrived at YC 3/22 (DJ) and were last sighted 5/19 (LC, MH, RH, JK, GL, MS); peak number was 64 on 4/10 (LC). The high count of **Ruddy Duck** of 141 occurred 4/14 (LC); last was one at YC 5/9 (CG, CL, GL).

YC hosted a single **Red-throated Loon** 4/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK). Three **Common Loons** flew over a yard near SH 3/31 (MH, RH); 4 arrived 4/4 (MH, RH, 3RBC) at YC where one remained into June (m.ob.). YC's top count was 16 on 4/10 (LC) and the PAMC yielded 6 including 4 at YC (CG, CL, GL), one at Hemlock Lake (MH, RH), and another at Two Lick Reservoir (MH, RH). **Pied-billed Grebes** did not arrive at YC in large numbers this spring with a high of only 7 on 4/10 and 4/17 (LC). **Horned Grebes** moved through YC between 3/17 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK) and 5/3 (GL) with the high count of 28 on 4/14 (LC); 2 also visited a pond on Auen Road near CD 4/12 (MH, RH). Seven **Red-necked Grebes**, an all-time high, were at YC 4/28 (TB, LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL, DM, JS, MVT); 2 remained the following day (LC, VG, et al). First **Double-crested Cormorants** arrived at YC 4/4 (SG) and were reported on 17 dates this spring; high count was 96 on 5/5 (LC, SD, et al.); 37 of those 96, however, were overhead migrants that did not stop. Twelve nests and 15 **Great Blue Herons** were visible at the Crooked Creek heronry 4/7 (MH, RH). First **Great Egret** popped up at IUP 5/4 (JT); 3 stopped at YC 5/16 (SG). Earliest **Green Heron** appeared at YC 4/14 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM, MS).

First **Turkey Vulture** was spotted at Clymer 3/2 (DB). The first migrant **Osprey** arrived at YC 3/17 (LC, TG, RN); this was the earliest date on record by a week, with the previous first date 3/24/2011 (GL). A pair was at Hemlock Lake 4/15 (MH, RH) and 4/30 (VG, MH, RH). The **Indiana Bald Eagle** nest failed again this year. On 4/12 (RM) it was discovered that it had actually fallen to the ground. There was no evidence of either egg shells or chicks; the observer commented that it appeared that the adults stayed with the nest for a while on the ground. Two **Northern Harriers** were sighted, one 4/30 (VG, MH, RH) near the Urey Cemetery and one 5/7 (MH, RH) in

nw. **Indiana** on Allen Flats Road. Earliest **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen Forest Manor 4/11 (SD); the following day was the date of return at five other areas of the county (m.ob.). A light-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** flew across Rt. 422 near IN 3/7 (MH, RH).

A **Virginia Rail** called from the marsh at YC 4/29 (LC, VG, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM). **American Coots** moved through YC between 3/17 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK) and 5/8 (DJ) with the highest tally of only 60 on 4/17 (LC), one of the lowest-ever spring maxima.

Reports of **Semipalmated Plover** included one 5/16 (SG), 2 on 5/19 (LC, MH, RH, JK, GL, MS), and 3 on 5/26 (LC, SD, et al.), all at YC. First **Killdeer** was spotted w. of Coral 3/8 (DC); the next day (DL) 3 were observed in IN. A **Spotted Sandpiper** was displaying at WCA 4/29 (LC, VG, TG, MH, RH, DM) where 2 others were present. First 5 **Solitary Sandpipers** stopped at YC 4/29 (LC, VG, et al.) where 2 were present 5/5 (LC, SD, et al.) and 5/16 (LC, MH, RH, JT); the PAMC yielded 3 near West Lebanon (DC, MC), one at Elders Ridge, and one at a small pond along Dobbs Hill Road (JG, TG). One to 4 **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen at YC between 4/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK) and 5/5 (LC, SD, et al.); last was one on the PAMC near Elders Ridge (DC, MC). Single **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found at YC 5/8 (DJ) and 5/12 (LC, TG, DK). **Least Sandpipers** were noted at YC on four dates from 5/8 (DJ) to 5/29 (CG, MH, RH, LW); best count was 6 on 5/26 (LC, SD, et al.). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were observed at YC 5/12 (LC, TG, DK). YC's **Semipalmated Sandpiper** sightings included 4 on 5/26 (LC, SD, et al.) and one on both 5/29 (CG, MH, RH, LW) and 5/31 (LC). Seventeen **Wilson's Snipe**, which set an all-time spring high count and surpassed the 15 on 4/20/2007 (EB), were feeding in a wet field along Hoffman Road near YC 3/31 (MH, RH); YC yielded 4 on 4/2 (DJ) and one on both 4/28 (TB, LC, et al.) and 4/29 (LC, VG, et al.). Two were at IUP 4/27 (JT). Four **American Woodcocks** were calling near Creekside 3/10 (DL), one was near LV 3/14 (MC), one or 2 appeared at Nolo between 3/18-20 (AB, DB), 4 were at YC 3/23 (MD), the PAMC produced 17 (m.ob.) and one was n. of IN 5/11 (SB).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** passed through between 3/24 (LC, TG, RN) and 5/7 (DJ) with peak of 81 on 4/14 (LC, TG). The largest flock of **Ring-billed Gulls** contained 53 individuals on 4/4 (MH, RH, 3RBC). Two **Herring Gulls** were noted only at YC on 3/23 (MD) and 4/4 (MH, RH, 3RBC). Three **Caspian Terns** put in their appearances at YC on 4/29 (LC, VG, et al.) and 5/19 (LC, MH, RH, JK, GL, MS) and a singleton stopped at YC 5/26 (LC, SD, et al.). A **Black Tern** was a nice find at YC 5/5 (LC, MH, RH). **Forster's Terns** were present at YC on nine dates from 4/14 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM, MS) through 5/19 (LC, MH, RH, JK, GL, MS); 4 was the best count 5/5 (LC, SD, et al.) and 5/12 (LC, TG, DK).

First **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** arrived at BS 5/6 (MH, RH, FM, JM); **Black-billed Cuckoo** was first heard 5/9 (m.ob.) at 14 locations for the PAMC. One **Eastern Screech-Owl** at Getty Heights Park 3/14 (DL) and one at Nolo 3/26 (DB) were the only two noted. A **Great Horned Owl** was heard only near SH on 3/2 (MH, RH); there were no other reports. **Barred Owl** was found in a tree cavity near SH 3/12 (MH, RH) and was probably incubating eggs; but unfortunately the nest had apparently been predated and broken egg shells were beneath the tree 4/17 (MH, RH). **Barred Owls** were also listed at four other locations. A **Common Nighthawk** was a nice find at YC 5/9 (CL, GL). Four **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at West Lebanon 5/9 (DC, MC). First 21 **Chimney Swifts** returned to IUP 4/21 (JT). First **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were spotted near LV (MC) and in IN (JP) 5/1. Most **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** moved through between 4/4 (MH, RH, 3RBC) and 4/12 (MSy). One was at Nolo 3/2 (GL) and 5/9-31 (GL) excavating a cavity; another was sighted in White's Woods 5/9 (MSy). **Pileated Woodpecker** was on nest at IUP 4/17 (JT). A **Merlin** at YC 3/31 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH), observed plucking a Song Sparrow from the marsh, was the only one reported.

Twelve **Eastern Wood-Pewees**, 11 **Acadian Flycatchers**, and 12 **Willow Flycatchers** had returned to various parts of **Indiana** 5/9 (m.ob.). One **Alder Flycatcher** was both heard and seen at YC 5/19 (LC, MH, RH, JK, GL, MS). First **Least Flycatcher** arrived at IUP 5/4 (JT); 2 were noted 5/6 (MH, RH, FM, JM) at BS. **Eastern Phoebe** was spotted first at YC 3/31 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, TM) and the following day, both at Nolo (CL, GL) and at IUP (JT). **Great Crested Flycatcher** appeared first near LV 5/6 (MC); the PAMC 5/9 (m.ob.) produced the next 6 in various parts of the county. First **Eastern Kingbird** was observed sw. of Ernest 4/29 (VG, TG, MH, RH). Dates of return for vireos included 4/28 (TB, LC, et al.) for **White-eyed Vireo** at YC; 4/29 (VG, MH, RH) for **Yellow-throated Vireo** near CD; 4/29 (late) (LC, VG, et al.) for **Blue-headed** at YC; 4/28 (TB, LC et al.) for **Warbling** at YC; and 5/7 (LC, TG, DK, GL) for **Red-eyed Vireo** at YC. One **Fish Crow** was present in IN 3/9, 3/21, 3/24, and 5/4 (JT) and 2 were in Oakland Cemetery 5/2 (MH, RH).

One to 2 **Purple Martins** were listed at YC on four dates 4/21 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL, JS) through 5/28 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM, KT); unfortunately, the martin box has not been reinstalled since its repair. YC

yielded the first 2 **Tree Swallows** 3/17 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK). Five **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were first found at YC 4/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK). One to 2 **Bank Swallows** were listed at YC between 5/2 (LC, TG, MH, RH, JT, RW) and 5/19 (LC, MH, RH, JK, GL, MS). **Cliff Swallows** moved through YC between 4/21 (LC, TG, et al.) and 4/28 (TB, LC, et al.); 5 were at Two Lick Reservoir 5/9 (MH, RH). Date of return for **Barn Swallows** was 4/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK) at YC.

One to 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen sporadically near SH between 3/7 (MH, RH) and 4/11 (MH, RH), after which they disappeared. The first **House Wrens** were roughly ten days late with the earliest arrival of 4/28 (TB, LC, et al.) at YC. First **Winter Wren** popped up at YC 4/4 (SR). First **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** arrived at YC 4/9 (MSy). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** moved through the county between 4/14 (JT) and 5/6 (JP).

Only 3 **Veeries** were noted this spring, one at BS 5/6 (MH, RH, FM, JM), one at YC 5/6 (DJ), and the other near the Conemaugh Twp. Building 5/9 (DC, MC). **Swainson's Thrush** reports included 2 on the PAMC (m.ob.) and 2 at BS 5/15 (MH, RH). A **Hermit Thrush** was in IN 4/16 and 5/20 (JP), 3 were present 4/30 (VG, MH, RH) at SGL 174 where they breed, and 2 were noted on the PAMC (MH, RH), one at Hemlock Lake and the other at SGL 174. First **Wood Thrushes** arrived 5/1 both near LV (MC) and at YC (LC, MH, RH). IUP yielded the first **Gray Catbird** 4/22 (JT) and YC, the first **Brown Thrasher** 4/5 (MSy). Twenty-four **Snow Buntings** accompanied by about 75 **Horned Larks** were a nice find in a field w. of Coral 3/7 (MH, RH).

First **Ovenbird** was heard singing at YC 4/29 (LC, VG, et al.). **Louisiana Waterthrush** returned to a feeder stream along Laurel Run at YC 4/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK). Single **Northern Waterthrushes** were heard only at YC on three dates between 5/16 (LC, MH, RH, JT) and 5/26 (LC, SD, et al.). First dates included 4/26 (MSy) for **Blue-winged Warbler** and 4/29 (DJ) for **Black-and-white Warbler**, both at YC. **Tennessee Warblers** moved through the county between 5/9 (m.ob.), when the PAMC yielded 11 individuals, and 5/18 (MC). **Nashville Warblers** visited *Indiana* 5/5-18 (MC) with 5 counted on the PAMC (m.ob.). **Kentucky Warblers** continued in low numbers with few reports at only three locations—one near LV 5/9-10 and 5/18 (MC), one near Two Lick Reservoir 5/9 (PJ), and one at YC 5/16 (MH, RH). Other first dates included 4/28 (TB, LC, et al.) for **Common Yellowthroat** at YC, 4/29 (VG, MH, RH) for **Hooded Warbler** at CD, and 5/2 (LC, TG, MH, RH, JT, RW) for **American Redstart** at YC. A single **Cape May Warbler** 5/15 (MH, RH) at BS comprised the entire report for this species. Besides the 11 **Cerulean Warblers** found on the PAMC (m.ob.), the only other one noted was at BS 5/15 (MH, RH). First **Northern Parula** was listed at YC 5/1 (LC, MH, RH) and a yard in IN produced the first **Magnolia Warbler** 5/6 (JP). One to 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were listed near LV 5/4 and 5/6 (MC) and at YC 5/7 (DJ) and 5/16 (SG). Dates of return included 5/5 (LC, SD, et al.) for **Blackburnian Warbler**; 4/21 (LC, TG, et al.) for **Yellow Warbler**; and 5/5 (LC, SD, et al.) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, all at YC. **Blackpoll Warblers** moved through between 5/16 (MH, RH) and 5/29 (MC). Two **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were at BS 5/6 (MH, RH, FM, JM), one was at LV 5/9 (DC, MC), and one was in Rayne Twp. 5/9 (TB). One to 2 **Palm Warblers** stopped at YC on five dates between 4/26 (MSy) and 5/7 (DJ) and the PAMC produced only one 5/9 (ED, JT). **Pine Warblers** were found at three locations this year; first returned to YC 3/28 (MH, RH, FOP) then to a yard near SH 3/31 (MH, RH), and one was singing near Hillsdale 5/9 (MH, RH). A non-breeder in *Indiana*, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** moved through between 3/1 (MC) and 5/8 (MC, DJ). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were in the midst of a bi-county territorial dispute at CD 4/12 (MH, RH), another was near LV 4/30 (MC), and one of the CD individuals was seen again 5/9 (DC, MC). **Prairie Warbler** counts 4/30 (VG, MH, RH) were one at the Gipsy strips and 3 near Hillsdale; 16 was the PAMC (m.ob.) tally. First **Black-throated Green Warbler** appeared at YC 4/21 (LC, TG, et al.). Single **Wilson's Warblers** were listed at Conemaugh Floodlands 5/9 (LC, DL), at YC 5/16 (SG), in IN 5/17 (JP), and again at YC 5/19 (LC, MH, RH, JK, GL, MS). Five **Yellow-breasted Chats** were tallied for the PAMC (m.ob.).

**Eastern Towhees** were nest building at IUP 4/20 (JT). Two **American Tree Sparrows** lingered during 4/7 (MC) near LV and first **Chipping Sparrows** arrived 3/24 (LC, TG, RN) at YC. **Field Sparrows** first appeared at YC 4/4 (TR). **Vesper, Savannah, and Grasshopper Sparrows** are all becoming increasingly harder to find; the only **Vespers** listed were one near YC 4/29 (LC, VG, TG, MH, RH, DM) and another near Smicksburg 5/9 (MM, NS). A **Savannah Sparrow** was spotted at IUP 5/4 (JT) and the PAMC (m.ob.) produced the only other 5 Savannahs and the only 6 **Grasshopper Sparrows**. The wintering **Fox Sparrow** near SH began singing 3/8 (MH, RH) then disappeared after that day; migrants moved through *Indiana* between 3/14 (LC, MH, RH) and 4/16 (LC) with the best count of 4 on 4/4 (TR). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at YC 5/5 (LC, SD, et al.) was the only one reported. First **Swamp Sparrow** reappeared at YC 4/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK) after the winter's absence. A rather late **White-throated Sparrow** was last seen near SH 5/9 (MH, RH). March records of **White-crowned**

**Sparrows** included one near LV 3/5 (MC) and 2 near Homer City 3/22 (CC); migrants moved through the county between 5/2 (JT) and 5/16 (MH, RH).

**Scarlet Tanager** appeared first at YC 5/5 (LC, MH, RH) and **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** made their season's debut 4/27 (MH) near SH. First **Indigo Bunting** appeared near LV 4/26 (MC). First **Bobolink** and first **Eastern Meadowlark** were respectively observed 4/29 (VG, TG, MH, RH, DM) and 3/31 (TG), at locations near YC. YC was the hotspot for **Rusty Blackbirds** which moved through *Indiana* between 3/10 (LC, TG, MH, RH) and 4/19 (MH, RH); maxima included 54 on 3/14 (LC, MH, RH) and 39 on 3/21 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL). **Common Grackles** were regular near LV after 3/10 (MC). Two **Orchard Orioles** 5/4 (DJ) at YC were first and the first **Baltimore Orioles** had shown up 4/29, both n. of IN (SB) and a few miles from YC (VG, TG, MH, RH, DM).

Two **Common Redpolls** stopped at BS 3/29 (MH, RH), and one visited a Nolo feeder 4/16-17 (CL, GL). **Pine Siskins** peaked at 87 at a feeder n. of IN 3/17 (SB); 2 lingered through the end of the season (MC) near LV. High **American Goldfinch** tally was 105 n. of IN 4/29 (SB).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, (724) 354-3493, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Eli Beiler, Tom Betts, Sid Blair, Tony Bruno, Becky Byerly, Lee Carnahan, Casey Cattie, Greg Cook, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Sue Dickson, Ed Donley, Patience Fisher, Vern Gauthier, Tom Glover, Steve Gosser, Carol Guba, Roger Higbee, David Janetski, Pat Johner, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Jon Kauffman (JKA), John Kilmarx, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Rick Mauk, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Trish Mentzer, Marilyn Moore, Donna Meyer, Richard Nugent, Joseph Pumford, Scott Reynolds, Theo Rickert, Mike Shaffer, Nancy Smeltzer, Jim Stratton, Mark Syvertson (MSy), John Taylor, Ken Truitt, Marge Van Tassel, Linda Wagner, Ray Winstead, Friends of the Park (FOP), Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC).

#### Jefferson County

Locations: Brookville (BV), Brookville Reservoir (BR), Clear Creek SF (CC), Cloe Lake (CL), Cook Forest SP (CF), Cooper Rd (CR), Drummond Rd (DR), Fairview Rd (FV), Fan House Rd (FH), Fordham Lake (FL), Kyle Lake (KL), Mahoney Rd (MH), McIntosh Rd (MR), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), North Fork Creek (NF), PA Rt 410 (R410), Perry Twp. Sportsman Club (PS), Pleasant Hill Rd (PH), Porter Rd (PR), Punxsutawney (PX), Punxsutawney Airport (PA), Redbank Valley Trail (RB), Ringgold (RG), Sandy Ridge Rd (SR), Saxon Hill Rd (SH), Shenosky Rd (SS), Surgarcamp Rd (SC).

A high of 48 **Canada Geese** were reported on FL 4/4 (TG). The first four **Wood Ducks** were on the MS 4/1 (KD). The only 2 **Blue-winged Teal** for the period were on FL 4/14 (TG), and a lone **Long-tailed Duck** was on KL 4/11 (JK). Two **Buffleheads** were on R410 on 4/3 (EF, TF). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were on the MS 4/1 (KD). A flock of 30 **Common Mergansers** was on the NF 4/18 (PY), and 6 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on KL 4/11 (JK). Three **Ruddy Ducks** were on FL 4/4 (EF, TF, TG), and a small flock of 10 **Ruddy Ducks** was also on FL 5/3 (TG).

One **Common Loon** was on KL 4/11 (JK). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were on FL 4/4 (EF, TF, TG) and one was in the PS 4/25 (TG). Two **Horned Grebes** were found on KL 4/11 (JK). Only one **Double-crested Cormorant** was reported for the period, on KL 4/11 (JK). A surprise was a **Great Egret** at BR 4/21 (DH).

The first **Turkey Vultures** were noted in RG 3/12 (JK). One **Osprey** was on the MS 4/1 (KD), and 2 more were on CL 4/28 (JY). A male and a female **Northern Harrier** were on SR 4/3 (EF, TF, TG), one was on CR 4/4 (EF, TF, JG, TG), and one was on MR 4/26 (JG, TG). The resident pair of **Bald Eagles** of the MS hatched three chicks this season, confirmed 4/25 (SC, TG, MH, RH, JKX, RW). But a wind storm during the week of 5/10 destroyed most of the nest. One chick was rescued but the fate of the other two was unknown. One **Broad-winged Hawk** was on the MS 4/27, (KD). A great find was a **Northern Goshawk** in CC 5/23 (SG).

Three **Killdeer** in RG 3/13 were first (JK). The first 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** were at FL 4/25 (SC, TG, MH, RH). The first **Solitary Sandpiper** was on the MS 4/6 (KD) and one more was located on FL 5/3 (TG). A lone **American Woodcock** was in BV 3/30 (NF).

The first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported on the MS 5/8 (KD). The only **Eastern Screech-Owl** was in RG 4/20 (JK). Four **Common Nighthawks** were a good find in BV 5/16 (TR). The only two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were located in CC 5/23 (SG). The first **American Kestrel** was on PH 4/3 (EF, TF, JG, TG).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was on the MS 5/9 (KD) and another was in CC 5/23 (SG). Two **Least Flycatchers** were on the MS 5/5 (KD), and

one was in CC 5/25 (BD, PD). The first **Eastern Phoebe** was on the MS 4/1 (KD). Three **Great Crested Flycatchers** showed up on the MS 5/8 (KD). One **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen in BV 5/17 (AD). Two **Blue-headed Vireos** were the season's first on the MS 4/15 (KD), and the first **Warbling Vireo** was also on the MS 5/5 (KD). The only **Philadelphia Vireo** was found in the CC 5/15 (DV), and the first of many **Red-eyed Vireos** was first reported on the MS 4/26 (JG, TG). The only **Common Raven** for the period was on MS 4/25 (SC, TG, MH, RH, JKX, RW). Two **Horned Larks** were on SS 4/26 (JG, TG), and one was seen at the PA on the same date (JG, TG). Eight **Cliff Swallows** were on the RB 5/17 (JK). The season's first **House Wren** showed up on DR 5/7 (MH, RH), and the last **Winter Wren** was on the MS 4/17 (KD). One **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** on the MS 4/14 (TG) was first. Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were first located on the MS 4/1 (KD), and one **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was also a first on the MS 4/6 (KD).

The season's first **Veery** was on the MS 5/8 (KD). The season's only **Hermit Thrush** was in the CC 5/23 (SG). One **Wood Thrush** was the first for the season found on the MS 4/28 (KD). The first **Gray Catbird** appeared on SC 4/7 (MH, RH), and the first **Brown Thrasher** was on the MS 4/14 (TG). A **Northern Mockingbird** was noted on FV on 5/3 (JG, TG).

There were 23 species of warbler noted this spring. The only **Louisiana Waterthrush** for the period was on the MS 4/28 (KD). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was in CF 5/13 (AB). The first **Blue-winged Warbler** was on the MS 5/9 (KD), and first **Black-and-White Warbler** was also in CC 4/18 (BB). Two **Tennessee Warblers** were located in CC 5/23 (SG), and one **Nashville Warbler** was on the MS 5/8 (KD). A **Mourning Warbler** was reported in BV 5/17 (AD). The season's first **Northern Parula** was on the MS 5/8 (KD). Two **Magnolia Warblers** were in the CC 5/16 (TR), and the only **Bay-breasted Warbler** for the period was on the MS 5/8 (KD). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was in the CC 5/23 (SG). The season's first 3 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were on the MS 5/9 (KD). First **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was on the MS 5/5 (KD). An interesting find was one **Pine Warbler** in PX 4/7 (KD). The first **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were 8 on the MS 5/5 (KD), also first **Black-throated Green Warblers** were on the MS 4/27 (KD). Ten **Canada Warblers** in CC 5/23 (SG) represented the only report of this species. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at CC 5/15 (DV).

The first **Field Sparrow** was on the MS 4/2 (KD). The only **Vesper Sparrow** for the period was on SC 5/3 (JG, TG). The first **Savannah Sparrow** arrived on the MS 4/4 (EF, TF). The **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found on SS 4/26 (JG, TG), and only one **Henslow's Sparrow** was discovered, on SR 5/23 (JG, TG). Two **Fox Sparrows** were noted on the MS 4/4 (EF, TF, JG, TG), and one more was also found on the MS 4/6 (KD). The first **Swamp Sparrow** appeared on the MS 4/6 (KD). A late **White-throated Sparrow** was in PX 5/21 (KD). The last **White-crowned Sparrows** were in CC 5/16 (TR). The last **Dark-eyed Junco** in the southern part of the county was one in PX 4/30 (TG), but in the forested northern part of the county continued into June.

Five **Bobolinks** returned to FV 5/3 (JG, TG) and one was on SC the same date (JG, TG). The first returning **Red-winged Blackbird** was in RG 3/3 (JK). And an **Eastern Meadowlark** was on the MS 4/2 (KD). Three sightings of **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported on the MS: 2 on 4/8 (KD), 3 on 4/15 (KD), and 2 on 4/25 (SC, TG, MH, RH, JKX, RW).

An interesting find was a **Common Redpoll** among a flock of **Pine Siskin** at a feeder in RG 3/15 (JK), and a late **Pine Siskin** was on SR on 5/23 (LC, TG, MH, RH).

Observers: **Thomas Glover, 210 Highland Ave., Punxsutawney, PA 15767, tomnglover@comcast.net**, Anonymous Birder, Bill Brown, Lee Carnahan, Sue Comfort, Brenda Fischer-Denneby, Paul Denneby, Abby Diamond, Kathy Dinsmore, Nate Fronk, Elyse Fuller, Tom Fuller, Jud Glover, Steve Gosser, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Daniel Hinnebusch, John Keener, John Kilmarx (JKX), Theo Rickert, David Valasek, Ray Winstead, Jan Young, Paul Yuran.

### Juniata County

A total of 142 species were reported to eBird for *Juniata* this season, and 144 species were counted during the PAMC 5/9. A single **Least Bittern** was found during the Shavers Creek Birding Cup on one of the Kratzers Ponds 5/2 (CK, RK, AM, AT). It was not found again. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was in a Licking Creek Valley backyard 5/15 (DB). In the same Licking Creek Valley backyard, one or 2 **Pine Siskins** very late to 5/30 (DB).

Observers: **Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, chadkauffman@earthlink.net, (717) 994-6715, (717) 436-8257; Aden Troyer, 610 Oakland Rd, Mifflintown, PA, 17059, (717) 463-3117, Deb Brackbill, Ramsay Koury, Annette Mathes.**

### Lackawanna County

No compiler.

### Lancaster County

Locations: Conewago Recreation Trail and Wetlands (CRTW), Lancaster Area Sewer Authority (LASA), Lancaster County Park (LCP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Muddy Run (MR), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Safe Harbor (SH), Speedwell Forge Reservoir (SFR), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Susquehanna River, Conejohela Flats (SRFCF), Susquehanna River, Lake Clarke (SRLC), Susquehanna River, Long Level (SRLL), Susquehanna River, Wissler's Run (SRWR), Wood's Edge (WE).

Large numbers of waterfowl were late in arriving, since most of the water was ice covered. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at MR 3/8 (TR). Several hundred **Snow Geese** migrated over Gap 3/10 (PF) and 110,000 were at MCWMA 3/16 (DK). Ten were still there 5/5 (BC). A few **Ross's Geese** were at MCWMA 3/14 (CK). Twenty **Tundra Swans** flew out of the Brenner Quarry 3/15 (AC) and 2300 were at MCWMA 3/16 (DK). One was still at MCWMA 4/16-22 (ME, AH). A **Trumpeter Swan** was on the SRFCF 3/21 (ME).

A few **Geowalls** were on the SRLL 3/12 (PF, FB, & LB), 13 were at WE 4/8 (BH), and 2 were on the SRFCF 5/9 (ME). Twelve **American Wigeon** were on the SRLL 3/12 (PF, FB, LB) and 40 were at Riverfront Park 4/1, including one "Storm Wigeon" (BH). Three were still on the SRFCF 5/3 (EW). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was at Riverfront Park 3/16-27 (ME, LB, ML, m.ob.). It was joined by a second bird 3/22 (ML). Another Eurasian Wigeon was off of Willow Point at MCWMA 3/18-21 (TP, PS, BR, m.ob.) and one was on the SRFCF 3/22 (ML). Nine **American Black Ducks** were on the SR 3/25 (BH), 54 were at MCWMA 4/20 (ME), and one was there 4/26-5/2 (ME, AH). Several dozen **Northern Pintails** were on the CRTW 3/23 (SH) and 20 were at Riverfront Park 4/1 (BH). Three migrated over Gap 4/21 (PF). A pair of **Northern Shovelers** was on the CRTW 3/23 (SH) and 3 were at WE 4/8 (BH). Some **Blue-winged Teal** were at SFR 3/29 (SS), a drake was at MCWMA 4/27-5/5 (DB, BC). A few **Green-winged Teal** were on the SR 3/12 (PF, FB, LB), 20 were on the SR 3/25 (BH) and one was on the CRTW 5/25 (LC, BC). A pair of **Long-tailed Ducks** was on the SRLL 3/2 (SS), 2 were on the SRWR 3/8 (TR) and 2 were at MCWMA 4/17 (BC). Several **Ring-necked Ducks** were on the SR 3/12 (PF, FB, LB), 18 were on the SR 3/25 (BH) and 8 were at Riverfront Park 4/1 (BH). Both **Scaup sp.** were on the SR 3/12 (PF, FB, LB); 8 **Greater Scaup** were on the SR 3/25 (BH). Many **Redheads** were on the SRLL 3/2 (SS). Four were on the SRWR 3/8 (TR) and 25-30 were on the SR 3/12 (PF, FB, & LB). About 100 **Canvasbacks** were on the SRLL 3/2 (SS). Three **White-winged Scoters** were on the SRLC 3/2 (CB, LB, ML), 5 were at MR 3/4-11 (TA), 5 were on the SRWR 3/8 (TR), and 2 were on the SR at Accomac/Wildcat Falls 4/5 (BC). Fourteen **Common Goldeneyes** were on the SR 3/25 (BH). A **Ruddy Duck** was at MCWMA 5/21-23 (PO, BC). Six **Common Mergansers** were on the SRWR 3/8 (TR), 36 were on the SR 3/25 (BH) and one was at MCWMA 5/23 (BC). Three **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on the SRWR 3/8 (TR), 48 were on the SR 3/23 (ME) and one was at Riverfront Park 4/1 (BH). Seven **Hooded Mergansers** were on the SRWR 3/8 (TR), 6 were on the SR 3/25 (BH) and 6 were at Riverfront Park 4/1 (BH, FB).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was calling at a home in Pequea (BH). Three were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). A **Northern Bobwhite** was calling at MCWMA 4/25 (BC) and 2 were at MCWMA 5/9 (JC). A **Common Loon** in breeding plumage was at MR 3/27 (DSe). Five were at MCWMA 4/20 (ME) and one was there 4/25 (SS). A **Red-throated Loon** was on the lake at MCWMA 4/13-17 (TNII, BC, RR, m. ob.). Once again a large number of **Red-necked Grebes** appeared on the Susquehanna River. They were from the Conejohela Flats to Accomac and the Wildcat Falls. One was on the SRLL 3/2 (SS), up to four were on the SRLC 3/2-4/5 (CB, ML, m.ob.), one was on the SRWR 3/8 (TR), up to 5 were on the SR 3/8-4/4 (NP, m.ob.) and one or two were on the SRFCF 3/26-4/5 (AHa, VP, m.ob.). An unexpected **Eared Grebe** in breeding plumage appeared at MCWMA 4/11-15 (RM, BC, TNII, PF, MG). Two **Horned Grebes** were on the SR 3/23 (ME) and four were on the SR 3/25 (BH). Three were at MCWMA 4/17 (BC). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was at WE 3/25 (PF).

**American White Pelicans** have been sighted more frequently in the past few years, but it was still a treat to see 2 at SRFCF 4/11-13 (BC, m.ob.). A **Great Egret** flew over the Rte. 462 Bridge 3/26 (ML). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was sitting in the trees at Alcoa Marsh 3/30 (DH). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at the rookery at Ephrata Community Hospital 4/15-5/22 (AMe, BC, ZM, m.ob). Nine **Glossy Ibises** were feeding at the CRTW 4/12-13 (CM, MM, BHar). One with an injury to its right leg was present 4/15-5/2 on the CRTW (ME, IG, m. ob). A **Sandhill Crane** was at MCWMA 5/23-24 (ME, ZM, m.ob) and 2 were there 5/26-29 (RRe, m.ob).

A **Golden Eagle** was at SH 3/1 (AB). First **Osprey** was sitting on an electrical tower 3/27 (DSe). A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was on the CRTW 3/1 (RvM). A light morph was at MCWMA 3/1-21 (ACh, BCh, MT, m. ob.), one was on Voganville Road 3/6-7 (FH, BHa, HH), 2-3 were in the OR area 3/8 (TR), a dark morph was on Musser School Road 3/8 (BP), and a light morph was at Froelich Park 3/9 (SMc). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at the Welsh Mountain Preserve 3/30 (PF). Two **Broad-winged Hawks** were on Laurel Road at MCWMA 4/26 (SS) and two were on Pumping Station Road 4/29 (PF). Three **Northern Harriers** were in the OR area 3/8 (TR) and two were hunting at Riverfront Park 4/1 (BH). A **Mississippi Kite** was over the Lloyd Roland Park 4/25 (BC). And an adult flew over a Peach Bottom home 5/1 (BS).

Four **American Coots** were on the SR 3/25 (BH), 5 were at Riverfront Park 4/1 (BH) and 4 were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). Two **Virginia Rails** were calling at WE 3/26 (LB) and one was there 4/1 (PF) and again 4/8 (BH).

A **Solitary Sandpiper** was on the CRTW 4/20-21 (BC), two were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC), and one was at Conoy Canal Trail 5/6 (BH). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at MCWMA 4/29-5/5 (DB, BC). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was on the CRTW 4/21 (BC). A single **Least Sandpiper** was in a creek on Shirktown Road 3/21-24 (FH) and 14 were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were on the SR 3/24 (ME). Six **Wilson's Snipe** were at a creek at Shirktown Road 3/3 (FH, BHa), 46 were in a field on Camp Rodgers Road 3/25 (BC), and 2 were at MCWMA 4/29 (DB). Three **Dunlins** were at the CRTW 4/17 (IG). A female **Red-necked Phalarope** was on the SRCF 5/9 (EW).

An **Iceland Gull** was on the SRLC 3/2 (CB, LB, ML), and up to 2 were on the SR 3/7-17 (RD, AG, CK, m.ob.). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was with a flock of **Ring-billed Gulls** on Little Road 3/3 (FH, BHa). One was on the SR 3/7-8 (RD, IG, AG, m.ob.) and one was at Riverfront Park 3/16 (ME, ML). A **Glaucous Gull** was on the SR 3/7-10 (RD, IG, CK, m.ob.). The number of **Little Gulls** was phenomenal. As many as 8 **Little Gulls** were on the SR 3/12-4/12: 2 at the SRCF 3/29-4/12 (EW, GD, ZM, m.ob.), one to 3 at Riverfront Park 3/29-4/7 (EW, GD, ZM, ZA, BM, DH), and 7 on the SRLC 4/5 (BC). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was on the SR 3/14 (CK), over 300 were on the SR 4/5 (EW), a flock of 25 were over Amish farmlands along Peters Rd. 4/11 (PF), and 2 were on the SRCF 5/31 (BC, EW). A **Black-headed Gull** was on the SR 4/11 (ME). A **Common Tern** was on the SRCF 4/12 (BC, EW). Four **Forster's Terns** were on the SRCF 5/31 (EW, BC). Five **Caspian Terns** were at MCWMA 4/20 (ME), 18 were there 4/21 (SS, RM), and one was there 4/25 (SS). A **Black Tern** was at the SRCF 5/24 (BC).

One **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was at MCWMA 5/5 (BC) and one was at Conoy Canal Trail 5/6 (BH). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Conoy Canal Trail 5/6 (BH). A **Short-eared Owl** was at Musser School Road and Zeltenreich Road 3/6 (FH, BHa, JC). One was on Musser School Road 3/9 (ML) and one was on the tour road MCWMA between stops 3 and 4 on 3/17 (JT). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard calling at the Serpentine Barrens 5/20 (LB). An early **Chimney Swift** was at Riverfront Park 4/3 (GD, ZM, ZA). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was on Long Lane in Brecknock Township 3/6 (AH). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** flew over a home in Lancaster 4/10 (ZM). A **Merlin** was on Brick Church Road 3/6 (FH, BHa) and one was on Umbletown Road 3/10 (PF). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** was flying over the fields along Zeltenreich Road 3/6 (JC). The resident pair was at the SR 3/14 (CK). One was hunting at Riverfront Park 3/17 (PF, LB) and one was at SH 4/18-5/1 (BC, PF, VP, JC).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was on Penny Road 4/29 (TA), and one was at MCWMA 5/20-23 (ME, BC, m.ob.). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was at LCP 5/13 (BH). Two **Alder Flycatchers** were at MCWMA 5/23-27 (ZM, ME, m.ob.). One was on the SRCF 5/31 (EW, BC). One **Least Flycatcher** was at MCWMA 5/5 (BC) and one was singing on the Conoy Canal Trail 5/6 (BH). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at MCWMA 5/23 (SH, TNII, ME). One was on Observation Site Road 5/20 (LB). An overwintering **Eastern Phoebe** was still at LASA 3/7 (EW). Three **Great Crested Flycatchers** were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC), and 4 were at LCP 5/13 (BH).

The **Northern Shrike** at MCWMA continued to 3/21-22 (BC, JF). A **White-eyed Vireo** was singing at SFCP 4/29 (PF) and 4 were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was singing and carrying nesting material at the Falmouth Access 4/18 (AM, SSt). Two **Blue-headed Vireos** were singing on Long Lane 3/26 (LB), 2 were at the Welsh Mountain Preserve 4/16-28 (PF) and 3 were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). Three **Warbling Vireos** were singing at SHP 5/1 (PF, VP, JC). A **Common Ravens** were noted in several areas 3/10-5/9 (m.ob.). An early **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at Riverfront Park 3/17 (PF, LB). A dozen **Purple Martins** were at the covered bridge on Weaverland Road 3/27 (FH, BHa) and 23 were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). Twenty-five **Tree Swallows** were migrating upriver on the SR 3/12 (PF, FB, LB) and 180 were on the SR 3/25 (BH). A **Barn Swallow** was flying along the SR 3/27 (MS).

A **Black-capped Chickadee** was at MCWMA 5/2 (CE). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was in the OR area, on Liberty Lane 3/19 (MG, SC).

Two were at Safe Harbor 3/21 (ME) and one was at Conestoga Pines Park 4/30 (DS). A **Brown Creeper** was at the Welsh Mountain Preserve 3/30 (PF) and three were at Riverfront Park 4/1 (BH). A **Winter Wren** was at the Welsh Mountain Preserve 3/30 (PF). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at Riverfront Park 4/1 (BH).

A **Veery** was calling at MCWMA 4/25 (BC) and 15 were at MCWMA (BC). A **Swainson's Thrush** was at Noel Dorwart Park 5/7 (SMc). About 75 **American Robins** were at home in Gap 3/6 (CC) eating holly berries and drinking the melting snow as it dripped off of cars. A **Hermit Thrush** was at Riverfront Park 4/1 (BH) and one was at the Welsh Mountain Preserve 4/28 (PF). An **American Pipit** was along a stream near Centerville and Zeltenreich Roads 3/6 (JC). Another one was near a stream close to the intersection of Groffdale and Eby Roads on the same day (JC). One was heard at Riverfront Park 4/1 (BH) and up to 4 were in the Ephrata farmland 5/23 (ZM, VP). Three separate **Snow Buntings** were found 3/6: one each on King Road, S. Groffdale Road, and Musser School Road (FH, BHa). Two were on Voganville Road 3/7 (BM). One was in the Ephrata farmland area 3/8 (EW), 3 were on Musser School Road 3/8-9 (PF, ML, JBa, BB) and two were in Ephrata farmland 3/21 (BC). Up to 4 **Lapland Longspurs** were on Musser School Road 3/6-9 (JC, FH, m.ob.). Four were on S. Groffdale Road 3/6 (FH, BHa), one was on Voganville Road 3/6 (FH, BHa), 5 were on Voganville Road 3/8 (ME), and 2 were on Fairmont Road 3/8 (ME).

A total 35 **Ovenbirds** were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Pumping Station Road 5/2 (ME). Two **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were at Pumping Station Road 4/29 (PF) and 5 were there 5/2 (ME). A **Northern Waterthrush** was on Pumping Station Road 4/10 (ME) and 4/29-5/2 (PF, ME). Four **Blue-winged Warblers** were along Pumping Station Road 5/2 (ME) and five were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was along Pumping Station Road 5/2 (ME). Four **Black-and-white Warblers** were at Noel Dorwart Park 4/22 (BH) and 7 were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). A **Tennessee Warbler** was at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). At least three **Prothonotary Warblers** were at Prescott Road 5/4 (TNII) and one was there 5/6 (BH). A singing male **Cerulean Warbler** was at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). A **Northern Parula** was at the Falmouth Access 4/11-12 (BHar, m.ob) and 5 were along the Conoy Canal Trail 5/6 (BH). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was at MCWMA 5/5 (BC) and one was at Noel Dorwart Park 5/7 (SMc). Seven **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC) and one was along the Conoy Canal Trail 5/6 (BH). One **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was along Pumping Station Road 5/2 (ME) and 11 were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). Four were along the Conoy Canal Trail 5/6 (BH). First **Palm Warblers** were at Rock Springs Preserve 4/18 (BC). A **Pine Warbler** continued to visit an Akron home 3/5-12 (ZM). One was at the Falmouth Access 4/12 (IG). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Falmouth 4/3 (ME) and 2 were there 4/4 (TNII, SH). One **Black-throated Green Warbler** was on Pumping Station Road 4/29 (PF), 15 were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). A **Canada Warbler** was at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). One was at Noel Dorwart Park 5/7 (SMc). **Prairie Warblers** were noted at Rock Springs Preserve 4/18 (BC). A **Mourning Warbler** was singing on Pumping Station Road 5/8-12 (SR, BC, m.ob), one was at Wheatland Hills Glenbrook Area Community Park 5/19-21 (DL, BF), and one was at MCWMA 5/23 (ME).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was on Voganville Road 3/7-8 (JMc, ME) and 2 were singing at MCWMA 4/9 (BC). A **Savannah Sparrow** was on Voganville Road 3/8 (ME) and 2 were at Riverfront Park 4/1 (BH). Three **Chipping Sparrows** were at Overlook Park 3/12 (GS). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was singing at MCWMA 5/23 (BC, m.ob.). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at MCWMA 4/17 and 4 on 5/5 (BC). One **White-throated Sparrow** was at Riverfront Park 4/1 (BH) and 45 were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). One was at the Alcoa Marsh 5/30 (BM). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was singing in Gap 4/21-51 (PF) and one was at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at Silver Mine Park 5/22 (AW). A **Dark-eyed Junco** was at a home in Akron 5/2-10 (BC). A **Dickcissel** was at Pilgrims Pathway 5/3 (CG) and one was singing on Umbletown Road 5/9 (PF).

A **Blue Grosbeak** was singing in a field in Gap 5/5 (PF) and one was at LCP 5/13 (BH). **Rusty Blackbirds** gave quite the show this season. Several were at Riverfront Park 3/16 (ML), 180 were migrating upriver at Riverfront Park 4/1 (BH), and one was at MCWMA 4/25 (BC). A **Bobolink** was at MCWMA 4/29 (DB), and 19 were there 5/5 (BC). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was on the CRTW 4/20 (BC) and 5 were at MCWMA 5/5 (BC). An **Orchard Oriole** was singing at Noel Dorwart Park 4/22 (BH). Two **Baltimore Orioles** were at SHP 5/1 (PF, VP, JC).

Two **Purple Finches** were at Noel Dorwart Park 4/22 (BH) and one was there 5/6 (SMc). The irruption of **Pine Siskins** continued into the spring. Although there was no evidence of breeding, they did stay late, so it is possible some bred. Up to 6 **Pine Siskins** were at a home in Bowmansville 3/1-10 (AH). One or two were at a home in Lancaster 3/1-6 (LB) and 2-4 were at another home in Lancaster 3/1-4 (MT). Four were at a Strasburg home on that day (WD). Five were at a home in Gap 3/3 (PF), 5 were on Pilgrim's Pathway 3/7 (CG) and 6 were at SRLF 3/7 (EW). Two were at a



home in Lancaster 3/9 (SMc), 4 were at Noel Dorwart Park 4/22 (BH), one was at SFCP 4/29 (PF), and one was at a home in Neffsville 5/28 (GS).

Observers: **Pamela D. Fisher 761 Willow Lane, Gap, PA 17527, goldeagle\_60@yahoo.com**, Zachary Adams, Tom Amico, Jayne Bartlett (JBa), Fern Bauman, Timothy Becker, Larry Bernhardt, Chuck Berthoud, Don Bilet, Amanda Blakely, Barry Blust, Jonathan Campbell, Lou Carpenter, Chuck Chalfant, Audrey Chambers (ACh), Bruce Carl, Bill Chambers (BCh), Steve Cottrell, Ad Crable, Jarrod Derr (JDe), Rob Dickerson, Gordon Dimmig, Walt Durling, Chris Eberly, Mike Epler, Bob Ferguson, Jim Fiorentino, Ian Gardner, Michael Gardner, Carlton Groff, Al Guarente, Barb Haas (BHa), Frank Haas, Aaron Haines (AHa), Sue Hannon, Brian Harris (BHar), Holly Hartshorne, Daniel Hinnebusch (DHi), Deuane Hoffman, Barbara Hunsberger, Anne Hurst, Chad Kaufman, Dave Kerr, Carol Kuniholm (CKU), Daniel Lane, Meredith Lombard, Chris Markiewicz, Mark Markiewicz, Annette Mathes, Seth McComsey (SMc), John McNamara (JMc), Adrian Melck (AMe), Zach Millen, Randy Miller, Brent Musser, Roscoe van Muylwyk (RvM), Ted Nichols II (TNII), Paul Oehlein, Toby J. Petersheim, Vince Pantanella, Nick Pulcinella, Betsy Pyle, Steve Rannels, Tom Raub, Rich Rehrig (RRe), Barb Ritzheimer, Rick Robinson, Matthew Sabatine, Peter G. Saenger, Bob Schutsky, Deb Seifken (DSe), Glenn Shaffer, Stan Stahl, Derek Stoner, Susan Strassner (SS), Melissa Townsend, Andrew Weitzel, Eric Witmer.

### Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Pulaski Township (PLT), Volant Strips (VSM).

Three **Snow Geese** were migrating over VSM with **Canada Geese** 3/24 (DK). Rarely reported in *Lawrence*, a **Mute Swan** was at New Wilmington 3/10 (DK). A group of up to 45 **Tundra Swans** harbored at BS 3/23-28 (ER, AH, ST, AK, SG). A late immature Tundra Swan was at VSM 5/2 (GK, MAK). Up to 5 **Gadwall** were at BS 3/28-4/11 (SG, et al.). As is often the case, great numbers of **American Wigeon** were present at BS in late Mar; top counts were 62 on 3/27 (ST, AK) and 35 on 3/28 (SG). Two were still at the Copper Road marsh 4/18 (RN). The only report of **American Black Duck** was 4 at BS 3/28 (SG). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** with ducklings was noted at BS 5/22 (DI), a rare breeding confirmation for this species. Reports of **Northern Shoveler** were 4 at BS 3/27 (ST, AK), 2 at PLT 4/5 (RW), and a late flock of 7 at the Glacial Sands gravel pond (on Rte. 108 near I-79) 5/2 (MJ). Around 20 **Northern Pintail** hung around BS 3/23-28 (m.ob.), the only report. A count of 56 **Green-winged Teal** was made at BS 3/29 (GK, MAK) and two were still there 5/2 (GK, MAK). Canvasback was unreported, and 15 **Redhead** at BS 3/28-29 (SG, et al.) was the only report as well. **Ring-necked Duck** suffered no lack of reports, however, with triple-digit counts at BS made from 3/27 (ST, AK) to 3/29; 325 were estimated on the latter date (GK, MAK). Two late ring-necks were at the Larchwood Dr. gravel pond in New Beaver (formerly called the Three Rivers gravel pond in this quarterly summary) 5/10 (MV). A late **Greater Scaup** was also at Larchwood Dr. 5/1 (MV). Several **Bufflehead** lingered into May; 13 were at Larchwood Dr. 5/1 (MV), 2 were at Mason Rd. 5/2 (GK, MAK), and one was at BS 5/15-16 (DG, GG). A female **Hooded Merganser** with 4 hatchlings was at the gravel pond on Shaner Rd. in Washington Twp. (DG). A late **Common Merganser** was at the Glacial Sand pond 5/2 (MJ). The only report of **Red-breasted Merganser** was 2 at BS 3/28 (SG). A **Ruddy Duck** lingered at BS 5/15-16 (DG, GG).

A **Common Loon** at Plain Grove Twp. 5/9 (SB, LW) was the only one reported, as was a **Horned Grebe** at Larchwood Dr. 5/1 (MV). Very rare for *Lawrence* was a **Red-necked Grebe** at Larchwood Dr. 4/4-11 (MV). One or two **Great Egrets** were at BS 4/5-11 (TR, SG). Up to 4 **Bald Eagles** were at BS in Mar, and one was seen there as late as 5/22 (DI). Following from the winter season, a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted at BS 4/11 (SG) but not thereafter. Last **Rough-legged Hawk** was at VSM 3/22 (GK, MAK).

A **Virginia Rail** was at BS 5/2 (GK, MAK), surprisingly rare at that location. The winter flock of **Sandhill Cranes** dwindled to the low teens by the end of Mar. A pair with two young was at BS 5/22 (DI), and another nest was photographed elsewhere in Plain Grove Twp. 5/26 (KA).

Reports of shorebirds were modest but included one notable rarity. Six **Semipalmated Plovers** were at Shaner Rd. 5/15 (DG, GG) and 3 were at Nashua Rd. in PLT 5/16-17 (RW). **Greater Yellowlegs** was at BS 3/28 (SG), otherwise all other reports of both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at Nashua Rd. though 5/17 (RW, MV, ST). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** were still at Nashua Rd. 5/16 (RW), as were up to 12 **Least Sandpipers** to 5/17 (MV, ST). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Nashua Rd. 5/16 was the only report, as was a **Dunlin** there 5/17 (MV, ST). Very nice for spring were 17 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Shaner Rd. 5/15 (DG, GG). The star of the

season, however, was the beautiful female **Wilson's Phalarope** wonderfully photographed at BS 5/22 (DI). Unfortunately it did not remain beyond that date. Rare reports of **Bonaparte's Gull** included one at BS 3/29 and 4 at Larchwood Dr. 4/11 (MV). Up to 70 **Ring-billed Gulls** were at BS 3/28-29 (SG, GK, MAK, PL). A **Barred Owl** was at New Castle 5/9 (SB).

*Lawrence* doesn't receive much coverage for passerine migration, so a **Least Flycatcher** at McConnell's Mill S.P. 5/15 (DG, GG) was notable. **Great Crested Flycatcher** was found in six locations despite sparse coverage. A **Common Raven** at Plain Grove Twp. 4/19 (GK, MAK) added to this species' expanding range. **Purple Martin** was noted in Washington Twp. 5/9 (SB, LW) during the PAMC. **Bank Swallow** is a sometimes-breeder in *Lawrence* mainly around active quarries, though no nesting sites are known at present. They were noted at BS 5/2 (GK, MAK) and Shaner Rd. in Washington Twp. 5/15 (DG, GG); they may nest at the latter location. A **Cliff Swallow** was working the wetland at Nashua Rd. 5/17 (MV, ST), a species with much less history of breeding in the county than Bank Swallow. Despite the lack of coverage, just one report of **Carolina Wren** for the whole season, at New Castle 5/9 (SB), was quite depressing. Perhaps the back-to-back harsh winters took a heavy toll on this species in this more open, northerly county. A **Veery** was found in Mahoning Twp. 5/9 during the PAMC (SB, LW), and a **Hermit Thrush** was at BS 3/28 (SG). Nice totals of 45 and 35 **American Pipits** were made at VSM 3/17 (ST, AK) and 3/22 (GK), respectively. Reports continued to 3/27. A leftover **Lapland Longspur** was at New Wilmington 3/10 (DK).

**Tennessee Warbler** was noted in three locations 5/7-17 (m.ob.). Many reports of migrant warblers were made during the PAMC 5/9 (SB, LW); these included **Nashville Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, and **Pine Warbler**, mostly along Jacobson Rd. in Mahoning Twp. Two **Blackpoll Warblers** at BS 5/17 (ST), 3 **Palm Warblers** at BS 5/2 (GK, MAK), a **Black-throated Green Warbler** at McConnell's Mill S.P. 5/7 (GK, MAK), and a **Wilson's Warbler** at BS 5/15 (DG) rounded out reports of migrants. Four **Yellow-throated Warblers**, a rare breeder in *Lawrence*, were along East River Rd. in Mahoning Twp. 5/9 (SB, LW).

**Henslow's Sparrows** and **Bobolinks** remain well established at VSM (m.ob.). A nice count of 5 **Fox Sparrows** was made at BS 3/28 (SG). Just two reports of **Rusty Blackbird** included 2 at BS 3/28 (SG) and 5 at BS 4/18 (RN). Uncommon for *Lawrence*, **Orchard Orioles** were at Mahoning Twp. 5/9 (SB, LW) and at Larchwood Dr. 5/10 (MV). One **Purple Finch** was at BS 4/11 (ST) and 5 **Pine Siskins** were on the far northern end of BS on the late date of 5/7 (SS).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Kenneth Anderson, Suzanne Butcher, Steve Gosser, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Alison Hoffer, Dave Inman, Matthew Juskowich, Deb Kalbfleisch, Alyssa Karmann, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Patrick Lister, Richard Nugent, Ed Richards, Theo Rickert, Steve Sanford, Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass, Linda Wagner, Robert Walczak.

### Lebanon County

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

During the *Lebanon* PAMC 5/9, 14 participants in six parties found 2992 total birds of 135 species. Combined PAMC observations produced three new county high counts: 26 **Prairie Warblers**, 9 **Yellow-breasted Chats**, and 136 **Indigo Buntings** (m.ob.). A number of species that are rare for 5/9 were reported in the Camp Shand area, including a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Winter Wren**, **Brown Creeper**, **Alder Flycatcher**, and 3 **American Tree Sparrows** (SWh).

According to MC staff, **Snow Goose** numbers peaked at 110,000 on 3/17. Two **Ross's Geese** were seen in the Campbelltown area 3/15 (TB). A **Ross's Goose** was found at MFA 3/16-17 (RCM, MD) and at MC 3/22 (BC). All the Ross's Geese were white morph. Single **Cackling Geese** were reported from six locations 3/13-23 (RCM, DB, TB, JD, JF). According to MC staff, **Tundra Swan** numbers peaked at 3000 on 3/17. An estimated 1300 **Tundra Swans** were in the fields along Fox Rd. 3/29 (TB, KB). A **Tundra Swan** lingered fairly late at MC 5/13 (TN, DH). A **Gadwall** provided a new county late date at MLSP 5/8 (TB, JD). Three **Gadwalls** provided another late date at MLSP 5/11 (TB). Five **Blue-winged Teal** were at a pond along

Kenbrook Rd. 4/7 (TN), and four were at MLSP 4/21 (TB, KB, JD, TN). A **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** provided a second county record at RPP 4/1-2 (SS). As many as 18 **Canvasbacks** were at MVQ, continuing from 2/12 to 3/18 (TB, RCM, KB, DB). Up to four **Canvasbacks** were at MQ 3/8-24 (TB, KB, TN, RCM). **Redheads** were at four locations. One or 2 were at MVQ 3/3-21 (RCM, TB, KB, DB), as many as 12 were at MQ 3/8-26 (TB, KB, TN, RCM), up to 6 were reported at MLSP 3/17-4/21 (TB, JD, DM, NM, JHI, m.ob.) with the 2 remaining there to 4/21 providing a new county late date (TB, JD, TN), and up to 6 were at KP 3/20-23 (IG, JH, TB). **Ring-necked Ducks** reached a peak count of 80 at MVQ 3/16 (RCM), and 40 were at MQ 3/23 (RCM). Several locations hosted **Greater Scaup**. A single female was at MVQ from 2/21 to 3/7 (TB, RCM), and up to 4 were there 3/8-21 (TB, KB, RCM, DB). Up to 4 **Greater Scaup** were at MQ 3/18-26 (RCM, TN, TB). At MLSP a female was found 4/17 (TB) and a male 4/20 (TB, KB). Ten **Lesser Scaup** were at MVQ 3/4 (TB). Seven **Lesser Scaup** were at MLSP 4/10 (TN), and 2 males were fairly late 4/30 (TB). Six **Long-tailed Ducks** were at MLSP 4/17 (TB, TN). Six **Long-tailed Ducks** were again at MLSP 4/20 (TB, KB, RCM, TN, JD), with one remaining 4/21 (TB, JD). A female **Common Goldeneye** was on Risser's Pond at MC 4/15-16 (JH, RCM). Reports of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 11 at MVQ from 2/21 until 3/24 (TB, RCM, KB, DB, A&LW), up to 8 at MQ 3/18-24 (RCM, TN, TB), and up to 8 at MLSP 3/29-4/17 (HP, TB, JH, TN). Thirty **Ruddy Ducks** were at MLSP 4/17 (TB, TN). A **Ruddy Duck** was a nice mid-May find at MC 5/17 (FH, JF).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was found at 2Mtn during the PAMC 5/9 (JD, DM, m.ob.), and 2 were in the Box Car Rocks area of SGL 211 on 5/9 (JH). Another was along the Appalachian Trail 5/13 (SWa).

Ten **Common Loons** were at MLSP 4/10 (JH, TN), and again 4/20-21 (TB, KB, RCM, TN, JD). A **Red-throated Loon** was at MLSP 4/20-21 (TB, KB, RCM, TN, m.ob.). It was joined by a **Red-necked Grebe** 4/21 (TB, KB, JD, TN, BO). Nine **Red-necked Grebes** was a surprising total at MLSP 4/27 (TB). Sixteen **Horned Grebes** were at MLSP 4/14 (TN). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was a good bird for Mar at MC 3/30 (RCM). **American Bitterns** were in several northern *Lebanon* locations, including SL 4/2 (RS), MLSP 4/8-10 (TB, JD, TN, JH), and FIG 4/28 (JFr). Along the southern border of the county, two **American Bitterns** were in the cattails on the CSP 4/27 (TB, JD). Five of the seven nests at the **Great Blue Heron** rookery near Prospect Rd. were occupied 5/9 (RCM, CB). Four **Great Egrets** were seen flying from *Lancaster* into *Lebanon* at MC 3/30 (SS). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at MC 4/17 (TB). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was a rare find in the Mt Gretna area 4/25 (EH, SH). A **Glossy Ibis** at the Iona and Prescott Rd intersection of RPP 4/6-12 (RCM, BC, FH, JF, DH, m.ob.) was the 11th for the county.

The first eaglet was seen at the **Bald Eagle** nest along PR 3/26 (TB). At least one eaglet was in the nest at ML (TN). The nest at Governor Dick Park had no young this year (*vide* RCM). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was early at SGL 145 on 4/2 (RCM). The **Rough-legged Hawk** bonanza continued from the winter into Mar, with sightings at MC and five other locations through 3/21 (m.ob.), including 2 that were frequenting the area of a trail camera set up on deer carcasses at FIG during early Mar (JD). A **Golden Eagle** was photographed with the same trail camera at FIG 3/3 (*vide* JD).

Two **Virginia Rails** were calling in a pond at FIG 4/22-5/7 (TN, JD, TB, KB, DM). During the PAMC 5/9, three **Virginia Rails** were found at FIG (JD, DM, m.ob.) and one was at MLSP (JH). Two **American Coots** were a good find at MLSP during the PAMC 5/9 (JH).

A **Semipalmated Plover** was at RPP 5/12 (TB), 2 were at SCP 5/15-16 (AW, RCM, DB), and 5 were at KP 5/16 (TB, KB). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at SCP 5/8 (RCM, CB). Accidental in Mar was a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at RPP 3/26-30 (DB, BC, TB, KB, m.ob.). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were later seen in good numbers at RPP including 22 on 4/16 (TN) and 20 on 4/24 (BC). A **Dunlin** was at RPP 4/15-16 (JH, TN) and 4/24 (BC). Single **Dunlins** were at KP 4/23-28 (TN, TB, KB, RCM, BC) and 5/18 (IG), and 2 were there 5/23 (TN). A **Dunlin** was also at SCP 5/13 (RCM, AW). Three **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at SCP 5/12 (TB), and a **dowitcher sp.** was distantly seen at RPP 5/12 (TB). Flooded areas along Pine Rd provided some good counts of **Wilson's Snipe**, including 13 on 3/20 (TN), 21 on 3/30 (TB), and 22 on 4/12 (TB). Twelve **American Woodcock** provided a nice count at MLSP 3/18 (TN). Eleven were tallied during a nocturnal bird survey at FIG 4/29 (JD, m.ob.). Eighteen **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at MLSP 4/10 (JH), with single birds there 4/13 and 4/17 (TB). Six **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at MLSP 4/26 (TB, KB). Three of the 18 **Caspian Terns** that were in the *Lancaster* portion of MC eventually entered *Lebanon* airspace 4/21 (RCM). A **Caspian Tern** was over Risser's Pond at MC 4/25 (RCM), and 2 were flying over MLSP 4/30 (R&PW).

A **Barn Owl** was seen in the Lawn area 5/8 (GD). Two **Barred Owls** were heard in the Cold Springs area of SGL 211, by an observer at 2Mtn 5/17 (TB). Another **Barred Owl** was at FIG 5/28 (IG). A **Short-eared Owl** was observed flying from *Lancaster* into *Lebanon* near stop #3 at MC 3/21 (TN, ME, ML). This was the only sighting from this normally reliable location.

The only **Common Nighthawks** reported were two feeding over the dam parking area at MLSP 5/21 (TB). A **Chuck-will's-widow** returned to Tomstown Rd. at FIG for the sixth consecutive year 4/29-30 (TJ, KB, TB, TN). It was heard during the PAMC 5/9 (JH, JD, DM, m.ob.), and also on the evenings of 5/24 (KB, TB) and 5/29 (AP). The bird's arrival date has been remarkably consistent, between 4/29 and 5/1 each spring. No breeding has been confirmed since the bird was first discovered in 2010. The first **Eastern Whip-poor-will** of the spring was heard along Cold Springs Rd at FIG 4/11 (TB, KB). The total of 34 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** provided a new county high count during a nocturnal bird survey at FIG 4/29 (JD, TJ, m.ob.), and 33 were counted during the PAMC at FIG 5/9 (JD, DM, m.ob.).

Single **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at FIG 4/13-15 (JD), and 2 were found on the PAMC 5/9 (JD, DM, m.ob.). Four were at FIG 5/13 (DM), and three were there 5/29 (IG). A pair was seen at ML 5/4-29 (JD, SW, TB, KB), and a single was at SHA 5/24 (JH). **Merlins** were at MFA 3/16 (RCM, CB, PH, MH), and along Light's Church Rd. 4/7 (TN). There were five reports of **Peregrine Falcons**, beginning with one in the Quitty Corridor 3/15 (SW) and at MC 3/28 (GT). A **Peregrine** was flushing shorebirds at RPP 4/12 (RCM), and an adult was at Governor Dick Park 5/8 (CB, SH, RCM, m.ob.). One flew across MLSP on the evening of 5/11 (TB).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SGL 145 on 5/17 (DHI, D&AK), and another was on a snag at MLSP 5/23 (TB, KB). The only **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at SHA 5/21 (JH). Four reports of **Least Flycatcher** were made at SL 5/1 (TN, TB), SGL 211 on 5/5 (TB), FIG 5/13 (DM), and at SHA 5/16 (JH). Three **Blue-headed Vireos** were a nice find at SGL 145 on 4/24 (SH, RCM, m.ob.). Three **Common Ravens** were found during the PAMC 5/9, including 2 at FIG (JD, DM, m.ob.) and one at Camp Shand (SWH).

Large flocks of **Horned Larks** remained at MFA well into March, along with other associated field birds. Some of the better counts were 125 on 3/3 (RCM), 325 on 3/12 (RCM, SC), and 500 on 3/20 (IG).

Seventeen **Tree Swallows** and 2 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were a good early find at MVQ 3/30 (RCM). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** provided a new county early date at SCP 3/19 (TB). A **Bank Swallow** was at KP 5/13 (TJ). Single **Bank Swallows** were feeding over MLSP 5/13 and 5/21 (TB). A **Cliff Swallow** was also there 5/13 (TB). A pair of **Cliff Swallows** was found nesting on a building at FIG for the second year 5/9 (JD, DM, m.ob.).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found in the Box Car Rocks area of SGL 211, including 2 on 3/13 (TB), 4 on 3/23 (TN), and single birds 4/12 and 5/5 (TB). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were also observed along Cold Springs Rd. at FIG 4/13 (TB), and at a home near MFA 3/27 (MD). A **Winter Wren** was singing in the Cold Springs area of SGL 211 on 5/10 (NM, JH).

The flight calls of two **Swainson's Thrushes** were heard before dawn at 2Mtn 5/17 (TB). **Swainson's Thrushes** were also found at Governor Dick Park 5/23 (IG) and SHA 5/24 (JH). **American Pipits** were reported from multiple locations, including 10 from the Quentin area 3/14 (AL) and 30 from Pine Rd. 3/20 (TB). A total of 150 were along Reistville Rd. 3/30 (RCM), and up to 34 were at KP 5/4-15 (TJ, CB, RCM).

Field birds continued to delight birders from the winter through the third week of Mar. These were primarily at MFA along with some sightings at Louser Rd. Breeding plumage **Lapland Longspurs** and **Snow Buntings** in late March were a rare treat, and new county late dates were established for both species. Up to seven **Lapland Longspurs** were at MFA 3/2-21 (TB, RCM, MD, SR, m.ob.). Two were at Louser Rd 3/14 (JF), and a new county late date was established 3/21 by single birds at both MFA (RCM) and Mt Zion Rd (TK). **Snow Buntings** were found at MFA 3/2-22 (TB, RCM, MD, SR, m.ob.). A notable count of 20 was made at MFA 3/10 (RCM, SR). Seven were at Louser Rd. 3/3 (GB), and a single bird was there 3/14 (JF). Lastly, a new county late date for Snow Bunting was established by with 2 at MFA 3/22 (MD).

A **Brewster's Warbler** was in the company of a **Blue-winged Warbler** at the Hick's Rd. area of SGL 145 on 4/30 (TB). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** provided the 10th county record at MLSP 4/13 (TN, SW). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were reported from 2Mtn 5/4 (JD, TB), the Cold Springs area of SGL 211 on 5/10 (NM, JHI), and SHA 5/16 (JH). **Cerulean Warblers** were at 2Mtn 5/4-6 (JD, TB, TN) and at FIG 5/7 (JD, TB) and 5/13 (DM). They were also reported from the Box Car Rocks area of SGL 211 on 5/9 (JH) and along the Appalachian Trail 5/13 (SWa). A **Kentucky Warbler** was found in a regenerating timbered area of FIG 5/7 (JD, TB). Two territorial **Kentucky Warblers** were at SSP 5/14-25 (TB, KB, TN). **Mourning Warblers** were at MLSP 5/9 (JH) and 5/19 (SW). A **Wilson's Warbler** provided a new county early date along Mine Rd. in the Mt Gretna area 4/24 (RP, RCM, m.ob.). The only other **Wilson's Warbler** of the spring was at MLSP 5/1 (TJ, DH, TN, IG).

A male **Summer Tanager** near MFA 5/4 (MD) represented the fourth for *Lebanon*. A **Vesper Sparrow** was found again this year along Lights Church Rd. 4/7 (TB, JD, TN). **Fox Sparrows** were at Grantville 3/10 (TB, KB), FIG 3/17 (JD, DM), and MLSP 3/20 (TB). Four were at ML 4/7 (TN). A

**Lincoln's Sparrow** was at SSP 5/14 (TB). A **Blue Grosbeak** was singing north of SL 5/12 (TB, KB). Two **Blue Grosbeaks** were at FIG 5/28 (IG).

A **Bobolink** was fairly early at MC 4/24 (RCM), 15 were at MLSP 5/8 (JD), and 14 were at MC 5/13 (TN, DH). At least 50 **Rusty Blackbirds** were among a mixed blackbird flock at PR 3/20 (TB). Nine continued at PR 3/21 (TB, KB), and a good sized flock of 28 was there 4/2 (DHI). Other sightings of **Rusty Blackbirds** included 4 in the Shaefferstown area 3/15 (AL, E&PG), 3 at SL 3/31 (TN), and one at MLSP 5/1 (TJ, DH, IG).

**Purple Finches** were reported in small numbers from numerous locations. There were 8 at SHA 4/18 (JH) and 4 in Grantville 4/27 (TB, KB). The latest report was of 2 in the Grantville area for the PAMC 5/9 (KB). A **Common Redpoll**, with an apparent eye infection visited a feeder near Grantville and provided a new county late date 3/29-4/5 (TB, KB, JD, TN). **Pine Siskins** continued late into the spring and were reported from multiple locations. Thirteen **Pine Siskins** were at a feeder in Grantville 3/1 (KB). A few late sightings included one at SGL 211 for the PAMC 5/9 (JH), and at Lions Lake 5/11 (AW). An extremely pale **Pine Siskin** was photographed at a feeder in Mt Gretna 3/5 (SH).

Observers: **Timothy Becker, 10283 Jonestown Rd, Grantville, PA, 17028, tjbecker81@aol.com**, Zach Adams, Kathy Becker, Chuck Berthoud, Don Billett, Rebekah Bollinger, Gerry Boltz, Greg Burgdorf (GBu), Bruce Carl, Sue Cooper, Mike Dale, Jarrod Derr, Gordon Dimming, Jim Dunn (JDu), Mike Epler, Jim Fiorentino, John Frain (JFr), Ian Gardner, Elora & Peter Grahame (E&PG), Fritz Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Jerry Higley (JHi), Daniel Hinnebusch (DHi), Deaune Hoffman, Pam Holmes, Mike Holmes, Evelyn Hostetter, Sid Hostetter, Tom Johnson, Chad Kauffman, Ted Keen, Dale & Alice Kreider (D&AK), Alex Lamoreaux, Merideth Lombard, Anthony Marich Jr, Nate McKelvie, Dave McNaughton, Randy Miller (RCM), Ted Nichols, Bill Oyler, Robert Peda, Holger Pflücke, Aidan Place, Richard & Peggy Price (RP&P), Steve Rannels, Gary Robson, Rosemary Spreha, Stan Stahl, George Tallman, Scott Walker (SWa), Steve Wathius, Alan Wells, Audrey & Lee Wells (A&LW), Susan Wheeler (SWH), Richard & Pat Williams (R&PW).

#### Lehigh County

No report.

Compiler: **Bill Etter, 407 S. Cigar Rd, Northampton, PA 18067, (215) 964-3613, billetter01@gmail.com**.

#### Luzerne County

Locations: Beech Mountain Lakes (BML), Forty Fort (FF), Frances Slocum State Park (FSSP), Harveys Lake (HL), Kirby Park (KP), Lee Swamp (LS), Nescopeck State Park (NSP), Plymouth Flats (PF), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), State Game Lands 57 (SGL 57), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna Riverlands (SRL), Susquehanna Wetlands (SW), Wapwallopen (WAP).

For a second straight year, *Luzerne's* bodies of water remained frozen well into the spring season. Although temperatures began to normalize in Mar, ice that reached record thickness during the frigid winter season did not fully disappear until mid Apr. Despite the persistent ice, waterfowl migration progressed as expected. As is the case in most years, the SR was teeming with waterfowl during Mar from WAP in the southern part of the county to Pittston in the north. Shorebird migration was slow with only a few reports of expected migrants, while a few unexpected passerines added excitement to an otherwise ordinary spring period.

**Tundra Swans** seemed more prevalent this year than in most, with reports coming from several locations along the SR. A high count of 32 was recorded 3/9 from the Nescopeck/WAP area (RK). Although not rare, **Cackling Goose** was probably the least expected waterfowl species observed this spring. Two were observed 3/15 from HL (JH) and one was spotted a day later in a flock of **Canada Geese** over PF (JD). Each spring, large concentrations of migrating waterfowl pack the flats and river at PF creating quite the spectacle. This year the show peaked during the last week of Mar and the first week of Apr. High counts of 125 **Wood Ducks** and 175 **Northern Pintails** were reported 3/29, with high counts of 125 **Green-winged Teals** and 550 **Ring-necked Ducks** a few days later on 4/2 (JD). Two **Gadwalls** at PF 3/23-29 were the only representatives of this species for the season (JD). Three **Northern Shovelers** were at SRL 4/7 (RK), and 7 shovelers at the SR in Wilkes-Barre 4/17 was a high count for the county (PZ). A late **Northern Pintail** was at the SR in Wyoming 5/16 (JS), and a single **Green-winged Teal** and a **Lesser Scaup** were at PF 5/17 (KR).

The majority of reports of diving ducks came from along the SR, with

some reports from HL and BML as temperatures warmed. Fifteen **Canvasbacks** from the SR in WAP 3/2 (EG) was a very nice count for *Luzerne*. The highest numbers of **Redhead** came in Feb near WAP, but the top count for the spring period was 12 from the SR in West Pittston 3/5 (JD). For at least the second consecutive year, an impressive **Greater Scaup** flock congregated at the SR in WAP, with a high count of 75 birds 3/2 (JG). On the same date, 2 **Long-tailed Ducks** that likely lingered from the winter season were spotted in WAP (EG, JG). Over a month later 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** were present in limited open water at BML 4/7 (JD). **Bufflehead** always seems to be a common Apr migrant, and this year the high count came from HL at over 70 birds 4/14 (VM). Less common but still annual in good numbers at the SR in WAP is **Common Goldeneye**. The high count this spring was 35 on 4/7 (JD). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were reported from several locations in Mar and Apr with a high count of 9 at the SR in WAP 3/7 (JD). **Ruddy Ducks** had a poor showing, with only 2 reported from BML in mid-Apr (JD).

**Red-throated Loon** is less than annual in *Luzerne*. Reports are generally from HL or another large lake. An individual 3/29 was therefore even more unusual because it was observed at close range diving in a shallow muddy pond at PF (JD). SRL is one of the best spots in the county to observe **Double-crested Cormorant**, but a very high and unexpected count of 171 birds was recorded from this location 4/7 (RK). Although **Red-necked Grebes** did not irrupt into the region this spring on the scale they did last year, there were still two reports: one at BML 4/15-21 (JD, JhD) and one at HL 4/27 (MD).

Several species range primarily north of Pennsylvania can be found as breeders in the area of RGSP and adjacent SGL 57. One such species is **American Bittern**. Two years ago juvenile bitterns were with adults at "The Meadows" on Mountain Spring Lake Road in SGL 57. Last year, though there was no confirmed breeding, adult bitterns were observed throughout Jun. This year, a bittern once again returned to "The Meadows" and was observed 4/18 to at least 5/9 (RM, DG, JH). A migrant **American Bittern** was also found in a marshy area at NSP 4/6-13 (MF, TG).

In addition to being a waterfowl magnet, PF is one of the best places in *Luzerne* to observe eagles. Even outside of the breeding season **Bald Eagles** still patrol the flats and SR. On 3/19, a surprising **Golden Eagle** was found perched along the riverbank (JD). Since the Council Cup Hawkwatch is no longer manned in the fall, this species is quite infrequently reported in the county. The other raptor highlight was a female light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** at Wapwallopen Rd. in Nescopeck Twp. 3/7 (JD).

A **Virginia Rail** was detected at LS in Loyalville 5/9 during a county big day which netted 132 species (JH, RK, SG). **Common Gallinule** is rare in *Luzerne* so it was very surprising to have two reports from two different locations. One was found at SRL 4/7 (RK) and the other was at PF 4/26 (KR). Shorebird migration was slow with even some of the more common shorebird species going unreported. Two **Semipalmated Plovers** were at PF 5/9-17 (JH, KR) and 3 were at RGSP 5/23 (RD). RGSP is not typically a hotspot for shorebird migration. Water levels in Lake Jean were drawn down for dam repairs, which exposed mudflats. **Wilson's Snipe** is a regular migrant in the county, but a count of six birds from Wyoming 3/21 was higher than usual (JS). The only gull highlight of the season was a high count of **Bonaparte's Gulls** at HL 4/14-19 when as many as 50 present (VM, AY, BY).

Both cuckoos were more prevalent than usual from the middle to end of May because of increasing numbers of gypsy moths. Most years **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** is widespread in the county, but this spring **Black-billed Cuckoo**, which is usually confined to higher elevations in *Luzerne*, may have been the more common of the two species. The only owl highlight of the spring was a trio of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** reports. The first bird was seen roosting in a conifer in the WAP area 3/9 (RK). The second and third reports were of birds detected in suitable breeding habitat in the White Haven area 5/10 (MF) and the HL area 5/16 (JD). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** returned to a private residence in BML 5/26 (JD). Although this bird has been present three of the past four years near the breeding season and has been consistently trying to attract a mate, there is no evidence that it has succeeded in its attempts. A species of interest that has been confirmed breeding in the county for several years is **Merlin**. On 5/9, one was observed at the traditional breeding location in FF exhibiting aggressive behavior towards observers (JH).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** is an irregular migrant, and was recently discovered as a localized breeder in isolated swamps in the northwestern corner of *Luzerne*. The breeding population is in such an isolated area that human disruption should be at a minimum, which also means these breeding birds are not detected on a regular basis. This spring however, a single migrant was heard at NSP 5/22 (JD). A **White-eyed Vireo** that was first observed 5/9 (AE) at Campbell's Ledge Reservoir Rd. was seen again at the end of May (SG), indicating a potential territory for this species that is scarce in the county. **Marsh Wren** is another infrequent visitor in *Luzerne*. A

pair that was discovered 4/30 at SW created some excitement, but were likely only migrants, as they never resurfaced during the month of May (JD). **Swainson's Thrush**, another species that can be found in limited numbers breeding in the northwestern part of the county, is a more regular migrant than the previous three species. This spring they were reported from several locations throughout the area including Wyoming, FSSP, RGSP, and two locations in White Haven.

**Tennessee Warblers** were once again more common during migration than in most springs. Abundance of this species is linked to spruce budworm outbreaks in boreal forests which were in effect last year, meaning more breeding success for boreal breeding species and a higher number of birds migrating back to breeding grounds. **Mourning Warblers** are one of the most difficult migrants to detect during spring migration in *Luzerne*. A bird was found at KP 5/5 (VM) and 2 were at Campbell's Ledge Reservoir Rd. during the second half of May (AE, SG). **Cape May Warbler** is a common fall migrant, but it is much scarcer in the spring. On 5/7, an adult male was seen on Old Berwick Highway in Nescopeck, and a female was seen at Hollenback Rd. in White Haven 5/13 (JD). Last year **Cerulean Warblers** were very scarce in the county with no sightings during the spring migration and only one sighting in Jun from the Hunlock Creek Boat Launch. Encouraging were birds this year at RGSP, the Hunlock Creek Boat Launch, and NSP, where a pair was found in suitable breeding habitat. **Wilson's Warblers**, uncommon migrants, were found at White Haven, 5/6 (MF) and FSSP 5/7 (KR). A few years ago, a breeding population of **Yellow-breasted Chats** was discovered at the Glen Lyon/Wanamie Reclaimed Minelands along the Penobscot Ridge Mountain Bike Trail during a grassland survey by Wilkes University. Last year up to five chats were present during the breeding season and this year a single bird was first found, 5/31 (JH).

**Vesper Sparrow** is the least common of the regularly occurring *Luzerne* sparrows. It is most often encountered during Oct and is occasionally found as a breeder. A single bird was at the airport in FF 4/18 (JS), which is traditionally the best location in the county to find these birds in the fall. Another sparrow that is uncommon in the spring is **Lincoln's Sparrow**, which was only recorded from the White Haven area 5/9 (MF). Though there were not many reports of **Rusty Blackbird**, one significant sighting was a very high count of 88 birds at PF 4/7 (RK). **Pine Siskins** staged a large-scale irruption in the Northeast during the winter and remained widespread throughout *Luzerne* in the spring, with reports through much of May.

Observers: **Jonathan DeBalko, 235 Buck Ridge Drive, Drums, PA 18222, (570) 956-1849, jonathan.debalko@wilkes.edu**, Michael Daley, John DeBalko (JhD), Rahil Dixit, Andrew Evans, Megan Fedor, Thomas Galaskewicz, Stan Galenty, Ed Groshek, Jarret Groshek, Doug Gross, Jim Hoyson, Rick Koval, Robert Megraw, "Vireo" Murray, Kevin Ripka, Jim Shoemaker, Alan Yuscavage, Bonnie Yuscavage, Patricia Zaborsky.

## Lycoming County

Locations: Indian Park-Montoursville (IPM), Lycoming County Conservation area (LCC), Mill Hill Road (MHR), Mill Street (MS), Muncy Boat Launch (MBL), Old Lycoming Township (OLT), Pine Creek valley (PC), Rider Park (RP), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), State Game Lands 252 (SGL 252), Susquehanna River West Branch (SR), Susquehanna River Walk at Williamsport (SRW), White Deer Hawk Watch (WDHW), Williamsport (WPT), Williamsport Water Company (WWC).

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found with a flock of **Snow Geese** near Beacon Light Rd., Pennsdale 3/15 (DvB, EH, MD, JK). Large numbers of geese and swans moved through in late March, with about 3000 **Snow Geese** 3/23 in farm fields near Pennsdale (DvB, Dbr), around 9000 **Canada Geese** overhead 3/16 (EH), and 120 **Tundra Swans** at MS 3/17 (DvB) during a brief warm spell. A photo confirmed a **Cackling Goose** at the MBL 3/11 (DvB).

Bitter cold continued into the first week of the Mar and birders focused on the open water below the SR dam at WPT, which again drew diverse waterfowl. Wintering waterfowl continued in the river along the SRW into this season included 20 **Bufflehead**, 5 **Common Goldeneye**, 30 **Canvasback**, 4 **Redhead**, more than 25 **Greater Scaup** 3/4 (DvB, et al.). Downstream at the MBL, **Redhead**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead** and **Red-breasted Merganser** were found 3/7 (WE). Species not seen through the winter made an appearance at the SRW, including regular migrants: 3 **Northern Pintails**, 2 **Blue-winged** and one **Green-winged Teal**, and 2 **White-winged Scoters** below the dam 3/4-10 (DvB). Some high counts included 48 **Greater Scaup** at SRW 3/9 (EH), 30 **Northern Pintails** 3/19 at MS (EH), 189 **Bufflehead** 4/3 at SRW (ML), 17 **Long-tailed Ducks** at RVL 4/17 (EH), and 2 **Black Scoters** and 6 **White-winged Scoters** 4/20 at RVL (AK).

**American Bitterns** were found at a small pond 4/16 where they are seen nearly annually in OLT (DF), and in wetlands of SGL 252 from 4/29-30 (DvB). **Golden Eagle** was noted 3/6 and 2 on 3/7 at the WDHW (DvB), and another was above OLT 3/7 (DF). **Rough-legged Hawks** were found widely until late Mar. An **Osprey** was a new arrival 3/26 at the SRW with large numbers of gulls described below (DvB). **Bald Eagle** nests were active at multiple locations in the county.

Rails found this year included a **Virginia Rail** at the Jacoby Falls trail 4/19 (EH) and a **Sora** on SGL 75 on 5/24 (DvB). Good habitat at SGL 252 produced **Common Gallinules** 4/29-5/17 (DvB) including at least 3 on 5/3 (BB, DbB, DvB). A concerted effort by birders resulted in a longer list of shorebirds this year than typical. **Semipalmated Plover** was at MS 5/6, 2 were there 5/26 (EH, DvB), and 2 were on SGL 75 on 5/24 (DvB) and 5/26 (EH). MS was the shorebird hot-spot. In addition lots of **Killdeer** were a **Solitary Sandpiper** 5/3 (EH) and 6 on 5/7 (BB), 4 **Least Sandpipers** 5/6 (DvB) and again 5/16, 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/26 (BB), and 3 **Wilson's Snipe** 3/17 (DvB). Four **Greater Yellowlegs** were at Little Pine State Park 4/29 (NoF), **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at Canfield Island 4/24 (BB, EH), and **American Woodcock** was at various locations. The highlight and county record was the handsome female **Red-necked Phalarope** at MS 5/11 (ph. EH), just two years to the day after a Red Phalarope had been seen in the county.

An influx of gulls in mid-Mar brought focus to the SRW. Thousands of **Ring-billed Gulls** were at the county landfill 3/11 and the SR at Montgomery, some of which could be viewed from the SRW in the evenings. They were joined by **Herring Gulls**. Several county firsts resulted from this invasion, including first-time records of **Iceland Gull** 3/29-31 (ph. DvB), **Glaucous Gull** 3/24 (DvB, photo), and a first-cycle **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 3/30-4/2 (AK, DvB, m.ob.). The lack of previous reports of these species is probably the result of neglect, but clearly improved access from development of the walkway along the river paid off. A third-cycle **Great Black-backed Gull** was again found 3/22 (ph. DvB, et al.). A **Little Gull** made an appearance at RVL 4/17 (DvB). The high count of 70 **Bonaparte's Gull** came from RVL 4/18 (BB, DvB). A **Forster's Tern** was along the SRW 4/11 (JY), a **Common Tern** was seen and photographed at RVL 4/20 (DvB, m.ob.), and a **Caspian Tern** at RVL 4/12 (SP). A single **Black Tern** at RVL 5/16 (DvB) rounded out the extraordinary list of gulls and terns found in the county this season.

A fly-by **Short-eared Owl** was joined by **Rusty Blackbird**, **American Pipit** and **Tree Swallows** at MS 3/18 (DvB). Two **Short-eared Owls** and a **Northern Harrier** were along the open grassy slopes of MHR 3/30, and one **Short-eared** was there again 4/12 (DF). **Barn Owls** continued at a regular nesting location in White Deer Valley (AK). At least 3 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard in Cogan House Twp. (MK). **Common Nighthawks** were spotted in migration 5/16-27 (m.ob.). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was along SRW 5/10 (EH), in SGL 252 on 5/17, and in the WWC 5/13 (DvB, et al.). **Peregrine Falcons** continued through the season at several nest sites, but an apparent nesting attempt apparently failed at the Market Street Bridge where the territorial male was not seen after mid-May (JY). The pair on the bridge at the MBL failed to hatch 3 eggs (MG), and a pair including a sub-adult male remained at the Montgomery cliff territory, but no nesting was documented there. **Merlins** were seen sporadically in April and on 5/13 from the SRW in s. WPT (JY), but no evidence of nesting was noted.

A lone report of **White-eyed Vireo** was made 5/4 in SGL 252 (AK) and the only **Philadelphia Vireo** was heard at RP 5/9 (ML). A hard-to-find **Bank Swallow** was perched on a wire at RVL 5/6 (BB). The only spring report of **Purple Martin** was of 3 at the Snyder Farm 4/30 (EH), but the colony at LCC was abandoned this year. **American Pipits** were seen at MS from 3/18 (EH) until 4/1, with a high count of 40 feeding along the slopes of the dike at SRW 3/31 (DvB).

A warbler fallout was observed along the SRW 5/6 with the following highlights: at least 12 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, multiple **Yellow Warblers**, a **Cape May Warbler**, and a **Wilson's Warbler** along with many of the other expected species (JY, et al.). **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at CI 5/8 (m.ob) and RP 5/17 (JY). A migrant **Cerulean Warbler** was at CI 5/6 (DvB) and at the traditional Field Station summer location 5/23 (LF). A **Kentucky Warbler** in OLT 5/18 (DF) helped round out the warbler list.

A flock of 5 **White-crowned Sparrows** were feeding along the path with about 24 **Chipping Sparrows** along the SRW during the 5/6 fallout (JY). A highlight of the PAMC was a **Clay-colored Sparrow** on the south SRW 5/9 (JY, ML JK, MD). **Pine Siskins** dwindled rapidly in May. A count of 38 was made 5/1 along Brushy Ridge but there were just 8 there 5/9 (EH) and only a few later in the month. No confirmed breeding was reported.

Observers: **Dan Brauning, 1920 Inverness Rd, Montoursville, PA 17754, (570) 567-4511, dan@thebraunings.com** (DBr), David Brown (DvB), Bobby Brown, Deb Brown (DbB), Maddi Dunlap, Wes Egli, Dave Ferry, Lewis Frederick, Norwood Frederick (NoF), Mario Giazzon, Eric Hartshaw,

Andy Keister, Mike Kuriga, Jean Klotz, Meredith Lombard, Steve Pinkerton, Joe Yoder.

---

### McKean County

No compiler.

---

### Mercer County

Locations: East Zahnizer Rd. (EZR), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Pennsy Swamp (PS), Sandy Lake (SL), Shenango R. Res (SRR), Shenango Wildlife Area (SWA), Williamson Rd. (WR).

The ponds at the SWA were among the first areas to become ice-free in March, and waterfowl staged there in impressive numbers. Six **Snow Geese** (3 blue) were in the corn fields surrounding the SWA ponds 3/13-4/1 (SS, NT). A **Ross's Goose** was also present there 3/14-28 (MV, m.ob). The same bird was possibly seen at LW 3/19 (NT) since it was observed flying in that general direction when flushed with the flock of **Canada Geese**. **Cackling Geese** have become expected in the county, possibly since more birders are looking for them. Three were at the SWA 3/14-28 (NT). An unbanded **Trumpeter Swan** was at Tieline Road 4/21 where one was seen last year, and another, or possibly the same, was seen with a flock of **Canada Geese** at WR 5/30 (NT). **Tundra Swans** moved through 3/13-30 with the highest numbers coming from the SWA where over 2000 were counted 3/26 (NT). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** was at the SWA 3/21-4/1, the second year one was found there (RN, m.ob). Two **Surf Scoters** were at LW 4/9 and 4/27-28 with a high of 3 on 4/28 (NT, SS, ST), and 9 **White-winged Scoters** were there 4/27 (NT). **Long-tailed Ducks** were at LW 4/7-12 with a high of 150 on 4/7 (JS). A somewhat late **Long-tailed Duck** was at LW 4/28 (ST, SS, NT). A female **Hooded Merganser** at PS 5/28 may possibly have been breeding somewhere in the area (NT).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was at LW 4/2 (SS), and one was heard at SGL130 on 5/13 (SS, NT, ST). A **Red-throated Loon** was at SL 4/27 (NT), and **Common Loons** were present at LW 3/27-5/13 with a high count of over 150 at SRR 4/1 (NT). A high of over 100 **Horned Grebes** were seen at LW 4/27, but the next day only one remained (NT). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at SRR 4/9 (NT) and an **Eared Grebe** in full breeding plumage was reported from LW 4/11 (JB). No other details were supplied. A **Great Egret** was at LW 4/28 (NT, SS, ST) and 3 were there 5/9 (JB). An **American Bittern** was flushed from along the edge of the swamp at the Triple Link area of SGL 130 on 4/28 (SS, NT, ST).

**Broad-winged Hawk** was soaring over WR 4/19 and at least 10 were observed between 15:00 and 16:00 over WR 4/20 (NT). Two agitated birds were at LW 5/1 (NT, SS, ST). Single **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen 3/6-16 at WR (NT), and a **Golden Eagle** was seen in flight over WR 3/20 (NT). **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were heard at PS 5/28 (NT, ST) and a **Virginia Rail** was heard at the Triple Link area swamp at SGL 130 on 5/6 (NT). **Sandhill Cranes** were heard at Rattlesnake Swamp from mid-Mar through Apr (JT).

Shorebirds were down from prior years. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at the SWA 5/14-15 (SS). Both **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at EZR 4/26 (NT, ST) and a **Solitary Sandpiper** was there 5/1 (NT, ST). The last report of a **Solitary Sandpiper** was 5/28 at the SWA (SS). Five **Least Sandpipers** were at EZR 5/14 (NT), and a **Dunlin** was there 4/20 (NT). Two **Dunlin** were also reported from the SWA 5/14 and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was there 5/15 (SS). Up to 15 **Wilson's Snipe** were reported from EZR from 3/19-4/15 (ST, NT).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were at SRR 3/26 (SS) and continued at LW until 4/28 (NT). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** have become close to annual in the county. One was at LW 4/5 (SS), and a high of 3 was noted there 4/21 (NT). The last sighting was 2 at LW 4/28 (NT). Single **Caspian Terns** were found at SRR 4/26 (SS) and at LW 5/13 (NT). A single **Forster's Tern** was reported from LW 4/9 (SS) and 6 were counted at SL 4/27 (NT). The last report was 2 at LW 5/13 (SS, NT, ST).

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard at Airport Road through Apr and May (JT). The first report of **Common Nighthawk** was 5/10 at WR; singles were reported until 5/17 (NT). Not often heard in the county was an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** at WR 5/4 (NT). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found at Buhl Park 3/18 (SS) and at EZR 3/22 (ST, NT), both areas where they have nested in past years. Several hours of sky-watching produced 4 migrating **Merlin** over WR 3/22 (NT).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was heard at the Golden Run area of SRR 5/19 (NT). A **Least Flycatcher** was heard at WR 5/30 in the area where they had nested last year (NT). All six species of vireo were reported. A **White-eyed Vireo** was at LW 5/1, and up to 5 were heard at various locations of SGL 130 on 5/13 (NT, ST). Single **Philadelphia Vireos** were at EZR 5/15-17 (NT, ST). A **Common Raven** was seen and heard at the Reid's Furnace

area of SGL 130 on 5/9 (NT). The only report of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was 2 at Mahaney 4/24 (SS). Several **Winter Wrens** were heard 4/21 (SS) and 5/6 (NT) at SGL 130, and a **Marsh Wren** was at PS 5/28 (NT, ST). The five spot-breasted thrushes were all reported. Both **Gray-cheeked** (first found 5/10) and **Swainson's** (first 5/7) were reported in lower numbers than previous years. This was the case with most other passerine migrants this spring as well.

Up to 40 **Lapland Longspurs** were at EZR 3/29-4/3 where they are expected during spring migration (NT, ST). A single **Snow Bunting** was heard at the SWA 3/14 (NT).

Warbler migration was excellent up to 5/6 when 20 species of were recorded county-wide, but after this date the word best describing the migration was "disappointing". Only 30 species of warblers were reported in total. **Prothonotary Warblers** were first seen 5/5, and at least 2 pair were at the Golden Run area of SRR 5/28 (JB, SS, NT). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at Nicklin Lane 5/7 (NT) and single **Mourning Warblers** were heard 5/13 at the Triple Link area of SGL 130 and 5/18 at Poole Road (NT, SS, ST). **Cape May Warblers** were reported from SRR 5/7 (SS) and at WR 5/16 (NT). **Northern Parulas** were at WR 5/6 (NT) and at PS 5/7 (SS). **Cerulean Warblers** were first reported 5/6 at North River Road (SS). Sixteen were counted in the Hamburg/Big Bend area of SRR during the PAMC 5/9 (JB). Two **Pine Warblers** were at Buhl Park 4/17-5/2 (SS) and one was heard at Poole Road 4/28 (NT). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was heard at New Hamburg 5/9 (JB). **Canada Warblers** were along North River Road 5/6 (SS) and at WR 5/11 (NT).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was singing along North Forrester Road 4/7 (NT, HT) and one was heard at Spring Road 5/9 (JB). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was also at Spring Road 5/9 (JB) as was a **Henslow's Sparrow** 5/10 (SS). Two **Fox Sparrows** were at a feeder along WR 3/28 and the last one was at SGL 130 on 4/21 (NT). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at WR 5/11 (NT).

**Bobolinks** appeared somewhat late with the first not reported until 5/3 at EZR (NT, ST). **Rusty Blackbirds** were first reported 3/13 and a high of 18 were counted at a wet spot in a yard along WR 3/16. The last was at SGL 130 on 5/6 (NT). **Purple Finch** appeared at WR 3/27 and remained thought the end of the season. Three **Pine Siskins** were at a feeder 4/22 and could be seen or heard at various locations through 5/12 (NT, SS).

Observers: **Neil Troyer, 876 Williamson Road, Mercer, PA 16137**, Jeff Brinker, Bill Drolsbaugh, Richard Nugent, Steve Sanford, Jerry Stanley, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Mark Vass.

---

### Mifflin County

Locations: Belleville (BE), Big Valley (BV), Bunker Hill Road (BHR), Loop Road (LR), Lewistown (LE), Milroy (MI), Victory Park (VP).

The high count of **Wood Duck** was 12 at VP 5/9 (RD). Other notable waterfowl at VP included highs of 32 **Canvasbacks** 3/15 (RD) and 15 **Redheads** 3/13 (RD). One **Long-tailed Duck** was also at VP 3/15 (RD). An excellent sighting of a **Great Egret** came from VP 4/3 (RD). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was observed on LR 3/8 (JK). Reports of shorebirds this season included one **Solitary Sandpiper** at BV 5/5 and 5/9 (JZ), and 6 **Wilson's Snipe** on BHR 5/31 (JK) and 2 near Belleville 5/3 (JZ). A **Common Nighthawk** was in Lewistown 5/25 (RH). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed in multiple locations including Spruce Lane 3/22 (JK), Coffee Run Road 3/31 (JK), Kanagy Road 4/10 (JZ), and Old 3 Cent Ln 5/9 and 5/29 (RD).

A **Winter Wren** was at VP 3/8 (RD). A good find for Mifflin was a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** outside MI 5/2 (RD). **American Pipits** were observed in multiple locations, including a high count of 18 in BV was during the PAMC 5/9 (DW). An uncommon **Morning Warbler** reported in Ferguson Valley 5/17 (JZ). A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was in BV 5/9 (JZ) and one **Bobolink** was there 5/3 (JZ). Seven **Rusty Blackbirds** were in MI 3/13 (RH) and 7 more were at VP 3/21 (RD).

Observers: **Jon Kauffman, 3400 Discovery Road, Petersburg, PA 16669, jvk5019@gmail.com**, Rob Dickerson, Robert Hosler, Doug Wentzel, Jay Zook.

---

### Monroe County

Locations: Cherry Valley (CV), Delaware State Forest (DSF), Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center (KCEEC), Lynchwood Lake (LL), Mountain Spring Lake (MSL), Stillwater Lake (SL).

Winter-like conditions prevailed through a cold and snowy March with

most lakes and ponds still nearly 100% frozen. Below average rainfall marked the rest of the period which ended with a very dry May. Notable waterfowl and a county first highlighted the season. Please note the Monroe County Environmental Education Center has officially changed its name to the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center.

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Weir Lake 3/25 (JH) and photographed 3/26 (RR) were an excellent find for the county. Approximately 1000 **Snow Geese** were on Witmers Lake in CV 3/23 (RW), and patiently teased out of this flock was the county's first **Ross's Goose** (RW, ph. MS). Six **Tundra Swans** stopped in CV 3/18 (BJ) and two more were at Saylor's Lake 4/17 (BJ). Reports of **Blue-winged Teal** included a single at CV 4/6 (SK), 2 at a Swiftwater pond 4/30 (BJ), and 3 at LL 4/17 (BJ). The high count for **Green-winged Teal** was 35 at LL 4/10 (BJ) and the only **Redhead** was a drake at MSL 4/14 (BJ). Representing high counts for both species were 24 **Greater Scaup** at SL and 6 **Lesser Scaup** at MSL 4/14 (BJ). A **White-winged Scoter** was at SL 4/21, a **Long-tailed Duck** was on Lake Naomi 4/14, and a high count of 48 **Buffleheads** was tallied on SL 4/14 (all BJ). Of note due to their absence were **Hooded Mergansers**, uncommon breeders in the state, which did not nest at KCEEC after using the same nest box for the prior seven seasons (BH). Four **Common Loons** and 10 **Horned Grebes** were at SL 4/14 (BJ), both high counts for those species.

The following shorebird sightings represented the high counts: 14 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at LL 5/24, 12 **Greater Yellowlegs** at LL 5/4, 10 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Long Pond 5/13, and 44 **Least Sandpipers** at LL 5/19 (all BJ). Deep snow cover apparently drove an **American Woodcock** to seek refuge on the sheltered front porch of a Stroudsburg home 3/8, much to the surprise of the owner (JS). This was the earliest report for this species. The 9 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Saylor's Lake 4/10 was an outstanding find and represented a high count.

A **Winter Wren** in full song entertained the listener at DSF's Meesing site 4/6 (BH). The 6 **American Pipits** reported from the Mt. Pocono area 5/10 were a bit on the late side (BJ). Several **Pine Siskins** lingered into early April at the KCEEC feeders (BH).

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Rd., Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net**, Jason Horn, Bruce Johnson, Steve Kloiber, Rich Rehrig, Mike Schall, Janine Sparacio, Rick Wiltraut.

### Montgomery County

Locations: Ashbourne Country Club (ACC), Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Evansburg S.P. (ESP), Fort Washington S.P. (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Norristown Dam (ND), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP).

"Disappointing" was one of the nicer adjectives used to describe the spring migration of 2015 in southeastern Pennsylvania. Though things looked promising early on, neotropical migrant activity fizzled out just as peak season should have been happening. As a result, the number of individuals spotted of most passage migrant species was below average. The overall species count of 216 for *Montgomery* was actually higher than the previous few years, however.

March was a brutal near-repeat of Feb, at roughly 4°F below normal in the Philadelphia region, and featured multiple large snowstorms. April's warmer temperatures were a welcome improvement. The month included a few rainstorms that dropped a few decent birds on GLP. The most noteworthy item about May's weather, locally, was the lack of precipitation, which led to some shorebird spots (like NFP's wetland mitigation areas) drying out earlier than usual.

The 24th PAMC was held 5/9, a particularly poor day for migration in southeastern Pennsylvania. Because of this, though participation levels were largely the same between 2014 and 2015, species and bird counts were below those tallied during last year's PAMC. A total of 10,608 birds of 124 species were counted, compared to 12,021 of 138 species in 2014.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at GLP 3/22-23 (KR, KO). **Snow Goose** numbers at GLP were the highest they've been in recent memory, starting at an estimated 1000 on 3/12 (AU) and quickly building from there (m.ob). The flock size topped out at an estimated 20,000 on 3/19 and 3/22 (both GF); 3/27 was the last day with big Snow Goose numbers at GLP. The flock of roughly 13,000 (GF) vacated the premises, leaving just 250 on 3/28 (ML). By the following day, only single digit counts remained (m.ob). As usual, injured or confused Snow Geese hung around into May: one was photographed at Norristown Riverfront Park 5/9 (BH), 4 remained at GLP through at least 5/16 (SK, m.ob.), and one was spotted at a Hatfield

pond 5/25 (KR). A single **Ross's Goose** was picked out of GLP's mega-flock several times 3/18-27 (AM, m.ob). The Ross was often seen palling around with a **Snow x Ross's Goose hybrid** (AM, m.ob). Two **Ross's Geese** were observed at GLP 3/24 (AM). During the same timeframe, 3/15-29, single **Cackling Geese** were also divined from the horde (PD, m.ob). The **Canada Goose** flock at GLP during Mar was also sizable, hosting an estimated 12,000 birds 3/22 (GF). With 3/22 also being a peak day for Snow Geese, there were roughly 32,000 geese concentrated in a fairly small portion of the reservoir. Many non-birder locals stopped by to join in on the goose-gawking. A good number of GLP Snow Goose neck collar numbers were reported to the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory during Mar. The bulk of the birds had been tagged in the same area: the south plain of Bylot Island, Nunavut, Canada, 2250 miles north of GLP. A few others had been captured in northern Quebec.

**Tundra Swans** put in a strong but very brief showing at GLP: 75 were noted 3/17 (CB) and 84 on 3/18 (GF). No other day at GLP saw the presence of any more than 4 (m.ob), with the exception of 3/27, when a flock of 23 flew over (GF). Three were seen in a cornfield at NFP 3/14 (PD), the first time the species has been reported on the ground at this park.

Somewhat curiously, given that it seems like other locations would have an advantage, the period's **Wood Duck** high count was tallied at NFP, with 43 noted there 3/13 (WBH). **Gadwall** numbers peaked at 45 at GLP 4/11 (PB). Two mildly late Gadwalls were still being seen at GLP 5/2-3 (PD, GF). A pair of late **American Wigeon** was spotted at GLP 5/6 (PB). Fifty wigeons were counted at GLP 3/26 (KP). Single **American Black Duck x Mallard hybrids** were observed at four locations (m.ob). A drake **Blue-winged Teal** was a pleasant surprise at ND 4/1 (WBH, MR). There were also scattered reports of 2 **Blue-winged Teal** at GLP 4/5-9 (SK, m.ob). A **Northern Shoveler** procrastinated at GLP 5/2-6 (PD, m.ob). **Northern Pintail** numbers reached as high as 162 at GLP 3/16-17 (KC, GF, m.ob).

Birders wanting to see diving ducks locally benefited from the after-effects of the cold, icy winter. A pair of **Canvasbacks** was at Mont Clare 3/1 (MH). Five **Canvasbacks** were spotted at GLP 3/24 (AM). Eight more appeared at GLP 3/30 (GF). Three **Redheads** were identified at VFNHP 3/1 (KR), and one was at ND 3/7 (JD). There were many **Redhead** reports from GLP 3/12-4/8, maxing out at 13 ducks 3/30-4/2 (m.ob.). Feb's **Greater Scaup** raft at ND bled over into Mar, with 12 noted there 3/1 (KR) and 8 on 3/7 (JD). Five were also at VFNHP 3/1 (KR). The only other report of this species was a single bird at GLP 3/23 (ML, AM). **Lesser Scaup** numbers broke double-digits on just two days: 30 on 4/3 (KC) and 21 on 4/21 (GF), both at GLP, with the latter report including an additional 20 unidentified scaup species, all dumped onto the reservoir by a storm. The 4/21 storm also delivered 2-3 **White-winged Scoters** to GLP (BS, GF). **Long-tailed Ducks** were observed at GLP 4/3-6 (m.ob.), with a peak count of 6 individuals 4/4 (GF). Eighteen **Common Goldeneyes** were on the Schuylkill at Mont Clare 3/6 (MH). A somewhat late group of 6 **Common Goldeneyes** were still at Conshohocken 4/1 (WBH). A pack of 316 **Common Mergansers** at GLP 4/3 (KC) represented the highest count of this species seen at the reservoir, or in *Montgomery*, in many years, possibly even going as far back as 1999. The species was present at GLP, ND and elsewhere through the end of the period (m.ob.). One merg was seen flying out of a tree along Hosensack Creek at Palm 5/31 (GF). There were at least ten sightings of **Red-breasted Merganser** 3/6-4/11 on the Schuylkill and at GLP (m.ob). The biggest group among these contained 9 individuals at GLP 4/10 (ML). **Ruddy Ducks** were rather scarce, with all reports coming from GLP (m.ob.), including the max count of a paltry 11 on 4/3 (GF).

Thirteen **Ring-necked Pheasants**, undoubtedly released by a hunting club, were counted in the fields around Palm 3/8 (SGO). The only non-Palm pheasants were weirdo wanderers: a single bird near FWSP 4/10 and another seen strolling around a Plymouth Meeting neighborhood 5/1 (both DB). **Wild Turkey** was concentrated at PERT and ESP, as usual, with only a few scattered reports from other areas (m.ob).

A single **Red-throated Loon** was located at GLP 4/8 (GF). It was joined by another the following day. The two remained at GLP through 4/11 (m.ob). A raft of 22 **Common Loons** was at GLP 4/10 (ML). GLP also played host to a near-tardy **Common Loon** 5/25-28 (GF, m.ob). The 4/21 storm deposited 19 **Horned Grebes** at GLP (GF). The only **Horned Grebe** away from GLP was at Loch Alsh Reservoir, in Ambler, 4/1 (AA). A **Red-necked Grebe** wowed several birders at Pottstown Riverfront Park 4/4-5 (AU, m.ob.). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was also discovered at GLP 4/20 (GF). Large quantities of **Double-crested Cormorants** were at GLP in Apr, including a count of 238 on 4/16 (GF), a new eBird high count for *Montgomery*.

An **American Bittern** was flushed from creekside vegetation in an East Norriton yard 4/2 (WBH). A **Green Heron** was observed at GLP 4/10 (ML), a few days earlier than expected. A single, adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was a surprising find at ND 5/16 (MT, SK, ML) by observers who were competing in the first annual Philadelphia Bird Race.

Three **Northern Harriers** flew over Bala Cynwyd's Laurel Hill Cemetery 4/18 (GG, et al.) Late Harriers were spotted at NFP 5/6 (WBH) and VFNHP 5/10 (MEH, et al.) A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen being harassed by a crow at GLP 5/21 (PD), a rare raptor at this location during the breeding season. **Broad-winged Hawks** arrived with an unexpected bang on the fairly early date of 4/11, when 83 were counted at FWSP (AA). This number is probably a new spring high count for *Montgomery*. The species was observed hanging around GLP through the end of the period (KC). The leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** at Hatfield was relocated 5/25 (KR). The **Rough-legged Hawk** irruption continued into early Mar, with birds found at four locations 3/1-8 (m.ob.), including 3 Rough-legs working both the Graterford grasslands 3/1 (AC, PG) and the farm fields around Palm 3/3 (GF). The last Rough-leg was spotted north of Harleysville 3/18, ten days after the rest (AM).

A **Virginia Rail** was detected by way of nocturnal flight call over Elkins Park 5/4 (PD). A late **American Coot** was at Skymount Lake, in the UCV, 5/9 (SGo). Single **Sandhill Cranes**, or perhaps the same crane, flew over Flourton 5/19 (KB) and Souderton 5/23 (ZM).

**Semipalmated Plovers** were present at GLP on many days in the second half of May, including 5 on 5/16-17 (m.ob.). A single Semi-plover was reported at DMP 5/29 as well (PD). A drive through Palm farm country 3/27 revealed a flock of 123 **Killdeer** (PB). Fifteen **Spotted Sandpipers** were counted at VFNHP 5/12 (VS). This number was most likely a new high count for the Schuylkill River region of *Montgomery*. An **Upland Sandpiper** was seen and audio-recorded in the Graterford grasslands 4/22 (PD). Single **Dunlin** were present at GLP 4/11 (PB) and DMP 4/18-19 (KB, m.ob). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were observed in flight at Graterford 5/9 (SK). Due to the snow blanketing the county in the early part of Mar, **American Woodcock** arrived a bit late, or, at least, were detected later than usual. The first was flushed from the relatively snow-free base of a cedar at GLP 3/9 (KC). A high of 9 was reported from PERT at dawn 3/19 (PD). A cooperative **Red-necked Phalarope** put on a one-day show for quite a few happy birders at DMP 5/28 (BM, m.ob), the first for *Montgomery* since 2010.

Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at GLP 3/26 (KC, KP). They were also noted at GLP on eight days in Apr, with counts of 18 on 4/14 (GF) and 12 on 4/9 (AM). An estimated 2000 **Ring-billed Gulls** were present at GLP 3/16 (PH). The high count of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** for the period was 40, at GLP 3/21 (PB). Away from GLP, single Lesser Black-backs were noted at Flat Rock Park 3/8 (MW), Souderton 3/14 (ZM), and Loch Alsh Reservoir 3/27 (AA). Four of them were reported at ND 3/1 (KR). A high count of 7 **Great Black-backed Gulls** was observed on the Schuylkill at Bala Cynwyd 3/8 (RB). An immature Great Black-back was photographed from both sides of the river at Norristown 5/9 (WBH, BHi), a very unusual sighting for May. In eBird, at least, it represented a first May record for the county. A rather late **Caspian Tern** made an appearance at GLP 5/24 (GF). Also on the late side, a single **Black Tern** was spotted at GLP 5/31 (KR). Three **Common Terns** were photographed at GLP 4/10 (ML).

It seemed to be a great season for **Black-billed Cuckoos**. The species was noted in ten different locations in May, often on multiple occasions (m.ob.). In most recent years, we've been lucky to find more than a couple of them. Pairs were observed at Riverbend Environmental Center 5/8 (KM) and ESP 5/16-17 (SF).

An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was photographed perched on a powerline in Mont Clare 3/1 (MH). There were at least six reports of **Barred Owl** at ESP (m.ob.). A pair was said to be counter-calling in Haverford 5/19 (WS), and another was heard in the UCV 5/17 (SGo). Single **Short-eared Owls** were seen at VFNHP on three occasions in early March (KK, VS, RK). A Short-ear was observed in flight at GLP 3/16 (PH). **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was reported only from PERT, where one or 2 birds were found 3/7 and 3/12 (both PD). Late **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported from Haverford College 4/28 (MW), Saunders Woods Preserve 5/2 (RH) and Haverford 5/3 (WS). A **Pileated Woodpecker**, rare for the location, was at NFP 5/22-28 (WBH, m.ob.).

A very late **Merlin** photographed at ESP 5/24 (SF) almost certainly represented a new county late date. **Peregrine Falcon** was regularly seen along the Schuylkill River, particularly in the vicinity of Norristown and Bala Cynwyd (m.ob.). Migrant Peregrines showed up at GLP 3/22 (GF) and 3/27 (KC). A Peregrine sighting on 5/1 at Jenkintown (AZ) was unusually far from the river, for the date.

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** were observed at the defunct ACC 5/19 (PD), Trewellyn Park 5/23 (MLa), and FWSP 5/23 (DB). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, scarce in spring, was well-described at PERT 5/23 (PD). There were a few reports of **Least Flycatcher**, including 2 at PERT 5/16 (PD).

A week-early **White-eyed Vireo** was at GLP 4/7 (GF). The **Fish Crow** high for the period was 30 at GLP 4/8 (PD). There were at least eight reports of single **Common Ravens**, with three of them occurring in the vicinity of Fort Washington and two at GLP (m.ob). Fifteen **Horned Larks** were said to be feeding on the road near Pawling Farm at VFNHP 3/6 (SW).

A few swallow species showed up mildly early at GLP: a pair of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was present 3/23-24 (AA, AM), and a **Barn Swallow** made an appearance 3/29 (AM, GF). Thirty **Bank Swallows** were at GLP 5/21 (GF). Four **Cliff Swallows** were spotted at GLP 4/28 (GF), and a single bird was reported there 5/13 (MA, PA).

A **Black-capped Chickadee** remained in West Norriton through 3/12 (AU). The overwintering **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at PERT was noted through 3/23 (m.ob.). The Red-breasted Nuthatch that spent its winter in Blue Bell vanished after 3/12 (KO). The only other report of this species was one heard at Temple University Arboretum 3/31 (AA). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Haverford College 4/1 was one of the earliest reports of its kind, regionally, for the season (MW).

Three **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were at McKaig Nature Center 5/16 (SGr). The same location proved to be good for them a week later, on 5/23, when 3 were again noted (WBH). Four **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were noted the same day, 5/23, at FWSP (DB), as were others sprinkled around the area. An intriguing *Catharus* thrush at Whites Road Park in Lansdale was thought to be a possible contender for **Bicknell's Thrush**, when compared against a Gray-cheeked, but the bird never vocalized, and an attempt to find it later that day proved unsuccessful (KR). Thirteen **Swainson's Thrushes** were counted at PERT 5/22 (PD). Late **Hermit Thrushes** were at Merion Tribute House 5/7 (JW) and PERT 5/9 (PD).

A few early **Gray Catbirds** appeared in Apr. One at NFP 4/3 was so early it was more likely to be a bird that had overwintered somewhere in the vicinity (WBH). Another was observed during a bird walk at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove 4/11 (TS, AG, et al.).

Although 33 species of warblers (including the dubiously-placed Chat) were noted during the period, members of this family were among the most determined to route around *Montgomery* on their way to their northern breeding grounds. Few were seen of some of these passage migrants compared to recent years. Possibly the most unusual warbler find of the period was an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, video-recorded at ESP 5/7 (WBH). Six different **Mourning Warblers** were spotted 5/13-23 at a diverse set of locations (m.ob). A **Kentucky Warbler** was singing at ESP 5/9 (SK). One was at FWSP 5/12 (MM), and another was in the UCV 5/18 (KC). A Kentucky became a remarkable East Norriton yardbird 5/18 (WBH). A fifth Kentucky was located at ESP 5/24 (WBH), presumed different from the 5/9 bird due to the locations being more than two miles apart. Five Kentucky Warblers in a season is pretty good for modern-day *Montgomery*. The season's only **Hooded Warbler** was observed at Henry Lane Park in Gladwyne 4/29 (RH). A **Cerulean Warbler** was seen at eye-level at FWSP 5/3 (KB). Very high counts of **Pine Warbler** were noted at PERT, with 15 on 4/5 and 16 on 4/12 (both PD). A Pine was observed on territory at ESP 5/24 (WBH) and 5/29 (AU). The species is a fairly rare breeder in the county. Even more rare as a nesting species, a pair of **Yellow-throated Warblers** returned to GLP for the third year in a row, with one or two birds noted 4/17-5/17 (PH, m.ob.). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was observed at ESP 5/17 (SF). Another was found near Longford Park 5/10, chuckling and whistling its head off over the next week and beyond (MT, m.ob.). A second chat was reported with it 5/17 (SK).

The highest number of **American Tree Sparrows** occurred 3/1 when 70 were tallied at PERT (PD). Single overwintering **Chipping Sparrows** lingered at PERT through 3/9 (HB, FV) and at an Ambler residence through 3/15 (MRa). A **Chipping Sparrow** reported at FWSP 3/11 could have been another lingerer, unnoticed until that point, or an early returnee (AA). Single **Vesper Sparrows** were at DMP 3/28 (AMe), NFP 4/3 (WBH), PERT 4/4 (HB, FV) and PERT again 4/12 (PD). A **Savannah Sparrow** at NFP 5/19 set a new record late date for the park (WBH). It was also the first time the observer had ever seen a Savannah Sparrow hopping around a tennis court. NFP hosted several migrating **Grasshopper Sparrows**, including 2 on 5/9 (WBH). A pair of **Grasshopper Sparrows** were heard counter-singing at Fruitville Rd, near GLP, the same day, 5/9 (SK). The bulk of the reports of this species, as usual, came from the Graterford grasslands, where they breed (m.ob). A high count of 6 was noted 5/9 (SK). The only **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at ACC 5/21 (PD). Multiple **White-throated Sparrows** again remained into mid-May (m.ob.), with a few staying even later than that: a pair was at McKaig Nature Center 5/23 and a single at ESP 5/24 (both WBH). Several **White-crowned Sparrows** also straggled into May, with the tardiest of them turning up at NFP 5/8 (WBH). Four somewhat late **Dark-eyed Juncos** were reported from Prophecy Creek Park 5/9 (JS).

There seemed to be something of a minor surge of **Blue Grosbeaks** late in the season. A pair was at an outlet mall near Limerick 5/16 (WBH). **Blue Grosbeaks** singing from the same spot in NFP 5/22 (WBH) and 5/24 (PD) were actually two different birds, based on audio analysis (PD). The only **Dickcissel** was a flyover recorded in Elkins Park the night of 5/8 (PD).

Fifty **Bobolink** were observed in the field across from DMP 5/5 (KB), the season's high count by a wide margin. **Rusty Blackbird** was seen a surprising number of times during the front half of the season (m.ob.), with

high of 7 birds at both Pottstown Riverfront Park 3/24 (VS) and on the Green Ribbon Trail north of Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 4/10 (KR). Two late **Rusty Blackbirds** were at ESP 4/26 (PD). The geographically-challenged, celebrity **Bullock's Oriole** of Gilbertsville survived another ugly Pennsylvania winter, its fifth here (m.ob.). It was last noted 4/12 (MA).

**Purple Finches** were scarcely reported in Mar, but saw a big swell in numbers in Apr and early May (m.ob.). **Pine Siskins** were widely reported during this timeframe as well. As was the case in winter, the Guris feeders in Green Lane boasted, far and away, the highest siskin concentration known in the county (PG, AGu). At least 200 birds were said to be visiting in early Mar, and over 100 were still frequenting the feeders at the end of the month. Away from this location, the next highest count of 22 was made on the somewhat late date of 5/4 in West Norriton (AU, KG). Many siskins loitered at area feeders through the latter half of May, with single birds reported from Wayne 5/19 (EP), West Norriton 5/19 (AU), ACC 5/19 (PD), and Red Hill 5/23 (AC).

Observers: **W. Brian Henderson, 2408 Swede Rd., Norristown, PA 19401, (610) 505-5571, wbhenderson@gmail.com**, Mary Ache, Paulette Ache, Andrew Albright, Dave Belford, Kevin Berkoff, Paul Bernhardt, Rob Bierregaard, Courteney Brown, Harris Brown, Kevin Crilley, Andrew Curtis, Jeff Dale, Paul Driver, George Franchois, Scott Fraser, Scott Godshall (SGo), Gregg Gorton, Alexander Grimwade, Kim Gruener, Steve Grunwald (SGr), Anita Guris (AGu), Paul Guris, Michael Hartshome, Mary Ellen Heisey, Richard Hepner, Paul Heveran, Barbara Hiebsch (BHi), Stephen Kacir, Rick Keyser, Kitty Kono, Michael Lawlor (MLa), Michael Lyman, Adrian Melck (AMe), August Mirabell, Zack Moyer, Bill Murphy, Kelly Myers, Mark Myers, Ken Orner, Edie Parnum, Kelly Parsons, Kenneth Rieker, Madelyne Raye (MRa), Mike Rosengarten, Win Shafer, Jennifer Sherwood, Tina Smith, Vincent Smith, Brandon Swayser, Michael Tanis, Anthony Uhrich, Frances Ventura, Jason Waanders, Marshall Walthew, Sue Wimble, Alexander Zorach.

### Northampton County

Locations: East Bangor Dam (EBD), Green Pond (GP), Greomar Rd. Ponds (GRP), Jacobsburg State Park (JSP), Martins Creek Environmental Preserve (MCEP), Minsi Lake (ML), Monacacy Nature Center Park (MNC), Nazareth Quarry (NQ).

The beginning of the spring season was superb for waterfowl. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was on a small retention pond in Hanover 4/15 (EV). A flooded area on Arrowhead Rd. in E Allen Twp. had a blue morph **Ross's Goose** 3/22 (DW). **Cackling Goose** was reported from Bear Swamp 3/13 and MCEP 3/13-16 (MSa). **Tundra Swans** were found at multiple locations beginning 3/22 at Arrowhead Rd. (DW) and ending 4/14 at GRP (MSa) with a high of 10 on Arrowhead Rd. 3/24-25 (m.ob.). Several **Blue-winged Teal** showed up at multiple areas in Apr. with a high of 6 at GP 4/10 (EE). **Northern Shoveler** was seen from 3/16-4/21 with a high of 8 at MCEP 4/10 (MSa). **Canvasback** was at a few scattered locations but was regular at MCEP until 3/29 with a high of 8 at MCEP 3/21 (MSa). **Redhead** was also easy to find, especially on the Delaware R. with a high of 31 at MCEP 3/21 (MSa). An impressive 251 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at MCEP 3/21 (MSa). **Greater Scaup** was seen in smaller numbers, but was regular until 4/14 with a high of 19 at NQ 4/14 (BE). There were only a few reports of **Lesser Scaup** including a late bird at GP 5/18 (BE). There were 2 **White-winged Scoters** at NQ 4/4 (MS) and 10 **Black Scoters** were at ML 4/17 (SA). A group of 5 **Long-tailed Ducks** at GRP 4/8-11 (BE, m.ob.) allowed for some close-up looks at this sea duck for many onlookers. At ML, one or 2 **Long-tailed Ducks** were present 4/8-14 (MSa). The female **Barrow's Goldeneye** discovered 1/20 was last seen 3/9 at the Portland pedestrian bridge (TF). There were 6 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at ML 4/10 (MSa). A **Red-throated Loon** was at NQ 4/9-14 (MS, MSa) and at ML 4/17 (SA). There were **Horned Grebes** at NQ 4/4-30 with a high of 16 on 4/6 (MS). **Red-necked Grebe** was reported at ML 4/17 (SA) and 4/28 (MS).

Northampton's second **Least Bittern** was heard at GRP 5/17 (MSa). The only other record was a bird at EBD in 2008. **Great Egret** was reported at ML 4/4-5/11 (m.ob.). A **Glossy Ibis** made a brief stop at GP 5/4 (DD) but did not stay long enough for other birders to get a look.

Another rare bird was a subadult **Mississippi Kite** observed hunting briefly over the fields at the Koch property 3/31 (AK) before flying ne. into New Jersey (AK). First **Osprey** was at the Portland pedestrian bridge 3/18 (SA). A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was at MCEP 3/15-29 (MS, RR, RW, and MSa). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were at MCEP 3/17 (MSa), and another light morph was at Grand Central Landfill 3/13 (MSa). In Nazareth, an adult **Golden Eagle** was flying north 3/28 (MS, CCS).

Two **Virginia Rails** were at EBD 5/24 (MS, CCS) and a single **Virginia**

**Rail** was at GRP 5/27 (BE). A **Sora** was at ML 5/4 (MSa) and a **Common Gallinule** was photographed at GRP 5/17 (MSa). A flyby **Sandhill Crane** was over Lower Nazareth Twp. 4/1 (TE).

It was a poor spring for shorebirds. Rainfall was non-existent in May and habitat suffered as a result. A **Dunlin** briefly dropped in at ML 4/10 (MSa). **Pectoral Sandpiper** was observed at the Rte. 191 farm fields 3/27 (BE) and on Hecktown Rd. 4/4 (L&KW). Twenty **Wilson's Snipe** flushed from the wetlands at Gracedale 3/29 (MS, CCS). Five **American Woodcock** were displaying at JSP 3/26 (RW).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen at several locations in Apr. with a high count of 12 at ML 4/9 (MS). **Iceland Gull** is an annual visitor in winter and spring, and quite a few were noted at expected locations. A new location was Braden Airpark where 2 **Iceland Gulls** were seen 3/27 (MSa). Both **Great Black-backed Gull** and **Lesser Black-backed Gull** were reported from expected locations. The high count for **Great Black-backed Gull** was 9 at Rte. 191 farm fields 3/22 (MSa) and 23 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at GP 3/15 (MSa). The only tern observed was a **Common Tern** at ML 4/10 (MSa).

Two **Barred Owls** were at Mt Bethel Fens 3/29 and a **Long-eared Owl** was at the Martins Creek nature trails also on 3/29 (MS, CCS). There were several reports of **Common Nighthawk** with sightings from Bangor (ZM) and Martins Creek nature trails 5/6 (MSa), EBD 5/24 (MS, CCS), and Newburg 5/26 (TK).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was hunting from a perch at the Mt Bethel Fens 5/14 (MS, CCS). There were 2 **Alder Flycatchers** at JSP 5/17 (MSa) and another **Alder Flycatcher** was on National Park Rd. of the Delaware Water Gap NRA 5/24 (MSa, IG). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at JSP 5/21 (RW). Uncommon in spring, a **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen at MNC 5/13 (TW). At least 2 **Purple Martins** returned to a martin house on Totts Gap Rd. 5/14 (MS, CCS). Reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were minimal with a sighting at Smith Gap 4/15 (MS) and at JSP 4/19 (JM). A **Winter Wren** took up residence at MNC 3/25-4/7 (LF, DG). Another **Winter Wren** was found at ML 4/17 (SA).

There were one or 2 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** at Bear Swamp 5/18-23 (MSa). On 5/19, 2 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** and 2 **Swainson's Thrushes** were along Skunk Rd. at Smith Gap (MS). **Swainson's Thrush** was also seen at various other locations 5/14-23 including MNC (LF) and Bear Swamp (MSa). **Brown Thrasher** was first reported at MNC 3/25 (LF) and MCEP (MSa). A few **American Pipits** were feeding at the nearby dried up field at GP 5/5-11 (MS, MSa). A late **Lapland Longspur** was on Arrowhead Rd. 3/21 (DW).

There were 32 species of warbler recorded but numbers were not spectacular and there were no notable fallout days. Some early arrivals included **Pine Warbler** on National Park Rd. 3/29 (MS, CCS), **Yellow-throated Warbler** at the Bethlehem Boat Club 4/12 (JM), **Worm-eating Warbler** at MNC 4/30 (LF, MS), **Louisiana Waterthrush** on Bushkill Twp. Trail 4/5 (MS, CCS), **Northern Waterthrush** at Bear Swamp 4/15 (MSa), **Northern Parula** at MNC 4/11 (LF), and **Palm Warbler** at Housenick Memorial Park 4/6 (DG). Uncommon warblers on National Park Rd. included a **Golden-winged Warbler** 5/4 (MSa) and **Mourning Warbler** on 5/11 and 5/19 (MSa). **Mourning Warbler** was also at MNC 5/17 (LF), Mt Bethel Fens 5/18 (MSa), and JSP 5/19 (RW). A **Kentucky Warbler** was at Kirkridge 5/25 (KR). It was not a good spring for **Cape May Warbler** with just one at Echo Lake 5/6 (MSa) and 2 at Housenick Memorial Park 5/5 (JF). On 5/4, 5 **Cerulean Warblers** were noted at Kirkridge (RW).

The **Harris's Sparrow** at the Koch property since 11/17 was last seen 5/5 (AK), by which time it had transformed to alternate plumage before migrating north. The **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** at the Koch property reported throughout the winter was last observed 3/13 (AK). A late **Dark-eyed Junco** was in Weaversville 5/6 (JF). An early **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** visited the feeders at the Koch property 4/22 (AK). There was a male **Blue Grosbeak** on a wire along Pen Argyl Rd. by the Greggo farm 5/24 (MS, CCS).

The county had a decent number of **Rusty Blackbird** sightings including 6 in Portland 3/3 (SA), one at ML 3/18 (SA), 4 at Bear Swamp 4/3 (MSa), 8 at EBD 4/6 (MSa), 7 at EBD 4/12 (MS, CCS), and one or 2 at MNC 4/21-5/13 (LF, DG, AB, TW). Two **Common Redpolls** were at a feeder in Bethlehem Twp. 3/5 (AS) and another was at a feeder in Plainfield Twp. (KS). There were scattered reports of **Pine Siskin** around the county; high count was 25 at a feeder in the Bangor area 4/2 (MSa). A late **Pine Siskin** visited a feeder on Cigar Rd., Northampton 5/31 (BE).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, PA 18014, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Scott Angus, Aiden Bodeo-Lomicky, Corinne Campbell Schall, Dave DeReamus, Ed Encelewski, Thaddeus Encelewski, Bill Etter, Todd Fellenbaum, Jim Figlar, Linda Freedman, Ian Gardner, Dennis Glew, Tim Kita, Arlene Koch, Zachary Millen, Jon Mularczyk, Rich Rehrig, Kriss Replogle, Matt Sabatine (MSa), Kathy



Sieminski, Adam Smith, Ed Vermillion, Lisa & Ken Walsh, Todd Watkins, Dustin Welch, Rick Wiltrout.

---

### Northumberland County

No compiler.

---

### Perry County

No report.

Compiler: **Vern Gauthier, 111 W. Big Spring Ave., Newville, PA 17241, (717) 385-9526, pabirder@gmail.com.**

---

### 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), Pennypack Environmental Center (PEC), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Schuylkill River (SR), Southampton Woods Rd. (SHW), Wissahickon Creek (WC).

After the latest, shortest and slowest spring in memory, the season closed with a terrific record when an **Anhinga** circled the TI impoundment 5/30 to the delight of birders on a field trip from the PSO Annual meeting held in *Chester* (AM, GA, ph, m.ob.). Although other reports of Anhinga exist, one being 10/2/2000 over Roxborough (CH), none were documented. The PAMC no longer has a compiler in *Philadelphia* and only two people submitted lists totaling 100 species 5/9. Anyone wishing to organize this fun count should contact me.

Waterfowl were plentiful with several hundred ducks available for viewing on most days. The 80 **Gadwall** at TI 4/11 was the high, with two pair lingering in the ponds under the Platt Bridge until the very late date of 5/16 (GA). **American Wigeons** are usually less numerous, so 20 was a normal spring high count at TI 3/22 (DB). **Blue-winged Teal** were present 4/2-5/10 with a paltry high of 14 on 4/11 (SS). **Northern Shoveler** flocks reached 200 at FDR 3/2 (FW) and 200 at TI 3/23 (TF). Soon to be developed as a public Audubon-Outward Bound Discovery Center, the west basin of the East Park Reservoir held 30 **Canvasback** along with 35 **Ring-necked Duck** and eight other species of waterfowl when an Audubon group was permitted to visit 3/25 (KR). At NBC, 80 **Canvasback** 3/15 (MD) were joined by 3 **Redheads** 3/17 (AR), and a few **Redheads** were at TI 3/10-29 (m.ob.). Sixteen **Greater Scaup** and **Lesser Scaup** were seen until 4/7 mostly on the DR, but also at TI. A very late **Bufflehead** was at TI 5/9 (MK). The usual rafts of 100 or more **Common Mergansers** were not present, but smaller groups were present both on rivers and at TI. Always less numerous, 5 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at GF were a good find 3/5 (BH). Multiple sightings until 4/15 made this a good year for mergansers. An even less common diver is **Red-throated Loon**, seen only at NBC 4/10 (FW, DA, AR). Many single **Horned Grebes** were on the DR with the largest group of 6 at GF 4/5 (DO). BG was the vantage point for a single **Horned Grebe** on the SR 4/14 (DA, JJa), but the most interesting bird was in breeding plumage at TI 4/29-5/4 (FW, CH, ph.). A **Red-necked Grebe** also in breeding plumage lingered at NBC 5/8-14 (DA, JJ, ph.).

Surely present most years in late April, but seldom reported, a **Least Bittern** at TI 4/30 (ph. MR) was the first of the season. Three small flocks of up to 9 **Glossy Ibises** passed TI 5/13-23 (FW, DO, JJ). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was hunting at the NE Airport 3/1 (FW). A new **Osprey** nest was found on a buoy in the DR near Pulaski Park (FW, ph.).

POD was closed for trail construction, which prevented access to the productive fields and DR tidal flats. With relatively high water in the impoundment at TI, only 6 common shorebirds were found in low numbers, including **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Killdeer**, both local breeders. **American Woodcock** gave excellent shows of its mating dance at the Eastwick property next to TI and Houston Meadow (AB); they were also sighted at NBC and BG.

Gulls were well reported. A flock of 25 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was at GF 4/15 (FW) and 3200 **Ring-billed Gulls** roosted in the protection of the lagoon at NBC 3/24 (GA). Hanging on from winter, single **Iceland Gulls** were at TI 3/1 (DO, ph.) and the NBC 3/25 (GA). The last **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at GF 4/1 (GA).

A lingering **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found at Houston Meadow by a field trip of BirdPhilly 5/2-24, a new initiative of the Delaware Valley

Ornithological Club (TC, MH, ph., m.ob.). He did not find a mate. The elusive **Barred Owl** of the Wissahickon was seen and heard near Kitchen's Lane 5/10 (MC). Five **Long-eared Owls** roosted in vines at TI 3/8-11 (VN), after which individuals were seen nearby until 3/19 (KG). Philly's only **Northern Saw-whet Owl** for the year was discovered in the now decimated vines of the "poplar woods" at TI 3/2-11 (KW). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was calling at Awbury Arboretum in the city's northwest 4/15 (BR), much earlier than last year's record on 5/6.

Late May produced several sightings of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at TI, including 4 there 5/23 (FW, TF, ph.). Often reported but rarely documented, an **Alder Flycatcher** sang at TI 5/20-23 (FW, TF, m.ob.). Two **Least Flycatchers** were at PEC 5/15-17 (DA, JJa, TC), and multiple sightings were made at TI 5/17-23 (m.ob.) and at BG 5/17 (DA). The **Common Raven** pair reported to be entering a high tower near the NEWPCP carrying nesting material in late Feb raised hopes that they might nest, but it was not to be this year. **Marsh Wrens** continued to do well at TI, where 24 were counted by the PSO group 5/30.

Many days produced bird lists with only 10 species of warbler; nevertheless a few highlights were had. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was photographed at TI 5/1 (TF, AR, BS) and 2 **Prothonotary Warblers** were at TI during the Philadelphia Bird Race 5/15 (AR, TF). A **Hooded Warbler** at TI 4/22 (FW) was early. **Mourning Warbler** put on quite a show at TI for a week starting 5/13 (FW, AU, ph.). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at TI 4/6-14 (FW, JJo, DO, KG, AU). Another was at Lemon Hill 5/7 (GL) in the area where the species lingered for weeks in the past.

A **Lincoln's Sparrow** stopped briefly at TI 5/13 and another was at BG 5/15-18 (DA, JJa). The last **Dark-eyed Junco** was at a feeder at SCEE 5/3 (KJ). **Rusty Blackbird** had a constant presence at TI with a high count of 50 in two flocks 4/1 (DO). A **Common Redpoll** stopped at a northeast Philly feeder 3/5 (FW) and a **Pine Siskin** and 4 **Purple Finches** were at MA 5/2 (KR).

Contributors: **Doris McGovern, 209 Dogwood Rd., Media, PA 19063, (610) 565-8484, mcgovern100@comcast.net**, David Allen, George Armistead, Debbie Beer, Anne Bekker, Matt Cravens, Tony Croasdale, Martin Dellwo, Todd Fellenbaum, Kim Gruener, Al Guarente, Matt Halley, Brian Hart, Chuck Hetzel, Jaclyn Janis (JJa), Ken Januski, Jonah Joffee (JJo), Margie Keefe, Graham Langley, Annette Mathes, Vincent Nicknadowicz, Damon Orsetti, Bill Reaume, Ann Reeves, Lynn Roman, Mike Rosengarten, Keith Russell, Jerene Schroeder, Matt Sharp, Steve Strawbridge, Belynda Stewart, Anthony Uhrich, Geoff Veith, Karyl Weber, Linda Widdop, Frank Windfelder.

---

### Pike County

Locations: Delaware State Forest (DSF).

The Delaware River was a great location for waterfowl 3/15. The Metamoras public boat launch had 32 **Ring-necked Ducks** and 26 **Common Goldeneye**, and behind the Del Val High School were a **Redhead**, 15 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 6 **Greater Scaup** and 4 **Bufflehead** (MS, CCS). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at Milford Beach 3/2 (MO). A **Common Loon** was reported from Shohola WMA 5/2 (JR).

*Pike* is an excellent county for **Ruffed Grouse**. They were found at Taylor Creek in DSF 4/18 (MS, CCS), Promised Land SP 4/18 (CR), Painter's Swamp in DSF 4/26 (MS, CCS), Pittman's Orchard 5/2 (JM), and High-line Rd. in DSF 5/27 (EP). A **Broad-winged Hawk** pair was observed copulating on Whitaker Ln. in DSF 4/26 (MS, CCS). A **Sandhill Crane** flew over Painter's Swamp 4/26 (CCS). **Solitary Sandpiper** and **Barred Owl** were reported from Pocono Environmental Education Center 5/2 (JM). Three **Solitary Sandpipers** were at Walker Lake Dam 5/7 (DT). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at a wetland area on Snow Hill Rd. in DSF 5/4 (CCS). A **Common Nighthawk** was seen in Milford 5/24 (MD). **American Kestrel** is not very common in *Pike*, so any sightings are notable. One was at Painter's Swamp 4/18 (MS, CCS) and at Paupac 4/20 (PT), and another was hunting in a clear cut at Taylor Creek 5/18 (MS, CCS).

**Alder Flycatcher** was at Promised Land SP (EP) and at SGL 183 on 5/22 (BM). There were 2 reports of **Winter Wren** at the Delaware Water Gap NRA: at Dingman's Ferry 4/26 (TO) and at Hornbeck's Creek 5/2 (JM). There were 26 species of warbler reported. A good outing 5/27 at High-line Rd. in DSF included 4 **Golden-winged Warblers**, 5 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, 6 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 2 **Blackburnian Warblers**, **Magnolia Warbler**, 8 **American Redstarts**, **Hooded Warbler**, 5 **Common Yellowthroats**, 8 **Black-and-white Warblers**, **Northern Waterthrush**, and 8 **Ovenbirds** (EP). A **Tennessee Warbler** was at Pittman's Orchard 5/2 (JM). There was a **Mourning Warbler** at White Birch Swamp off High-line Rd. 5/12 (DJM), and a **Cape May Warbler** was in Milford 5/24 (MD). Two

**Cerulean Warblers** were on High-line Rd. 5/25 (MD) and another Cerulean was on Snow Hill Rd. 5/29 (ZM). There was a high count of 5 **Golden-winged Warblers** on Snow Hill Rd. 5/22 (EP).

**Purple Finch** was reported from Paupac 4/20 (PT), Hemlock Farms 4/14 (AS), Spruce Lake 4/29 (TO), and Eagle Path, Bushkill 3/12 (RG). A **Common Redpoll** and up to 3 **Pine Siskins** were at a feeder in Eagle Path 3/12-16 (RG). At Hemlock Farms, 3-9 **Pine Siskins** were at a feeder 3/4-4/14 (AS). In Dingman's Ferry, 8-12 **Pine Siskins** were at a feeder 3/5-6 (AW).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, PA 18014, (610) 737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Michael Duffy, Ruth Gottschall, James Maloney, Bruce McNaught, DJ McNeil, Zachary Millen, Marianne Ofenloch, Tom Ostrand, Edie Parnum, Jim Ridolfi, Christina Riehl, Corinne Campbell Schall, Alan Sweetman, Diane Tishler, Peter Trueblood, Amie White.

#### **Potter County**

No compiler.

#### **Schuylkill County**

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

Weather through the period was much colder than normal. The county PAMC 5/9 recorded a total of 141 species, 8 fewer than last year. We thank Mike Ward for his able handling of the organization and compilation of the count. Waterfowl diversity was very high for the county, and overall, there was a relative scarcity of long-range migrants.

*Schuylkill* does not have any large bodies of water to attract good numbers of ducks. Local reservoirs, all of the small or medium municipal variety, 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. This year, the excessive cold temperatures kept the larger lakes in the region frozen into early spring, which forced ducks to move around in search of open water, and so this spring *Schuylkill* had 25 species of compared with 17 last year. In mid-March, LVD was the place to be. Although waterfowl made their way to the other county lakes as they thawed, LVD was the first with open water and hosted an impressive array of species beginning mid-Mar.

Up until that point, however, little was seen aside from the resident **Canada Goose**, **Mute Swan**, and **Mallard. Snow Geese**, ranging from a single bird to flocks of over 300, were seen all over the county 3/13-4/25 (m.ob.). A single **Cackling Goose** was at APWS 3/27, the first one in several years in the county (JD). **Tundra Swans**, another unusual bird for the county, were in good numbers this year including about 150 at SSP 3/19 (BR). One seen near Friedensburg was only the third one in that area in 30 years (SW). **Gadwalls** were found only at LVD 3/17-4/10 (DR, DH, JoD, TB). **American Wigeons** were at LVD 3/13-4/1 (DR, BJ, DH, MW, TB); the only other report was of 2 at APWS 4/1 (JoD). The only **Blue-winged Teal** was at SSP 4/9 (BR). Six **Northern Shovelers** arrived at LVD 3/17 (DR) and at least 2 stayed until 3/25 (MW). Singles came through the southwestern part of the county at SSP in late Apr at SSP (BR) and SAL (DD). **Northern Pintail** were on the same schedule, arriving at LVD 3/17 and leaving 3/24 with a high count of 9 on the last day (DR, DH, DK, JoD, TB). The only other location where they were seen was SAL 3/17 and 4/21 (DD). Up to eight **Redheads** arrived at LVD 3/19 and stayed for five days (DR, DH, DK, JoD, TB, BJ). The first **Greater Scaup** in several years was at TSP 4/21 (JoD) and 3 **Lesser Scaup** were at LVD 3/21-25 (DR, DK, BJ, MW). Another **Lesser Scaup** was at SAL 4/21 (DD). Always notable, **Long-tailed Ducks** appeared at LR 4/6 (AW, LW) and 6 were there again 4/14 (TB). **Buffleheads** and **Hooded Mergansers** were plentiful this spring in many locations (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Mergansers**, less than annual in *Schuylkill*, were at LVD 3/17 (DR) and SCR 4/22 (JoD, JD).

**Horned Grebes**, not common in the county, were at TSP, LR, LLSP, and SCR (TB, JoD, JD, DR). Very uncommon for *Schuylkill* was the **Red-necked Grebe** at LR 4/14 (TB). An **American Bittern** spent a day at APWS 4/29 (JD). Single **Great Egrets** were at LVD 4/10 (DR) and 4/17 (TB).

**Bald Eagles** continued at most of the larger reservoirs; a total of 10 were reported on the PAMC (MW). Of special note, one of the three confirmed eagle nests in *Schuylkill* successfully hatched three eaglets this year (DD). Young eaglets were observed near a second confirmed nest (AW) and no observations were made of the third. There was an unconfirmed report of another nest in the county that has yet to be verified.

**Northern Harriers** migrated past HMS in Apr but there were also a number found elsewhere. With the exception of one at SSP 3/23 (BR), the others were all in northern *Schuylkill* in late Apr at TSP, SCR, Hometown, and KRM (JoD, JD). One **Northern Goshawk** was reported at HMS 4/7 (LG). A steady number of **Broad-winged Hawks** made their way through, with birds seen almost every day at HMS from 4/6 to mid-May (LG, HM, CM, SM). The max count was 26 on 4/15 (LG). A single **Golden Eagle** was at HMS 4/1 (LF).

**American Coot**, normally common in spring, was reported just once this season: 2 at LVD 4/6 (DR). Like waterfowl, shorebirds are also very uncommon in *Schuylkill* due to a general lack of mudflats. Single **Solitary Sandpipers** were at LVD 4/25 (DH), 4/27 (DR), and 4/29 (DR), and one was at SSP 5/7 (BR). They were also reported at APWS 4/26-5/9 with a maximum of 5 on 5/5 (JoD, JD). **Greater Yellowlegs** were noted 4/1-27 at LVD (BJ, DR, TB). They were also at LLSP 4/23 (TB) and at APWS 4/27 and 5/5 (JoD, JD). Lesser Yellowlegs, however, were not reported for the first time in four years. **Wilson's Snipe** was only at LVD beginning 4/18 (DR), which was later than normal.

For the second year in a row, three species of gulls and a tern were noted. **Ring-billed Gulls** were seen at various locations throughout the county 3/8-5/19 (BR, DK, DR, HM, FD). With the exception of ones seen at THS, all the others were along the northern base of Blue Mountain in the extreme southern edge of the county. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were more evenly distributed but in very low numbers (TB, JD). Two **Herring Gulls** were at THS 4/8 (FD) and a single was at HMS 4/2 (HM). Two **Caspian Terns** were near THS 4/8 (FD).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** reappeared in an area on the north slope of Blue Mountain where they nested the past few years (KG). In addition, another single was at SSP 5/5 (BR). **American Kestrels** have had a fairly stable population in the county in the past, and many were reported this spring with a fairly good distribution throughout the county (m.ob.). A single **Peregrine Falcon** moved past HMS 4/19 (LG, HM).

The *Empidonax* flycatchers arrived in the county in early to mid-May, and all five species were reported. **Alder, Willow, Acadian, and Least Flycatchers** breed at several locations in the county. Usually they stick to the southeastern portion of the county but this year all but the Willow were seen in the north as well (TB, DK, JoD, JD). Last year, **White-eyed Vireo** expanded their range into northern *Schuylkill* at TSP and SGL 227 for the first time anyone can remember. Typically, the bird has not been seen north of Pottsville, and that was the case again this year. After missing them last spring, **American Pipits** were reported this spring. One was at HMS 4/2 (HM) and in the Pitman/Hegins area 5/11 (DK). A very late **Snow Bunting** was in the Pitman area 3/13 (TB).

There were a total of 30 warbler species reported, the same as last spring. This year was marked by a general scarcity of long-range migrants. The local breeders appeared in good numbers around the expected dates. Last year we experienced a large number of **Tennessee** and **Cape May Warblers**, but this year, **Tennessee Warblers** were found only at three locations: SSP 5/9 (BR), Pottsville area 5/14 and 5/16 (DK), and LLSP 5/9-22 (TB). A single **Cape May Warbler** was in Tamaqua 5/11 (FD). Only two **Nashville Warblers** were reported, one at TRR 5/9 (DK) and one on the *Lehigh* border (CH). Also, the only **Kentucky Warbler** was at LLSP 5/16 (TB). **Prothonotary Warblers** were reported twice this season after being absent in the county last year. One was seen 4/30 at LLSP (TB) and a second at SAL 5/26 (DD). **Cerulean Warbler** is less than annual; three sightings this spring included one on Deerview Drive 5/9 (DR), one near Hegins 5/24 (DK), and one at LR 5/31 (DuH). **Canada Warbler**, normally a breeder in the county, was reported just at two locations: LLSP 5/13 (TB) and 5/17 (DK) and at TSP 5/14 (DR). For the third time in three years, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found on the PAMC, at SSP (BR).

Even though *Schuylkill* has some pockets of agriculture and reclaimed mine lands, some of the grassland sparrows only breed here in small numbers. A single **Savannah Sparrow** was at SSP 5/1 (BR) a likely migrant. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at two locations: at KRM 5/9 (JoD) and 5/15 (JD) and 2 in the Pitman area 5/13 (DR). Likewise, a single **Lincoln's Sparrow** was noted on the *Lehigh* border 5/7 (FD).

Four **Bobolinks** were tallied on the PAMC at APWS and were there again 5/13 and 5/22 (JoD, JD). Three **Common Redpolls** were at a feeder in the McAdoo area 3/11 (JD) and **Pine Siskins**, after spending the winter here in good numbers, stayed around county feeders until at least 5/4 (TB).

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stoney Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**. Tony Arnold, Thomas Buehl Jr., Dan Brennan, John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko (JD), Bruce Deuel, Frank Dickman, Denise Donmoyer, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Daniel Hinnebusch, Deuane Hoffman (DuH), Chris Hugosson, Barb Jucker, Ted Keen, Andy Keister, Rudy Keller, Dave Krueel, Nancy Krueel, Anne-Marie Liebner, Steve Mathews, Holly Merker, Carol Miller, Zack Moyer, Ted

Nichols II, Pete Rattigan, Claire Rieger, Rich Rieger, Barb Ritzheimer, Chad Schwartz, John Stetson, Jane Tamulonis, Mike Ward, Scott Weidensaul, Audrey Wells, Lee Wells, Brian Whiteash.

---

### Snyder County

No report.

Compiler: Jason Weller, fishingdude20@hotmail.com.

---

### Somerset County

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

The winter persisted into late March which affected the waterfowl migration. SL did not thaw completely until 3/24. Nevertheless there was a good variety of waterfowl with the biggest fallouts in the hundreds instead of the thousand(s) sometimes encountered. The big news was the outstanding shorebird migration with **Marbled Godwit**, many **Willetts**, and **Whimbrel** the most significant sightings. Efforts are underway plan long term shorebird habitat at SL after the dam is repaired and the lake is returned to full pool. The remainder of spring was productive for passerines and a total of about 218 birds were recorded for the period.

Three **Snow Geese** were with **Canadas** near Somerset 3/17 (JM). **Cackling Goose** was in BA sitting with a migrant **Sandhill Crane** 3/17 (JP); another Cackler was at SL 3/18 (LG). A wing tagged **Trumpeter Swan** was on the Youghiohgheny River 3/9 (AM); it was banded in 2012/13 in Ontario (AM). **Tundra Swans** were in BA 3/8 through early Apr (JP). All expected duck species were well represented through the third week in Apr when numbers started to thin. A nice sight was the 32 **Canvasbacks** at SL 3/24 (AM). Less common species included a female **Surf Scoter** 4/10, 3 **White-winged Scoters** 4/14, and 7 **Long-tailed Ducks** 4/14 all at SL (JP). **Ruddy Ducks** exceeded 200 on both 4/4 and 4/14 at SL (JP).

The first **Common Loon** was at QR 3/24, but the day to be there was 4/10 when 61 were present (LG). **Red-necked Grebe** day was 4/14 when one was at SL (JP) and 2 were at Laurel Hill Lake (JM, MM). An **American Bittern** was at BC 5/7 (JP) and was seen again for the PAMC 5/9 when another also at the Somerset County Conservancy's Mallard's Rest in Boswell. The last was one flying over Roxbury 5/14. Very exciting was a **Least Bittern** that teed up in the cattails at SL 5/14 (ML). It could not be relocated. **Great Egrets** seen at SL and in BA from 4/4 until May (NB, JP). A **Black Vulture** was at Kooser State Park 4/3 (PW) and another was near Meyersdale 5/17 (CP, CaP, JP). This species is still uncommon here.

**Ospreys** showed up at SL 4/3 (JM, MM) but did not nest in the tower, which is now on dry land with the drawdown. Three adult **Bald Eagles** were at SL 4/13 (BC) and 2 fished there frequently through the period. The new nest at Confluence was apparently not successful, or fledging had already occurred before 5/9. Hidden Acres Farm had a **Northern Goshawk** 4/25 (SD). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were at Kingwood and near Palo Alto 5/9 (JP, CP, AP, KV, AMc, et al.). A late migrant immature **Golden Eagle** was over SL 5/11 (NB). Both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were located at BC 5/9 (AP, CP, JP, KV). Encouraging was a single **Sandhill Crane** in BA from 3/17-18 (JP, LG) just a few miles from the past nesting area.

Eighteen species of shorebird were found at SL this season with birds, sometimes in large numbers, present from Apr through early Jun. Three **Black-bellied Plovers** were there 5/13 (NB, ML) and one 5/15 (CaP, JP). **Semipalmated Plovers** were present from 5/12 until June (m.ob.) with a high of 105 on 5/15 (CaP, JP). The high for the breeding **Spotted Sandpipers** was 10 on 5/15 (CaP, JP). **Willetts** put on an amazing display with over 65 on 5/5 (ML) and another 7 from 5/12-13 (ML, JP). **Upland Sandpipers** were at Fort Hill 5/9 (MH) and a probable breeding pair was at a northeastern county grassland 5/9 (JP, AP, CP, KV). The county's third **Whimbrel** put on a nice show at SL 5/27 (ML, JP, AMc). The bird of the season was a **Marbled Godwit** that settled in with **Willetts** 5/5 (ML, JP, AMc). Also nice were 3 **Ruddy Turnstones** 5/13 (NB, JP). **Dunlin** first appeared 5/15 (CaP, JP) and 5 were present 5/16 (NB) with a single remaining for a week. **Least Sandpipers** were first found 5/5. The maximum occurred 5/15 with 70 present; they remained in smaller numbers until at least 5/24 (m.ob.). The only **Pectoral Sandpiper** reported was 5/7 (ML). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** showed a little later than Least but 5 persisted until 6/5 (JP). **Short-billed Dowitchers** of both *griseus* and *hendersoni* subspecies were noted: 5/12, 3 on 5/13, and 10 on 5/12 (ML, AMc, JP). The first **Wilson's Snipe** was noted in the BA 3/19 (ML) and over 40 were in a flooded bottom in BA 4/4 (JP).

**Bonaparte's Gull** first showed at SL 3/24 (AMc) with high of 40 on

4/14 (JP); last bird was seen 5/21 (JP). An excellent find was a **Little Gull** at SL 5/5 (ML) on the same mudflat as the godwit (ML). Unfortunately it did not stay long. **Ring-billed Gulls** in flocks of over 100 were common at SL along with **Herring Gulls**, which were in low numbers. A single **Lesser Black-backed Gull** flew by SL 4/10 (ML). **Caspian Terns** came early 4/17 (CJ) and were still coming through in Jun. A **Black Tern** was at SL 5/24 (CaP, JP). **Forster's Terns** were noted 4/14-5/21 (JP).

**Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** seemed to be in normal numbers. The PAMC saw five species of owl with the most unusual a **Barn Owl** at BC (AP, CP, JP, KV) and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at Mt. Davis. One of the latter was also reported at Rockwood 5/29 (HB). A **Common Nighthawk** migrated past SL 5/15 (JP, CaP). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was calling at PP 5/6. A healthy 15 or more were at Mt. Davis 5/9 (AP, CP, JP, and KV). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were first reported near Somerset 4/26 (JM, MM). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at QR 4/22 (LG), Somerset area 5/4 (JM, MM), LP 5/12 (TM, ML), and near Shanksville 5/25 (CaP, JP). A **Merlin** was near Somerset 3/12 (AMc) and one at SL 5/9 buzzed shorebirds in front of many observers during the PAMC.

**Alder Flycatchers** were at KRNA 5/25 (CP, JP) and at SL in late May (ML, AMc). **Willow Flycatchers** were in good numbers in suitable habitat. However the arrow-wood viburnum they like is being decimated by the European Viburnum Beetle in our area, which may be a problem in the future. First **Blue-headed Vireos** were at KRNA 4/25 where they breed (JM, MM). The earliest **Tree Swallow** was at SL 3/14 (AL) when it was still pretty icy. **Carolina Wrens** were knocked back to lower elevations due to the extreme cold of last winter. **Northern Mockingbirds** were also set back but could be found in low numbers in the se. and sw. **American Pipits** were in BA 3/29 (AP, JP) and at Hidden Acres 4/21 (SD).

There were 30 species of warblers plus **Yellow-breasted Chat** found this spring. Away from nesting areas, a **Worm-eating Warbler** was at SL 5/6 (ML, AMc). Other migrants were **Golden-winged** and **Blue-winged Warblers** at SL 5/5 (AMc, ML). These species were also found near Confluence and **Golden-winged** was near Palo Alto. Migrant **Tennessee Warblers** were a little more common than usual. **Mourning Warbler** was at SL 5/9 (AMc) and at LP 5/15 (ML, JP). **Kentucky Warblers** were found in more places than usual and seemed to be on territories. **Bay-breasted Warblers** are always nice in spring; one was at QR 5/5 (LG) and at LP 5/15 (ML). A **Palm Warbler** at QR 5/7 (LG) was a good find. An early **Pine Warbler** at PP 4/3 picked at the sunflower feeders and suet for several days (JP). Several migrant **Yellow-throated Warblers** were reported including an early bird 4/10 at Laurel Hill State Park (LG) and the normal breeders at Confluence. A **Prairie Warbler** 5/8 (AMc) was a good bird for *Somerset*. **Wilson's Warblers** were around including one at PP 5/19 (CP, JP). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were at the Palo Alto area 5/9 (AMc) and near Confluence.

**American Tree Sparrows** as usual persisted until early April, then cleared out as the **Chipping Sparrows** arrived. **Vesper Sparrows** are getting harder to find so one at KRNA 4/12 (JJ) and several at a strip mine in the ne. county 5/9 (AP, CP, JP, KV) were nice. An early **White-crowned Sparrow** was at SL 3/29 (AP, JP). **Bobolinks** were first reported near Somerset 5/4 (JM, MM) and overall seemed to be a little scarcer than normal. Ten **Rusty Blackbirds** were in a wet bottom near Berlin 3/13 (JP). A migrant **Orchard Oriole** visited a yard 4/30 (AMc). **Pine Siskins** persisted from winter in many areas, with 25 still at PP feeders 5/17 (JP). Local breeding is expected this year.

Observers: **Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718**, Scott Bastian, Heather Bateman, Nick Biss, Elmer Brenneman, Neal Cantrell, Bill Cline, Sandy Cline, Sally Dick, Linda Greble, Matt Grey, Margaret Higbee, Chuck Jones, Josh Jones, Mike Lanzzone, Andrew Lenhart, Anthony Marich, Andy McGann (AMc), Trish Miller, Jim and Meg Moses, Roy Ogburn, Carolyn Payne (CaP), Chris Payne, Alan Peterson, Kim VanFleet, Patty Werth.

---

### Sullivan County

No report.

Compiler: Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 323-0119, robert.r.megraw@gmail.com.

---

### Susquehanna County

Locations: Lake Chrisann (LC), Friends of Salt Spring S.P. (FSS), Florence Shelley Preserve (FS), Heart Lake (HL), Lake Montrose (LM), Noble Wetland (NW), Quaker Lake (QL), Susquehanna River at Harmony Road (HR), Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Preserve (WF), State Game Land 35 (SGL 35).

A total of 157 species were reported from *Susquehanna* during the period, 77% of the 203 species reported to eBird for spring from 1900-2015. Winter drug drearily on through the end of April, and May was hot and very dry. The period ended with what turned out to be the beginning of a cool, very rainy early summer. The season was good but not remarkable.

Waterfowl were present throughout the period with 17 species reported. Of interest was a single **Long-tailed Duck** at LC 4/21 (TN) and 2 **Ruddy Ducks** at HL 4/28 (EM). As many as 7 **Common Loons** were at QL 4/19-5/4 (EM) with 2 at LM 4/19 (JS). **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Horned Grebe**, **Double-crested Cormorant**, and **Great Blue Heron** rounded out the water birds reported.

**Black Vulture**, **Turkey Vulture**, **Osprey**, **Northern Harrier**, **Bald Eagle** and six species of accipiters and buteos were reported from throughout the county. A single **Virginia Rail** was reported from NW 5/12 (EM). Six species of shorebirds were observed: **Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Wilson's Snipe**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, and **American Woodcock**. Nine **Bonaparte's Gull** were at QL 4/14 and 21 were there 4/19 (EM). **Ring-billed Gull** was the only other gull reported. Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoo** were reported by several observers late in May. Single **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were heard near Springville 4/5 and 4/17 (JB). **Great Horned Owl** and **Barred Owl** were the only other owls reported. All species of woodpecker were reported and the only falcon observed was **American Kestrel**.

Ninety-six species of passerines, including six species of flycatcher, four vireos, four corvids, five swallows, six thrushes and twenty-six species of wood warblers, were reported, with the following highlights. Four **Bank Swallows** and 4 **Cliff Swallows** were at HR 5/23 (EM, EB). **Tennessee Warbler** was observed in far eastern *Susquehanna* 5/14 (EM) and 5/16 (EM, JM), at WF 5/19 (JS, JST), and at FSS 5/24 (WS). **Nashville Warbler** was reported at FSS, WB and elsewhere in May. A single **Mourning Warbler** was at FS 5/16 (EM, JM, NVC) and 2 were at SGL 35 on 5/24 (m.ob.). There were three reports of several birds each for **Rusty Blackbird** in late March and April. The only **Orchard Oriole** was at Montrose 5/3 (TN). **Common Redpoll** continued through the first week in April. **Pine Siskins** were observed frequently throughout *Susquehanna* including an apparent breeding pair at WF that was last reported 5/19 (JS).

Observers: **Rob Blye**, 300 Sanatoga Road, Pottstown, PA 19465, (610) 327-2010, [rwbllye@comcast.net](mailto:rwbllye@comcast.net), Dave Andres, Nick Bolgiano, Jim Borden, Edmund Burdick, Rich Fritsky, Deuane Hoffman, Allan Kresock, Shawn Landon, Bruce McNaught, Evan Mann, Justin Mann, Tom Norville, Kriss and Debbie Replogle, Win Schaeffer, Jerry Skinner, Joyce Stone (JST), Nancy VanCott, Nancy Wottrich.

---

#### Tioga County

No compiler.

---

#### Union County

No compiler.

---

#### Venango County

Locations: Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil Creek State Park, (OCSP), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP), Wyattville Pond (WP).

Observers recorded 191 species for the spring season in *Venango*. Frozen water and snow inhibited waterfowl, with only a portion of WP and some parts of the AR open. Consequently reports of waterfowl light. Twenty-seven species of waterfowl were observed, plus 5 species of loon and grebe. Highlights included: **Trumpeter Swan** at WP 3/18 (JS), **Blue-winged Teal** 3/28-4/14, **Northern Shoveler** 4/3-27, **Northern Pintail** 3/10-31, **Green-winged Teal** 4/9, **Surf Scoter** at KL 4/30-5/2, **White-winged Scoter** 4/6-17, **Long-tailed Duck** 3/23-4/20, **Red-throated Loon** 4/8-28, and **Red-necked Grebe** on a small pond near Cranberry 4/28 (MW). **Double-crested Cormorant** had a high count of 42 at TMRP 4/23. **Green Heron** were scarce with only 2 reports, 5/4 at OCSP (RS) and 5/9.

Raptor highlights included **Osprey** 4/5-5/10, the county's third **Golden Eagle** at WP 3/31 (JS), **Northern Harrier** at KL 4/1 (GE), and the first **Broad-winged Hawk** 4/5. A flyover **Sandhill Crane** 5/25 was noted at BHNS 5/25 (JS).

Nine species of shorebird were reported. The only **Solitary Sandpiper** was at KL 5/8 (GE), **Upland Sandpiper** was at Barkeyville beginning 4/24 (GE) and **Least Sandpiper** was noted 5/17 (JS).

The gulls provided the best of the season including a first county

record and a second county record. *Venango's* second **Little Gull** was at WP 4/27 (JS). **Herring Gulls**, not common in the county, were noted 3/31-5/7. *Venango's* first **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was photographed at TMRP 4/3 (GE). Terns included **Caspian Tern** 4/3-30, **Common Tern** 5/1-20, and **Forster's Tern** 4/4-5/6.

Cuckoos arrived on time but both were uncommon. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were in good numbers at their only reliable spot, the Van Gamelands.

Flycatchers were also uncommon. First dates were **Acadian Flycatcher** 5/15, **Alder Flycatcher** 5/22, **Willow Flycatcher** 5/24, and **Least Flycatcher** 5/4. **Philadelphia Vireo** was at BHNS 5/6-16 (JS, KG). The only **Horned Lark** was at KL 5/5 (GE). A **Winter Wren** was noted at BHNS 5/2 (JS, KG). **Swainson's Thrush** was reported 5/12-17. **Northern Mockingbird**, uncommon in the county, was found at Barkeyville 4/14 (RS).

Thirty species of warbler were recorded, including **Worm-eating Warbler** at BHNS 5/5 (JS, KG), **Northern Waterthrush** 4/30-5/23, **Brewster's Warbler** in two locations 5/4 (MK, RS), **Mourning Warbler** beginning 5/22, **Kentucky Warbler** at SGL39 beginning 5/24 (MW), **Cerulean Warbler** at BHNS 5/4 (JS, KG), **Blackpoll Warbler** 5/11, and **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Fisherman's Cove 5/1 (GE, JW).

Sparrow highlights included **Grasshopper Sparrow** 5/9, no Henslow's Sparrow for the season, and **Lincoln's Sparrow** 5/6. **Rusty Blackbird** was noted 3/26-28 (JS, KG) and **Orchard Oriole** was seen 5/6. **Pine Siskins** were observed throughout the season.

---

Observers: **Gary Edwards**, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, [gedwards@csonline.net](mailto:gedwards@csonline.net); **Russ States**, 111 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, [pabirder@verizon.net](mailto:pabirder@verizon.net), Nancy Baker, Kathie Goodblood, Jeff Hall, Craig Holt, Mary Alice Koenke, Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick, Glenn Kopel, Michael Leahy, Ron Montgomery, Jerry Stanley, Mike Weible, Jim Wilson, Carole Winslow.

---

#### Wayne County

No compiler.

---

#### Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), 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 Lake (PL), Peters Township (PET), Robinson Township (RBT), Timber Lake (TL), Washington Park (WP), Washington Park School Pond (WPSP), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

Continuing the theme from the winter season, waterfowl were well reported. A **Cackling Goose** continued at AMD from late Feb through 3/3 (GG, et al.). A few **Gadwall** were at AMD and CL in Mar (m.ob.) and one was at Ginger Hill 4/7 (RI). A late **American Wigeon** was at R4 on 4/29 (RI). **American Black Ducks** remained scarce as spring arrived, with a few hanging at AMD to 3/7 (GG), one at New Eagle 3/6 (RI), and one late bird at GCW 4/21 (RT). First **Blue-winged Teal** was at CL 3/24 (LF); they were then reported in at least four different locations though 5/17, the last at PL (GG). One or two **Northern Shovelers** carried over at AMD to at least 3/11 (GG, et al.). Five appeared at TL 3/12 and then Lake Joann 3/13 (GG), and a late bird was at R4 on 4/29 (LC). The last **Northern Pintail** was sighted at CL 3/22 (MJ). It was a poor season for **Green-winged Teal** with reports of two birds at just three locations through 4/5. The flock of **Canvasbacks** numbering in the mid-teens remained at AMD through 3/16 after which they were abruptly gone. Toward the end of their stay they were joined by as many as 26 **Redhead** 3/12-16 (MV, GG). Last **Canvasback** was one at Boone Res. 3/24 (GG) and last **Redheads** were 7 at R4 from 4/2-11 (LC). No count of **Ring-necked Duck** exceeded 3 for the entire period, a very poor showing. A **Greater Scaup** or two put in appearances at AMD in Mar; meanwhile 2 were at TL 3/15 (GG) and one was at PL 4/1 (JM). **Lesser Scaup** showed somewhat better (as expected) with reports in five locations, topped by 14 at CL 3/16 (GG). One late male was at CL 5/12 (MJ). Reports of **Bufflehead** were widespread but rather unremarkable, with 12 at R4 on 4/12 (RI) the max. A lingering **Common Goldeneye** was still at New Eagle 3/6 (RI). A **Hooded Merganser** with five young was noted at GCW 5/9 (MJ). **Common Mergansers** continued a strong showing after a good winter season for them; about 6 hung around AMD through 3/9 (GG, MJ), a few were at CL 3/15-16 (GG, MJ), 8 were at BC 3/21 (MJ), one was at PL 3/31 (GG), and 2 stayed at GCW 4/15-20 (MJ). **Red-breasted Merganser** is also uncommon in *Washington*, so several reports of them were also notable: up to 8 at AMD through 3/13 (m.ob.), 2 at TL 3/5 (GG), 2 at PL 3/22-4/1 (MJ), and one at R4 on 4/2 (LC). Good counts of **Ruddy Duck** included 19 at R4

on 4/29 (RI) and 24 near Bentleyville 5/3 (RI). A male lingered at CL to at least 5/28 (MJ).

A release of **Ring-necked Pheasants** must have occurred somewhere around PET in Mar, which begat sightings of males in suburban areas 3/20 (GG) and 4/3 (AK). A **Ruffed Grouse** at R4 on 4/29 (RI) was a nice surprise for that location. A **Common Loon** at PL 3/22-4/7 was joined by a second bird 3/31-4/4 (MJ, m.ob.). Others were sighted at Ginger Hill 4/7 (RI), R4 on 4/29 (RI), and at Bentleyville 5/3 (RI). Up to six **Pied-billed Grebes** at R4 from 4/7-12 (RI) was a nice collection. **Horned Grebes** are not reported annually so sightings at PL 3/23 (JH) and 4/4-7 (GG), at R4 on 4/7 (RN), and at GCW on the late date of 5/13 (RN, DK) were noteworthy. A **Red-necked Grebe** at R4 from 4/29-5/9 (RI) was about the eleventh for the county, with five of the previous records in the spring of 2014 alone. Suburban Boone Res. is frequently a spring hangout for **Double-crested Cormorants** for some reason; top count there this season was 30 on 5/2 (GG). Reports of **Great Egret** spanned three locations 3/27-5/9 (m.ob.).

**Osprey** continues to be reported widely in spring but there is still no known nest in the county. Intriguing reports after early Apr this season were one at Enlow Fork 4/24 (RN, DK), one that seemed far out of place at BC 5/5 (RT), and one at PL 5/17 (GG). **Bald Eagle** is another species with an increasingly surprising lack of confirmed nesting records; that said there were no reports positive or negative of the nest reported last season in the southwestern section of the county. Late reports this spring were one at GCW 5/12 (RI) and an immature over Washington 5/30 (LC). **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported from five locations including one at HSP 4/19 carrying a snake (TH).

A **Virginia Rail** was heard at GCW 4/28 and 5/4 (RI), and there were periodic reports of **Sora** there 4/21-5/8 (RI, MJ, RT). A very late **American Coot** was at Bentleyville 5/31 (RI). Shorebirds were their usual elusive selves. Up to 10 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at CL 5/15-18 (MJ). **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at GCW and CL from late Apr to mid-May, and a **Solitary Sandpiper** was still lingering at CL 5/28-31 (MJ). Certainly the best shorebirds of the season were the 2 **Sanderlings** at Bentleyville 5/31 (RI). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was limited to singles at CL 5/18 and GCW 5/27 (both MJ). Top count of **Least Sandpiper** was just 6 at CL 5/8 (MJ).

Rare for *Washington* were single **Bonaparte's Gulls** at PL 3/23 (JH) and R4 from 5/2-5 (RI, et al.). This species undoubtedly passes through in Apr annually but can be hard to find if not specifically sought out. Leftover handfuls of **Ring-billed** and **Herring Gulls** remained from the winter season primarily at Charleroi Locks and Dam and CL though mid-Mar. A group of 7 late ring-bills was at R4 on 5/5 (MJ), but most interesting were two adult Herring Gulls seen in courtship at Charleroi 4/11 (RI), however nothing seemed to come of this. It took until early March, but eventually the major gull invasion into southwestern Pennsylvania this season resulted in the first-ever records of white-winged gulls for *Washington*. An adult **Iceland Gull** was at Charleroi 3/6 (GM) along with an adult **Great Black-backed Gull**, and later that evening a second cycle **Glaucous Gull** was also seen at Charleroi (RI). With the county's first Great Black-backs recorded in Feb, this invasion ended up accounting for three new species on the *Washington* list.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was widespread as expected these days, but **Black-billed Cuckoo** remains decidedly uncommon, with just three reports this year: one at WP 5/5 (LC), one near Houston 5/9 (FK), and one at GCW 5/12 (MJ). **Barred Owls** were noted at Burgettstown 4/5 (RG, MG) and at CC 4/17 (MJ). The annual return of **Eastern Whip-poor-will** to HSP was confirmed 5/29 (RI).

The first **Eastern Phoebe** of the season was at AMD 3/15 (MJ) when wintering waterfowl were still gathered there. **Great Crested Flycatcher** was unusually well reported throughout. A few reports of **Blue-headed Vireo** included one at Enlow Fork 4/21 (KSJ), one at RBT 4/28 (PB), and one at WP 5/5 (LC, RI). An eager **Warbling Vireo** was already at Enlow Fork 4/24 (RN). Surprisingly there was just one report of **Common Raven**, that at Charleroi 4/7 (RI) though no report was made either way of the nest near Avella. Two colonies of **Purple Martins** were noted near Bealsville 5/5 (RT). An early **Tree Swallow** was at PL 3/22 (GG). Rare in *Washington* was a **Cliff Swallow** at CL 4/27 (RI). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** seemed poised to summer at HSP again with the sighting of one there 5/7 (RI). A **Marsh Wren** was at GCW 4/28 (RI) where they are annual, but their breeding status at the site is still poorly understood.

Spring reports of *Catharus* thrushes were "spotty" as usual. **Veery** and **Swainson's Thrush** were the most frequently encountered, mainly around WP in May (LC, et al.). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at WPSP 5/17 (LC), providing an uncommon spring report. Three sightings of **Hermit Thrush** were made at WP 4/18-5/5 (LC). An **American Pipit** at Taylorstown 4/21 (RT) was the only report.

Up to 6 **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were already back and competing for territory at MC 4/8 (RG, MG). Among warblers there wasn't much reported in the way of pass-through migrants. Owing mostly to a general

lack of coverage, there were only a few reports of common migrants like **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Magnolia Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, and **Black-throated Blue** and **Green warblers**, but all were indeed reported in small numbers in May. **Northern Parula** was back in nesting areas around Enlow Fork by 4/21 (KSJ). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was near Taylorstown 5/12 (RI), **Canada Warbler** was at WP 5/11 (LC) and Taylorstown 5/12 (RI), and a **Wilson's Warbler** was at WP 5/17 (LC). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at HSP as usual 5/7 (RI) and also at Bealsville 5/5 (RT).

**Vesper Sparrow** is not frequently reported in the county, so one near CC 4/28 (RI) was a welcome find. **Grasshopper** and **Henslow's sparrows** were thick at traditional areas around Bavington, HSP, and RBT by May (m.ob.). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at HSP 5/7 (RI) was a rare spring find. Very surprisingly the only report of **White-crowned Sparrow** was one at GCW 4/5 (DG, GGr), surely one of the wintering population in that area.

**Bobolink** was reported only from RBT beginning 5/9 (JM). Three reports of **Rusty Blackbird** included 2 at Burgettstown 4/5 (RG, MG), one at CC 4/8 (RI), and 3 at PET 4/17 (GG). Despite good seasons in surrounding counties, neither **Purple Finch** or **Pine Siskin** were well reported in *Washington* this past winter or this spring, with just two reports of each after Feb. For Purple Finch, these were 3 at WP 4/17 (LC) and one at Washington 4/29 (RI), and for Pine Siskin, a small flock at MC 3/11 (GG) and one at the same spot in Washington 4/29 (RI).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Cathy Brown, Paul Brown, Lauren Conkle, Michael David, Leslie Ferree, Ross Gallardy, Melissa Gallardy, Gigi Gerben, Deb Grove, Greg Grove (GGr), James Hausman III, Todd Hooe, Pat Hutchinson, Roy Ickes, Matthew Juskowich, Fred Kachmarik, Deb Kalbfleisch, Alyssa Karmann, Jeff McDonald, Richard Nugent, Kate St. John, Amy Taracido, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

---

### **Westmoreland County**

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR), Beaver Run section of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail (BRR/WHT), Cedar Creek County Park (CCCP), Conemaugh Reservoir/West Penn Trail (CR), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Spring Lake (ESL, also known as Derry Lake), Keystone State Park (KSP), Latrobe Reservoir (LR), Lock and Dam #4 on the Allegheny River (LD4), Linn Run State Park (LRSP), Loyalhanna Dam (LD), Mammoth Lake (ML), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), St. Vincent Wetlands (SVW), Trees Mill (TM).

There were a number of highlights this season in which cold winter weather extended well into March. The gull invasion in Pittsburgh spilled over into *Westmoreland* in early Mar and provided a few county firsts. A surprising new species was added to the all-time list for the *Westmoreland* PAMC, and new record high for the PAMC was set for a breeding specialty of the Laurel Highlands.

The high count reported for **Canada Geese** was 67 at BRR 4/8 (KB). The top count of several reports of **Tundra Swan** was 32 over Northmoreland Park 3/22 (TR). Among the many reports of **Wood Duck**, a remarkable count of 26 was reported at the BR/WHT 3/13 (KB). There were 18 **Gadwall** at BRR 4/4 (MM). The high of several reports were 7 **American Wigeon** at BRR 3/29 (KB). After some very high counts for the winter season there were very few reports for **American Black Duck**. Counts included just 4 at BRR 3/29 (KB) and 4 at CR 4/16 (KB). Tallies were low for **Blue-winged Teal** as well, with just 3 at the Hamilton Road pond 4/2 (KB), and 4 at SVW 4/5 (NW). **Northern Shoveler** maximum was 8 at BRR 3/26 (KB), and the max count for **Northern Pintail** was also 8 at BRR 3/19 (KB). There were 8 **Green-winged Teal** at CR 4/16 (KB). As is often the case, the Allegheny River held the majority of diving ducks; among the reports at Lock and Dam #4 in Natrona were 32 or more **Canvasback** 3/7 (RN), 4 **Redheads** 3/3 (MVT), 2 **White-winged Scoter** 3/3 (MVT), 8 **Common Goldeneye** 3/7 (TR), 12 **Greater Scaup** 3/7 (RN), 4 **Lesser Scaup** 3/7 (RN), and 2 **Long-tailed Duck** 3/3 (MVT). Away from the Allegheny River were 2 **Long-tailed Ducks** at the Boxertown Road Pond 4/7 (MM). The two highest counts for the season for **Ring-necked Duck** were 35 at BRR 3/29 (KB) and 36 at Hamilton Road 3/26 (KB). The 26 **Bufflehead** at BRR 4/2 (KB) was an excellent number. There were 2 **Common Goldeneye** at BRR 3/24 (KB). There were many observations of a few **Hooded Mergansers**, including 6 at BRR 3/13 (KB) and 8 at Galando Road 3/19 (KB). The 42 **Common Mergansers** at the Loyalhanna Lake Bush Run Recreation Area 3/15 (MD) was a high count for *Westmoreland*. There were 6 **Common Mergansers** on the Youghiogheny River at CCCP 3/29 (JK, TK). There

were 8 **Red-breasted Merganser** at BRR 3/29 (R&SG). The high count for **Ruddy Duck** was 6 at BRR 4/27 (MM) and 4/29 (PF).

Rarely reported at lower elevations, **Ruffed Grouse** was heard drumming at Pump Station Road outside of Delmont 4/19, 5/5, and 5/9 (KB). An enormous flock of 86 **Wild Turkeys** crossed Livermore Road 4/18 (KB). **Common Loon** was lightly reported this season with just 3 at BBR 4/4 (MM) and one at the same location 5/15 (KB). Also not widely reported for the season, there were 3 **Horned Grebe** at BRR 4/4 (MM), and a higher count of 8 at the same location 4/27 (MM). Six **Pied-billed Grebes** at DL 4/5 (DY, et al.) was the high for that species. Nine **Double-crested Cormorants** were at BRR 4/28 (LG). An **American Bittern** was at PNR 5/1 (AC). Two **Great Egrets** were on a creek in a farm pasture on Klaka road, near Mammoth Lake. A surprising find on PAMC day 5/9 was a **Cattle Egret** in the farming area around Crabtree (ph. MM), which represented a *Westmoreland* PAMC first.

Two **Black Vultures** were at PNR 5/5 (RS). **Osprey** returned to the long time nest site at DL 3/25 (DM). Two **Ospreys** were at BRR 3/29 (KB). **Bald Eagle** was reported at BRR and CR, both long-time nesting sites. A high count of 5 **Bald Eagles** were made at BRR 3/16 (KB). Rarely reported, one **Northern Goshawk** was in Delmont 3/29 (KB). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported numerous times in April and May at PNR, including a high count of 3 on 4/18 (MB). Multiple reports of **Broad-winged Hawk** were made at PNR during the season beginning 4/18 (RS). One **Northern Harrier** was observed just north of New Derry 3/19 (NW).

Quite delightful were 6 **American Avocets** in breeding plumage at BRR 4/27 (ph. MM). A nice count of 11 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at ML 5/21 (JH). There were 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** at Hamilton Road 4/28 (KB). Also at this often-visited location was one **Greater Yellowlegs** 3/25 (PF). Three **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at ML 5/12 (DY, et al.). Two **American Woodcock** were heard at the Kuehl Property 3/25 (TK).

There were 5 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at BRR 4/2 (KB). **Ring-billed Gull** was reported on the Allegheny River and at various lakes and reservoirs. The high count was 24 over Delmont 3/15 (KB). The only report of Herring Gull was one at the Loyalhanna Lake Bush Recreation Area 3/25 (MD). An adult **Iceland Gull** and an adult **Great Black-backed Gull** on the Monongahela River at Lock and Dam 4 in Charleroi 3/7 (GM) were seen on both sides of the *Washington/Westmoreland* line. These represented the first documented reports for both species for *Westmoreland*. The only reports of terns were 3 **Caspian Terns** and 2 **Forster's Terns** at ML 4/25 (MJ).

Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were calling at dawn at the Kuehl Property 5/28 (TK). A **Great Horned Owl** was heard from the bike trail at WHT/BR 4/11 (KB). Two **Barred Owls** were reported at PNR 5/9 (RS). Often reported at this location, a **Barred Owl** was calling at the Kuehl Property 4/30 (JK, TK). One **Common Nighthawk** was a late-day addition to the 5/9 PAMC tally (KB). One **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported at the Lindsay House near Ligonier 5/3 (AC). During a drive of the Crabtree Farm area, 6 **American Kestrels** were observed 3/19 (KB). One **Merlin** was in a Delmont cemetery 4/7 (KB).

Captures at the PNR banding station provided the only reports of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**. Two **Alder Flycatchers** were reported at Love Hollow several miles northeast of Ligonier 5/24 (AM). Hunters Lane, a reliable location for this species, also held an **Alder Flycatcher** 5/24 (AP) and 2 on 5/30 (SG). Two **Great Crested Flycatchers** were also at Hunters Lane 5/30 (SG). One **Blue-headed Vireo** and one **White-eyed Vireo** were singing in New Stanton 4/23 (MF). A **White-eyed Vireo** was heard singing in a small forest of autumn olive off Silvis Road near the Kuehl Property in Murrysville (TK). Captures at the PNR banding station provided the only reports of **Philadelphia Vireo**. **Common Raven** was reported at both high and low elevations during the season: 3 were at Spruce Flats Bog 4/29 (NB) and 2 were observed over TM 3/7 (JK, TK).

**Purple Martins** have again returned to the gourds provided at the MAWC office at the Rt. 380 overlook of the BRR; the high count was 14 on 4/28 (KB). Three **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** had returned to the New Stanton area by 4/15 (MF). Three **Bank Swallows** were at ML 5/21 (JH). The max of several reports of **Cliff Swallow** was 6 at PNR 5/23 (MB).

Up to 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported at Spruce Flats Bog 5/9 (DH) and 5/14 (TA). One **Brown Creeper** was at CCCP 3/29 (TK). Five singing **Winter Wrens** were in LRSP 5/9 (JK, TK). Rarely reported, a **Marsh Wren** was at PNR 5/1 (AC). One of just a few reports, 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were at BRR/WHT 4/1 (KB). The high count among many reports of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at PNR 4/8-5/7 was 8 on 5/1 (AC). Four **Swainson's Thrushes** at PNR 5/9 (RS) was the max. Two **Hermit Thrushes** were tallied for the PAMC 5/9 at Spruce Flats Bog (JK, TK), a reliable location for them. A high count, 47 **Cedar Waxwing** was reported in Delmont 3/10 (KB).

A **Worm-eating Warbler** was on Linn Run Road 5/9 (DH, TN). Seven **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were recorded on the clean mountain streams of

LRSP for the PAMC 5/9 (JK, TK). **Northern Waterthrush** was reported at PNR 5/1-26 with high daily counts of 3 on 5/1 (AC) and 5/24 (MB). A **Golden-winged Warbler** singing a Blue-winged Warbler song was at Hunters Lane 5/24 (AP). One **Blue-winged Warbler** was also at Hunters Lane 5/24 (AP) and 3 were reported there 5/30 (SG). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was at the Sewickley Creek Wetlands 5/9 (JP) during the PAMC. Also noted on the PAMC 5/9 were **Tennessee Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler**, and **Wilson Warbler**. One **Mourning Warbler** was at PNR 5/14 (MB). Among just a few reports for **Cerulean Warbler**, one was at Linn Run State Park 5/10 (DH, TN) and one was at Blair Brothers RR Grade 5/26 (RN). **Blackpoll Warbler** was reported at PNR 5/20 and 5/24 (MB), the only reports this season. There was just one report of **Palm Warbler**, at Spruce Flats Bog 5/14 (TA). **Yellow-throated Warbler** had returned to CCCP in a big way by 4/18; 6 were seen that day along Cedar Creek and from the bike trail along the Youghiogheny River (JK, TK). A remarkable 24 **Canada Warblers** were tallied during the PAMC 5/9 within the territory that included Spruce Flats Bog and Linn Run State Park (JK, TK). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found in the Delmont area, one was at Shield's Farm 5/15 (KB), and one was heard on the Story Road crossing of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail 5/31.

Rarely reported in *Westmoreland*, one **Vesper Sparrow** was at Spruce Flats Bog 4/29 (NB). Two **Fox Sparrows** were at PNR 4/12 (MB). The only reports for **Lincoln's Sparrow** were captures at the PNR Banding Station. An excellent count of 17 **White-throated Sparrows** was reported in Delmont 5/1 (KB). **White-crowned Sparrows** often winter in the Crabtree Farm area, and one was still lingering there 5/9 (MM). Seven **Bobolinks** were at Brinker's Farm in Delmont 5/9 (KB), likely returning to their long-time nesting site. The song of an **Eastern Meadowlark** was heard from the Kuehl Property 4/3 (TK). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** were at the Boxertown Road Pond 4/7 (MM) and one **Rusty Blackbird** was at the West Penn Trail at CR 3/12 (KB). **Purple Finches** at the feeders at the Kuehl Property included a male and a female 3/27 and 5 on 4/22 (JK). Ten **Pine Siskins** visited the bird feeders at PNR 4/19 (MB).

Observers: Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724) 325-1918, [tjkuehl@comcast.net](mailto:tjkuehl@comcast.net), Tim Anderson, Martin Beal, Nick Biss, Bill Brown, Ken Byerly, Dick Byers (Complier for the PAMC), Annie Crary, Michael David, Mike Fialkovich, Patience Fisher, Randy and Sarah Gerrish, Linda Greble, Steve Gosser, Jim Hausman, Deuane Hoffman, Mathew Juskowich, Timothy Kita, Janet Kuehl, Andy Mack, Mark McConaughy, Geoff Malosh, Donna Mohny, Ted Nichols, Richard Nugent, Jim Pemberton, Aidan Place, Theo Rickert, Robin Squier, Marjorie Van Tassel, Brian Treveline, Derek Yoder.

## Wyoming County

Locations: Beaumont (BM), Davis Crossing (DC), Iroquois Trail (IT), Lake Carey (LC), Lake Winola (LW), Lazybrook Park (LP), 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 125 species were recorded during the period, down about 13% from recent years. The species total for the 2015 PAMC for *Wyoming* saw the lowest species count in 20 years and the third lowest count of individuals. This was probably primarily a result of fewer birders in the field for the event this year.

The highlight of the spring migration was the appearance of an estimated 1500 **Snow Geese** in a flooded field just outside of Tunkhannock 3/17 (JD). They were accompanied by 24 **Tundra Swans**, 700 **Canada Geese**, 11 **Northern Pintails**, and 5 **Ring-necked Ducks**. A single **Long-tailed Duck** was at LC 4/14 (MC). **Bufflehead** was recorded several times: one at LC 4/15, 4 on both SL and on another pond near SL 4/18 (JD), and 5 at SGL 4/18 (RM).

One or two **Common Loons** were at LC 4/14-5/17 (MC, ST). Three **Pied-billed Grebes**, a possible breeder in *Wyoming*, were at SL 4/18 (JD). A single **Horned Grebe** was at LC 4/10 (JS) and 4/14 (ST). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was at LC 4/14 (ST). A single **Double-crested Cormorant** was at MP 4/16 (JD) and 4/17 (ST), and 4 were at SL 5/2. Other reports for this species included one at LC 4/14 (ST) and one at LC 5/8 (MC).

**Osprey**, a probable but not confirmed breeder, was over MP 4/17 (ST) and over LP 4/26 (JD). Three **Sandhill Cranes** were reported at SL on several dates throughout April (KS).

Two **Spotted Sandpipers**, possibly a mated pair, were at LP 5/5, One was at SGL 5/23 (DH). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was near LC 5/4 (MC). A single **Wilson's Snipe** was at Brown Hill Farm 5/8 (MC). The large mixed flock of Snow Geese and other water birds mentioned earlier also included

57 **Ring-billed Gulls** (JD).

**Chimney Swift**, another probable breeder, was recorded in very small numbers throughout May in several locations. **Blue-headed Vireo**, a probable breeder, was seen throughout the period at several locations: 2 at SGL 5/8 (JD), 2 at SGL 5/15 (EZ), and 2 along Windy Valley Road near Forkston 5/23 (DH). **Warbling Vireo**, also probable, was observed throughout May at six different locations (MC, JD, JT, JM).

A **Fish Crow**, a possible breeder, was reported for several weeks in the Apr and May in a Tunkhannock yard (JD). Single **Northern Mockingbirds**, a probable breeder, were noted 4/6 at BM (SG), 5/4 at LC (MC), 5/8 in the southern part of the county (DPB, JT), 5/2 at VN, 5/4 and 5/11 at IT, and 5/16 at LG (all JD).

Nineteen species of warblers were found, most of which are confirmed breeders for *Wyoming*. There were no records of Worm-eating Warbler or Golden-winged Warbler, both probable breeders. Eight **Nashville Warblers**, a probable breeder, were at SGL 5/15 (EZ). Single **Hooded Warblers**, a probable, were recorded 5/11 and 5/21 at IT (JD) and 5/13 at VN (JD). There was one record of a single Northern Parula, a possible breeder, at SGL 5/15 (EZ).

There was only one record of **Savannah Sparrow**, at LC 5/4 (MC). A singing **Lincoln's Sparrow**, rare in this county, was just outside Noxen 5/8 (JD). **White-crowned Sparrow** was at BM 4/6 (SG) and in northern parts of the county 5/8 (MC, BD). A first year male **Orchard Oriole**, a probable breeder, was at LP 5/14 (JD). **Pine Siskin** was recorded at feeders throughout April and as late as 5/13 in *Wyoming* (JD, DPB, SG, JS, and ST). There is the potential that some may stay into the summer here.

Observers: **Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468, jdemarco@epix.net**, Dave and Phyllis Billings (DPB), Jim Borden, Mark Catalano, Bob Daniels, Joe DeMarco, Laura Dickson, Sandy Goodwin, Deuane Hoffman, Joe and Rebecca Lesko, Robbie and Gail Long, Robert Megraw, John Miller, Mitch and Marie Rowland, Kay Simons, Jerry Skinner, Bill Speare, Cheryl Stone, Joyce Stone, Sharon Templin, Alan Thatcher, Jon Thomas, Eric Zawatski.

#### York County

Locations: Althouse School Rd Landfill (ALT), Brunner Island (BI), Codorus State Park (CSP), Fairview Township (FTWP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP)

The county saw 203 species this spring and also established a new statewide early date for **Black-necked Stilt**. The PAMC 5/9, coordinated and compiled by Ann Pettigrew and Randy Phillips, reported 118 species. It appeared that the peak warbler movement in *York* occurred in the days prior to the PAMC.

Limited reports of **Snow Goose** (three reports, max count of 24) continued to reflect their propensity for a migration path on and east of the Susquehanna R. In contrast, spring sightings of **Tundra Swan** continued to trend upwards. High counts of 300 Tundras came from LAR and CSP 3/22 (PO, MW). **American Black Duck** were tough to come by. LAR held up to 3 birds 3/15-27 (CM) and a single was at CSP 4/5 (SC). **Northern Shovelers** were isolated as well. A pair was at LR 3/15 (KEC, CM) and possibly the same pair moved to CSP 3/16-29 (CB, DN). A nice count of 44 **Northern Pintail** was made at LAR 3/16 (HM). **Canvasback** graced the county with a trio at LAR 3/22 (PO), and singles on 3/27 at CSP (MD) and Goldsboro (MS). **Redhead** was reported at four locations with a high count of 23 at CSP 3/9 (PK, DN). Three reports of **Greater Scaup** were more than normal. Up to 4 were at CSP 3/11-16 (HM), 3 were at LW 3/12 (CK), and 3 were on the Codorus Creek 3/20 (DA). Usually found in spring in small numbers, a single **Long-tailed Duck** was at GPSP 4/1 (RK). A single female **Common Goldeneye** was at LAR 3/8-9 (PK, PO) and LR held a trio 4/1 (MC). All merganser species were widely reported with high counts of 15 **Hooded Merganser** at Goldsboro 3/11-12 (BS), 260 **Common Merganser** at GPSP 3/26 (DN), and 20 **Red-breasted Merganser** at CSP 3/27 (MD). Six locations produced **Common Loons** 3/27-5/6 (m.ob.) with a high count of 16 at GPSP 4/5 (DG). Eight reports of **Pied-billed Grebe** were more than normal for the period but no sighting involved more than 2 birds. **Horned Grebes** were found at all the larger bodies of water 3/16-4/9 (m.ob.) with high counts of 8 from CSP 3/29 (JSD) and GPSP 4/6 (DN). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was at GPSP 4/6 (DN) and up to 2 were at CSP 4/4-10 (SC, DC, KL, AP). A probable **Eared Grebe**, with observer's description clearly noting adult non-breeding plumage, was at LR 3/24 (CK), one a very few *York* spring sightings and the first since 1999.

The three reports of **Ring-necked Pheasant** were made in central *York*. High counts among the 21 reports of **Wild Turkey** were 24 at FTWP

3/18 (DN), 22 along Ebaugh Rd. 3/24 (PM), and 16 along Roth's Church Rd. 3/25 (PK). Likely stocked birds but nonetheless notable were single **Northern Bobwhites** at FWTP 5/1 (DN) and at Carroll Township 5/20-21 (GK). Ten **Great Egrets** at BI 4/3 (DC) was a good count for that date. The established rookery at Kiwanis Lake had a high count of 16 birds 5/24 (CB). A **Snowy Egret** was at LR 4/26-27 (DC, KG, CM, TN) and a breeding plumaged **Little Blue Heron** was at Ski Roundtop 5/19 (CH). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was noted in nine locations but the Kiwanis Lake rookery remains the only documented breeding location in the county. High count from the rookery was 41 birds on the PAMC. An adult **Mississippi Kite** was soaring over Arcona with a mixed group of vultures 4/29 (DH). A **Northern Harrier** at ALT 5/7 (DN) was late. CSP's renowned **Bald Eagles** didn't disappoint their audience on the PGC live stream, as both chicks successfully fledged. Seven reports of **Broad-winged Hawk** were more than usual for the period.

Marsh Run continues to provide spring records of **Virginia Rail**. A pair was heard 4/13 and 4/16 (DC, TN) and a single was heard 5/4 (DN). BI also produced one 4/18 (DH). The aforementioned **Black-necked Stilt** was first found at LR 3/26 (DC) and, although a one day wonder, was also seen by a fortunate additional few (CF, CM w/ph, RS, MY). If accepted, this appears to establish a new early date for the state by nearly a month. **Lesser** and **Greater Yellowlegs** were reported four and three times, respectively. No count exceeded 3 birds. A **Willow** was a good find at LR 5/18 (DC). LR also held **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/5-14 with a high count of 6 birds 5/5 (CB). LR also provided the only report of **Pectoral Sandpiper**, 2 on 5/14 (DN). **Wilson's Snipe** were at ALT 4/4-11 (DF). Peenting **American Woodcock** were at Highpoint 4/1 (DC). **Bonaparte's Gull** was well reported with GPSP producing the high count of 75 birds 4/13 (DN). A single **Lesser-backed Gull** was at GPSP 3/26 (DN). **Caspian Terns** were at CSP, LR, and LW 4/11-29 (m.ob.) with a high count of 7 at LR 4/12 (MC).

In a notable uptick, there were four reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** 5/6-20 (CB, DB, DW) at Lock 12, during the PAMC, and at RRCP. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was up as well with 11 reports from 10 locations 5/4-30 (m.ob.). A single **Short-eared Owl** remained at ALT until 3/11 (DF, RS). Reports of **Common Nighthawk** included a single at LR 5/24 (BT), 2 at Saginaw 5/24 (DW), and 2 at FTWP 5/25 (DN). Nine reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** from eight locations spanned all corners of the county. High counts were trios at ALT and GPSP. The latest of six reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was 4/16 (CB) at Sunnyside Rd. A **Peregrine Falcon** was found on the PAMC.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at RRCP 5/22 (DC). Typically missed in spring, an **Alder Flycatcher** was at GPSP 5/9 (PS) during the PAMC. Quartets of **Willow Flycatcher** were at the abandoned Hawk Lake Golf Course 5/23 (DA) and Sunnyside Rd. 5/11 (CB). A pair of **Least Flycatchers** was at GPSP 5/24 (SH, TN). Philadelphia Vireo was the only vireo not reported. **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Blue-headed Vireo** were especially well reported, with 12 and nine reports, respectively. The seven reports of **Common Raven** continued the increasing trend for this species. A 3/7 (CB) drive on Dover Twp. farmland roads produced 16 **Horned Lark** at five locations. There were five other reports with latest 5 birds along Elm Drive 4/20 (PM). **Purple Martin** was likely underreported; there were just three reports and none noting a colony count. A single **Bank Swallow** was at LR 4/27 (TN) and 5 were at BI 5/2 (DH). The **Cliff Swallow** colony at CSP remained active with the PAMC noting 5 birds.

A **Black-capped Chickadee** was at GPSP 3/11 (DN). **Brown Creeper** at Glen Rock 5/17 (LS) was on the late side. **Winter Wrens** were found at CSP 4/5 (SC) and at LW 3/3 (CK). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** high counts were 6 at Kline's Run 3/7 (PSO) and 9 on the PAMC. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was widely reported (m.ob.) with a high count of 9 at Arcona 4/29 (DH). Somewhat early **Veery** were at Arcona 4/29 (DH) and at BI and Codorus Furnace 5/2 (DH); there were five reports from 5/9 or later. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Green Lane Farms 5/23 (RK) and GPSP 5/24 (SH, TN). **Swainson's Thrush** was first found 5/4 (CB) at Lock 12 followed by a trio at the Penn State York Campus 5/15 (DW) and a single at GPSP 5/22 (DN). The six reports of **American Pipit** were higher than normal. High counts were 16 at Kline's Run 3/7 (PSO), 25 at Accomac 3/28 (BF), and 12 along Martin's Rd. 3/12 (CB) and Bare Rd. 5/2 (DA, DW).

The PAMC saw a subpar warbler count of 24 species but still produced some nice highlights. The overall count of 33 species was fairly strong showing for the warblers. A **Tennessee Warbler** was at RRCP 5/16 (AWO). The five reports of **Nashville Warbler** were in a very confined period 5/2-9 (DN, DW, PAMC). In what was likely one of the strongest showings ever for **Prothonotary Warbler**, sightings came from four locations and 3 were found on the PAMC. The county's breeding stronghold at BI produced sightings starting 4/18 (DH) through the period (CB, DN, BS). Gut Rd. held one 5/12 (DH), a single was at GPSP 5/3 (DN), and one was at LR 5/9 (RS). The PAMC highlight was a **Connecticut Warbler** at RRCP 5/9 (JP). **Wilson's Warbler** was found three times; at GPSP and Gut Rd. 5/2 (DH),

and at RRCP 5/16 (AWo). **Yellow-breasted Chat** also had a strong showing with 3 birds on the PAMC and four other reports. They were at BI 5/2-3 (DH, DWi), up to 2 were at Apollo County Park 5/2-9 (DA, DW), and singles were noted (CB, LC, DW) at RRCP 5/5-22. Misses among warblers were Golden-winged, Orange-crowned, and Mourning Warbler.

High count for **American Tree Sparrow** was 15 at LR 3/19 (DN); last was 4/13 at the same location. The only sighting of **Vesper Sparrow** was at ALT 5/14 (AP). **Savannah Sparrows** were limited to ALT 4/26-5/31 (MC, DC, DF, AP) with a high count of 5 on 5/30 (DF). **Grasshopper Sparrow** also found ALT to their liking with sightings from 5/4 to the end of the period (m. ob.). A nice count of 10 birds was made there 5/7 (DN). There were four reports of **Fox Sparrow** 3/1-28 (TB, CB, CK) and six reports of **Swamp Sparrow** 3/24-5/2 (DF, DH, CK, DN, TN). The 10 reports of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 4/29-5/20 (m.ob.) were a bit more than usual. **Blue Grosbeak** was found at BI 5/9 (BS), at ALT 5/10 (SC), and at RRCP 5/12 (CB).

**Bobolink** was only reported at ALT 4/30-5/31 (DC, MC, DF, DN, AP) with a high count of 17 birds 5/7 (DN) that were flushed by a harrier. ALT remains the best location for **Eastern Meadowlark** with numerous sightings 4/30-5/31 (m.ob.); high was 10 on 5/7 and 5/16 (DN, DF). Four other reports from other sites spanned the period. With a state focus on **Rusty Blackbird** sightings, York produced three reports this period. A single was at CSP 3/11 (HM), up to 15 were at BI 3/18-4/3 (DC) and 24 birds in a mixed flock with **Red-winged Blackbird** and **Common Grackle** at Goldsboro 3/27 (MS).

**Purple Finches** were reported 3/16-5/3 (m.ob.). **Pine Siskins** at feeders tested the patience of some birders' hospitality with their numbers, length of stay, and favored diet of pricey nyjer seed. Of the 12 reports, a high count of 22 was made at from Niles Rd. 4/8 (CM) and a single lingered at Goldsboro until 5/23 (BS).

**EXOTICS:** A **Chukar** was at Manchester 5/18 (GI).

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Tom Amico, David Arrow, Tara Bardar, Joseph Bellehumeur, Larry Bernhardt, Chuck Berthoud, Michael Boustead, Lou Carpenter, Rachel Choma, Dick Cleary, William Clifton, Dean Coffin (DCo), Steve Collins, Keith Eric Costley (KEC), Mary Creager, Jean Creech, Michael David, Josh & Susan Davidson (JSD), Amy Evans, David Farmer, David Firestone (DFi), Pamela Fisher, Craig Franciscus, Todd Frantz, David Gibson, Elora Grahame, Kathryn Grasso, Sue Hannon, Carolyn Hoffman, Deuane Hoffman, Rachel Holden, Anne Hurst, Grant Izzo, Georgia Kagle, Chuck Kling, Ramsay Koury, Paul Krepto (PKr), Janna Lamison, Karen Lippy, Andrew McGann, Henry McLin, Joy Markey, Chris Markiewicz (ChM), Peter Martin, Carolyn Mathur, Dean Newhouse, Ted Nichols, Peter Osenton, Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Outing (PSO), Ann Pettigrew, Randy Phillips, Jean Prescott, Ian Rupenthal, Matthew Sabatine, Pat Sabold, Mark Schuch (MSc), Tammy Schwabb, Brian Shade, Larry Sizemore, Robin Smith, Barbara Taylor, Scott Walker, Drew Weber (DWE), Donald Weidemann, Dave Wildasin (DWi), Andy Wilson, Andrew Wolf (AWo), Matt Wyrk, Mike Yerger, William Young.

**PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:** Materials to be included in the publication are needed by the due dates below.

Issue	Sightings due to Compilers by...	Articles due to Editor by...	Publication Date
Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)	31 March	1 May	July
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 June	1 August	October
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 August	1 October	December
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 December	1 February	April

**SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR PUBLICATION:** We welcome submission of feature articles, artwork, or photographs focusing on any aspect of Pennsylvania birds or birding. We strongly encourage that submissions be sent in electronic format by email but will accept handwritten or typewritten material if necessary.

For articles, the Microsoft Office suite (any version) is preferred; however we will accept any popularly used format, or plain text. Please email written materials in an attached document in its original source format (i.e., no PDF files, please).

Digital photos or scanned image files sent for consideration should be in JPG format and resized down to 600-1200 pixels on the longer axis (if the source file is larger than these dimensions), and compressed to no larger than 250kB. Larger files will be requested by the editor if necessary. Submitted photos may be cropped or adjusted for color, brightness, or contrast as the editor sees fit without notice to the photographer. When submitting by email, all files should be sent as attachments—DO NOT embed pictures or documents within the email body. Photos with copyright or signature text visible in the image will not be accepted. Photographers will be acknowledged in the photo caption.

Hard copies of any material must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope if the author desires to have the material returned. **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** assumes no liability or responsibility for any unsolicited materials.

**REPRINTS:** Request reprints of articles from: PSO, 2469 Hammertown Rd., Narvon, PA 17555, or fchaas@pabirds.org.

**ADVERTISING:** Current rates for classified ads are \$0.75 per word with a minimum of 20 words. A copy-ready block of approximately 2" by 2" would be \$50.00 per issue. Rates for other sizes or types of advertising are negotiable. Copy deadline is as noted above. Payment should be sent with copy. **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** and PSO are not responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised herein.

Send previews of digital images for consideration to [photos@pabirds.org](mailto:photos@pabirds.org).

Send all other materials (articles, artwork, advertising, etc.) to: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, pomarine@earthlink.net**.



## IN FOCUS



*Cattle Egret, Crabtree, Westmoreland County. See p. 141.  
(Photo by Mark McConaughy)*



*Marbled Godwit with Willet, Somerset Lake, Somerset County. See p. 139.  
(Photo by Jeff Payne)*



*Glossy Ibis, Miller Ponds, Crawford County. See p. 118.  
(Photo by Geoff Malosh)*



*Red-necked Phalarope, Mill Street, Lycoming County. See p. 132.  
(Photo by Eric Hartshaw)*



*Wilson's Plover, Gull Point, Erie County. See p. 122.  
(Photo by Jerry McWilliams)*



*Apparent Eastern x Western Kingbird, SGL 106, Berks County. See p.107.  
(Photo by Jaimee Buehl)*