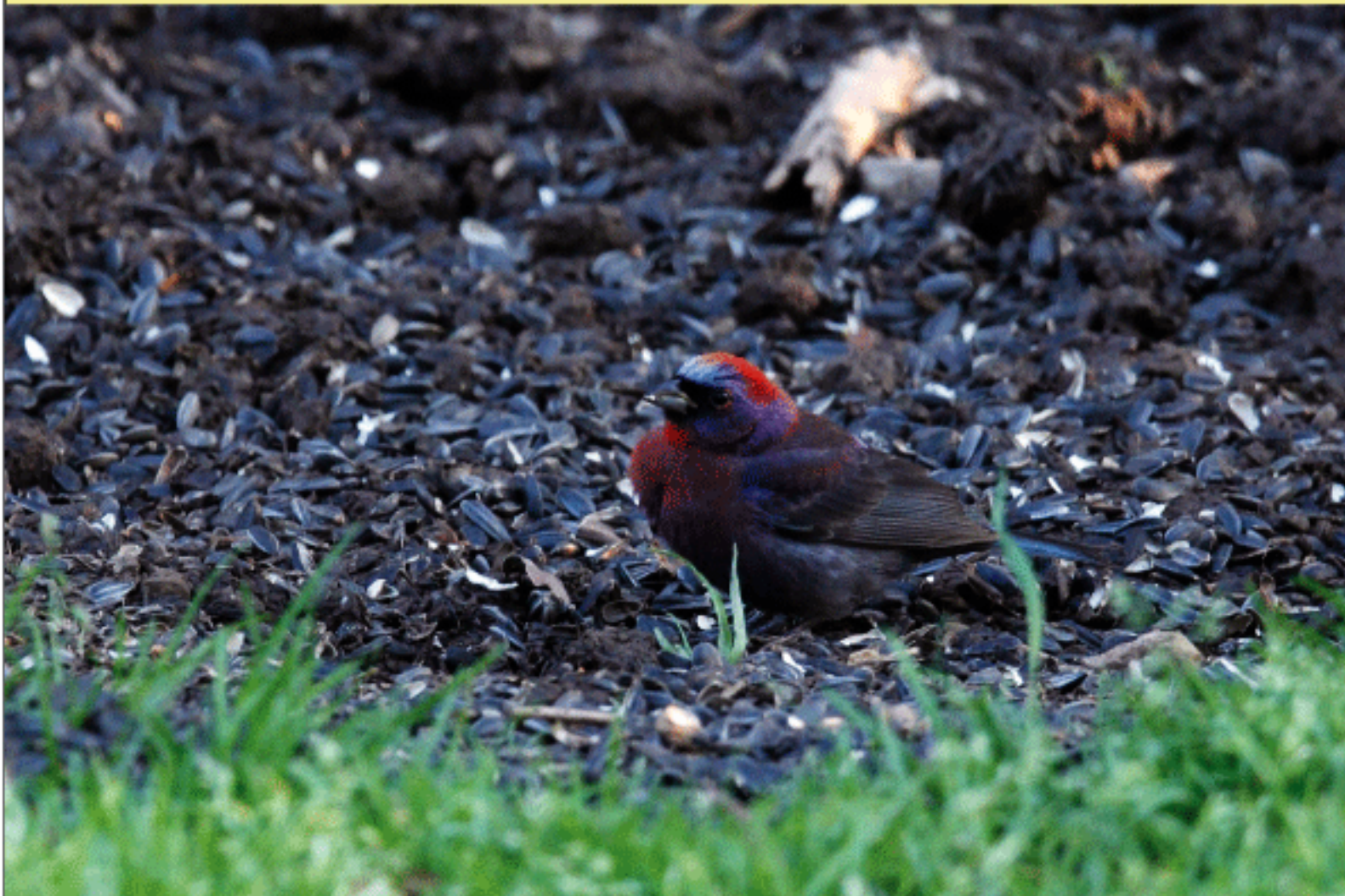


# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 32, No. 2  
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# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

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Deb Grove  
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Who would have predicted **Varied Bunting** as a candidate for next Pennsylvania first record? This remarkable visitor arrived at a feeder in Elizabeth Twp., *Allegheny* 5 May and stayed until 7 May, seen here 6 May. (Geoff Malosh)



**Ted Nichols II – photo editor**

Soon after Deb and I took over editing duties, we were joined in our efforts by Ted Nichols II, who took on the critical job of photo editor. This has involved calling for, receiving, organizing, and editing photos that may number 100 or more, especially for the busy spring and fall seasons. He narrows the list down to a number close to what we need for publication – not an easy task at all considering the wonderful photos made possible by digital technology. He collects all the critical information – species ID, date, location, photographer ID, and anything notable about the record. He then sends all to me. A very time-consuming process that calls for considerable judgment and technical ability.

Many readers of this journal know that Ted is a member of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and assigned to the state's Joint Force Headquarters at Fort Indiantown Gap in Lebanon County. Earlier this year he was called to active duty, to be stationed at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. He has been there since the early spring, and while carrying out his duties to his country has continued to fulfill his commitment to Pennsylvania birders, with the most recent Winter issue and the Spring 2018 issue you are reading now. As seen in the photo, with a B-1B Lancer in the background, Ted could be occasionally found perusing the pages of the Winter issue.

By the time PSO members are reading this page, Ted will be back home, no doubt trying to catch up on his Pennsylvania year list while transitioning back to his civilian job with the U.S. Department of Veterans

Affairs. Ted – We welcome you back and Thank You for your service to our country.

**More on photos**

With this issue, we offer a major upgrade – all photos in color! With so many great photos submitted, a big struggle for Ted and I is deciding what small subset of photos would be printed in color. Not easy.

Publication manager Frank Haas has been informed that the costs and time required to print color photos is now reduced, to the point that we feel we (PSO) can afford a modest increase in printing cost to make a major improvement in our state journal. To make the transition even easier financially, Frank and Barb Haas's company, BirdScreen, will donate \$800 to cover the additional cost for the first four issues!

I want to again take the opportunity to thank those who have submitted photos. I am sure readers and those who submit photos realize we can't print all we receive, but we do try to spread around our selections to represent as many contributors as possible.

**Compiler news**

Two county compilers make their debuts in this issue. Ryan Johnson of Moscow, PA will take over in *Lackawanna*, which has only limited coverage for quite a few years. In *Carbon*, another county uncovered for several years, Billy Weber of Walnutport is the new compiler. Billy also serves on PORC. We are losing one compiler – Joshua Markel has reported on *Fulton* for the last year, but Josh is moving out of state.

The following counties have no compiler: *Bradford*, *Fulton*, *Luzerne*, *McKean*, and *Tioga*. Please contact the editor if interested.

**Errata:** 2018 – Vol. 32, No. 1: Table 1 1991-1992 to 2017-2018 Pennsylvania Sandhill Crane Records, p. 7: Blair County

should be \_ no report; Franklin County should be o observed only; Somerset County should be b confirmed breeder; Totals b confirmed breeder: 13, o observed only: 46, \_ no report: 8.

**County compilers:** **Phil Keener** (Adams, York), **Mike Fialkovich** (Allegheny, Fayette), **Marjorie Van Tassel** (Armstrong), **Geoff Malosh** (Beaver, Lawrence, Washington), **Tom Dick** (Bedford), **Rudy Keller** and **Matt Wlasniewski** (Berks), **John Carter** (Blair), **August Mirabella** (Bucks), **Oscar Miller** (Butler), **Dave Gobert** (Cambria), **Mark Johnson** (Cameron), **Billy Weber** (Carbon), **Nan Butkovich** (Centre), **Holly Merker** (Chester), **Carole Winslow** (Clarion), **Diane Bierly** (Clearfield), **Wayne Laubscher** (Clinton), **Andy Keister** (Columbia, Northumberland), **Rob Hodgson** (Crawford), **Vern Gauthier** (Cumberland), **Sandy Lockerman** (Dauphin), **Sheryl Johnson** (Delaware), **Brendyn Baptiste** (Elk), **Jerry McWilliams** (Erie), **Flo McGuire** (Forest), **Bill Oylar** (Franklin), **Marjorie Howard** (Greene), **Greg Grove** (Huntingdon, Juniata), **Margaret Higbee** (Indiana), **Thomas Glover** (Jefferson), **Chad Kauffman** (Juniata), **Ryan Johnson** (Lackawanna), **Zack Millen** (Lancaster), **Tim Becker** (Lebanon), **Bill Etter** (Lehigh), **Bobby Brown** (Lycoming), **Glenn Koppel** (Mercer), **Jon Kauffman** (Mifflin), **Brian Hardiman** (Monroe), **Brian Henderson** (Montgomery), **Evan Houston** (Montour), **Michael Schall** (Northampton, Pike), **Holger Pflicke** (Philadelphia), **Dan Hinnebusch** (Perry), **Robert Snyder** (Potter), **Dave Rieger** (Schuylkill), **Jeff Payne** (Somerset), **Rob Megraw** (Sullivan), **Evan Mann** (Susquehanna), **Joe Gyekis** (Snyder, Union), **Gary Edwards** and **Russ States** (Venango), **Scott Stoleson** (Warren), **Josh Jones** (Wayne), **Tom Kuehl** (Westmoreland), **Joe DeMarco** (Wyoming).

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# Pennsylvania Raptor Migration Summary - Spring 2018

Laurie Goodrich

Weather is intimately influential on the hawkwatchers' quarry, the migrating hawk. Long-term climate patterns and air mass movements also have complex impacts, affecting winds and counts often in unanticipated ways. In spring 2018, Pennsylvania observed slightly below-normal temperatures while precipitation was above average for most of the state and regions south along the Appalachians ([www.ncdc.noaa.gov](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov)). These patterns may have challenged north-bound migrating raptors and could have dispersed flights in both time and geographic extent. In contrast, warmer than usual temperatures and lower precipitation and storm frequency in Texas and nearby regions may have allowed faster than usual movement north for long-distance migrants such as the Broad-winged Hawk and Peregrine Falcon ([www.nrcc.cornell.edu/regional](http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu/regional)).

## Migration Summary

In spring 2018, eight Pennsylvania watch sites counted 23,607 hawks in 1604 hours and 247 days for 14.7 hawks per hour overall. With the new and traditional sites, statewide count hours were 28% above the average spring effort of 1245 hours. Pennsylvania welcomed one new site in Fayette County, the Summit Mountain watch site on Chestnut Ridge, a private, non-public site, while two traditionally fall watch sites added a few spring hours, Freedom Area Watch in Beaver County and Stateline Woods Preserve in Chester County.

Total spring raptors were 6% above the 10-year average of 22,336 hawks statewide (Table 1), primarily driven by an upswing in Turkey Vulture counts, 15,963 compared to a ten-year average of 12,844. The only other species showing well-above-average counts was Bald Eagle, with 381 counted compared to 237 for the ten-year average. Despite the increased statewide effort, counts of other raptors varied from about

average to 73% below the ten-year average (Table 2). Counts of the three most numerous migrants, Broad-winged (4075), Sharp-shinned (876), and Red-tailed Hawks (836), were 12%, 32%, and 36% below the ten-year averages for the state, respectively. The Northern Goshawk spring counts reflected the dearth of birds seen in Pennsylvania during autumn 2017, with only two spring sightings across the eight sites, compared to an average of 7.5 sightings. The Golden Eagle, a flagship species for spring watch sites, was 35% below the ten-year average, with 187 counted compared to the average of 292. The Golden Eagle count was the lowest statewide since 2006. Inclement weather on many days during peak Golden Eagle migration period is one possible reason for the dip in numbers.

On a positive note, two species showing long-term declines as migrants (see [rpi-project.org](http://rpi-project.org)) showed near-average counts, with 141 Northern Harriers and 381 American Kestrels counted across all sites; the latter was 3% above the average (Table 2).

## Site Highlights

**Allegheny Front (Somerset/Bedford)** – Allegheny Front counters tallied 926 hawks in 285 hours on 50 days from 2/13 to 5/5, a rate of 3.3 hawks per hour (Table 1, 2). Total raptors were 27% below the ten-year average. The total of 477 Broad-winged Hawks was 41% above the ten year-average of 377 (Table 2). Golden Eagles also sailed north in lower than average numbers with 35 counted compared to the ten-year average of 67 (Table 2). Allegheny Front daily counts were low through mid-March. March 19th brought the first notable flight - 59 hawks including 10 Golden Eagles, 8 adults and 2 immature birds (Table 1). Another push occurred 3/24-25, with nine Golden Eagles counted during that two-day period along with a lone Bald Eagle. Daily

flights increased during the second week of April as Broad-winged Hawks were seen nearly every day. During 4/21-22, watchers counted season peak numbers of 141 and 291 total hawks, respectively. Southeast winds on 4/22 brought the highest one-day count and highest diversity for the season with 11 species heading north dominated by 242 Broad-winged Hawks and accompanied by 15 Osprey, 12 Sharp-shinned Hawks and the last Golden Eagle of the spring.

**Delaware Nature Society Kite Watch at Bucktoe Preserve (Chester)** - A second year for a special late spring watch for kites and shorebirds in southeastern Pennsylvania at Bucktoe Preserve recorded 3 hawks in 20 days and 164 hours of counts between 5/17 and 6/6 (Table 1, 2). Mississippi Kites were recorded 5/18 and 5/22, one age unknown and one adult. An Osprey was recorded 5/25. Counts were lower than in 2017 when 13 hawks were counted including 6 Mississippi Kites; however, the kite count was higher than any other site in the state.

**Freedom Area Hawk Watch (Beaver)** – A new site in Beaver County tallied 16 hawks in 2 hours over two days for 16 raptors per hour (Table 1). Totals included 13 Turkey Vultures, one Bald Eagle, one Osprey, and one Red-tailed Hawk--promising numbers suggesting great potential for this site in the future!

**Hawk Mountain (Berks/Schuylkill)** – Hawk Mountain counters tallied 569 hawks in 333 hours and 37 days between 3/19 and 5/5 for 1.7 hawks per hour (Table 1, 2). Despite rain, snow, and fog limiting coverage on 13 days, Hawk Mountain had above-average coverage. Total spring counts dipped 38% below the ten-year average with most species lower than average (Table 2). Light north winds brought the season-peak one-day count on 4/21 with 81 hawks of 10 species tallied by Hawk Mountain trainees. The days' highlights included 55 Broad-winged Hawks, 7 Ospreys, and a Merlin. On 4/28, south winds brought the second-highest one-day count, with 51 Broad-winged Hawks, 9 Ospreys, and a Peregrine Falcon among 66 total hawks.

**Presque Isle (Erie)** – Presque Isle counters recorded 20,326 hawks in 175 hours of counts between 2/27 and 5/31, for 116 hawks per hour (Table 1, 2). The Lake Erie watch site usually records the highest count statewide, and in 2018 it did not disappoint. Species counts were above-average for Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, and American Kestrel, whereas counts of Sharp-shinned, Broad-

Table 1. Pennsylvania watchsites reporting in spring 2018

Site	Hours	Total Raptors	Raptors/Hour
Allegheny Front	285.3	926	3.3
DNS at Bucktoe	164.0	3	0.02
Freedom Area	1.0	16	16.0
Hawk Mountain	241.5	569	1.7
Presque Isle	175.0	20,326	116.2
Summit Mountain	18.8	85	8.5
TLCs at Stateline Woods Preserve	8.5	0	0
Tussey Mountain	408.5	1,301	3.2
<b>State Total</b>	<b>1,604</b>	<b>23,607</b>	<b>14.7</b>

**Table 3. Peak One-day Counts for Spring 2018.**

Site	Golden Eagle		Broad-winged Hawk	
	Peak Count	Date	Peak Count	Date
<b>Allegheny Front</b>	10	Mar 19	242	Apr 22
<b>DNS at Bucktoe</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Freedom Area</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Hawk Mountain</b>	1	Apr 1	55	Apr 21
<b>Presque Isle</b>	-	-	872	Apr 24
<b>Summit</b>	-	-	1	Apr 12
<b>TLC at Stataline Woods Preserve</b>	--	-	-	-
<b>Tussey Mountain</b>	15	Mar 30	94	Apr 23

winged, and Red-tailed Hawks were below-average (Table 2). Southwest winds on 3/31 brought a record one-day count with watchers tallying 4204 Turkey Vultures, along with 16 Bald Eagles, 50 Red-shouldered Hawks, 26 American Kestrels, and a total raptor count of 4365. Another push of vultures arrived on the lake shore 4/2 with 2425 parading north along with 3 Bald Eagles. Southeast winds on 4/23 brought Presque Isle watchers the highest total daily count for the season with 1408 hawks tallied including 512 Turkey Vultures, 615 Broad-winged Hawks, and 65 American Kestrels. The following day brought 872 Broad-winged Hawks, the highest one-day count for the site and the state (Table 3), and the highest one-day total for Sharp-shinned Hawks at 160, among a total of 1271 migrating hawks. The last big day for the season was 5/9 when southwest winds ushered 612 hawks over the watch site including 539 Turkey Vultures, 19 Bald Eagles, and 25 Broad-winged Hawks.

**Summit Mountain (Fayette)**-Summit Mountain recorded 85 hawks in 19 hours and 4 days of counts in March and April for 8.5 hawks per hour (Table 1). The highest one-day count occurred 3/31 when southeast winds brought 48 Turkey Vultures, 10 Red-tailed Hawks, and 2 Red-shouldered Hawks northbound past the site among a total of 69 hawks, a large proportion of the total tally (Table 2). Summit Mountain counts in 2018 suggest Pennsylvania’s southwestern ridges may reveal some untapped bounty for spring hawk-watching.

**TLC’s Hawkwatch at Stataline Woods Preserve (Chester)** - Stataline Woods Preserve watchers counted 0 hawks in 8.5

hours of counting on 6/5 although other birds were sighted. We wish them better luck in 2019’s raptor count!

**Tussey Mountain (Centre)** – Tussey Mountain hawk watchers counted 1301 hawks in 409 hours and 55 days of counting from 2/20 to 4/25, the second-highest season count in the state, resulting in 3.2 hawks per hour (Table 1). The count was 30% below the ten-year average of 1880 total hawks (Table 2), with above-average counts for Turkey Vulture (210) and Bald Eagle (84) but lower than average counts for most other species, including 150 Golden Eagles, compared to the ten-year average of 224 eagles. Broad-winged Hawks (381) were 37% below the ten-year average. The highest one-day count of Golden Eagles, 15, passed the site on 3/30 along with 6 Bald Eagles and 30 Turkey Vultures amid 74 total raptors. Overcast skies prevented aging six of the Golden on this day but the remainder was a mix of adults and immatures. Counters recorded four additional days in March with 10 or more Golden Eagles heading north. Tussey Mountain counted its highest one-day count of 117 hawks on 4/23 including 94 Broad-winged Hawks, 7 Ospreys, 8 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and a late Golden Eagle (Table 3).

**Conclusions**

In spring 2018, hawk-watchers extended their survey efforts to explore new sites, particularly in the western counties, suggesting possible new places for birdwatchers to explore in spring 2019. Hourly counts averaged above 14 birds per hour, a respectable count rate comparable to autumn totals. Lake shore and central ridges showed the highest counts, similar to prior

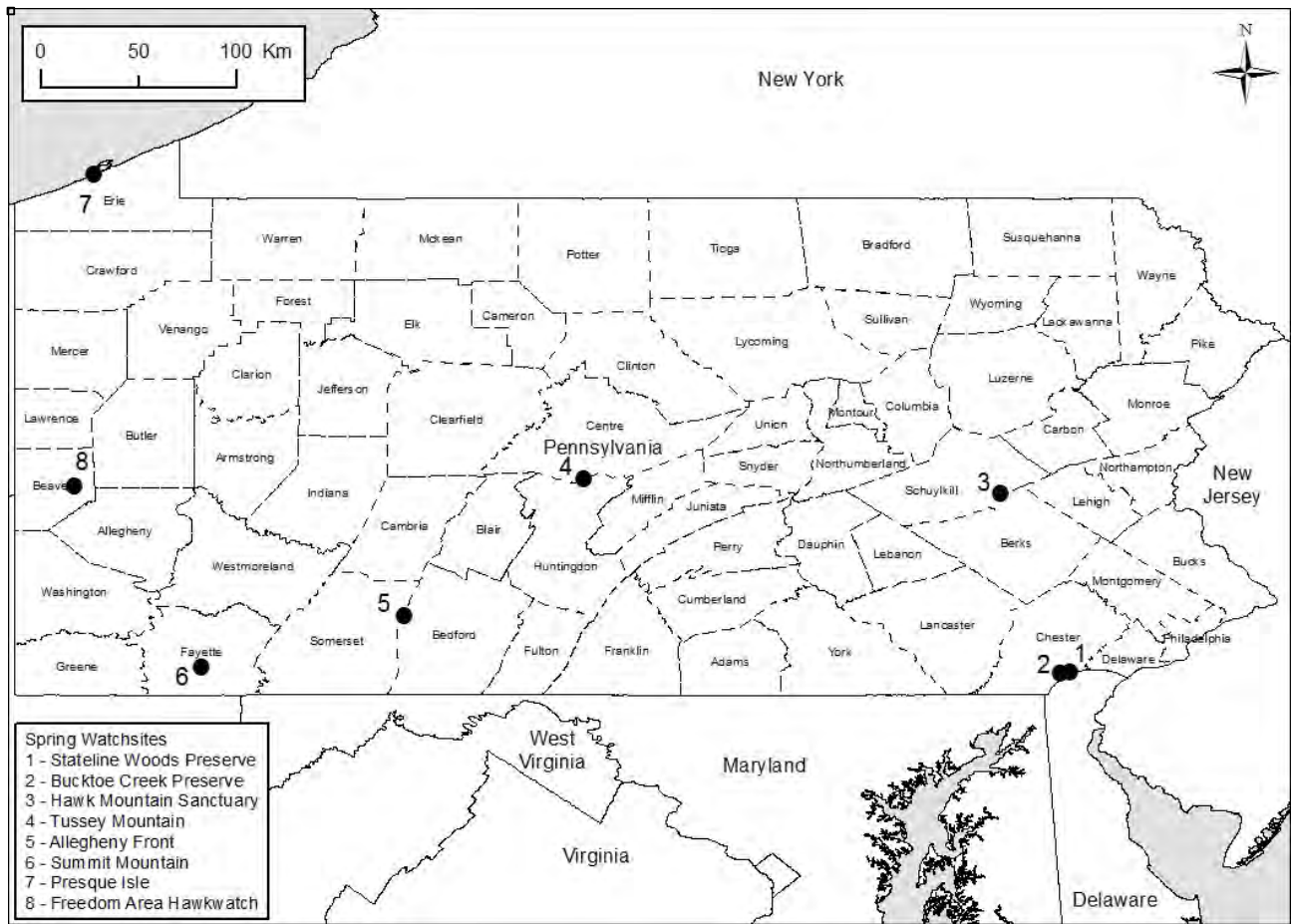
years. Counters statewide persevered through above-average rainfall to chronicle the north-bound migration and found eagles and other raptors pushing north in and around storms, sometimes showing delayed migration compared to other years. Although total counts were lower than average, hopeful highlights were found in American Kestrel numbers sighted returning north along Lake Erie and the continuing increase in Bald Eagles and vultures.

**Acknowledgments**

Thank you to the site compilers for providing insight and access to data, Nick Bolgiano, Jerry McWilliams, Dan Ombalski, Bob Stewart, Luca Delehean and Hawk Mountain trainees, and spring hawkwatchers statewide. David Barber created the site map and data were gathered from [www.hawkcount.org](http://www.hawkcount.org) (accessed July 2018) a site managed by Jason Sodergren, HMANA database manager and Hawk Migration Association of North America. Assistance with table preparation provided by John Hilbish. Weather regional information from U. S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

This article is Hawk Mountain Conservation Science Contribution number 304.

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**Table 2. Spring 2018 count results for Pennsylvania watchsites.**

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
February	7	32.3	0	26	0	0	1	1	4	1	4	0	19	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	63
March	18	106.0	2	58	0	3	1	7	6	0	6	0	43	0	29	6	0	0	0	4	165
April	23	143.5	3	28	42	2	1	37	15	0	6	477	61	0	3	2	2	1	0	18	698
May	2	3.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>285.3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>926</b>
Total per hr			0.02	0.39	0.15	0.02	0.01	0.16	0.09	0.00	0.06	1.67	0.43	0.00	0.12	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.09	3.25
% of flight			0.5	12.1	4.5	0.5	0.3	4.9	2.7	0.1	1.7	51.5	13.3	0.0	3.8	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.0	2.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	56.9	359.0	11.8	203.5	65.8	18.8	15.4	117.1	51.2	4.5	31.5	336.7	281.4	0.6	67.3	18.7	4.7	2.4	0.0	44.5	1279.9

**DELAWARE NATURE SOCIETY KITE WATCH AT BUCKTOE PRESERVE (Chester) - Larry Lewis, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total	
May	15	124.0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	
June	5	40.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	
Total per hr			0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	
% of flight			0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	100.0
Average last 10 yrs																						

**FREEDOM AREA HAWK WATCH (Beaver) - Brian Wargo, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total	
April	1	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
May	1	0.5	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	
Total per hr			0.00	13.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.00
% of flight			0.0	81.3	6.3	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Average last 10 yrs																						

**HAWK MOUNTAIN (Berks/Schuylkill) - Luca Dehelean and Laurie Goodrich, compilers**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
March	2	4.4	0	4	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	21
April	23	131.4	14	9	38	18	13	35	19	0	1	252	31	0	2	9	2	2	0	47	492
May	12	197.4	3	1	10	4	3	5	3	0	1	16	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>333.3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>569</b>
Total per hr			0.09	0.04	0.14	0.07	0.05	0.13	0.07	0.00	0.01	0.80	0.13	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.16	1.71
% of flight			3.0	2.5	8.4	4.0	3.0	7.4	4.2	0.0	0.4	47.1	7.4	0.0	0.4	1.8	0.7	0.5	0.0	9.3	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	42.8	241.5	38.7	37.6	83.8	37.2	23.2	90.2	39.5	0.5	7.5	348.3	92.8	0.3	2.2	18.6	4.2	1.9	0.0	84.1	910.8

**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	MIKI	Unid	Total
February	1	0.8	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
March	16	48.3	0	6125	2	s	4	16	7	1	123	0	157	0	0	30	3	2	0	3	6504
April	20	74.3	0	7778	77	53	67	569	5	0	12	2270	183	0	0	263	8	3	0	7	11295
May	14	51.8	0	1522	23	130	10	70	3	0	0	678	53	2	0	17	1	1	0	9	2519
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15431</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>2948</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20326</b>
Total per hr			0.00	88.18	0.58	1.22	0.46	3.74	0.09	0.01	0.77	16.85	2.25	0.01	0.00	1.77	0.07	0.03	0.00	0.11	116.15
% of flight			0.0	75.9	0.5	1.1	0.4	3.2	0.1	0.0	0.7	14.5	1.9	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	59.8	194.5	0.6	12365.6	80.6	124.7	72.9	890.5	73.9	1.0	213.1	3297.9	582.6	18.8	1.2	291.7	12.2	7.4	0.0	40.3	18076.6

**SUMMIT MOUNTAIN (Fayette) - Peter Everett Livengood, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
March	2	10.0	0	54	1	2	0	3	1	0	2	0	12	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	79
April	2	8.8	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18.75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>85</b>
Total per hr			0.00	3.04	0.05	0.11	0.00	0.16	0.05	0.00	0.11	0.05	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	4.53
% of flight			0.0	67.1	1.2	2.4	0.0	3.5	1.2	0.0	2.4	1.2	14.1	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	100.0
Average last 10 yrs																					

**TLC's S. CHESTER COUNTY HAWKWATCH AT STATELINE WOODS PRESERVE (Chester) - Larry Lewis, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
June	1	8.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Total per hr			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
% of flight																					
Average last 10 yrs																					

**TUSSEY MOUNTAIN (Centre) - Nick Bolgiano, compiler**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
February	6	39.5	8	75	0	16	3	3	0	0	7	0	27	0	31	0	0	0	0	7	177
March	27	209.3	2	126	14	52	15	32	6	0	24	0	90	0	109	18	1	1	0	19	509
April	22	159.8	0	9	39	16	7	64	1	0	1	381	57	0	10	16	3	0	0	11	615
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>408.5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1301</b>
Total per hr			0.02	0.51	0.13	0.21	0.06	0.24	0.02	0.00	0.08	0.93	0.43	0.00	0.37	0.08	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.09	3.18
% of flight			0.8	16.1	4.1	6.5	1.9	7.6	0.5	0.0	2.5	29.3	13.4	0.0	11.5	2.6	0.3	0.1	0.0	2.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	55.2	394.4	22.3	196.9	87.3	41.8	27.2	182.0	46.5	1.5	47.6	603.8	348.4	3.1	223.6	34.6	5.2	2.2	0.0	26.9	1879.9

**2018 TOTALS FOR ALL WATCHSITES**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total*,**
February	14	72.5	8	107	0	16	4	4	5	1	11	0	47	0	34	0	0	0	0	11	248
March	92	587.2	6	6493	31	141	36	92	28	1	179	0	397	0	138	74	5	5	0	33	7659
April	91	518.2	17	7828	197	90	88	705	40	0	20	3381	333	0	15	290	15	6	0	85	13110
May	44	377.2	3	1535	34	134	13	75	6	0	1	694	59	2	0	17	3	1	2	11	2590
June	6	48.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>1604</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>15963</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>4075</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>23607</b>
Total per hr.			0.0	10.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.5	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	14.7
% flight			0.1	67.6	1.1	1.6	0.6	3.7	0.3	0.0	0.9	17.3	3.5	0.0	0.8	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.6	100.0
Average last 10 yrs.	224.2	1244.5	73.6	12484	329.5	236.9	141.8	1295.3	214.3	7.5	301.3	4649.7	1317.9	22.8	291.5	369.5	26.7	13.9	0.5	198.4	22336.2



## Summary of the 2018 PA Migration Count Chuck Berthoud

As we all know, bird migration is weather dependent and this year's PAMC had some remarkable impacts due to cool temperatures throughout the state and rain everywhere at some point during the 24-hour period of the count. Rain overnight in southern PA had stopped by daybreak but left cool temperatures in the low 50s.

Lancaster compiler Derek Stoner noted that the 'heavy thunderstorms in the pre-dawn hours are thought to have "put down" birds and great fall-out type conditions with concentrations of migrant songbirds'. However, in northern counties the rain and cold did not let up. Evan Mann noted "For the second year in a row, Susquehanna County's PAMC was essentially washed out by temperatures in the 40's and intermittent rain and showers for most of the day. Only one of two scheduled group walks was held, and it went from a planned full morning of birding to 45 minutes of dodging rain. A handful of stationary counts at wetlands were the only other inputs. We will try again next year!" Wayne Laubscher in Clinton County echoed the same sentiment.

This year a total of 163,738 birds of 228 species were reported from 65 of 67 counties. A summary Excel table of statewide species numbers is included with this report, and a much more extensive table, showing individual county results, will be posted to the PSO website.

Table 1 shows the ten most abundant species across the state and as usual was led by American Robin. Table 2 list the counties exceeding 120 species, led by Lancaster, with an impressive 175 species. Finally, Table 3 lists the top 10 counties with the highest counts of species, led by Juniata, which had the high counts for 43 species!

I wish to acknowledge the essential help of Annette Mathes in extracting the data from eBird, creating tables, and adding clarity to the project.

**Table 2. Counties Above 120 Species**

Lancaster	175
Juniata	157
Butler	156
Centre	151
Bucks	150
Chester	150
Lebanon	148
Huntingdon	143
Montgomery	142
Lycoming	141
Philadelphia	138
Cumberland	138
Crawford	136
Westmoreland	135
Mercer	135
Allegheny	130
Dauphin	128
York	123

**Table 1. Ten Most Abundant Species**

American Robin	9437
Red-winged Blackbird	7640
Gray Catbird	6926
Canada Goose	5318
European Starling	5313
Common Grackle	5024
Barn Swallow	4834
Tree Swallow	4527
Northern Cardinal	4094
Red-eyed Vireo	4050

**Table 3. Number of Species High Counts Per County (Top 10)**

Juniata	43
Philadelphia	32
Bucks	24
Montgomery	18
Erie	12
Lancaster	12
Centre	11
Greene	11
Huntingdon	7
Allegheny	6

COMMON NAME	High Ct	County	Totals	COMMON NAME	High Ct	County	Totals	COMMON NAME	High Ct	County	Totals
Snow Goose	31	Lebanon	49	Osprey	34	Philadelphia	154	Rock Pigeon	171	Juniata	1238
Canada Goose	489	Montgomery	5507	Northern Harrier	2	Northumberland	11	Mourning Dove	313	Montgomery	2997
Mute Swan	51	Bucks	147	Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	Juniata	24	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	28	Juniata	131
Tundra Swan	1	Huntingdon	1	Cooper's Hawk	13	Montgomery	81	Black-billed Cuckoo	12	Juniata	71
Wood Duck	70	Philadelphia	695	Bald Eagle	30	Juniata	237	Barn Owl	9	Centre	10
Blue-winged Teal	2	Washington	3	Red-shouldered Hawk	12	butler	59	Eastern Screech-Owl	6	Bucks	26
Northern Shoveler	2	Crawford	2	Broad-winged Hawk	6	Franklin	65	Great Horned Owl	6	Bucks	25
Gadwall	2	Crawford	2	Red-tailed Hawk	43	Juniata	436	Barred Owl	5	Chester	48
Mallard	169	Franklin	1609	Virginia Rail	9	Lebanon	27	Common Nighthawk	40	Luzerne	64
American Black Duck	3	Juniata	4	Sora	6	Lebanon	17	Eastern Whip-poor-will	26	Centre	56
Green-winged Teal	1	Dauphin	1	Common Gallinule	382	Bucks	386	Chimney Swift	283	Juniata	2259
Redhead	3	Lycoming	3	American Coot	1	Butler, Mercer	3	Ruby-throated Hummin	55	Juniata	616
Ring-necked Duck	7	Erie	9	Sandhill Crane	6	Crawford	13	Belted Kingfisher	25	Juniata	154
Greater Scaup	9	Erie	16	Black-bellied Plover	1	Dauphin	1	Red-headed Woodpeck	11	Juniata	84
Lesser Scaup	18	Erie	33	Semipalmated Plover	40	Lancaster	91	Red-bellied Woodpeck	211	Montgomery	1809
Surf Scoter	6	Centre	7	Killdeer	46	Allegheny	380	Yellow-bellied Sapsuck	5	Luzerne	38
Black Scoter	2	Lycoming	2	Upland Sandpiper	3	Crawford	3	Downy Woodpecker	99	Juniata	941
Bufflehead	57	Erie	73	Sanderling	1	Erie, Lancaster	2	Hairy Woodpecker	27	Montgomery	248
Common Goldeneye	3	Bucks	5	Dunlin	20	Westmoreland	42	Northern Flicker	108	Philadelphia	1040
Hooded Merganser	31	Juniata	76	Least Sandpiper	365	Bucks	989	Pileated Woodpecker	42	Juniata	382
Common Merganser	64	Juniata	252	White-rumped Sandpip	2	Lawrence	4	American Kestrel	7	Bucks	72
Red-breasted Mergans	60	Erie	116	Pectoral Sandpiper	2	Erie	4	Merlin	3	Erie	4
Ruddy Duck	21	Erie	33	Semipalmated Sandpip	22	Lancaster	55	Peregrine Falcon	4	Philadelphia	10
Ring-necked Pheasant	10	Lancaster	28	Short-billed Dowitcher	470	Allegheny	492	Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	Union	3
Ruffed Grouse	4	Wyoming	15	American Woodcock	9	Centre	30	Eastern Wood-Pewee	49	Juniata	565
Wild Turkey	100	Greene	348	Wilson's Snipe	3	Huntingdon	12	Yellow-bellied Flycatch	2	Westmoreland	4
Red-throated Loon	2	Lycoming	4	Spotted Sandpiper	246	Juniata	828	Acadian Flycatcher	27	Greene	286
Common Loon	55	Bucks	195	Solitary Sandpiper	39	Montgomery	284	Alder Flycatcher	5	Butler	19
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Blair, Butler	4	Greater Yellowlegs	6	Lawrence, Luze	50	Willow Flycatcher	22	Chester	154
Horned Grebe	27	Erie	40	Lesser Yellowlegs	17	Bucks	98	Least Flycatcher	20	Centre	190
Double-crested Cormor	339	Bucks	1320	Bonaparte's Gull	7	Forest	27	Eastern Phoebe	59	Juniata	645
American Bittern	2	Westmoreland	3	Laughing Gull	637	Bucks	916	Great Crested Flycatch	101	Montgomery	851
Great Blue Heron	69	Bucks	577	Ring-billed Gull	433	Lancaster	936	Eastern Kingbird	90	Montgomery	779
Great Egret	119	Philadelphia	230	Herring Gull	401	Bucks	483	White-eyed Vireo	32	Greene	152
Snowy Egret	1	Bucks	1	Lesser Black-backed G	8	Bucks	10	Yellow-throated Vireo	36	Juniata	222
Green Heron	25	Juniata	223	Great Black-backed Gu	8	Bucks	10	Blue-headed Vireo	34	Centre	289
Black-crowned Night-H	36	Lancaster	64	Caspian Tern	7	Erie	8	Philadelphia Vireo	4	Cumberland	23
Yellow-crowned Night-f	23	Dauphin	24	Black Tern	1	Snyder	1	Warbling Vireo	146	Philadelphia	749
Black Vulture	156	Lancaster	415	Common Tern	3	Erie	5	Red-eyed Vireo	563	Bedford	4383
Turkey Vulture	194	Greene	1590	Forster's Tern	7	Mercer	18	Blue Jay	389	Montgomery	3008

COMMON NAME	High Ct	County	Totals	COMMON NAME	High Ct	County	Totals	COMMON NAME	High Ct	County	Totals
American Crow	192	Juniata	2765	Golden-winged Warbler	7	Juniata	15	Lincoln's Sparrow	4	Juniata	23
Fish Crow	46	Bucks	364	Blue-winged Warbler	14	Bucks	134	Swamp Sparrow	21	Philadelphia	128
Common Raven	19	Juniata	127	Black-and-white Warbler	241	Philadelphia	1043	Eastern Towhee	195	Greene	2434
Horned Lark	63	Juniata	177	Prothonotary Warbler	16	Lancaster	31	Yellow-breasted Chat	13	Lancaster	45
Northern Rough-winged	287	Lycoming	1747	Tennessee Warbler	89	Allegheny	548	Scarlet Tanager	144	Juniata	1298
Purple Martin	253	Greene	1353	Orange-crowned Warbler	2	Lancaster	5	Northern Cardinal	400	Montgomery	4238
Tree Swallow	689	Philadelphia	4599	Nashville Warbler	18	Centre	160	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	92	Greene	845
Bank Swallow	79	Luzerne	294	Mourning Warbler	5	Cumberland	30	Blue Grosbeak	17	Chester	26
Barn Swallow	451	Lycoming	4990	Kentucky Warbler	11	Allegheny	42	Indigo Bunting	287	Juniata	1605
Cliff Swallow	90	Centre	558	Common Yellowthroat	368	Philadelphia	3157	Bobolink	264	Bucks	797
Carolina Chickadee	208	Montgomery	910	Hooded Warbler	67	Huntingdon	606	Eastern Meadowlark	32	Greene	286
Black-capped Chickadee	69	Centre	675	American Redstart	397	Philadelphia	2790	Orchard Oriole	58	Juniata	424
Tufted Titmouse	243	Montgomery	2010	Cape May Warbler	35	Cumberland	247	Baltimore Oriole	351	Juniata	2597
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	Wyoming	11	Cerulean Warbler	18	Cumberland	140	Red-winged Blackbird	689	Greene	8036
White-breasted Nuthatch	74	Montgomery	717	Northern Parula	245	Philadelphia	926	Brown-headed Cowbird	195	Juniata	1695
Brown Creeper	5	Huntingdon	12	Magnolia Warbler	196	Philadelphia	1126	Common Grackle	1255	Juniata	5366
House Wren	188	Montgomery	1377	Bay-breasted Warbler	61	Philadelphia	334	House Finch	118	Montgomery	1178
Winter Wren	3	Butler	14	Blackburnian Warbler	42	Huntingdon	406	Purple Finch	28	Cambria	74
Marsh Wren	15	Philadelphia	21	Yellow Warbler	296	Philadelphia	2203	Pine Siskin	3	Tioga	5
Carolina Wren	186	Bucks	1649	Chestnut-sided Warbler	78	Philadelphia	741	American Goldfinch	341	Juniata	3826
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	160	Philadelphia	1321	Blackpoll Warbler	183	Philadelphia	607	House Sparrow	368	Philadelphia	2392
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	Centre	10	Black-throated Blue Warbler	148	Philadelphia	876	Fox Sparrow	4	Lancaster	8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7	Juniata	73	Palm Warbler	6	Erie	29	Black-necked Stilt	1	Bucks	1
Eastern Bluebird	119	Franklin	1007	Pine Warbler	11	Huntingdon	74	Iceland Gull	2	Bucks	2
Veery	78	Philadelphia	477	Yellow-rumped Warbler	226	Philadelphia	1520	American Tree Sparrow	2	Bedford, Bradford	4
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5	Philadelphia	26	Yellow-throated Warbler	9	Greene	30	Rusty Blackbird	2	Dauphin	3
Swainson's Thrush	93	Philadelphia	379	Prairie Warbler	43	Bucks	225	Clay-colored Sparrow	4	Lancaster	4
Hermit Thrush	9	Monroe	63	Black-throated Green Warbler	96	Montgomery	1148	Eurasian-collared Dove	20	Franklin	20
Wood Thrush	193	Montgomery	2396	Canada Warbler	76	Montgomery	392	Dickcissel	4	Franklin	4
American Robin	1326	Philadelphia	9772	Wilson's Warbler	29	Philadelphia	168				
Gray Catbird	1066	Philadelphia	7033	Grasshopper Sparrow	29	Allegheny	125				
Brown Thrasher	55	Juniata	441	Henslow's Sparrow	2	Allegheny	5				
Northern Mockingbird	65	Franklin	507	Chipping Sparrow	227	Juniata	2066				
European Starling	607	Philadelphia	5691	Field Sparrow	99	Juniata	989				
American Pipit	129	Bucks	209	Dark-eyed Junco	11	Westmoreland	85				
Cedar Waxwing	947	Juniata	2455	White-crowned Sparrow	14	Juniata	153				
Ovenbird	309	Juniata	2881	White-throated Sparrow	88	Philadelphia	366				
Worm-eating Warbler	27	Juniata	158	Vesper Sparrow	9	Franklin	23				
Louisiana Waterthrush	62	Juniata	260	Savannah Sparrow	28	Bucks	151				
Northern Waterthrush	78	Philadelphia	324	Song Sparrow	285	Juniata	2990				

## BOOK REVIEW

### Gene Wilhelm

**BIRDS OF PREY OF THE EAST: A Field Guide**, text and illustrations by Brian K. Wheeler, acknowledgments, 72 color plates, key to 41 color distribution maps, 49 color photo habitat figures, index, 5 ½ x 8 in., 296 pp., published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2018, cloth, \$27.95.

**BIRDS OF PREY OF THE WEST: A Field Guide**, text and illustrations by Brian K. Wheeler, acknowledgments, 85 color plates, key to 53 color distribution maps, 62 color photo habitat figures, index, 5 ½ x 8 in., 360 pp., published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2018, cloth, \$27.95.

As Pennsylvania hawk watchers can attest when visiting Hawk Mountain Reservation or other raptor hot-spots, 'hawks' are particularly difficult to identify even with powerful optics, precisely because raptors are most frequently seen in flight at great distances, and instantaneous motion. Fortunately, the evolutionary process of birds of prey field guides, discussed previously in this journal (see *Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 24, No. 1, pp. 25-26, 2010) continues unabated.

Indeed, the twin guides here by Brian K. Wheeler represent the ultimate best among the many birds of prey identification guides on the market today and with an illustration jolt no less. Although the books cover a minimal number of color photo habitats and even fewer birds of prey, they are profusely covered with 157 stunningly attractive color plates in the two guides. Perhaps hawk watchers should have been tipped off what was coming when Wheeler, author and lone illustrator, produced the highly acclaimed (and out of print), unique *Raptors of Eastern North America* and *Raptors of Western North America*, published by the Princeton University Press in 2003. At the very same time seemingly everyone began photographing birds with the advent of the digital revolution, including raptors, capturing impressive quality images in the process. Photographic bird guides literally mushroomed in this period.

So why didn't Wheeler follow the crowd? What was his special appeal? Let's read what this unique author and artist has to say: "Photo-type guides are very attractive but, in my opinion, not the best learning tool. Lighting variables and millisecond nuances captured by the camera do not lend themselves to consistent comparison of figures. Field marks are easily masked by irregular lighting or distorted angles of view. Backgrounds may

also be distracting. Digital manipulation corrects some inconsistencies but cannot consistently exhibit absolute comparison of lighting and angles of all figures. That is not saying photographs do not work – they can, but not always consistently for the broad application of a guide . . . Illustrated guides make for a *far* better educational tool. Direct comparison of *all* figures with *consistent* lighting and same angle of view in a neat arrangement – whether perched or flying – is the optimal formula. . . Field guides do present visual comparison data but minimal interpretive data. Handbooks present a large amount of interpretive data but minimal visual comparison. General bird field guides – whether photographic or illustrative – are great for general birding knowledge but lack adequate space to depict the multitude of age, sex, and color morph variations found in birds of prey" (p. 11). Wheeler calls his twin books "enhanced" field guides that seemed his perfect solution: larger and more data than a standard field guide but smaller and more user-friendly than a handbook. I might add that either book can be carried easily into the field because of size and weight.

The **Preface** and **Acknowledgments** of both guides is identical in script save for the different people who helped Wheeler in the eastern vs. western geographical areas. Even under **Introduction** (pp. 16-45 in the eastern guide) taxonomy is the same and stresses the recent (2012) drastic AOU reclassifications when falcons were separated from other diurnal birds of prey: the eagles, harriers, hawks, kites, Osprey, and vultures. Falcons were kept in their own order (Falconiformes) while the other raptors were placed in the new Accipitriformes order. Likewise, DNA confirmed that songbirds and parrots shared a similar but distant ancestry with falcons. Further, a more tangible visual connection exists among falcons, parrots, and passerines; in fact, wing molt between falcons and parrots is virtually identical – and tail molt of falcons, parrots, and passerines is identical. Based on 4,500 falcon and parrot specimens, Pyle (2013) found that they are the *only* two avian orders in the world that share this particular flight feather molt sequence.

It is mentioned in the western guide that the AOU changed the Gray Hawk's scientific name from *Asturina nitida* to *Buteo plagiatus* in 2012 because the hawk is more closely related to species in genus *Buteo* than previously determined but its position in the AOU Checklist remains the same. On the other hand, the AOU made a notable name change in 2015 for the White-

tailed Hawk from *Buteo albicaudatus* to *Geranoaetus albicaudatus* and its taxonomic position in the AOU checklist sequence was realigned to a slot between Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) and Gray Hawk (*Buteo plagiatus*).

Both guides have the same text about vultures stating that the AOU in 2016 reclassified New World Vultures since they are no longer considered part of the diurnal birds of prey of the Accipitriformes order. However, all current DNA research still considers them birds of prey thus receiving their own order Cathartiformes and are still placed directly in front of the diurnal birds of prey in the checklist. In summary, both the falcons and vultures are included in the twin guides because current science proves they should be there.

**Book Format** emphasizes the fact that the eastern guide's scope is *only* the continental United States east of the Mississippi River, Canada east of Manitoba and the western shore of Hudson Bay, north into Nunavut, eastward across the Arctic islands of Nunavut to Baffin Island, and eastward to include Greenland. The western guide's scope is *only* the western continental United States north of the Mexican border, west of the demarking Mississippi River, western Canada west of Manitoba and the western shore of Hudson Bay, then north into Nunavut, westward across the Arctic islands of Nunavut, the large Northwest Territories, and Alaska west to the Aleutian Islands.

Taxonomic Order resides over most of the two books but there are two short sections in the eastern book: a) 4 species and 2 subspecies raptors that are resident only in Florida: White-tailed Kite, Snail Kite, Short-tailed Hawk, and Crested Caracara and 2 subspecies: Red-shouldered Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk; and b) Western Species and Subspecies that are casual or accidental in the east: Ferruginous Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, and "Richardson's Merlin." In the west book, 10 subtropical and/or tropical raptor species are either resident or breed mainly in the south/southwest states of LA, TX, AZ, and NM:

- 1) Hook-billed Kite, 2) Swallow-tailed Kite, 3) Common Black Hawk, 4) Harris's Hawk, 5) White-tailed Hawk, 6) Gray Hawk, 7) Short-tailed Hawk, 8) Zone-tailed Hawk, 9) Crested Caracara, and 10) Aplomado Falcon.

*Plates.* Illustrations are drawn and painted in repetitive same-position poses for optimal comparison between similar species. Perching: Simple profile angle with dorsal side of tail is shown. This best illustrates markings and shows wingtip-to-tail-tip ratio. Flying: Four positions are used: a) direct overhead soaring that shows optimal wing size, shape, and tail markings, b) direct overhead gliding that shows average wing position in moderate-speed glide with a partially closed wing, c) ventral flapping flight depicts figures lit by direct light with 1 wing raised high in an upstroke to show shape and markings, and d) dorsal flapping flight illustrates dorsal flight ID markings such as wing panels, upper-tail covert, and tail color and/or markings. Arrangement: Each species of birds depicted are arranged by age and subspecies, youngest to oldest, and each subspecies is placed on a separate plate and youngest to oldest sequence is followed. Complex species such as buteos have separate perching and flying plates in addition to being arranged in youngest to oldest sequence. Also figures are arranged from lightest to darkest variants. Color scheme of plates: Further plate detail is even carefully given to color scheme of each plate. For example, vultures are on a rich blue background, harriers are on an orange-tan background, whereas accipiters are on a brown background, etc.

*Plate Descriptions.* These are the data pages opposite each plate. The top portion is introductory information on the species or age of the species if age classes are on separate plates. The following subsections appear in this section: Ages, Subspecies, Color morphs, Size, Habits, Food, Flight, Voice, and Figure captions.

*Natural History Text.* Additional text follows each species plate and plate description: habitat, status, nesting, and movements are discussed in a condensed manner followed by comparisons with similar species. Finally, each species has at least one habitat image that fits between the text and the range map.

*Range Maps.* Maps are of the large-size format that was first used by Wheeler in 2003, but most are either updated versions of those maps or altogether new. Data incorporated include permanent, summer, and winter ranges; irregular nesting sites 1985-2017 with even significant earlier nesting including year; irregular observation March-November, 1990-2017; and summer, winter, and all seasons dispersal, each in a different color. All markings denote specific locations, indicating an accurately plotted locale that is valuable information to any field hawk watcher.

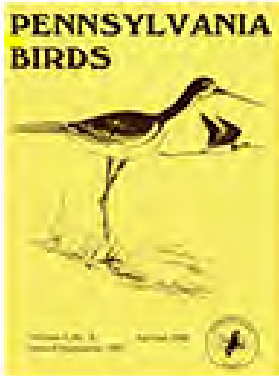
**Identifying Birds of Prey** is the next significant part of the Introduction in both guides and emphasizes hawk watchers carefully examining the head, wings, and tails. For flying birds, wings and tail are usually the only parts that need to be studied, although on dark morph buteos it does not hurt to check the color of the undertail coverts, whether dark or light. As in perching poses, tail patterns can be shared between species so caution must be used. Tail coverts can be good identification features on flying birds, depending on angle of view. **Anatomy and Plumage Glossary** (6 pp.), **Age Classification/Molt Stages** (10 pp.) are the last minute details in the **Introduction** that lead the reader into the bulk of the guides:

the stunningly beautiful 157 lifelike color paintings of raptor plates.

In sum, *Birds of Prey of the East* and *Birds of Prey of the West* have set the high bar for future avian field guides, not just for raptors, but for all avian species. Commencing when he was seven years old, Brian K. Wheeler stated that these books are the culmination of data and knowledge from over 50 years of painting birds and studying raptors. An “innate desire” to replicate realism in nature motivated him and was further inspired by the impressive life-size works of John James Audubon, Louis Agassiz Furetes, J. F. Landsdowne, and Robert Verity Clem. Wheeler’s two raptor guides give more detailed range plotting maps than found in any other raptor or bird book. The guides depict more raptor plumages than any other avian guides. Concise facing-page text includes quick reference identification points, and additional text about each species habitat, status, nesting, and movements. For these reasons, Brian K. Wheeler, author and artist in one, rightly deserves to be placed in the outstanding avian illustrator company of John James Audubon, Louis Agassiz Furetes, Roger Tory Peterson, and David Allen Sibley. These two new guides are absolutely “must-haves” for every field ornithologist and bird watcher alike. By the way, the price of each field guide is a steal in today’s hot bird book market.

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# 25 Years Ago in *Pennsylvania Birds*



## Volume 6, No. 2.

In the first of a series on banding records in Pennsylvania, Frank Haas reported on hawks that had been banded in the state and recovered elsewhere or vice versa. Highlights included an Osprey that was recovered in Peru and Broad-winged Hawks recovered in Mexico and Panama.

The report of the First Pennsylvania Migration Count was presented. Only ten counties participated back then.

The first nesting of Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) in Pennsylvania since 1934 was also reported.

And the first edition of the *Annotated List of the Birds of Pennsylvania* by Steve Santner, Paul Schwalbe, Glenna Schwalbe and Dan Brauning was advertised for sale.

This issue can be read at [pabirds.org](http://pabirds.org).

□

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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).

Winter held on well into April with below average temperatures and some snow. The lingering winter weather resulted in some fantastic waterfowl fallouts during periods of snow and rain. The fallouts were distributed on opposite ends of the state on different days.

An amazing fallout of waterfowl and loons occurred April 16 in eastern Pennsylvania. The west saw a fallout on 4/19 during an overcast day with rain and snow. A weather system moved though ending two days of above normal summerlike temperatures. The system dumped rain across the state resulting in a local fallouts. Amazing numbers of both loons were observed as well as many Buffleheads, scaup, and Long-tailed Ducks.

Highlights during the fallout April 16 included large numbers of **Common Loons** in *Berks* (over 200) and *Lebanon*. In *Lehigh*, a post to the PA Birds listserv 4/16 reported 1400-1500 Common Loons and over 150 **Red-throated Loons** in the area around Leaser Lake, but few birds were landing. Observers noted loons appearing out of the heavy cloud cover. Triple digit counts of **Long-tailed Ducks** were in *Montour* during the fallout.

The center and western side of the state experienced a fallout 4/19 that included *Butler*, *Clarion*, *Crawford*, *Fayette*, *Mercer*, *Huntington*, and *Somerset*. **Surf** and **White-winged Scoters** were a feature of the fallout as well as **Common Loons**, **Buffleheads** and **scaup**. Double digit counts of Common Loons were in *Butler* and triple digit numbers in *Mercer*. Triple digit counts of **Horned Grebes** were in *Clarion* and *Crawford*. The fallout in *Huntington* provided an opportunity to observe all three scoters at the same time. *Somerset* tallied over 1000 Buffleheads and nearly that many were in *Fayette* during the event. Read the county reports for details regarding these events. Certainly the fallouts contributed to the numbers of **Red-throated Loons** with reports from 30 counties, more than double compared to last year's total of 13 counties.

**Greater White-fronted Geese** were in nine counties, most as expected in the southeast but there were a few central and western counties that reported this species. **Ross's Goose** was reported in three counties including a rare spring report in *Allegheny*. A nice size flock of **Brant** was in *Crawford*, the lone report for the season. **Cackling Goose** was in 11 counties. **Trumpeter Swans** were reported in 11 counties as we continue to document the movements of the eastern population. **Mute Swans** were in eight counties, still remaining local in the state, fortunately for

native waterfowl. The number of counties with reports for the spring season since 2010 are summarized in the table.

**Eurasian Wigeons** were only reported in two counties, down from five reports last spring. A **Harlequin Duck** was in *Mercer*. All three scoters were reported as mentioned above, with **Black Scoter** limited to three counties. **White-winged Scoters** were in 21 counties and **Surf Scoters** were in 16, a nice showing assisted by bad weather. **Eurasian Green-winged (Common) Teal** continues to be fairly regular in *Chester* where the wintering bird remained into the spring season. An interesting hybrid **Blue-winged Teal X Northern Shoveler** was in *Bucks*.

A nice tally of 20 counties reported **Red-necked Grebes**. The lone **Eared Grebe** report came from *Clarion/Venango* at Kahle Lake, which is bisected by the county line.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** was only reported in *Franklin*, where they are resident. A **White-winged Dove** was photographed visiting a feeder in *Mifflin*. **Chuck-wills-widow** was heard in *Bedford* and *Franklin*. This species went unreported in *Cumberland* for the first time in seven years! It was also a regular in nearby *Lebanon* for five years but has not been reported there since 2015. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported in 20 counties.

**Common Gallinules** were only found in eight counties. **Sandhill Cranes** were in 18 counties, down from last year's 21 counties but still a typical number of reports.

The second notable event this spring was a great diversity of shorebirds. We think of shorebirds appearing in the state in numbers in late summer, however this spring the shorebirds put on an impressive appearance. The variety was good and the numbers of some species were surprisingly high.

*Chester* is known as the location to see high numbers of migrating shorebirds as they leave the Delaware Bay. Read the county report for the great numbers of **Black-bellied Plovers**, **Whimbrels**, and **Dunlins**. Observers in *Delaware* tallied **Red Knots** and peeps flying over. Nocturnal flight calls of **Least Sandpipers** were recorded in *Philadelphia* as they flew over. Be sure to read the *Philadelphia* report for estimated totals. *Lancaster* observers reported several triple digit counts of Least Sandpipers.

Some great rarities were also encountered this spring. A **Black-necked Stilt** in *Bucks* provided a second county record. **American Avocets** were in *Clearfield* and *Potter*. An amazing surprise was an **American Oystercatcher** along the Delaware River in *Delaware* providing

the 12th state record. Interestingly, one was on the same river in *Philadelphia* last spring. Normally associated with hurricanes driving them inland, it's interesting this species appeared two years in a row.

Very rare in spring, **American Golden Plovers** were reported in *Franklin* and *Lebanon*. Regular in spring but in small numbers, **Semipalmated Plovers** were reported in just four counties, coincidentally all beginning with the letter "L" (see *Birds of Note*). A nice count of 24 were in *Lancaster*. **Piping Plovers** were confirmed nesting for the second year in a row at Presque Isle SP in *Erie*. Management of Gull Point has been successful in attracting shorebirds and other migrants in recent years.

**Upland Sandpipers** were disappointingly only reported from two counties. **Whimbrel** were reported in five counties and in numbers that were unusual for most. The totals in *Lawrence* were the largest in the western part of the state away from Lake Erie and *Venango* recorded a first county record. Read the *Chester* report for the mind-blowing totals there! **Ruddy Turnstone** reports were all away from the usual Lake Erie shore. *Montgomery* saw a triple digit tally. **Red Knots** passed over *Bucks*, *Delaware*, and *Montgomery* counties in impressive numbers for inland locations. Rare for spring, a **Stilt Sandpiper** was found in *Clinton*. A large number of **Sanderlings** were observed in a mixed flock of flyover shorebirds in *Bucks*. Sanderlings were also in *Centre* and *Lancaster*. Like the Ruddy Turnstone, all reports this spring were away from the Erie shore. **White-rumped Sandpipers** were in six counties. **Western Sandpipers**, which are extremely rare in spring, were reported in *Bedford* and *Westmoreland*. **Willetts** were present in five counties during the first few days in May. A great count of 40 were in *Erie*. **Short-billed Dowitchers** had a good showing with reports from 12 counties. All three phalaropes were present. **Wilson's Phalarope** was only in *Franklin*, six counties reported **Red-necked Phalaropes**, and a **Red Phalarope** was in *Montour*.

**Black-headed Gulls** were in *Delaware* and *Warren* but strangely absent from *Dauphin* and *Lancaster* where they have been fairly regular in spring. **Little Gulls** were reported in eight counties with several in *Bucks*. **Laughing Gulls** made their annual appearance in *Bucks* and singles were found in *Lehigh* and *Montour*. A **Franklin's Gull** was a nice surprise find in a parking lot in *Union*. **Iceland** and **Glaucous Gulls** always remain into the early spring season and this year was no exception; *Iceland* were in six counties and

Glauous five. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were in 13 counties with highest numbers in *Montgomery* and *Bucks*. Read about the tracking project of this species initiated in *Bucks* this year. Two in *Mifflin* provided a first county record. While **Great Black-backed Gulls** are nearly residents in *Erie*, they are notable in other parts of the state - *Jefferson*, *Lycoming*, *Montgomery*, and *York* had reports.

**Common Terns** were reported from 13 counties, including a first for *Lehigh*. The beautiful **Black Tern** was only in ten. An **Arctic Tern** was documented in *Lehigh* for the first time. Four **Black Skimmers** provided a surprising find along the Delaware River in *Delaware* at the end of May. **Great Cormorants** lingered at the usual locations in *Bucks* and *Delaware*. An **Anhinga** was reported in flight by an observer in a moving car in *Dauphin*. While the description was certainly suggestive, the report was not accepted by PORC because the circumstances (very brief, a moving vehicle) and description did not allow complete confidence in the identification.

Single **American White Pelicans** were found in *Lancaster* and *Northumberland*. The *Lancaster* bird stayed for two days while the *Northumberland* bird was gone within a few hours of its discovery. A **Brown Pelican** in *York*, even more unexpected, provided the tenth state record.

All the less common egrets made appearances. **American Bitterns** were in 25 counties and **Least Bitterns** in ten. **Snowy Egret** was particularly numerous with reports from seven counties including a first for *Huntington*. **Little Blue Herons** were in four counties, mainly in the southeast, but once again a notable species for *Huntington*, providing the sixth county record. **Cattle Egrets** were in five counties; a typical total. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** returned to their breeding sites in Harrisburg (*Dauphin*) and Ephrata (*Lancaster*). They are believed to be breeding in *Montgomery* as well. They were reported in a total of seven counties including a ninth county record for *Centre*. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** also returned to a breeding site in Ephrata and were reported in 15 counties.

**Glossy Ibis** were in *Bucks*, *Lancaster*, and *Delaware*. After two **Roseate Spoonbills** in the state in the summer of 2017, nobody expected a return of this species so soon, but one was in *Bucks* providing a first county record and fifth state record.

Raptor highlights include **Northern Goshawks** in six counties with only two of those reports from hawkwatches. **Mississippi Kites** were in the three southeastern corner counties of *Chester*, *Delaware*, and *Philadelphia*, the most reliable part of the state in which to find this graceful raptor. **Rough-legged Hawks**

that didn't depart for the arctic made this season's report in seven counties. A leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was in *Montgomery* and a **Red-shouldered X Red-tailed Hawk** was an interesting find in *Chester*.

**Barn Owls** were found in the typical locations with the exception of one in *Erie*. A few **Snowy Owls** remained into March in *Crawford*, *Delaware*, *Erie*, and *Philadelphia*. **Long-eared Owls** were only found in *Bucks*, *Centre*, and *Erie*. **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were only found in five counties. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported in 24 counties.

The **Gyrfalcon** that commuted between New Jersey and Pennsylvania this past winter was present in *Northampton* into mid-March. **Northern Shrikes** were in *Armstrong*, *Centre*, *Erie*, and *Snyder*.

Always a welcome sight, a **Sedge Wren** was in *Monroe*. **Marsh Wrens** were in 12 counties. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was photographed very well in *Huntington* furnishing a first county record and the first found in the state since 2012! The last spring report was in 2011. A leucistic **American Robin** was in *Montgomery*.

Single **Common Redpolls** were in *Crawford*, *Erie*, and *Venango*. Following a modest but widespread presence last winter, **Pine Siskins** remained into the spring season in 25 counties.

**Lapland Longspurs** were in three counties and a single **Snow Bunting** in *Crawford* provided the lone report. Most individuals of both species disperse or depart just as the spring reporting season gets underway, so reports for this season are typically sparse.

**Clay-colored Sparrows** were in four counties. Unfortunately no reports came from *Clarion* where they have bred for many years. **Henslow's Sparrows** were in five counties including a rare and probable first for Presque Isle SP. Surprisingly there were two reports of **Le Conte's Sparrow** - single birds in *Luzerne* and *Lycoming*, both were photographed. The *Lycoming* bird provided a first county record. The *Luzerne* bird was photographed in dense foliage and the report, while very possibly correct, eventually was not accepted by PORC as Nelson's Sparrow could not be ruled out. A **Harris's Sparrow** that wintered in *Bucks* remained well into April. *Lycoming* was not only visited by a Le Conte's Sparrow but a Harris's Sparrow that visited a feeder for a month, providing another county first. **Dark-eyed (Oregon) Juncos** visited feeders in *Crawford* and *Dauphin*.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** reports were good with singles in six counties. A **Brewer's Blackbird** was in *Huntington* providing a second county record. **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported in 22 counties.

The only **Connecticut Warbler** was found in *Erie*. The declining **Golden-winged Warbler** was found in 12

counties. **Orange-crowned Warblers** were in 11 counties and **Prothonotary Warblers** in 12. **Pine Warblers** visited feeders in *Clearfield*, *Fayette*, and *Huntingdon* in April. **Lawrence's Warblers** were in *Erie* and *Huntington*. An interesting bird photographed in *Allegheny* appeared to be a **Black-throated Green X Cape May Warbler**.

**Summer Tanager** reports came from four counties; one in *Montgomery* continued visiting a feeder from the winter. An amazing five individuals were in *Philadelphia*. A **Western Tanager** visited a feeder in *Crawford*. A leucistic **Northern Cardinal** frequented feeders in northern *Allegheny* in March and April. **Blue Grosbeaks** were in nine counties, all in the southeast with the exception of a migrant in *Allegheny*, the first in that county since 2006.

A male **Varied Bunting** was an amazing find, visiting a feeder in Elizabeth Twp. in *Allegheny* for a first state record. The bird was present for just a few days in early May. A **Painted Bunting** visited a feeder in *Chester* in March and another continued from last season at a feeder in *Lancaster* into mid-April.

**Dickcissels** returned to favored locations again this year, particularly in *Cumberland*, *Franklin*, and *Lancaster*. They were reported in nine counties. A bird in a yard in *Montgomery* continued from the winter into April. Some were single day visitors such as a bird that visited a feeder at the Ranger Station at Presque Isle SP.

Reports were received from 60 counties.

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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.

**Ross’s Goose** – *Allegheny*: one in Findlay Twp. 3/17 (GeofMalosh); *Lancaster*: up to 4 at Middle Creek WMA through 3/30 (Todd Fellenbaum, et al.); *Lebanon*: one near Kleinfeltersville 3/6-9 (Susan Strassner, Annette Mathes); *Northampton*: present all season at Seiple’s Pond (Bill Etter).

**Brant** – *Crawford*: 75 at the Pymatuning Lake Causeway 4/21 (Ron Leberman).

**Trumpeter Swan** - *Bedford*: 2 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 4/11 (Tom Dick); *Blair*: one at Reese Pond 4/6 (Mark Nale), a second bird there 4/9 (Mark Nale); *Cameron*: one near Driftwood 4/26 (Jan Becker, Don Becker); *Chester*: one at Exton Park 4/9 (Michael Niven); *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 3/27 (Clare Nicolls); *Dauphin*: one at SGL 290 Haldeman Island 4/8-18 (m.ob.); *Franklin*: one at Bender’s Farm 4/3-16 (Bill Oyler, et al.); *Huntington*: one at Marklesburg Waterfowl Area, SGL 420 on 3/10 (Jennifer Whitesell); *Lycoming*: one at Glen Mawr 5/31 (observer not listed); *Mercer*: one at the Shenango Propagation Area 3/1 (Neil Troyer); *Westmoreland*: one at Lowber Wetlands 3/18-4/14 (Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club).

**Eurasian Wigeon** – *Crawford*: one near Geneva 3/19 (Barb Keister, Bruce Keister); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 3/11-18, one at Riverfront Park 3/26 (observers not listed).

**Harlequin Duck**\* – *Mercer*: one at the Shenango Lake Causeway 4/10 (Randy Stringer, *no doc*).

**Black Scoter** – *Crawford*: 2 at Custards Marsh 4/11 (Jennifer Ferrick, Rob Hodgson, Thomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow); *Huntington*: 2 at Lake Perez 4/19 (m.ob.); *Lycoming*: one at Susquehanna SP 5/12 (Maddi Dunlap, Jean Dalton).

**Blue-winged Teal X Northern Shoveler** – *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 3/3-10 (Devich Farbotnik).

**Eurasian Green-winged Teal (Common Teal)**\* *Chester*: one that wintered in the county was last observed 4/8 (Tony Arnold).

**Eared Grebe**\* - *Clarion*: one at Kahle Lake 5/4 (Jerry Stanley, *nodoc*); *Somerset*: one at Quemahoning Reservoir 4/5 (Linda Greble, *no doc*); *Venango*: one at Kahle Lake 5/4 (Jerry Stanley, *no doc*).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**: *Franklin*: resident in Shady Grove.

**White-winged Dove**\* - *Mifflin*: one photographed in Belleville 4/20 (Don Douple, *no doc*), first county record.

**Chuck-wills-widow**\* – *Bedford*: heard at Shawnee SP 5/12 (Tom Dick, *no doc*); *Franklin*: one heard near Rockdale Rd. 4/13 (Lori Nichols, *no doc*).

**Black-necked Stilt**\* - *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 5/12 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*), 2nd county record.

**American Avocet** – *Clearfield*: 9 at Bimini Lake 5/2 (Dan Richards, Nick Voris, Nathan Weyandt); *Potter*: 4 at Lyman Run SP 5/7 (Brandon Snavely).

**American Oystercatcher**\* - *Delaware*: one at Fort Mifflin 4/15 (Al Guarante, *doc submitted* – record accepted by PORC vote).

**American Golden Plover** – *Franklin*: 2 at Greencastle Reservoir 5/23 (Carl Garner, Gavin Anderson, Bill Oyler); *Lebanon*: one at Mt. Pleasant Rd. (Jonathan Heller, et al.).

**Piping Plover**\* - *Erie*: nesting confirmed at Presque Isle SP 5/15 (Mary Birdsong).

**Upland Sandpiper** – *Crawford*: present at Miller Ponds and Wilson Rd. Areas (m.ob.); *Somerset*: one near Gallitzin SF 5/29 (Jeff Payne).

**Whimbrel** – *Chester*: 630 flying over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/21 (Larry Lewis, Jean Marie Gauthier, Joe Sebastiani); *Erie*: 24 over Presque Isle SP (Sam Stull), 8 over West 8th Street and Peninsula Drive in Erie 5/20 (Katie Andersen); *Lawrence*: at least 59 on Shaner Rd. 5/20 (Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke, Martin Carlin, Mark Vass, Geoff Malosh); *Montour*: one at the Greenhouse Ponds 5/23 (Andy Keister); *Venango*: 2 at Kahle Lake 5/20 (Jerry Stanley), first county record; *Westmoreland*: one at Latrobe Reservoir 5/10 (Lauren Schneider).

**Ruddy Turnstone** – *Bedford*: 5 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 3/18-20 (Tom Dick, *no doc*); *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/17 (Devich Farbotnik); *Montgomery*: an estimated 250 in flock over Valley Forge National Historical Park 5/29 (Steve Grunwald).

**Red Knot** – *Bucks*: 62 counted flying over Milford Twp. 5/26 and more over that location 5/29 in a mixed flock of 500 shorebirds (Devich Farbotnik, 4th and 5th county records); *Delaware*: flock of 40 over Marcus Hook 5/28 (Rob Fergus); *Montgomery*: an estimated 80 in flock over Valley Forge National Historical Park 5/29 (Steve Grunwald).

**Stilt Sandpiper** – *Clinton*: 2 in a flooded field east of Lock Haven 5/19 (Charles Hildebrand, Carol Hildebrand).

**Sanderling** – *Bucks*: large numbers in a mixed flock of 500 shorebirds over Milford Twp. 5/29 (Devich Farbotnik); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle SP 5/20 (Julia Plummer); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 5/6, 5/12 (Mike Epler, Zachary Millen, Eric Witmer).

**White-rumped Sandpiper** – *Bucks*: 3 on 5/31; *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/28 (Mary Birdsong); *Indiana*: 3 at Yellow Creek SP 5/4 (Lee Carnahan, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Gloria Lamer), 2 there 5/5 (m.ob.); *Lancaster*: singles at Conejohela Flats 5/12, 5/26, 5/28 (Bruce Carl, Zachary Millen, Josh Schulz, Eric Witmer); *Lawrence*: 2 at Shaner Rd. marsh 5/12 (Mark Vass) and one there 5/30 (Martin Carlin); *Northampton*: one at Amazon retention pond 5/19 (Adam Miller); *Somerset*: 6 at Somerset Lake 5/13 (Jeff Payne).

**Western Sandpiper** – *Bedford*: 2 at Dunnings Creek Wetlands 4/20 (Tom Dick, *no doc*); *Westmoreland*: 3 at Donegal Lake 5/26 (Andrew Mack).

**Willet** – *Allegheny*: one at Wingfield Pines 5/3 (Matthew Juskowich, m.ob.); *Centre*: 3 at Bald Eagle SP 5/3 (Julia Plummer, et al.); *Clinton*: 2 at Central Mountain HS Wetlands

(Dave Rockey, Charles Hildebrand, Carol Hildebrand), first county record; *Erie*: a flock of 40 at Presque Isle SP 5/2 (Dean Zeller, Jerry McWilliams, Linda McWilliams, et al.), one at Presque Isle SP 5/7 (Mary Birdsong); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek SP 5/1-6 (Lee Carnahan, Sue Dickson, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Gloria Lamer, Donna Meyer, Adrian Smith).

**Wilson's Phalarope** - *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 5/22 (Gavin Anderson).

**Red-necked Phalarope** - *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/22 (Devich Farbotnik); *Centre*: 3 in a flooded field along Gatesburg R (Jon Kauffman, et al.); *Juniata*: one along Cedar Springs Rd. 5/31 (Sam Kanagy family); *Lehigh*: one at Cetronia Rd. 5/20 (Kevin Dougherty), second county record; *Snyder*: one in the southeastern part of the county 5/17 (observer not listed); *Venango*: one at Kahle Lake 5/19 (observer not listed).

**Red Phalarope**\* - *Montour*: one at Montour Preserve 4/16 (Evan Houston, Andy Keister, *doc submitted - record accepted by PORC vote*).

**Black-headed Gull**\* - *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 3/9 (Jim McConnell, *no doc*); *Warren*: one at Hatch Patch 4/18 (John Fedak, *no doc*).

**Little Gull**\* - *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee (Rudy Keller, *no doc*); *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon SP 4/10 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*), 2 at New Hope 4/12 (Mark Gallagher, *no doc*), 2 at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/15 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*) and 2 there 4/21 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*); *Carbon*: 2 at Beltzville Lake 4/14-17 (Matt Sabatine, Ret Oren, Pricilla Oren, *no doc*); *Centre*: one at Coyle Lake 4/11 (Eric Zawatski, et al., *doc submitted - record accepted by PORC vote*); *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek SP 4/7 (Larry Lewis, *no doc*); *Dauphin*: reported along the Susquehanna River, *no doc*; *Lancaster*: up to 15 along the Susquehanna River from the beginning of the season to 4/15 (m.ob., *no doc*); *Montour*: 4 at Montour Preserve 4/16 (Karol Pasquinelli, Lauri Shaffer, Andy Keister, Paul Dennehy, Carl Engstrom, *doc submitted - record accepted by PORC vote*).

**Laughing Gull** - *Bucks*: 3 at Penn-Warner Tract 4/1 (Devich Farbotnik), estimated 5000-10,000 roosting there 5/17 (Devich Farbotnik); *Lehigh*: one at Leaser Lake 4/15 (Bill Etter), third county record; *Montour*: one at the Montour Preserve 3/17 (Patricia Williams, Richard Williams).

**Franklin's Gull**\* - *Union*: one in Lewisburg 3/31 (Joe Gyekis, *doc submitted - record accepted by PORC vote*).

**Iceland Gull** - *Bucks*: high count of 9 at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/21, 2 there 5/12 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: 2 at Espyville Marina 3/31 (Mark Hanneman), one there 4/1-2 (Tomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow, Ramona Sanhi), one at the Pymatuning Dam 4/20-21 (Tomas Nonnenmacher, Jim McConnor); *Erie*: singles in Erie Bay 3/6-19 (Mary Birdsong, Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: one on Susquehanna River at Lake Clarke 3/24-25 (Mike Epler, Meredith Lombard, et al.); *Montgomery*: 3 at Green Lane Park 3/8-11 (W. Brian Henderson, m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: present at Pennypack on the Delaware 3/4 (Holger Pflücke), Glen Foerd Mansion 3/18 (Holger Pflücke), and Navy Yard 4/15 (Debbie Beer, Martin Dellwo).

**Lesser Black-backed X Herring Gull** - *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware 3/3 (Frank Windfelder).

**Glaucous Gull** - *Bucks*: 2 at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/21 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: one at the Pymatuning Causeway 3/25 (Ron Leberman); *Erie*: a few at Presque Isle SP 3/8-4/20 (Jerry McWilliams, Mary Birdsong); *Lackawanna*: one at Lake Scranton 3/4 (David Trently); *Philadelphia*: one at the Delaware River Trail (George Armistead), one at John Heinz NWR at Tinicum (Frank Windfelder, et al.).

**Great Black-backed Gull** - *Jefferson*: one on Winslow Pond 4/19 (Jerod Skebo); *Lycoming*: one at Williamsport Dam 3/13 (Bobby Brown, Steve Pinkerton, David Brown, Deb Brown); *Mercer*: one at Trout Island 4/12 (Jim McConnor), 2 at Shenango Propagation Area 4/14 (Bill Winkler); *Montgomery*: one at Bala

Cynwyd 3/11 (Gregg Gorton); *York*: one at Codorus SP 3/1 (Dean Newhouse).

**Arctic Tern**\*: *Lehigh*: one at Leaser Lake 5/20 (Kevin Dougherty, Jeff Hopkins, *doc submitted - record accepted by PORC vote*), first county record.

**Black Skimmer**\* - *Delaware*: 4 at Fort Mifflin 5/30 (Al Guarante, *no doc*).

**Great Cormorant** - *Bucks*: 6 at Bristol 3/11 (Dawn Denner), 6 at Quaker-Penn Park 3/25 (Steve Schmit), and last reported at Mud Island 5/5 (Devich Farbotnik); *Delaware*: singles at Commodore Barry Bridge/Waterfront 3/1 (Rob Fergus, Al Guarante) and 4/6 (Rob Fergus).

**American White Pelican** - *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 4/15-16 (Tom Garner, m.ob.); *Northumberland*: one at Redman Acres Road 4/23 (Karol Pasquinelli).

**Brown Pelican**\* - *York*: one at Shepperd-Myers Reservoir 5/22 (Robin Smith, et al., *doc submitted - record accepted by PORC vote*).

**Snowy Egret** - *Bedford*: 3 at Shawnee SP, date not listed (Tom Dick); *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 4/15 (Jennifer Conway-Lanacone), one at Bristol 5/12 (Dawn Denner, et al.), one at the Penn-Warner Tract 5/13, and seen on two other dates in May (Devich Farbotnik); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 5/8 (Sandy Lockerman, Kayla Warshefski); *Huntington*: one at Old Crow Wetland 5/14-15 (Greg Grove, m.ob.), first county record; *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 4/14 (Bruce Carl, Eric Witmer, m.ob.); *Montgomery*: 2 at Green Lane Park 4/19 (W. Brian Henderson); *York*: one at Codorus SP 5/22 (Bob Anderhalt).

**Little Blue Heron** - *Bucks*: one near Feastersville 4/18 (Kris Koch); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 4/18 (Gary Jarvis, Damon Orsetti), 4/21 (Jim McConnell, Rich Ziegler), and 4/22 (Linda Timlin, Rich Ziegler); *Huntington*: one at Old Crow Wetland 5/13-17 (Ken Tucker), 6th county record; *Philadelphia*: adult and immature at John Heinz NWR 4/17 (Todd Fellenbaum, Peter Burns).

**Cattle Egret**\* - *Cumberland*: 3 in Newville 5/3 (Wilbur Wolf, *no doc*); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/26 (Doug Massey, Mary Birdsong, Sam Stull, *no doc*); *Northampton*: one in Bath 4/14 (Steve Boyce, *no doc*), one at Christian Spring Rd. pond, Nazareth 5/7 (Adam Miller, Todd Watkins, *doc submitted*); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz NWR, Tinicum 4/24 (William Moses, *no doc*), 3 at Northeast Philadelphia Airport 5/4 (Charles Fuller, *no doc*); *York*: one photographed along Smith Station Rd. 4/10 (Carolyn Boose, *doc submitted*).

**Glossy Ibis** - *Bucks*: one at the Penn-Warner Tract 4/15 (Devich Farbotnik), 8 at Bristol 4/20 (Dawn Denner); *Delaware*: one at Philadelphia Airport 4/17 (Jim McConnell); *Lancaster*: 4 at Middle Creek WMA 5/15 (Darlene Kershner, m.ob.).

**Roseate Spoonbill**\* - *Bucks* - one in Springtown 5/25 (Jen LaStella, *doc submitted - record accepted by PORC vote*), first county record, 5th state record.

**Northern Goshawk** - *Bedford*: one at the Allegheny Front (date not listed); *Bucks*: one at Quakertown Swamp 4/12 (Paul Cooper); *Elk*: one flying over East Branch Lake 5/26 (observer not listed); *Erie*: one at the Erie Hawkwatch 3/26 (Jerry McWilliams); *Northampton*: one in Washington Twp. 3/25 (Michael Schall); *Pike*: one at the Pocono Environmental Education Center 4/18 (Dennis Miranda).

**Mississippi Kite**\* - *Chester*: singles 5/18 and 5/22 at Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Larry Lewis, *no doc*); *Delaware*: one at Taylor Memorial Arboretum 5/15 (Rob Fergus, *no doc*); *Philadelphia*: a pair soaring over a yard near Wissahickon Valley Park 5/21 (Kevin Berkoff, *no doc*).

**Barn Owl** - *Bedford*: one at Allegheny Front 4/20 (Tom Dick); *Centre*: one in flight along Paradise Rd. 5/1 (Jen Lee); *Delaware*: one or 2 heard at Concord Trail 3/19 (Brian Quindlen); *Erie*: one seen in mid-April, location not listed (Don Snyder); *Juniata*: 2 in separate undisclosed locations in May; *Lebanon*: one at SGL 45 on 5/25 (Carol Light); *Mifflin*: bred near Milroy, 4 chicks banded

- 5/20 (Tim Becker, Steve Eisenhauer, Amber Goss, Jon Kauffman, Nate McKelvie, Alicia Palmer).
- Snowy Owl** – *Crawford*: one near Rundelstown 3/3-4 (Claire Nicolls, Kendal Zook); *Delaware*: present at Philadelphia Airport from winter season, last reported 3/24 (Al Guarante, Michael Walter, Adrian Binns); *Erie*: one or 2 remaining from winter at Presque Isle SP up to 5/2 (Roger Donn, Mary Birdsong); *Philadelphia*: 2 at Northeast Philadelphia Airport in March.
- Long-eared Owl** – *Bucks*: last report was 4 at Peace Valley Park 3/24 (Andrew Harrington); *Centre*: one heard calling off RT. 3025 on 4/1 (John Carter); *Erie*: three 4/7-19 at Presque Isle SP (Roger Donn).
- Northern Saw-whet Owl** – *Allegheny*: at least 10 banded at Sewickley Heights Park (Bob Mulvihill); *Erie*: four 3/18-4/19 at Presque Isle SP (Roger Donn); *Lancaster*: one heard in Wrightsdale 4/29 (Sabrena Boekell); *Pike*: one heard at SGL 209 on 5/1 (Dennis Miranda); *Sullivan*: one calling at SGL #13 Splashdam Pond 4/21 (Rob Megraw).
- Gyr Falcon**\* – *Northampton*: one continued in East Allen Twp. from Feb to 3/17 (Bill Etter, *doc submitted*).
- Northern Shrike** – *Armstrong*: one near Polka Hollow Rd. 4/2 (Marge Van Tassel); *Centre*: one at Julian Wetlands 3/25-28 (John Carter, et al.); *Erie*: one from last season in Summit Twp. was last seen 3/3 (Jerry McWilliams); *Snyder*: one at Walker Lake 3/18 (Joe Gyekis).
- Sedge Wren**\* – *Monroe*: one photographed at Lynchwood Lake 5/3 (Bruce Johnson).
- Townsend Solitaire**\* – *Huntington*: one photographed at Greenwood Furnace SP 5/5 (Shawn David, *doc submitted - record accepted by PORC vote*).
- Common Redpoll** – *Crawford*: one at a feeder in the Conneautville area 3/11 (Kendall Zook); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/15 (Roger Donn); *Venango*: one photographed in a yard 4/6 (Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick).
- Lapland Longspur** – *Cumberland*: one on Mud Level Rd. 3/22 (Andrew Markel); *Franklin*: one on Wegner Rd. 3/21 (Bill Oyler); *Lancaster*: last of season seen near Groffdale 3/7 (Zachary Millen).
- Snow Bunting** – *Crawford*: one near Rundelstown 3/5 (Kendall Zook).
- Clay-colored Sparrow** – *Erie*: up to 6 at Presque Isle SP 5/5-22 (m.ob.); *Lawrence*: one heard at the Volant Strips 5/30 (David Yeany II); *Mercer*: one at Spring Rd. 5/25-26 (m.ob.); *Northampton*: one from last season continued at Ballas Park to 4/7 (Adam Miller).
- Henslow's Sparrow** – *Cambria*: good numbers at Blandburg SGL 108 on 5/15 (Tina Alianiello); *Centre*: up to 3 at SGL 100 from 4/29 to 5/25 (Julia Plummer, et al.); *Clarion*: first of season at Mt. Zion 4/23 (Carole Winslow); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/5 (Amanda Lovely); *Jefferson*: one at Sandy Ridge Road 5/1 (Eric Zawatski); *Somerset*: present at Gallitzin Strip Mines at Flight 93 Memorial.
- Le Conte's Sparrow**\* – *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 4/21 (Norwood Frederick, *doc submitted - record accepted by PORC vote*), first county record.
- Harris's Sparrow**\* – *Bucks*: one that wintered in Doylestown Twp. last reported 5/8 (Mike Lucas); *Lycoming*: one visited a feeder near Williamsport 4/9-5/8 (Larry Waltz, et al., *doc submitted*), first county record.
- Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco**\* – *Crawford*: one at private residence 3/9 (Alejandra Lewandowski, Terry Lobdell, *no doc*); *Dauphin*: one photographed at feeder in Harrisburg 4/6-12 (Annette Mathes).
- Yellow-headed Blackbird**\* – *Bucks*: one at feeder in Furlong 4/18 (Dick Bell, *doc submitted - record accepted by PORC vote*); *Chester*: one in Cochranville 3/18 (Michael Gardner, *no doc*); *Erie*: one at Lawrence Park 5/4 (Tez Darell, Chris Hannel, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: a female at feeder in Gap 3/20 (Pamela Fisher, *no doc*); *Northampton*: one on the Martin's Creek 3/6 (Jason Horn, *no doc*); *Wayne*: one photographed at a feeder near
- Gouldsboro 5/17 (Anthony Staiano, Becky Staiano, Rob Staiano, *no doc*).
- Brewer's Blackbird**\* – *Huntington*: one at Allison Rd. fields at Petersburg 4/17 (Jon Kauffman, m.ob., ph.), second county record.
- Connecticut Warbler** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/20 (Sean Minnik, et al.).
- Lawrence's Warbler** – *Erie*: one photographed at Presque Isle SP 5/10 (Kyler Sonney); *Huntington*: one in Trough Creek Valley 5/12 (Greg Grove).
- Black-throated Green X Cape May Warbler** – *Allegheny*: one photographed in Plum Borough (Amy Henrici).
- Summer Tanager**\* – *Butler*: one in Slippery Rock Borough 4/5 (Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm, *no doc*); *Erie*: imm. male at feeder in Harborcreek Twp. 5/5 (Bob Zelenak, Pam Zelenak, *no doc*); *Montgomery*: one continued visiting a feeder from last season in Harleysville to 3/25 (Elise Bowers); *Philadelphia*: a female at John Heinz NWR 5/11 (Geoff Veith, *no doc*), a female at Upper Roxborough Reservoir 5/6, 5/17 (Anne Bekker, Ken Januski, *no doc*), a male at Kaskey Park 5/8 (Joe Durrance, *no doc*), a male at Carpenter's Woods 5/8 (m.ob., *no doc*), and one in Northwest Philadelphia 4/27-29 (Clifford Hence, *no doc*).
- Western Tanager**\* – *Crawford*: one photographed at a feeder in Meadville 4/20 (Regina Johnson, *no doc*).
- Varied Bunting**\* – *Allegheny*: one visiting a feeder in Elizabeth Twp. 5/5-7 (Elizabeth Cain, Mark Vass, m.ob., *doc submitted - record accepted by PORC vote*), first state record.
- Painted Bunting**\* – *Chester*: one visiting a feeder in West Chester 3/25 (*fide* Michael Niven, *fide* Lois Bryman, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: an adult male from last season at Mohnton was last reported 4/13 (*fide* Anne Hurst, *doc submitted - record accepted by PORC vote*).
- Dickcissel** – *Clarion*: one at Mount Zion 5/5 (Lewis Crowell); *Cumberland*: one at Rock Run Rd. 5/11 (Vern Gauthier), one near SGL 169 on 5/16 (Dan Lehman); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/5 (Bonnie Ginader, Amanda Lovely); *Franklin*: 2 on Wenger Rd. 5/19-21 (Dave Cooney, Bill Oyler, Carl Garner), 3 along Portico Rd. 5/19-20 (Dave Cooney, Bob Kochert, Terri Kochert), one at Church Rd. 5/21 (Bill Oyler), 3 at Pioneer Drive/Windmill Rds. 5/22-23 (Stefan Karkuff, Lori Nichols); *Lancaster*: 3 near Durlach Rd. 5/25 (Patricia Williams, Richard Williams, Bruce Carl), one at Lancaster Airport 5/29 (Jonathan Heller), one at Peach Bottom 5/30 (Daniel Hinesbusch); *Mercer*: one 5/3 (Bill Winkler); *Mifflin*: one at feeders off Back Mountain Rd. 3/9-4/20 (Jay Zook); *Montgomery*: one continued from last season in Harleysville to 4/11 (Tina Fantozzi); *York*: 2 at Hopewell Twp. Park 5/27-30 (Chuck Berthoud, David Farmer, Kye Jenkins, Dean Newhouse, Donald Weidemann).

## Photographic Highlights

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**Trumpeter Swans** at Reese Pond, Blair 9 April, third county record; at least 11 were recorded in 9 locations statewide for the season. (Eric Zawatski)



**Lesser Scaup** at Presque Isle SP, Erie 22 May. (Beth Signorini)



**Surf Scoters** were widely reported, especially during a mid-April fallout; these scoters came later, at Bald Eagle SP, Centre 12 May (Bob Snyder)



An unusually cooperative **Long-tailed Duck** at Southside Riverfront Park on the Monongahela River, Allegheny 4 March. (Geoff Malosh)



Winter plumage **Horned Grebe** at Chapel Harbor, Allegheny 13 March. (Alan Buriak)



Breeding plumage **Horned Grebe** at Presque Isle SP, Erie 1 May. (Karlee Kocon)



**Ring-necked Pheasant** at Middle Creek WMA, Lancaster in April 2018. (Chris Brennon)



Heard more often than seen, and the less common of our two cuckoos, this **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Franklin 11 May. (Ron George)



A declining species in Pennsylvania, this **Common Nighthawk** at Presque Isle SP, Erie 21 May was a lifer for the photographer. (Beth Signorini)



Beautiful display of the dark underwing pattern of the species, this **Little Gull** at Marsh Creek SP, Chester 7 April was the first in the county since 1996. (Barry Blust)



This **American White Pelican** did not stay long at Redman Acres Quarry, Northumberland, seen only 23 April; probable first county record. (Karol Pasquinelli)



**American Bittern** at Chestnut Grove Natural Area, Lancaster 1 April. (Zach Millen)



**Green Heron** on nest in Trewellyn Park, *Montgomery* 29 April. (August Mirabella)



A rarity in *Centre*, this adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center near State College 21 April. (Ron Crandall)



An adult male **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** returned (assuming same individual) to rookery at Ephrata Hospital, *Lancaster* 31 March (here 3 May), where successful nesting occurred last year; this year it mated with a female Black-crowned Night-Heron – with outcome to be revealed in summer issue. (Barry Blust)



This **Broad-winged Hawk** graced the yard of a lucky birder in Seneca, *Venango* 27 April (Meg Kolodick)



**Great Horned Owlets** at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 1 May (Karlee Kocon)



On some days, birding is not so pleasant a pastime – this **Belted Kingfisher** died a quick death flying up a creek, snagged by a fishing line left hanging in a tree at Gifford Pinchot SP, *York* 23 April. (Dean Newhouse)



**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in Cook Forest, Jefferson 4 May. (Alyssa Karmann)



**Red-bellied Woodpecker** pair inspecting nest hole in East Fallowfield Twp., Chester 4 May. (Rodger Bovenkerk)



This **Merlin** was photographed looking over feeder birds near Worthington, Armstrong 6 March. (Alan Buriak)



This dark morph **Gyrfalcon** was tentatively seen in Dec 2017, then seen again in Feb chasing Snow Geese near the quarry in East Allen Twp.; it was last seen and photographed here 17 March. (Zach Millen)



This **Northern Shrike** on Polka Hollow Rd. 31 March was the first in Armstrong since 1987. (Marge Van Tassel)



**White-eyed Vireo** on Hahn Rd., Dauphin 7 May. (Eric Zawatski)



**Yellow-throated Vireo** at Gifford Pinchot SP, York 7 May. (Dean Newhouse)



This **Townsend's Solitaire** was seen by only one birder and only on 12 May at Greenwood Furnace SP, Huntingdon; first county record and first in Pennsylvania since 2012. (Shawn Davis)



**American Robin** nestlings on a windowsill among fake flowers in Ross Twp., Allegheny 20 May. (Jodi L. Vasalani)



A slightly late **Fox Sparrow** at Harrison Hills Park, Allegheny 15 April. (Dave Brooke)



With construction at Bald Knob limiting access to the grasslands there, **Vesper Sparrow** will become a difficult bird to find in Allegheny; still, a pair persisted there this spring, with one seen here 3 May. (Geoff Malosh)



This **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Furlong feeders, Bucks 18 April represents about the 8th county record. (Richard Bell)





Backyard **Orchard Oriole** in New Milford, *Susquehanna* 5 May. (Nancy VanCott)



**Baltimore Oriole** among cherry blossoms in backyard in Montoursville, *Lycoming* 29 April. (Jack Preston)



As so often seen, **Ovenbird** on the ground in *Forest* 9 May. (Anthony Bruno)



**Worm-eating Warbler** in *Clarion* 5 May. (Anthony Bruno)



**Louisiana Waterthrush** in Harrison Hills Park, *Allegheny* 10 April. (Dave Brooke)



A rare visitor to *Centre*, this cooperative **Prothonotary Warbler** allowed close approach and good views at the Centre Furnace duck pond near State College during its stay 20-23 (here 21) April. (Ron Grandall)



With its relative lack of distinguishing features, **Tennessee Warbler** is one of the more difficult warblers to identify; this Tennessee was in a crabapple tree near Mercer, *Mercer* 10 May. (Dave Inman)



"Ten are heard for every one seen" a renowned ornithologist once said; it is not often that birders get this great a look at a **Kentucky Warbler**; at Harrison Hills Park, *Allegheny* 28 May. (Dave Brooke)



A species of concern, but **Cerulean Warblers** are locally common in some central and southwestern Pennsylvania locations with good habitat; this bird was photographed in *Armstrong* 10 May. (Anthony Bruno)



This intensely-colored **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 11 May. (Dave Inman)



This **Blackburnian Warbler** was newly arrived in a yard in Seneca, *Venango* 2 May. (Meg Kolodick)



**Chestnut-sided Warbler** in *Centre* 12 May. (Anthony Bruno)



Another look at the cover species - Pennsylvania's first **Varied Bunting** was found in Elizabeth Twp., *Allegheny* 5 May, staying until 7 May, when seen here. (Anthony Bruno)



**Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Presque Isle SP, *Erie* 8 May (Dave Inman)



One of the early-returning warblers, this **Palm Warbler** was in Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 19 April. (August Mirabella)



This **Yellow-rumped Warbler** found itself walking on ice on Keystone Lake, *Armstrong* following a late season freeze 21 April. (Alan Buriak)

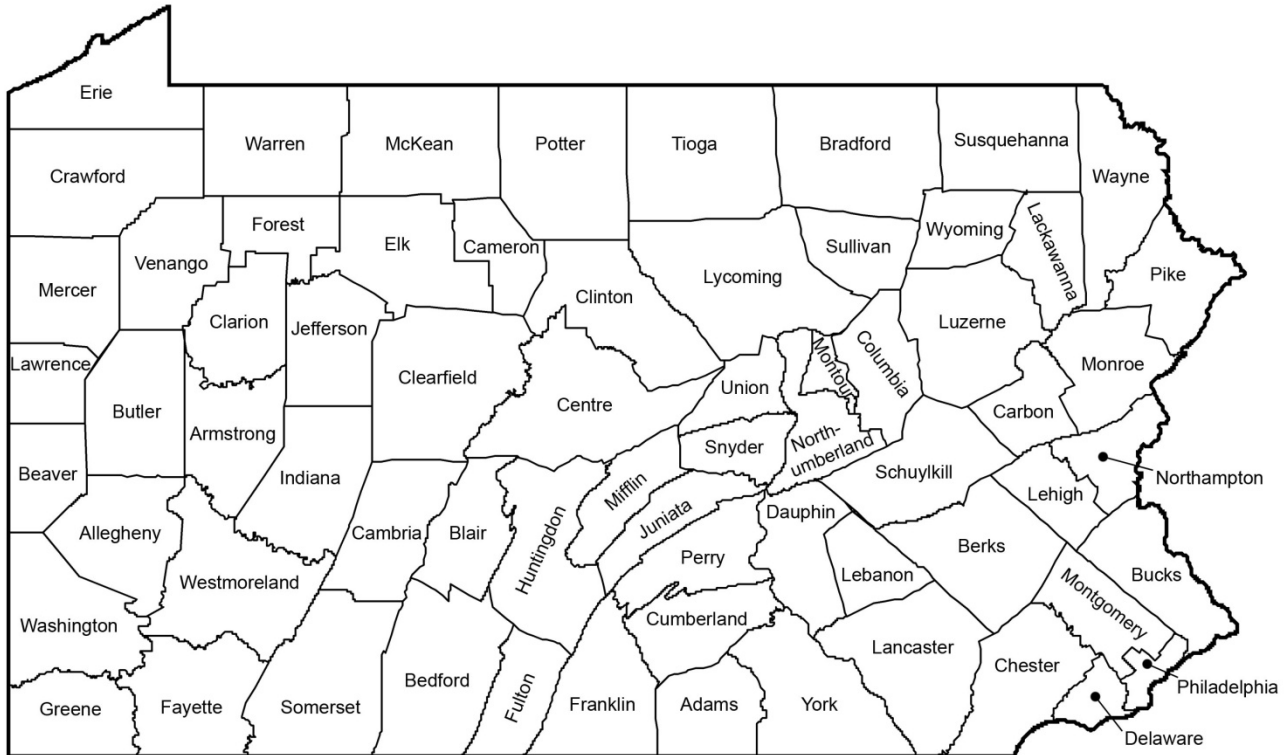


**Prairie Warbler** at Bethel, *Berks* 5 May (Brian Brown)



A non-breeding species in *Allegheny*, this **Canada Warbler** was just passing through at Frick Park 14 May. (John Flannigan)

## Local Notes – March to May 2018



### ABBREVIATION

BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	max	maximum	RBA	Rare Bird Alert
C.A.	Conservation Area	min	minimum	Res.	Reservoir
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	m.ob.	many observers	Rte.	Route
C.P.	County Park	Mt. (Mts.)	Mount/Mountain/Mountains	SF	State Forest
Cr.	Creek	NA	Nature Area or Natural Area	SGL	State Game Land
et al.	and others	NF	National Forest	SP	State Park
Ft.	Fort	NM	National Monument	S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant
G.C.	Golf Course	NP	National Park	subad(s).	subadult(s)
G.P.	Game Preserve	NWR	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	WA	Wildlife Area
juv(s).	juvinal [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.	River	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
L.	Lake	RA	Recreational Area	WRS	Winter Raptor Survey

**eBird Usage:** Data for these reports and throughout this journal include observations collected from the eBird database <<http://www.ebird.org>>. Citation: eBird. 2012. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: 31 March 2014 abundance [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: 31 March 2014)

**The following counties have no compiler- contact the editor if interested: Bradford, Fulton, Luzerne, McKean, Tioga. Carbon and Perry will have new compilers beginning with the Summer issue.**

### Adams County

Locations: Freedom Twp (FREE), Gettysburg College (GC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Heritage (LH), Lake Kay (LK), Lake Meade (LM), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Ridge Rd Cumberland Twp (RRCT), Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve (SHNP).

Spring fought its way into south-central PA following March/April temperatures three degrees below average and one March snowstorm. After dodging the first three nor'easters, the last of them, winter storm "Toby", blanketed the region with 12-16" of snow on 3/21. May was the first real month of spring-like weather with temperatures and rainfall averaging five degrees and two inches above average, respectively. Species count of 185 is a new period high and

Adams birders commented on it being a rewarding spring migration compared to recent years. The South Mountain Audubon Society covered the Spangler's Spring area of GNMP for the 5/12 PAMC and recorded 67 species at that site. The biggest surprise for the period were 3 **Veery** and a **Wood Thrush** on the very early date of 4/8.

Waterfowl variety was good with 27 species but there were only a handful of above average counts for a specific species. **Snow Goose** was almost missed with a count of 4 at LM 3/18 (JV) being the only report. The Gettysburg area remains the **Mute Swan** favored locale in the county. High count for **Tundra Swan** was up to 70 at the reliable Germany Rd stopover site 3/11-16 (PK). An unusual miss for this period was American Black Duck. A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** were found at GC 3/30 (CM, AW) and FREE ponds held up to 8 birds 3/29-4/19 (MS).

Nice county counts for **Redhead** included up to 13 at LK 3/1-4 (EB, LL) and 15 on various ponds in Franklin Twp 3/3 (EB). Thirteen **Greater Scaup** were found on the pond at Peter's Orchard 4/19 (PB). A **Surf Scoter** stopped at LPRR 4/20-5/2 (VB, DB, RSTG). Other nice finds were a trio of **Long-tailed Ducks** at Waynesboro Reservoir 4/7 (HW) and a pair at LPRR 3/29-4/26 (DuB, JSD, BO, RSTG). **Red-breasted Merganser** had a higher than normal presence, found at six sites 3/10-4/30 (m.ob.) A new species high count for Adams was likely set with

35 birds at LH 3/28 (CM). Single **Red-throated Loons** were found at a pond along Chapel Hill Rd 3/1 (CM) and at LH 3/28–4/1 (CM). **Pied-billed Grebe** was found at 8 locales. **Horned Grebe** and **Red-necked Grebe** were reported only once each; the latter was at LH 4/2 (CM).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** along Brown's Dam Rd 4/6 (AF) provided the only sighting. An encouraging report was of a pair of **Ruffed Grouse** at Michaux SF 4/7 (MB). Twelve locales produced **Wild Turkey** sightings with a high of 14 at GNMP 3/24 (CM). Uncommon for *Adams* were a **Great Egret** at FREE 5/17 (MS) and 5 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at 2100 hours on the LH spillway 5/25 (ED). Raptor sightings were mostly at typical levels while **Broad-winged Hawk** saw increased reporting with 9 observations.

Shorebirding was mundane with only the most common species found. Four **Wilson Snipe** reports were limited to 3/20-23 (PK, BP, AW) with a high of 5 at GC 3/22-23 (AW). The only report of **American Woodcock** came from RRCT 3/17 (CM). **Bonaparte's Gull** was found at three locales; GC, LH, & LM 4/7-26 (CM, JV, AW) with a nice count of 26 at GC 4/10 (AW). Up to 7 **Herring Gulls** were at LH 3/28–4/2 (CM). Pairs of **Caspian Terns** were at LH 4/21 (CM) and LM 4/28 (JV). The single report of **Forster's Tern** was of a trio at LM 5/3 (JV).

Three reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** 5/4-16 (CM, LM, AW) and 4 of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 5/12-27 (CM, LM, SW) were similar in number to last spring. **Great-horned Owl** was limited to one report while the 9 reports of **Barred Owl** were above average. GNMP held up to 5 **Short-eared Owls** thru 3/24 (CC, CM, KK, AW) after being absent during this reporting period the prior two years. Three **Common Nighthawks** were over GNMP 5/14 (JH) and an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was at Shippensburg Rd 5/3 (MB). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported at 12 sites with a particularly strong count of up to 15 at GNMP 4/26 (PW). The 8 reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** spanned 3/5–4/21 (m.ob.). **Merlin** reports came from Wenksville Rd 3/9 (BO) and Orttanna 3/16 (IC). A **Peregrine Falcon** visited FREE 4/19 (MS).

Except for **Eastern Phoebe**, flycatcher observation dates suggest this group may have arrived a bit later than normal. Earliest sightings as follows: **Eastern Wood Pewee**, **Great Crested Flycatcher**, and **Eastern Kingbird** all 5/4, **Least Flycatcher** 5/12, **Acadian Flycatcher** 5/13, and **Willow Flycatcher** 5/20. Vireos were well reported, excepting the always elusive Philadelphia Vireo. Eight locales held **Horned Lark** thru 5/5 (m.ob.). Fifteen reports of **Purple Martin** represented a positive with a high of 34 from GC 4/19 (AW). A 3/30 sighting of 2 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at GC duplicates last year's early date (CM, AW). Four **Bank Swallow** were at GC 4/19 (AW). A trio at GNMP 5/23 (AH) and a subsequent report in June may offer a glimmer of hope for a possible colony in the county. A **Cliff Swallow** was at RRCT 5/7 (CM).

**Black-capped Chickadee** reports came from SHNP 3/1-18 (LF, LL) and Michaux SF 5/20 (DP). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at SHNP 3/6 (LL) for the only report. A 4/8 visit to SGL produced a very surprising trio of **Veeries** and a single **Wood Thrush** (DJG). This is an early date for both species and especially this year based on a review of mid-Atlantic e-Bird entries. McWilliams and Brauning's "The Birds of Pennsylvania" notes for Veery, "Early migrants are occasionally recorded the first week of April during warm springs followed by mild winters." For Wood Thrush, "..... have been recorded as early as the first week of April." The two reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were from East Berlin Community Park and GNMP, both 5/15 (DH, CM). Five reports of **Swainson's Thrush** spanned 5/7-20 (m.ob.). Four reports of **American Pipit** covered 3/10-22 (PK, BP, PRW) with a high of 9 along Mud Run Rd 3/2 (PK).

As one might expect, 27 warbler species was the main driving force for county birders' positive comments on this year's migration. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at RRCT 5/8 (CM). **Tennessee Warbler** was reported 4 times 5/12-16 (CM, RDS, AW) and **Nashville Warbler** found twice, 5/5 (CM) at SHNP and 5/12 (CM) at RRCT; both species were missed last year. Further evidence of this year's better migration was the number of reports for historically less detected species. In comparing 2018 reporting frequency to 2017; **Cape May Warbler** 4 vs one, **Blackburnian Warbler** 7 vs one, and **Bay-breasted Warbler** 6 vs one. **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at GNMP 5/14 and 29 (JH, CM). Despite the good species count there were some misses (Cerulean Warbler and Kentucky Warbler) vs historical hits.

The sparrow group continues to provide the most consistent year-to-year species reporting with minimal deviation. A pair of **American Tree Sparrows** were lingering at FREE 4/7 (MS). Five reports of **Savannah Sparrow** spanned 3/1–4/26 (EB, PK, CM, PW) and the same reporting frequency of **Grasshopper Sparrow** covered 5/5-31 (CH, PK, CM, JoV, SW). Seven locales held **Fox**

**Sparrow** 3/1–4/9 (m.ob.) and 5 sites produced **Swamp Sparrow** 3/1–5/5 (EB, DJG, CM). Nine **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** reports were paced by a 7 male/3 female count at Mountain Rd 5/6 (RDS). Up to 7 **Bobolinks** were at FREE 5/3-30 (IC, CM, BP, MS) while **Eastern Meadowlark** were found at 9 sites but no count exceeded 5 birds. GNMP produced the **Rusty Blackbird** reports, a single 3/5 (CM) and 7 on 4/11 (CM). Nearly a miss, a single report of a lone **Purple Finch** came from Mountain Rd 4/28 (RDS).

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### Allegheny County

Locations: Dashields Dam (DASH), Duck Hollow (DH), Frick Park (FP), Imperial (IMP), Pine Township (PT), Sewickley Heights Park (SHP), Wingfield Pines (WP).

Winter weather continued into April with cold temperatures and even a bit of snow. Rain was also a feature of April and it was one of the wettest on record. Rain on April 11 resulted in a waterfowl fallout in the area that featured **Buffleheads**, **Long-tailed Ducks**, and **Surf Scoters**. This report features the annual migration summaries from Dashields Dam on the Ohio River. Rain on 4/19 caused a small fallout of terns and waterfowl in the county. The first big push of migrants occurred in early May with warm southern air for two days.

Of note for the spring season was a first state record **Varied Bunting** (see below).

A white morph **Snow Goose** was a nice find at North Park 4/14 (DN); a late date here. A **Ross's Goose** was a good find in Findlay Twp. 3/17 (GM) providing the tenth county record. It flew off with a flock of **Canada Geese** and was not relocated. A flock of 53 **Tundra Swans** migrated past DASH 3/17 (GM) and 30 were observed over Squirrel Hill 3/25 (TRH).

There were quite a few **Northern Shoveler** reports. A nice count of 11 were at DH (DW, ST, TM, NM, JHA) and 2 were at IMP 3/17 (GM). Other reports include 3 at Six Mile Island on the Allegheny River 3/18 (AH, PM), 5 at DASH 4/11 (GM), 3 at IMP 4/29 (GM) and 8 at DH 4/29 (Ebird). **Gadwall** are uncommon migrants - 3 were in Monongahela 3/11 (SA), one in Hamar Twp. 3/13-24 (AH, TH, JM, ABU) and 4 at DASH 3/17 (GM). The rains on 4/19 put down several in various locations including one at DH (JF, SA), 2 in Jefferson Borough (JHA), and 3 at WP (MJ). **American Wigeon** are also uncommon migrants here. Three reports included 2 at IMP 3/17 (GM), 2 in Hamar Twp. 4/11 (TRBC), and one at WP 4/21 (MJ). **Green-winged Teal** were reported on just two days in March. On 3/17, single birds were in Aspinwall (JM, LN) and Imperial (GM), and 6 were at DH (SA, TM, NM). One was at WP 3/18 (JF, MJ).

There was a fallout of waterfowl 4/19 with **Buffleheads** particularly numerous - 500 plus were counted along the rivers. A raft of 21 **Greater Scaup** were at DH 4/19 (TM, et al.); a good count for here. A few **Surf Scoters** were also seen during this rain event including 3 at Dashields Dam (GM), 3 at North Park (MW, JR), one at Sewickley (GM), and 2 at Wood's Run (JM). Throughout western Pennsylvania, large numbers of waterfowl were resting on lakes and rivers waiting for the unfavorable weather to pass. Two **White-winged Scoters** were found on the Allegheny River at Blawnox 3/18 (AH, PM), one flew past DASH 4/4, and 2 passed by 4/11 (GM). A **Long-tailed Duck** continued from Feb. at Riverfront Park on the Southside of Pittsburgh where it spent several weeks along with a female **Greater Scaup**. It was last reported 3/10 (m.ob.) and the scaup 3/11 (JM). Two Long-tailed Ducks were at the Moody Road Ponds in Findlay Twp. 4/6 (MV). There were two small fallouts of Long-tails in April. Reports 4/11 include 10 on the Monongahela River at DH (SA, JF, JM), 13 at DASH on the Ohio River (GM), and 4 on the Allegheny River at Hamar Twp. (MF, TRBC). Another small fallout occurred 4/19 with 9 on the Ohio River at Emsworth (SD) and one in Sewickley

(GM). A late bird was at DASH 5/10 (GM). A **Ruddy Duck** was at DASH 4/7 (GM) and 10 were at DH 4/11 (SA, JM). This species was widespread 4/19 with reports from six locations on the three rivers. High counts that day include 14 at DH (SA, JM), 21 at DASH (GM), and 14 at Wood's Run (JM, JF).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was reported on ebird at Kennywood Amusement Park in West Mifflin 5/26 (DP, ebird). **Horned Grebes** were in unusual numbers during the fallout 4/19. Eighteen were at DH (SA, JM), 4 at Chapel Harbor (SK), 11 at Wood's Run (JHa, ST) and 2 at North Park (MW, JR). One lingered at Chapel Harbor to at least 5/22 (JL, ph.). A **Red-necked Grebe** was a good find on the Allegheny River at Chapel Harbor 3/12 (MD). What was perhaps the same bird was found at Brunots Island on the Ohio River 3/17 (JM). Three **American Coots** were at DH 4/11 (SA, JM, JF), one was at DASH that day (GM), and 2 were at Wood's Run 4/19 (JM, JF). A **Virginia Rail** was detected by nocturnal recordings in Moon Twp. 4/18 (GM).

This spring, the Allegheny Land Trust site Wingfield Pines was the location for shorebirds. Several small ponds at this site were drained providing muddy feeding areas. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at WP 5/13 (GM) and 5/20 (TRh). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present 4/14–5/13 with a high count of 11 at WP 5/4 (GM). A **Willet** was a great find at WP 5/3 (MJ, m.ob.). It was right on time; this rare migrant is most likely to appear the first few days of May. Just like in the past, it was gone the following day. This provided the seventh county record. **Greater Yellowlegs** were only found in singles at three locations during the season. The first, reported 3/30 at IMP (MV), was early. **Solitary Sandpipers** were only found at WP with a high of 12 on 5/12 (GM). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at WP 5/4-20 (MJ, GM, JF, LF, JHa); 2 were there 5/22 (ST, MJ). A great count of 25 were at IMP 5/19 (GM), the third highest count in the county. Five were there 5/27 (MV). **Least Sandpiper** was present at WP 5/3–21 (m.ob.), with a high of 21 on 5/13 (GM, m.ob.). One was at IMP 5/3 (GM) and 2 on 5/12 (JM). One was at North Park 5/5 (SD) and one in Jefferson Borough 5/6-10 (JHa, LKa). A flock of 40 **Short-billed Dowitchers** was reported on ebird at IMP 5/12. Several observers saw the largest flock ever recorded in the county. Another 15 were found nearby at another small pond (ST). A single bird was at IMP 5/22 (MV). Good size flocks of **Wilson's Snipe** were at IMP. Twenty-seven were there 3/30 (GM), 32 on 4/7 (MV) and 16 on 4/8 (AH). It's been several years since flocks of this size have been observed in the area.

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were tallied at DASH 3/17–4/21; a total of 403 were counted there. High counts include 47 on 4/13 (GM, JM), 77 on 4/19 (GM), and 95 on 4/21 (MF). A total of 180 were tallied upriver at Sewickley 4/19 (GM). **Bonaparte's Gulls** reported at other locations include one at Oakmont 4/15 (MD), 2 at DH 4/19 (SA), 39 at Wood's Run 4/19 (JM, JF), and one at North Park 4/19 (MW, JR). An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was a surprise on the Allegheny River at the Highland Park Bridge 4/3 (SK). This species is normally found during the worst winter weather when the rivers freeze.

A total of 16 **Caspian Terns** were recorded at DASH 4/6-21 (GM, JM, MF) with a high of 4 on 4/13 (GM, JM). Other reports include 6 in Oakmont 4/16 (MD), 2 at North Park 4/19 (MW, JR), one in Jefferson Borough 4/19 (JHa), and 9 at Wood's Run 4/19 (JM, JF). **Forster's Terns** recorded at DASH this spring include one 4/13 (GM, JM), 2 on 4/19 (GM), and 4 on 5/6 (MV). Other reports include one at Wood's Run 4/19 (JM, JF) and one flying over FP 5/4 (JHa). A **Common Tern** passed DASH 4/19 (GM). Three *Sterna* tern sp. were at Wood's Run 4/19 (JM, JF) and one was at DH 5/6 (ebird).

Two **Common Loons** passed DASH 4/7 (GM). There were 2 **American Bittern** reports: one detected by a nocturnal recording device in Moon Twp. 4/14 (GM) and one flying out of WP at dusk 4/22 (ST). A trio of **Great Egrets** was observed migrating past DASH 4/4 (GM) and 2 were at a small marsh in Hammar Twp. 4/11 (TRBC).

A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. (GM) and nearby at IMP 3/14 (JM). One was noted flying over DASH 4/4 (GM), a first for that location. A **Great Horned Owl** was discovered on a nest at IMP this season and 3 chicks were in the nest in early April (MV, et al.). The nest was among the ravages of development of an industrial park. A **Snowy Owl** continued at the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport from last season into April. Ten **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were banded at SHP during the season (BMu). A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** was observed on the Elizabeth Bridge 3/4 (KSJ). Observers will be keeping watch on this potential new nest site.

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at FP (ST) and North Park (SD) 5/13. One reported at FP 5/16 (ebird) was probably the same one reported 5/13. A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Beechwood Farms 5/20 (AH, PM), the first spring report

since 2016. An **Alder Flycatcher** was a great find at WP 5/13 (GM); the first report in the county since 2015 for this rare migrant.

Eight **Fish Crows** were at DH 3/17 (SA). This has become a very reliable location for this species. **Common Ravens** were reported along the rivers during the season. The long standing **Purple Martin** colony at Yough Country Club in the southern part of the county continues to do well (SSn). The colony at Harrison Hills Park is also doing well with 22 birds counted this spring (KK). Reports of **Bank Swallow**, our least common swallow, include one at Leetsdale 4/28 (SA, TRh), 2 at WP 5/11 (RG, MG), and one in Jefferson Borough 5/12 (JHa). There were 7 reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** from 4 locations.

A few **Pine Siskin** reports continued from the winter. One was in Franklin Park 3/4 (AH), one in SHP 3/29 (JM), and 4 were there 4/7 (GM). Six were in Giffillan Park 4/4 (ST) and 2 visited a feeder in Plum 4/22 (AH, PM). **Vesper Sparrow** nocturnal flight calls were heard in Moon Twp. 4/14 (2) and 5/3 (1). A Vesper Sparrow was photographed carrying nesting material at IMP 5/6 (AH, PM). Two were photographed at Boyce-Mayview Park 4/29 (ST) and one was in Jefferson Borough 5/10 (JHa). **Fox Sparrows** were reported from various locations throughout April. A leucistic **Song Sparrow** with a white head was photographed at Wood's Run 3/17 (JHa). **Lincoln's Sparrow** was only found at FP 5/6 (GM, MW) and Boyce-Mayview Park 5/18 (LN).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at Dead Man's Hollow 5/18 (DYe). Two were heard at IMP during May (m.ob.). There were quite a few **Rusty Blackbird** reports, more than usual. Two were in FP 3/9 (SA), 2 in South Park 3/17 (JF), 6 in Giffillan Park 4/4 (ST), one at DH 4/12 (JHa), one in Schenley Park 4/13 (SA), one at WP 4/17 (JM), and a late bird was reported in Schenley Park 5/8 (ebird).

The warbler passage was excellent and one of the best in recent years. **Cape May, Bay-breasted** and **Tennessee Warblers** were particularly numerous compared to previous years as their numbers have been increasing due to the success of the spruce budworm in the forests to the north. We recorded 32 warbler species in the county this spring. An interesting warbler that may have been a **Black-throated Green X Cape May Warbler** was photographed in Plum 5/2 (AH). The bird looked like a Black-throated Green but had chestnut cheeks like a Cape May. A more typical hybrid, a **Brewster's Warbler** was an interesting find at Beechwood Farms 5/5 (MK), the first report since 2014. We are on the edge of the range of **Worm-eating Warbler**, so any reports are notable. They do breed in the county locally but are an exciting find for birders here. One was quite cooperative and photographed at FP 5/3 (TH), one was heard at a regular breeding site in Harrison Hills Park 5/5 (MF, TRBC), and 2 were noted there 5/8 (OL) and 5/12 (SG). One was also at Deer Lakes Park 5/12 (TH, OL). The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at Sewickley 3/31 (JM). Single **Northern Waterthrushes** were reported at the following locations: Moon Twp. 4/22 (GM), Sewickley 4/28 (RT), SHP 5/2 and 5/4 (GM), FP 5/3 (SD), Carnegie Mellon University 5/4 (SA), Deer Lakes Park 5/5 (OL, TH) and Jefferson Borough 5/12 (JHa). The bird at Carnegie Mellon was in sparse habitat, illustrating migrants will use the habitat available to them.

A female **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Schenley Park 5/5 (KSJ) and 2 males at FP 5/6 (GM). A **Mourning Warbler** was singing at FP 5/13 (ST). **Kentucky Warblers** returned to local breeding locations at SHP 5/4 (GM), Harrison Hills Park 5/12 (SG), Deer Lakes Park 5/12 (TH, OL), and Dead Man's Hollow 5/18 (DYe). **Cerulean Warblers** returned to the most reliable breeding locations in the county: Harrison Hills Park and SHP. One was at FP 5/4-6 (SA, JHa, GM, et al.). Usually more common in fall, **Palm Warblers** were reported at 5 locations. A Yellow Palm Warbler was at Sewickley 4/28 (SA, TRh). **Pine Warbler** is also an uncommon migrant. One was in Sewickley 4/16 (KD, KS, BG) and singles were at FP 4/22 (JS, SS) and 5/13 (ST). Another uncommon spring migrant is **Prairie Warbler**. Singles were at Hilltop Park 4/15 (JM, LN), Tom's Run Nature Reserve in Kilbuck Twp. 4/20 (JF), and FP 5/4 (JHa). **Canada Warbler** was at FP 5/8-19 (MH, MF, MW) and 4 were found 5/14 (ST). One was at Harrison Hills Park 5/12 (SG), one at SHP 5/12 (GM), one in a backyard in Moon Twp. 5/14 (GM), one at Boyce-Mayview Park 5/16 (ST), and one at Deer Lakes Park 5/19 (TH). **Wilson's Warbler** is found in small numbers during migration. One was at FP 5/12 (MF), one at SHP 5/12 (GM), one at FP 5/13 (ST), one in Lawrenceville 5/15 (AB, CB), and one at IMP 5/23 (MV).

A leucistic **Northern Cardinal** was photographed in Hampton Twp. in March and April. A **Blue Grosbeak** was a great find at FP 5/3 (MW) and well documented with photographs. Despite follow up searches that day and the following day it was not relocated; however, it was seen again 5/5 (ebird). This species was last reported in the county in 2006.

A **Varied Bunting** visiting a feeder in Elizabeth Township 5/5-7 (m.ob.) was an astonishing event that provided the first state record and only one of three in the eastern U.S. The homeowner posted photos online and word spread about it so it was seen and photographed by several observers. Unfortunately, it only remained for a few days.

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### Armstrong County

Locations: Locations: Armstrong Trail no. of Dam 8 (AT), Buffalo Creek IBA (BC), Crooked Creek Lake (CCL), Keystone Lake (KL), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Logansport (LT), Mahoning Creek Lake (MCL), Manorville (MV), Murphy's Bottom (MB), Nicholson Run (NR), Northpointe (NP), Quigly/Glacial Sand Rds.(QGS), Polka Hollow Road (PH), Roaring Run (RR), Robbs Fording Road (RF), Worthington (WT).

The most noteworthy birds this spring were 5 **Red-throated Loons** 3/30 at KL (AB, SGU, MH, Rh) then 2 on 3/31 (DG, GG) during a waterfowl fallout that week; one **Red-necked Grebe** observed at CCL from 3/1 (AB, JB, MVT) through 3/10 (MVT); and 2 rare **Virginia Rails** in breeding habitat were an exciting find at Murphy's Bottom 4/28 (AB, SGU), which may be first county record. One rail was observed again a week later (AB, SGU, BP). A **Northern Shrike** was a nice find near PH 4/2 (MVT, ph.); the only other ebird report of this species in the county was in 1987. Three **Marsh Wrens** provided perhaps a first county record as well as a great find at MB 5/5 (AB, SGU).

As with a few other counties, *Armstrong* had a few waterfowl "fallouts", mostly reported from KL and the Allegheny River. A few **Tundra Swans** were observed at CCL and MV, and 30 at KL 3/27 (SGU). Best **Wood Duck** count was 80 on the AT 4/6 (TR). **Blue-winged Teal**, **American Wigeons**, and **Green-winged Teal** were scattered throughout the county but the only report of **Northern Pintail** was 6 at RT 3/17 (AB). **Ring-necked Ducks** numbered 38 on the AT 3/18 (SGU) and 44 at KL 3/26 (MH, RH). A lone **Redhead** showed up at PBF 4/2 (MVT, ph.) and 8 visited KL 4/9 (MH, RH) where several were seen by others that same month.

**Long-tailed Ducks** included 8 at KL 3/30 (MH RH) and 12 at KT L&D 7 on 4/6 (AB). High counts of **Buffleheads** were 313 at KT L&D 7 (AB) and 400 on the AT same day (TR). Best **Hooded Merganser** report was 54 at KL 3/25 (AB) and 50 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were reported from KL 4/21 (MD). Nine **Ruddy Ducks** were at CCL 4/18 (MVT, ph.) and a high of 55 was listed from KL 4/19 (AB). **Common Loons** were reported from several locations, but best count was 59 at KL 3/30 (MH, RH). High counts of **Horned Grebe** were 130 on the AT 46 (TR), 87 at KT L&D (AB), and 40 at KL (MD).

**Osprey** were observed at several locations, but the only **Northern Harrier** report was from WT. **Red-shouldered Hawks** nested at CCL again, and the first returning **Broad-winged Hawk** was from CCL (AB, SGU, MVT, ph.). One **American Woodcock** was observed displaying near NR 3/30 (AB, SGU) and one was observed off RF near CCL 4/1 (TR, ph.). A lone **Wilson's Snipe** was reported, observed at CCL 4/12 (JLS). **Bonaparte Gulls** were listed at several locations with a high count of 250 on the AT (TR). A **Herring Gull** nest was found on a structure in the river near the dam at KT L&D 7 (TR, ph.) with 2 adults, one in

nest and one above.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were listed from several locations; the best count was 3 at Manorville 5/14 (KSJ). **Black-billed Cuckoos** were fewer with one at PH 5/15 (DF, MVT, ph.) and one at CCL 5/25 (TA). Two **Common Nighthawks** were noted - in Logansport 5/16 (JB) and one in Ford City 5/31 (AB). A lone **Merlin** was a nice find in WT 3/6 (AB). **Peregrine Falcons** nested again under the Graff Bridge near KT and were spotted not only near the bridge in Manorville (MH, RH) but as far as WT (AB, SGU, MVT). An adult was seen in Manorville carrying food (KSJ).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was a nice find at MCL 5/7 (AK, JK, ph.), A single **Alder Flycatcher** was heard and seen 5/15 in WT (SGU, ph.), one was near Adrian 5/20 (TR), and at QGS 5/29 (JB). **Willow Flycatchers** were observed in quite a few areas. All vireo species were reported but best was a **Philadelphia Vireo** on 5/12 (PAMC) at CCL (SG). A **Bank Swallow** colony at QGS, which was reported in 2007, seems to be still active, as conservative count of 10 were observed 5/27 (AB, SGU).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was nice find at CCL 5/9 (JB, ph.) while **Swainsons Thrushes** were observed in several spots, including one during PAMC at RR (SL) One **American Pipit** was seen off NR 3/4 (SGU). First 2 **Worm-eating Warblers** to be reported were from LP (JB, ph.); later 2 were at BC IBA (AB, SGU, ph.). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** returned 4/14 at PH (MVT, ph.) and while there were quite a few Louisianas around the county, there were only a few **Northern Waterthrushes**, the first at Crooked Creek Lake 4/28 (JB, ph.). Warblers were scattered, but a small fallout occurred during the PAMC 5/12 at CCL (SG, JLS, MVT), including a **Mourning Warbler** (SG) and a **Wilson's Warbler**. **Blue-winged Warblers** seemed to show up many locations, with best count of 15 at QGS (AB, SGU). Ten **Bay-breasted Warblers** were seen at CCL (AB, SGU). Five **Prairie Warblers** were noted at the QGS 5/9 (AG, SGU) and 2 there 5/29 (JB).

**Grasshopper Sparrows** (3) returned 5/16 at NP (AB), one **Henslow's Sparrow** was at WT 5/12 (MVT), and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** appeared for the PAMC at CCL 5/12 (SG). **Four Bobolinks** were spotted in WT 5/14 (AB) and 6 were at RF 5/15 (MVT). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were heavily reported from WT with 2 on 3/31 (DG, GG), 4 on 4/21 (MD), and 7 on 5/1 (TR). Five **Rusty Blackbirds** were a pleasant surprise at RT (AG, SGU). The only **Pine Siskins** were in a yard at KT (SGU) and LB (MVT).

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### Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Economy Borough (ECON), Independence Marsh (IND), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Mouth of the Beaver River at Rochester (RCH), Vanport (VAN).

Reports of puddle ducks were rather unremarkable, except for **Northern Shovelers** which were noted a fair number of times at AR (MV, GM) and RCH (MV, BS) in the first half of Apr, part of a fine showing of this species in southwest Pennsylvania this year. Fifteen **American Wigeon** at AR 3/31 (MV) was a nice total, and 4 were still there 4/6 (GM). A flock of up to 13 **Blue-winged Teal** lingered at IND 3/30-4/28 (MV, et al.). Top count for **Redhead** was just 8 birds, and for **Ring-necked Duck** just 22, both at AR 4/6 (GM). Two **Greater Scaup** at VAN 3/29-4/4 (GR) were the only ones reported. **Lesser Scaup** showed better, peaking at 51 at RCH 4/19 (BS, MV), part of a large waterfowl fallout there that day.

Reports of **Surf Scoters**, typically the middle of the 3 scoter species in terms of frequency of spring occurrence, were 2 at VAN 4/4 (GR), 3 at RCH 4/19 (BS, MV), and one at RCH 4/29 (MV). The other two species (White-winged typically the most frequent, and Black the least) were unreported. **Long-tailed Ducks** were impressive in Apr: 6 at AR 4/6 (GM), 17 at VAN 4/11 (GR, DR), and 8 at VAN (GR) and 3 at RCH (BS, MV) during the 4/19 fallout. **Bufflehead** showed best of all during this 4/19 event, when a total of 301 were counted near RCH (BS, MV), likely

a record-setting spring total for *Beaver*. This was not the only impressive flock of Bufflehead this spring, however; counts of 127 and 125 were made at VAN 4/6 and 4/11, respectively (GR), and on the former date, 35 were at AR as well (GM). Three somewhat late Buffleheads were still at RCH 4/29 (JF, LF). Three **Common Goldeneye** at VAN 3/16 (GR, DR) made for an uncommon Mar record; normally this species is gone by the end of Feb. Five **Common Mergansers** were at New Brighton 5/19 (MV), continuing a streak of late spring sightings of this species on the BR, but still the only known breeding record for the species in *Beaver* was last summer at RCSP's wildflower reserve. **Red-breasted Merganser** was well reported but in small numbers 3/24-4/21 (m.ob.).

Two **Common Loons** were at AR 5/11 (MV). Bufflehead was not the only species to put up truly impressive numbers on 4/19. During that same event, a total of 124 **Horned Grebes** were also gathered around RCH (BS, MV), by far the highest spring total here since the massive Horned Grebe fallout of 3/22/2008, when some 733 birds were forced down onto the rivers of *Beaver* during a nor'easter, along with another 743 in *Allegheny* and smaller but still local-record setting totals in several other western Pennsylvania counties that day. A **Red-necked Grebe** was also at VAN 4/19 (GR), the only one reported this season.

Eight **Great Egrets** on the Beaver R. at New Brighton 4/8 (MV) was a fine total. **Ospreys** established a new nest in Potter Twp. after their long-time former site was disrupted by major construction in the vicinity. They were seen there this year beginning 3/24 (MV). No reports were received this season of the other well-established nests elsewhere in the county, though, but they were reported frequently at RCSP throughout Apr and May (m.ob.), where no nest site is currently known.

The flow of water from Raccoon Creek into the ponds of IND has been greatly disrupted since early 2017, resulting in a much lower volume of water in both site's ponds, and extensive vegetation springing up on the flats of the larger pond. As a result, the area is becoming less and less attractive to shorebirds, and this spring certainly reflected the new reality. There were only small numbers of **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Least Sandpipers**, and **Solitary Sandpipers** seen, and very surprisingly, there was just a single **Lesser Yellowlegs** noted for the whole season, a bird present 4/1-14 (MV, et al.). Three beautiful **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/13 (MV, ph. GM), now very a rare species in spring in *Beaver* since the closing of Little Blue Lake, salvaged what otherwise would have been a totally forgettable shorebird flight. Monitoring of waterbird migration from Dashiels Dam in *Allegheny* (GM) was done mostly from a vantage where the *Beaver* line was not visible, so few observations from that watch showed up in *Beaver's* records this spring. Top counts of **Bonaparte's Gulls** were 76 at RCH 4/19 and 31 there 4/15 (both MV). A **Herring Gull** was still hanging around RCH 4/29 (MV), but there are still no known nests on *Beaver's* portion of the Ohio R. An early **Caspian Tern** passed by RCH 4/1 (MV). **Forster's Terns** were 2 at VAN 4/13 (GR) and one at RCH 4/15 (MV).

Black-billed Cuckoo went entirely unreported, although coverage of *Beaver's* woodlots during passerine migration this year was quite sparse. There were just four reports of **Common Nighthawk** 5/14-5/26 from three different locations (m.ob.). A **Merlin** that probably wintered around Ambridge was seen a few times in Mar up through 3/31 (MV).

**Alder Flycatcher** is detected far less than annually, so one near Little Blue Lake 5/22 (MV) was quite noteworthy. A **Purple Martin** scout returned to a colony in Fombell by 3/19 (DF *vide* MV). The only **Winter Wren** of the season was one at the RCSP wildflower reserve 4/13 (KSJ). There were 5 sightings of **Swainson's Thrush** in early May, a fair showing especially in a season with rather poor coverage like this one. Two **American Pipits** were at IND 3/26 (FK, AK), another species that has become harder to find in the county since the closing of Little Blue Lake.

A **Worm-eating Warbler** was detected at RCSP 5/5 (LH), a hopeful sign that they would again summer there for what would be the third year in a row. A **Northern Waterthrush** was in full song at IND 5/13 (GM). **Tennessee Warblers** were noted on many woodlot-birding checklists in the second week of May, a sign that they were present in good numbers despite the lack of birder coverage. A **Mourning Warbler** was at RCSP 5/20 (MW), always a difficult bird to find in the county. **Cerulean Warblers** were numerous at RCSP once again; the park is always among the best of their remaining strongholds in this region. The first **Northern Parula** was not detected at the wildflower reserve until 5/3 (KSJ), certainly a result of the general lack of coverage this season. The only 2 **Blackpoll Warblers** reported were in AMB 5/12 (MV) and VAN 5/13 (GR), neither location a traditional hotspot for migrants. Four **Pine Warblers** were noted on the western

(and far less birded) side of RCSP 5/24 (FK). A **Wilson's Warbler** was in ECON 5/12 (KD).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was noted near Little Blue Lake 5/22 (MV). This site isn't visited much by birders anymore, so it's good to know that some of these grassland specialists persist there. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at IND 5/12 (DR) was rare for spring. Small numbers of **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported at IND 3/17-4/7 (MV, DC, JM, LN). Four **Pine Siskins** attended a feeder near Ambridge 3/18 (MV), and up to 4 frequented the RCSP park office feeders 3/23-4/7 (MV, m.ob.).

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### **Bedford County**

Locations: Dunning's Creek Wetlands (DCW), Whitetail Wetlands (WTW), Shawnee State Park (SSP), Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Allegheny Front (AF) for Bedford.

Interesting birds were **American Bittern, Least Bittern, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, White-fronted Goose, Sandhill Crane, and Trumpeter Swan.**

March produced strong winds, especially at SSP and DCW where 40 mph winds forced ducks, loons, cormorants and geese to gather in hundreds on the leeward of the islands. The high waterfowl for SSP is as follows: 25 **Common Loons** on 4/4, 19 **Pied-billed Grebes**, 10 **Horned Grebes**, and 518 **Double-crested Cormorants**. **Tundra Swans** at SSP 3/18 totaled 309. Two **Trumpeter Swans** were welcomed at DCW 4/11; this has been a regular visitor for several years at Teal Lake. Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at SSP 3/18, also a regular visitor. **Canada Geese** peaked at 300 on 3/18 at DCW. Waterfowl peak at DCW and SSP: 378 **Wood Ducks** 4/11, 78 **Green-winged Teal**, 108 **Mallards** 4/11, 3 **Northern Pintails** 4/8, 350 **Blue-winged Teal** 4/8, 3 **Northern Shovelers** 4/11, and 14 **Gadwall**. The waterfowl at SSP are as follow on 4/11: 23 **American Widgeons**, 37 **Canvasbacks**, 42 **Redheads**, 50 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 28 **Greater Scaup**, 26 **Lesser Scaup**, one **Surf Scoter**, 2 **Common Goldeneyes**, 125 **Buffleheads**, 125 **Hooded Mergansers**, 150 **Common Mergansers** 4/4, 66 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, 46 **Ruddy Ducks** were at DCW 4/11.

Two **American Bitterns** were seen 4/13 and one **Least Bittern** 4/11, both at DCW. The Least Bittern takes time to find on the many lakes on the 170 acres of DCW. The following herons and egrets were seen: 6 **Great Blue Herons** (SSP), 18 **Great Egrets** (SSP), 3 **Snowy Egrets** (SSP), and 2 **Green Herons** (DCW).

The Spring Allegheny Front Hawk count is as follows: 5 **Black Vultures**, 112 **Turkey Vultures**, 42 **Osprey**, 5 **Bald Eagles**, 3 **Northern Harriers**, 45 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 25 **Cooper's Hawks**, one **Northern Goshawk**, 16 **Red-shouldered Hawks**, 477 **Broad-winged Hawks**, 123 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 35 **Golden Eagles**, 8 **American Kestrels**, 2 **Merlins**, one **Peregrine Falcon**, and 26 unknown raptors for a total of 926.

Two **Ring-necked Pheasants** and one **Ruffed Grouse** were present but hard to find; however, **Wild Turkeys** were abundant with 37 at the AF 4/5. DCW ponds are drawn down to allow mudflats which draws a variety of sandpipers and other water birds, especially in May. The following were observed: 2 **Virginia Rails** 3/18, one **Sora**, one **Sandhill Crane** 4/11, 72 **American Coots** 3/2 (SSP), one **Black-bellied Plover** (DCW), 4 **Semipalmated Plovers** (DCW) 5/12, 8 **Killdeer** 3/18 (DCW), 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** (DCW) 5/12, and 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/12 (DCW). Three **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen at DCW 4/20. Five **Ruddy Turnstones** settled in DCW 3/18 and remained for 2 days. Additional sandpipers at DCW are as follows: 4 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/12, 2 **Western Sandpipers** 4/20, 5 **Least Sandpipers** 5/1, one **White-rumped Sandpipers** 5/12, 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 5/12, 3 **Dunlins** 5/12, one **Wilson's Snipe**, and 6 **American Woodcocks** 4/8. Gulls at SSP were 9 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 115 **Ring billed Gulls**, 4 **Herring Gulls** 3/25; 3 **Caspian Terns** were at DCW 4/20.

Owls seen and/or heard on the AF: one **Barn Owl** 4/20, 2 **Eastern Screech Owls** 5/12, 2 **Great Horned Owls** 5/14; one **Barred Owl** was at DCW 5/10. **Whip-poor-will** and **Chuck-will's-Widow** were heard at SSP 5/12. Flycatchers



were few: **Eastern Wood Pewee**, 2 **Eastern Phoebes**, 1 **Great Crested Flycatcher** and 2 **Kingbirds** at DCW 4/20. Vireo's were easily found at DCW, especially 5/12: 2 **White-eyed Vireos**, one **Blue-headed Vireo**, 2 **Yellow-throated Vireos**, 2 **Warbling Vireos**, and 2 **Red-eyed Vireos**. **America Crows** can be confused with **Fish Crows** which are now regular at Shawnee Lake in Bedford. **Common Ravens** have also taken a place on the Allegheny Front, seen regularly.

Wrens at DCW included 2 **Carolina Wrens** 4/20, and 2 **House Wrens** and 3 **Marsh Wrens** 5/11. The following warblers were mostly seen on Dunning's Creek wetlands 5/12: 2 **Golden-Winged Warblers**, 2 **Northern Parulas**, 2 **Yellow Warblers**, 3 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 3 **Magnolia Warblers**, 3 **Cape May Warblers**, 5 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, 4 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, 2 **Blackburnian Warblers**, 3 **Bay-breasted Warblers**, one **Blackpoll Warbler**, one **Cerulean Warbler**, 2 **Black-and-White Warblers**, one **American Redstart**, 3 **Worm-eating Warblers**, 3 **Ovenbirds**, 4 **Common Yellowthroats**, 2 **Hooded Warblers**, and 3 **Canada Warblers**.

Five **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were on DCW 5/12. Two **Indigo Buntings** were at DCW 5/12. The following sparrows were on DCW: 2 **American Tree Sparrows** 4/8, 5 **Chipping Sparrow** (5/12, 3 **Field Sparrows** 5/12, one **Vesper Sparrow** 4/8, 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 4/20, 4 **Fox Sparrows** 4/8, 4 **Song Sparrows** 4/8, and 6 **Swamp Sparrows**. At best one or two **Bobolink** were seen on a farmer's field; however, the mowing may have moved them on. At least 2 **Baltimore Orioles** were seen on the AF 5/12.

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#### **Berks County**

No Report

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#### **Blair County**

Locations: **Albemarle Nature Trail (ANT)**, **Canoe Creek S.P. (CC)**, **Frosty Hollow (FH)**, **Henry's Pond (HP)**, **Lower Trail-Mount Etna (LT)**, **Plummer's Hollow (PH)**, **Reese Pond (RP)**, **State Game Lands #278 North (SGLN)**.

The spring weather had moderate temperatures with above average rainfall. One hundred ninety-two species were reported. Information was obtained primarily from eBird data. The Penn State Altoona Earth Day Birding Classic brought local and traveling birders together for its third annual event the week of 4/16.

A single **Snow Goose** was at CC 3/14 (PI). A rare sighting of a **Trumpeter Swan** with the wing tag #T65 was made at RP 4/6 (JC, LC), and a second **Trumpeter Swan** appeared at RP 4/9 with the wing tag #P68 (MN). A rare **Least Bittern** was a super find in a wetland of the ANT 5/17 (MN). This is only the second eBird report of Least Bittern for Blair, with the last being from May 1989. Twenty duck species were documented. Uncommon ducks included 2 **Canvasbacks** 4/13 at CC (NN), and 6 **White-winged Scoters** at Lake Altoona with a raft of 25 **Long-tailed Ducks** (m.ob.). Another raft of 22 Long-tailed Ducks was at CC 4/7 (JC, LC). A group of 10 **Northern Shovelers** was noted at Lake Altoona 4/6 (CM).

A **Red-throated Loon** hung around the Penn State Altoona campus pond 3/30-4/9 (m.ob.). As many as 3 Red-throated Loons were noted at CC 4/1 (KS). The only **Virginia Rail** was located at SGLN 4/9 (JC, LC). A single **Merlin** was recognized near Altoona 5/3 (JW) and one was observed near Hollidaysburg 5/22 (GM, RS). A **Peregrine Falcon** soared past SGLC 5/5 (MR).

An uncommon **Red-headed Woodpecker** was located off the LT 5/12 (MBi). A single **Philadelphia Vireo** was viewed at CC 5/5 (DH) and a **White-eyed Vireo** was spotted at SGL 267 on 5/30 (AM). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was noted in FH 5/12 (LB) and one documented near Altoona 5/17 (SE). Five **Swainson's Thrushes** were reported at CC 5/5, most likely nocturnal flight calls (DH), and 2 at the LT 5/16 (MB). A single **Marsh Wren** was observed singing near the SGLN

wetland 5/27 (JC, LC).

As impressive 33 species of warblers were spread across Blair, including the uncommon **Orange-Crowned Warbler** at FH 5/12 (LB). **Prairie Warbler** was near Smith Trucking 5/6 (KC) and one off the LT 5/12 (MBi). A nice assortment of uncommon warblers was located at PH 5/3 including 2 **Kentucky Warblers**, one **Cerulean Warbler**, one **Mourning Warbler**, 3 **Blue-winged Warblers**, and a **Bay-breasted Warbler** (MB). A high count of 7 **Cape May Warblers** were observed at CC 5/12, along with 11 **Magnolia Warblers**, one **Wilson's Warbler**, and 2 **Tennessee Warblers** (LC, MN).

Three **Henslow's Sparrows** were spotted at SGL 198 on 5/26 along with 3 **Grasshopper Sparrows** and a **Vesper Sparrow** (JC, LC). An uncommon sighting, 3 **Pine Siskins** were at CC 4/26 (HO).

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#### **Bucks County**

**Locations:** **Maple Knoll Farms (MKF)**, **Nockamixon State Park (NSP)**, **Peace Valley Park (PVP)**, **The Penn-Warner Tract (PWT)**, **Quakertown Swamp (QTS)**, **State Game Land #157 (SGL#157)**.

We lost a major contributor to the knowledge of birds in Bucks with the passing of Ken Kitson on 5/16. His research into the history of county bird status, analysis of data, and continuous collection of data in recent decades will likely be the standard that may never be equaled. He was a compiler for this journal, and wrote the *Birds of Bucks County* in 1998. He gave much volunteer time using his management and other skills supporting and improving Bucks County Audubon and Peace Valley Nature Center for 30 years. His good deeds are too many to be listed here. He will be missed.

The average temperatures for both March and April were 2.3°F below normal. May was 5.3°F above. Monthly precipitation was 0.7" below normal for March, 0.03" above for April, and 2.85" above for May. Snow storms 3/2, 3/7, and 3/21 totaled about 25 inches, with about one inch each 3/25 and 4/2. As usual precipitation can vary significantly by location. Water levels were generally high at area lakes. Heavy rain 5/17 and 5/27 caused very high stream flows and very high water behind dams, with some flooding along the Delaware River on the latter date. Losses probably occurred for species nesting in the flood zones. The outstanding finds were **Roseate Spoonbill** and **Black-necked Stilt**. The wintering **Harris's Sparrow** continued as well. A total of 234 species was reported for the three-month period compared to 244 for the previous five-year average. Four species provided new spring early arrival dates. The county participated for the 26th year in the Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) 5/12. Weather was conducive to grounding migrants, and only early and late rain that day may have caused some impact on numbers. The result was 147 species, which was about average. The 12,260 individuals compared to the average of 15,320. The 55 participants were lower than recent years, but 26 parties were about average.

Historical references are from *Birds of Bucks County* by Ken Kitson 1998 and subsequent updates recorded in this journal. Diane Allison compiled and submitted highlights for the PAMC data. Weather statistics are from nearby Trenton, NJ (NOAA). 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.

Spring **Snow Goose** numbers were extremely low due to the exodus in warm Feb. Only 27 were entered in eBird in Mar, with 25 of those in one report near Richlandtown 3/29 (PC). The only other was one at Churchville Park 5/12 (VD) and probably the same bird a week or so later at Shady Brook Farm (TM, *vide* VD). The only reported **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at PVP 3/11 (TF). The tally of 51 **Mute Swans** 5/12 was a new PAMC high count versus the previous high of 40. Most were at PWT where the count was 48 (DFa).

Twenty-two duck species were reported, but the warm Feb apparently resulted in low numbers carrying over into this period for almost all species. A **Blue-**

**winged Teal x Northern Shoveler (hybrid)** was at PWT 3/3-10 (DFa ph.). Two **American Black Ducks** were seen at QTS into May during the nightly watch there, but there was no proof of breeding (DFa). The species is rarely reported into late May and even rarer in summer. A **Canvasback** at NSP 3/31 (EB, PC, RS) provided the only report. On 3/29, 6 **Redheads** were at Churchville Park (KL ph.) and 9 stopped at NSP (PC), also the only reports. Ducks tend to appear at odd times after or before their normal expected migration periods. Two **Lesser Scaup** spotted at Pine Run Dam 5/27 adds to a few late May, Jun, Jul, and Aug reports (DFa, SGo). The normal flow of migrants ended by mid-Apr. The only count above low single digits for **Greater Scaup** was 30 at NSP 4/2 (DFa).

Annual in small numbers, 2 **White-winged Scoters** were at PWT 3/17 and 6 stopped at NSP 5/13 (DFa). Always a highlight, **Long-tailed Duck** reports totaled 36 birds on 10 dates from three sites: NSP, PVP, and PWT (m.ob.). **Common Merganser** site high counts are usually in the high hundreds to over 1000 during this period, but only two reports exceeded 100 this season providing an example of the earlier exodus of several normally much more common duck species. NSP had 126 on 3/8 (VM) and Core Creek Park had 120 on 3/11 (DD). The highest reports of **Red-breasted Merganser** were 14 at PWT 3/17 (DFa) and 23 at NSP 3/29 (PC).

Although **Wild Turkey** was reported from 29 sites (m.ob.), only the high of 36 at PVP 3/1 (HD) was a stand out. **Red-throated Loon** was reported more this year, with a total of at least 12 at five sites on 13 dates (m.ob.). The high single site count was 4 at PWT 4/15 (DFa). One was unusual for being in breeding plumage at PWT 5/6 (DFa). **Common Loon** was well reported in good numbers from the last week of Mar through the end of May (m.ob.). The count of 133 at NSP 4/16 (KR) far surpassed all other reports. There was a noteworthy fallout of **Horned Grebes** 3/30, with 40 at NSP (DFa) and 41 at PVP (JBU, AM). All other reports were of low to mid-single digit counts (m.ob.). **Red-necked Grebe** was reported regularly at NSP, with one to 2 birds on 16 dates (m.ob.), with the last 4/16 (DFa). One was noted at PWT three weekends in a row from 3/3 to 3/17 (DFa). The only other report was one at Giving Pond 4/27 (EB ph.). Although a common migrant with good counts from several sites, the **Double-crested Cormorant** standout high reports were 243 at PVP 4/7 (AM) and 221 at Core Creek Park 4/8 (KK). Reports of **Great Cormorant** came from four sites, with the high counts only 6 at Bristol 3/11 (DD) and 6 at Quaker-Penn Park 3/25 (SS). The last report was of one at Mud Island 5/5 (DFa).

**American Bittern** monitoring at QTS resulted a record high 31 migrants leaving the swamp tallied on 13 out of about 20 nights of monitoring 4/8-5/12. (DFa). A rarely reported **Least Bittern** was at Giving Pond 5/24 and heard there for a few more days (DA). The large **Great Blue Heron** colony south of Quakertown at Morgan Run decreased to 17 nests (JMo). New housing developments with possible resulting human disturbance adjacent to the colony may have been the cause, but that is purely conjecture. It was assumed that some or all those displaced birds moved to the colony at QTS where the nest count jumped from 16 last year to about 44 this year (DFa). A seven-nest colony was discovered at Biles Island (DFa). A large colony was discovered at the Pidcock Creek in Solebury Twp. (RS), and the 4/27 estimate there was 35 to 40 nests (DFa). Another previously unreported site was at Scudders Falls with 16 nests (fide JMo). Of several other previously known colonies, many of which were not counted this year, NSP was and stood out with a new record high of an estimated 60 nests (JMo). There was also one nest found at the Upper Makefield Firehouse Swamp 4/6, with three well grown juvs. 5/28 (MG ph.).

**Great Egret** was reported in more than usual numbers at 16 sites starting with 3 at Churchville Park 3/30 (MO). Higher site counts were 4 at Churchville Park on multiple dates 4/2-12 (BB, BK, KK, KL) and again 5/22 (KL), 3 at Bradford Dam 5/9 (GJ), 3 at Washington Crossing 4/16 (MG), 5 at Bristol 5/12 (RM et al.), and 3 at Core Creek Park 5/12 (CFi, KF). One **Snowy Egret** was at PVP 4/15 (JC), one at Bristol 5/12 (DD et al.), and another seen three times in May at PWT starting 5/13 (DFa). An adult **Little Blue Heron** was near Feasterville 4/18 (KK ph.). The decline in **Black-crowned Night-Heron** reports and increase in **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** reports in the county in recent years has been documented in this journal. Both are in such low numbers that their future continues to be tenuous. There was only one Black-crowned Night-Heron report 4/23 at our only now semi-regular site at Silver Lake Park (DD). Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was seen on five nights at QTS 4/23-5/11, with a high of 2 on the latter date (DFa). No nest was detected. One was seen at the NSP 2016 nest site on 4/27-28 (KR, DFa), but like 2017, only one bird was seen. The nest went unused. Another was in a yard in Buckingham Twp. 4/22 (RO ph.). A **Glossy Ibis** was at PWT 4/15 (DFa), and a

flyby count of 8 was a good find at Bristol 4/20 (DD).

A **Roseate Spoonbill** at a private pond in Springtown 5/25 provided the first county record and one of a handful for the state (JL ph., doc.). It was likely the same bird found that evening 28 miles away in Columbia, New Jersey. Although certainly the periods outstanding record, only the finder and one birder got to see it.

A new **Osprey** nest was reported at Quaker Penn Park (DFa). Immature **Northern Goshawk** reports are always problematic, particularly following a fall migration with extremely low numbers. However, the observer provided convincing reasons for this identification at QTS 4/12 (PC). The number of known **Bald Eagle** nests increased to 8 this year (JMo, DFa). As last year, all reports of **Broad-winged Hawk** migrants were in the single digits (m.ob.). A **Virginia Rail** 5/3 and a **Sora** 5/5 were heard at QTS (DFa). A rarely reported **Common Gallinule** was at Pine Run Dam 5/27 (KR, DFa). The 3 **Sandhill Cranes** from the winter season continued at multiple sites (m.ob.), with the last report 3/28 at Pine Run Dam (LG ph.). Interestingly, 2 in the upper county last year were also last reported 3/28/2017. Adding to the rash of recent reports, a photo taken 5/21 at Bedminster Twp. (DN ph. fide DFa) confirmed our 18th known occurrence of this species. Probably time to remove this species from the accidental list.

An excellent tally for spring of 20 shorebird species occurred again this year. Generally public access sites had high water, with diversity and counts low. Only reports not in eBird and more unusual will be included here.

#### PWT Shorebird High Counts (All DFa)

SPECIES	QTY	DATE
Black-necked Stilt	1	5/12
Black-bellied Plover	5	5/31
Semipalmated Plover	18	5/13
Ruddy Turnstone	1	5/17
Dunlin	6	5/13
Least Sandpiper	~800	5/13
White-rumped Sandpiper	3	5/31
Semipalmated Sandpiper	6	5/31
Short-billed Dowitcher	134	5/13
Red-necked Phalarope	1	5/22
Greater Yellowlegs	15	4/15
Lesser Yellowlegs	14	5/13

The **Black-necked Stilt** at PWT 5/12 (DFa) provided only the second occurrence for the county and a new species for the PAMC. At Milford Twp., flyover **Red Knots** provided the county's fourth and fifth reports, with 62 on 5/26 and a large number 5/29 in a mixed shorebird flock of about 500 birds, the others being **Sanderlings** (DFa), providing the only report of the latter species. An early **Dunlin** was at Willard Markey Park 4/5 (KR, DFa). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Bradford Dam 5/16-17 surprisingly was the only one reported (BM, GJ, RS). Rarely reported in the central or upper county, a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at Buckingham Twp. 5/14 (RS). After the arrival of **American Woodcock** and birders witness their annual display, reports are rare. Proof of breeding is even rarer. A **Wild Turkey** hunter setting up before dawn at SGL#157 on 4/28 heard a cooing sound nearby. As it began to get light, he saw an American Woodcock in the leaves only two feet away. It began hopping as if injured to divert him from two small juvs., one of which ran to his backpack. He picked it up and took pictures, put it down, and moved his hunting position hoping the adult would return to its young (MLa ph.).

Nine gull species and four tern species were reported. **Bonaparte's Gull** was reported from 8 sites, with the stand out high count being 122 at PWT 4/15 (DFa). **Little Gull** continued to be reported more frequently. It may also be time to remove this from our list of accidental species, with now 14 known county reports. One adult was at NSP 4/10 (DFa), 2 were at New Hope 4/12 (MG), 2 adults were at PWT 4/15 (DFa), and one adult and one imm. were at PWT 4/21 (DFa). Three **Laughing Gulls** at PWT 4/1 furnished the season's first report (DFa). An evening roost at PWT 5/17 resulted in a crude estimate of 5000 to 10,000 (DFa). **Iceland Gull** lingered in higher numbers at PWT, with a high of 9 on 4/21, with 2 still noted there 5/12 (DFa). Two **Glaucous Gulls** 4/21 (DFa) provided the only report of the

season. The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** project by the Pennsylvania Game Commission to place satellite transmitters on 10 birds and Nano Tags on 20 birds was attempted in Mar. The birds did not cooperate until 3/16 at NSP, when 9 received satellite transmitters. As of 5/21, 2 birds had arrived in Greenland and the other 7 were on their way (PB). The next trapping attempt is tentatively planned for Jan 2019 (PB). Apparently, fewer than normal **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** lingered into this season, with 280 at NSP 3/22 (VM) providing a modest high count.

Only 8 **Caspian Terns** were reported from four sites 4/12-5/1 (PBe, EB, PC, DFa, MG). A rare **Black Tern** at PWT 5/5 (DFa) was the only report. Maybe this was the same bird on the same date and place as last year. A **Common Tern** provided a new early arrival date 4/9 at NSP (PC), and one was at PWT 5/12 (DFa). Large flocks of Common Terns are rare but not unprecedented here. A flock of 19 passed through quickly at PVP 5/13 (AM). Single **Forster's Terns** stopped at PWT 5/12 (DFa), NSP 4/16 (KR) and 4/20 (PC), and PVP 5/2 (AH).

The last report of **Long-eared Owl** was of 4 at PVP 3/24 (AH). After only single digit counts last year, four **Common Nighthawk** reports were greater but still modest. There were 24 over Buckingham 5/14 (RS), 30 over Yardley 5/16 (SH), 16 over Riegelsville 5/18 (EB), and 16 over Milford Twp. 5/21 (DFa). Seventeen other reports totaled only 43 birds (m.ob.). The known **Red-headed Woodpecker** sites at the SGL#157 area (m.ob.), Buckingham Twp. (DS), and Hilltown Twp. (KB) were reported as usual. Another site in Haycock Twp. had one bird for at least several weeks, with the last report 5/1 (DL, PT, AM, JMi). One was noted at Doylestown Twp. 5/5 (KJ). **Pileated Woodpecker** continues to slowly increase with 18 for the PAMC compared to the 26-year average of 7. A female **American Kestrel** banded as a juv. at Walkkill, NY in 2016 was nesting in a box near Spinnerstown this year. However, that nest failed. A juv. female banded in 2015 at Richlandtown was nesting in Linville, Virginia this year (DFa).

The rarely reported migrant flycatchers had a better year. Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at SGL#157 5/6 (SGo) and 5/21-23 (EB, AM, KR, RS), Bowman's Hill Park 5/9 (RS), and Southampton Twp. 5/14 (SGI). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were noted at Southampton Twp. 5/14 (SGI), Bowman's Hill Park 5/14 (BS, PS), Bristol 5/17 (DD), and Giving Pond 5/24 (DA). Single **Alder Flycatchers** were at SGL#157 5/15 and 5/23 (DFa). More regularly reported, **Least Flycatcher** was reported from at least 10 sites with as many as 20 birds (m.ob.). One was at PVP 4/28 (PH, AM), one day later than the known spring early date from 1965. Two **Eastern Kingbirds** at NSP 4/14 set another new early date (SG ph.). **Common Raven** was reported from at least 17 sites throughout the county (m.ob.). As usual, MKF provided the high count of 65 **Horned Larks** 3/1, with 17 still there 4/8 and 6 4/20 (RS). Two breeding birds continued through the period there for the third year in a row (RS). Singing birds in Durham Twp. 4/28 and Patterson Farm-Lower Makefield Twp. 5/28 were likely also breeding birds (DFa).

**Carolina Wren** may have had a very good survival rate this winter. A new high 186 for PAMC compared to the previous high of 150. A **Marsh Wren** at PVP 4/22 (FR ph.) and one at PWT 5/20 (DFa) were the only reports. Matching last year, **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported at 7 sites, with as few as 9 individuals (m.ob.). **Swainson's Thrush** was more frequently detected, with the sum of site high counts totaling 48 from 24 sites (m.ob.). The 22 tallied on PAMC was the fourth highest in 26 years. MKF had **American Pipits** 5/2-11, with the modest high count 20 on 5/7 (RS).

Thirty-three warbler species were reported for the season. Unfavorable migrating conditions grounded warblers the second and third weeks of May plus the delayed leafing of trees made for more enjoyable warbler watching. The 1367 warblers of 26 species tallied for PAMC 5/12 was the twelfth highest count in 26 years and compares to an average of 1314 (DA). As usual, our more common local summer residents/migrants accounted for a large percentage (67%) of the total: **Ovenbird** 133; **Black-and-White Warbler** 92; **Common Yellowthroat** 235; **American Redstart** 168; **Yellow Warbler** 169; and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 115. Single **Golden-winged Warblers** were at Bowman's Hill Park 5/4 (MG ph.) and NSP 5/12-14 (KH ph., DFa). Two **Prothonotary Warblers** were at the western end of PVP 5/10 (RZ ph. of one) and possibly were just passing through. One male was at the usual summer site at PVP 5/20 (GF, AM), and a pair was confirmed there 5/28 (MG ph.). One male was first reported in Riegelsville 5/17 and continued (EB).

Single **Orange-crowned Warblers** stopped at feeders in Doylestown Twp. 4/16-18 (KJ ph.) and Tinicum Twp. 4/17 (DA). Although the species is sometimes found in winter, 4/18 had been our previous migrant early arrival date. Single

**Mourning Warblers** were at PVP 5/21 (RM) and SGL#157 on 5/23 (DFa) for the only reports. Single **Kentucky Warblers** were at SGL#56-Lake Warren 5/14 (EB) and SGL#157 on 5/20 (DFa). This is the third year for no probable breeding reports for this species. Cerulean Warbler went unreported. The same **Pine Warbler** believed to be at Lower Makefield Twp. feeders for the 11th winter was last noted 3/31 (CFa). There were more reports of **Yellow-throated Warbler** this year. Singles stopped at PVP 4/14 (PH, AM), and 4/29 (KH). One was noted at Bradford Dam 4/18 (GJ) and another at MKF 4/26 (RS). Our only known probable breeding site at Riegelsville first had one 4/16 (EB) and 2 were seen later (KH). A **Prairie Warbler** at Chalfont 4/15 represented a new record earliest for spring (AH).

The first **Grasshopper Sparrow** report this year was from Durham Twp. 4/28 (DFa), with another at Tinicum Twp. 5/5 (DFa). The go-to spot for birders is reliable Van Sant Airport, where the first report was 5/5 (AH, DFa). The wintering **Harris's Sparrow** at Doylestown Twp. was last reported 5/8 (MLu). **Savannah Sparrow** has been neglected in these summaries due to relative ease in finding them. However, the value of the MKF area for migrants, wintering birds, and breeding birds is worth noting. There were 26 tallied for PAMC there 5/12 (RS). Spring **Lincoln's Sparrows** are hard to find. Singles were at PVP 5/10 (AM), Tinicum Twp. 5/12 (DA, PH), Hilltown Twp. 5/13 (RM), NSP 5/15 (DFa), and 2 were at MKF area 5/12 (RS). A **Swamp Sparrow** at QTS 5/31 (DFa) might be assumed to be not noteworthy. However, there are only a handful of summer entries in eBird for this site in the last 20 years for the Jun-Aug period. Maybe this is due to lack of summer coverage. There are more entries in eBird for the 1970s and 1980s. This current report may suggest they still are breeders there.

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at SGL#157-Top Rock starting 5/21 (KR, DFa) and another was detected at SGL#157-Sawmill Rd. 5/28 (DFa). A **Scarlet Tanager** 4/18 provided a new spring early date at Riegelsville (EB, PC). **Blue Grosbeak** was first reported at Riegelsville 4/30 (EB), and one was in Durham Twp. 5/3 (DFa). They were reported at regular breeding sites at MKF starting 5/3 and at PWT 5/12 (DFa). A great backyard find, the 8th known **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in the county was at Furlong feeders 4/18 (DB ph.). The only significant **Bobolink** report was 222 at the MKF area 5/12 (RS). An estimate of 800 **Rusty Blackbirds** came from QTS 4/7 where a large roost is normal but usually unquantified (PC). Silver Lake Park is also a regular site for Rusty Blackbirds where the high count was 50 on 4/7 (DFi). The one wintering **Baltimore Oriole** at the annual feeder site in Middletown Twp. was last noted 4/22 (DP). A **Purple Finch** was at Nockamixon Twp. 3/16 and 3/25 (JBa ph.) for the only report. An estimate of 6 **Pine Siskins** at NSP 3/27 (BE) and one at Solebury Twp. 4/11 (DFa) were unexpected this year.

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### **Butler County**

Locations: Bear Run Boat Launch, (BRB), Clay Township (CT), Glade Run Lake (GRL), McDanel Boat Launch (MBL), North Shore (NS), South Shore (SS). Bear Run Boat Launch, McDanel Boat Launch, North Shore and South Shore are located at Moraine State Park.

Movement of migratory ducks had already started in February aided by an early thaw at Lake Arthur and Lake Oneida but early March temperatures were several degrees below normal and due to some very cold nights, the big lakes re-froze for a few days. However, migration picked up quickly and before long, a very

nice variety of waterfowl provided a stunning spring season featuring a series of fallouts including amazing numbers of **Common Loons** (for an area of western Pennsylvania away from Erie) and regular sightings of **Red-throated Loons** over a period of six weeks. Another highlight was 40 **Long-tailed Ducks** counted at Bear Run Boat Launch 4/6 (BV). An exceptional showing of 32 species of warblers included rare for **Butler Worm-eating Warbler**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, seldom seen **Mourning Warbler** and **Yellow-throated Warbler**, and higher than normal numbers of reports of **Kentucky Warbler** and **Cerulean Warbler**. Increasing numbers of reporters may be a factor influencing increased sightings. A real surprise was a male **Summer Tanager** passing through Slippery Rock Borough 5/5 with a flock of **Scarlet Tanagers** (GW, JW).

**Cackling Goose** was photographed twice: 3 at North Shore 3/4 (BB) and 3, perhaps the same birds, were there 3/18 (DW). A **Mute Swan** was at Zelienople 3/3 (MV), 2 were seen near Glade Run Lake 3/14 (KP) and one was at SGL 95 on 4/8 (BB, MC). **Tundra Swans** moved through the first 3 weeks of March with one a bit late, remaining at SGL 95 until 4/8 (BB, MC).

Twenty-three species of ducks provided birders with lots of opportunities for counts numbering in the hundreds. The four most-reported species were **Bufflehead**, **Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, and **Ring-necked Duck** and the four least-reported species were **Northern Pintail**, **Canvasback**, **White-winged Scoter**, and **Common Goldeneye**. High counts include the following: **Northern Shoveler**, 16 at BRBL 3/17 (BB, MC, CT); **Gadwall**, 17 at South Shore 4/6 (ST); **American Wigeon**, 73 at SS 3/11 (GK, MAK); **Mallard**, 113 at West Liberty Road 3/14 (MC); **Common Black Duck**, 7 at SS 3/17 (BB, MC, CT); **Northern Pintail**, 7 at BRBL 3/17 (BB, MC, CT); **Green-winged Teal**, 10 at BRBL 3/17 (BB, MC, CT); **Canvasback**, 10 at the Wildlife Observation Area 3/31 (KSJ); and **Redhead**, 42 at McDanel's Boat Launch 4/7 (ST).

**Ring-necked Ducks** made quite a splash with 6 triple digit counts through March and none after that. A few Ring-necks held on into the first week of May. **Blue-winged Teal** made a very nice showing with sightings from at least 7 different locations. High count for blue-wings was 12 at Glade Run Lake 4/5 (DB). As usual, the number of sightings of **Lesser Scaup** were nearly double that of **Greater Scaup**. An exciting fallout on 4/6 produced an amazing 735 Lesser Scaup at SS and 310 were counted there the next day (both ST). The only scoters seen were single **White-winged Scoters** at Lakeview Beach 4/7 (GK, MAK, MD) and at NS 4/7 (ST) and 4/14 (BB). **Bufflehead** were especially plentiful with 4 triple digit counts including 290 at SS 4/6 (ST) and a careful count of 334 at BRBL 4/11 (JG, OM). **Hooded Merganser**, **Common Merganser** and **Red-breasted Merganser** were well represented with numerous reports but Red-breasted mergs provided at least 13 flocks numbering in the hundreds topped by 520 at Nealey's Point 4/7 (GK, MAK). Numerous reports of **Ruddy Duck** rounded out the migrant duck movement with high counts of 201 at SS 4/7 (GK, MAK) and 138 at BRBL 4/11 (JG, OM).

Two **Northern Bobwhites** were at Chicora 5/7 (KB). Perhaps their historical significance is why we continue mentioning them in reports. Has anyone seen a brood in recent history? Apparently, some hardy **Ring-necked Pheasants** survived coyotes, foxes, and hunters with one seen at Branchton Road 4/13 (BB) and one at West Liberty 4/27 (MC). **Ruffed Grouse** were noted in four locations (m.ob.). **Wild Turkey** populations remain healthy, demonstrated by many reports including 4 flocks of over 50 birds in four different locations (m.ob.).

A series of fronts in mid-late March delighted birders with a series of fallouts which brought unusual numbers of **Common Loon** and **Red-throated Loon** to Lake Arthur. Not seen every year in *Butler*, **Red-throated Loon** was reported 13 times, mostly as singles and duos 3/19-4/29 (m.ob.). Usually seen in low numbers in *Butler*, many flocks of **Common Loon** numbering in double digits were noted including 71 at SS 4/6 (ST), 60 at North Shore 3/31 (BB, MC), and 59 at Nealeys Point 4/7 (GK, MAK). **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen regularly through the season usually as singles or pairs but **Horned Grebe** was much more numerous especially during the early April fallouts, featuring 147 at SS 4/6 and 144 at NS 4/7 (both ST), and 78 at MBL 4/7 (GK, MAK). Three **Red-necked Grebes** stopped at Watts Bay 3/11 (KD), the first since 2016. Fallouts also included unusually high numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** capped by 350 at BRBL 4/11 (KB) and 280 at MBL 4/7 (ST).

Uncommon in *Butler*, **American Bittern** was noted twice: one at SGL 95 4/22 (KB) and one heard as a nocturnal flyover at CT 5/2 (BB). Four early **Great Egrets** showed up at Clay Twp. 3/30 (BB). Singles were noted at GRL 4/8-9 during a Three Rivers Bird Club outing (DB, et al.) and 4 were at Zelienople 4/10 (MC). One was at Moraine SP 4/18 (RN) and 2 were at Harmony 4/21 (MV). Notable

was a **Turkey Vulture** with an egg in a nest at Blue Bird Trail 4/21 ((MC). **Osprey** arrived 3/22 along Route 422 (MH, RH) and they and **Bald Eagle** were seen regularly through the season. **Northern Harrier** was spotted in 7 different locations in March and April but none were reported in May. (BB, MC, CT).

**Virginia Rail** was present at SGL 95 between 4/8 and mid-May (m.ob.). **Sora** was more widespread, seen at SGL 95, LA, and GRL (m.ob.). Uncommon in *Butler*, **Common Gallinule** was noted 3 times: One at Lake Onieda 4/20 (KB), 2 at SGL 95 on 4/29 (BB, MC), and one at Calico Road 5/5 (BB, MC). Continuing their expansion in western Pennsylvania and first noted as breeding birds in *Butler* in 2004, **Sandhill Crane** was on nest at Worth Twp. 3/31 (BB, MC).

It was an average season for shorebirds with ten species noted: **Semipalmated Plover**, **Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Wilson's Snipe** and **American Woodcock**. Most frequently reported was Spotted Sandpiper, but Least Sandpiper was noted only once - 2 at Wolf Creek Narrows 5/12 (MC). **Bonaparte's Gull** stopped at LA frequently 3/17-5/15 with high counts of 100 on 4/20 (GK, MAK, BG, KSJ) and 40 at Nealeys Point 4/22 (BB, MC). Not observed annually in spring, **Caspian Tern** was spotted 6 times at LA 4/13-5/2 and **Forster's Tern** was seen 3 times (m.ob.).

No longer common, **Common Nighthawk** was reported only 3 times: one at SGL 95 on 5/12, one near Callery 5/14 (CT), and 2 at CT 5/16 (BB). Always a treat, **Red-headed Woodpecker** appeared in 4 different locations including a feeder in a yard near Butler 5/7 and 15 (RDH). They are successful breeders in at least four locations in *Butler*. A **Merlin** was at BRBL 4/27 (BB). A **Peregrine Falcon** was at AK Steel 3/15 (CW). Could this be the same bird seen in downtown Butler and at Moraine SP?

All expected flycatchers were noted, but the elusive **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen only once, at SGL 95 on 5/16 (GK, MAK). **Common Raven** was spotted as singles or pairs through the season (m.ob.) Only cited in eBird and the listserve once between 2000 and 2014, **Marsh Wren** has been noted in 3 of the last 4 years including singles this year at Moraine SP 4/18 (KB), 5/1 (JC), and 5/4 (EL), and one at SGL 95 on 5/5 (BB, MC). Again, increasing interest in birding and participation in eBird are probably factors causing the rising number of reports. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at SRB 4/24 but did not stay for breeding like they did last year.

Just as the waterfowl migration slowed down, warblers started a bit early with April sightings of at least 7 species. Warbler watching peaked in mid-May as numerous fallouts occurred after a series of fronts passed through. Starting around the 12th, birders enjoyed numerous banner days with higher than normal variety and numbers including reports of rather uncommon species including **Canada Warbler**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Mourning Warbler**, and **Wilson's Warbler**. Not reported every year in *Butler*, **Yellow-breasted Chat** was noted 3 times: one at SGL 95 on 5/5 (BB, MC), one there 5/16 (GK, MAK), and one at Swamp Run Rd. 5/12 (MC). **Pine Siskin** was seen in low numbers in 8 different locations (m.ob.). Two late **Dark-eyed Juncos** remained at a feeder near Renick's Tree farm until 5/24 (NW).

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#### **Cambria County**

Locations: Blandburg Game Lands 108 (BLB), Patton area (PA), Prince Gallitzin St. Park (PG).

Waterfowl migration at PG was excellent. The prolonged cold weather kept the birds around for longer periods of time. Hundreds of **Tundra Swans** were on

the lake during March. Six **Northern Shovelers** were at PG 3/31(TA). Five **Common Goldeneye** were a nice find at PG 3/24 (JD, SD). Twenty **Ruddy Ducks** were among many waterfowl seen at PG 4/1 (RL). **Horned Grebes** were especially common at PG during the period.

**Broad-winged Hawks** were early by about a week as seen in the PA and PG areas (TA, DG) Single **Sora** and **Virginia Rail** were at PG 5/1 (TA). **Bonaparte's Gulls** and **Ring-billed Gulls** numbered in the hundreds during March and April, probably due to the large die-off of Gizzard Shad at PG. **Forster's Terns** put up good numbers at PG, but no other terns were reported.

Two **Yellow-throated Vireos** were at PG 5/12 (BG). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was found near PA 5/16 (DG). **Purple Martins** began returning to their housing at PG 4/10. Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at PG 3/18 were a nice find (TA). Good numbers of **Henslow's Sparrows** and **Bobolinks** were at BLB 5/15 (TA). The warbler migration was excellent, probably due to the lack of foliage, and somewhat prolonged due to the cooler weather. We put up much larger numbers than other years. **Ovenbirds**, **American Redstarts**, **Magnolia Warblers**, and **Black-throated Green Warblers** were above average. Eight **Bay-breasted Warblers** were at PG 5/12 (RB, JS). A **Wilson's Warbler** was at PG 5/12 (BG). **Orchard Orioles** seemed more abundant this spring, seen in at several locations.

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### Cameron County

Locations: Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP), Sterling Run Strip Mines (SRSM), Sterling Run (SR), West Creek (WC), Driftwood (DR), Emporium (EM).

A **Trumpeter Swan** was found near DR 4/26 (JDB). A flock of 24 **Wood Ducks** was seen at SR 4/8 (MJ). Six **White-winged Scoters** were at SSP 4/29 (KL). A female **Long-tailed Duck** was at SSP 3/15 (MJ). A female **Hooded Merganser** along with one chick were seen 5/12 at EM (BH). Six **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at SSP 4/13 (MJ). A **Red-throated Loon** was photographed at SR 3/28 (JS). Six **Common Loons** were found at SSP 4/11 (MJ). Nine **Pied-billed** and 6 **Horned Grebes** were at SSP 4/2 (MJ).

A **Northern Harrier** was at SR 4/7 (MJ). Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were showing territorial behavior at SRSM 5/7 (MJ). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were found 4/23 at SRSM (MJ). Nine **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at SSP 4/19 (KL). Two **Caspian Terns** were seen at SSP 4/15 (MJ, KL).

On 5/20 at SSP, 51 species, including 25 **Red-eyed Vireos**, 2 **Swainson's Thrush**, 17 **Cedar Waxwings**, and 13 species of warblers were found (SSG). Five **Savannah Sparrows** and 5 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found at SRSM 4/23 (MJ). Two **Orchard Orioles** were at a feeder at WC 5/7 (MPB). Two **Pine Siskins** were at SR 5/5 (MJ).

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### Centre County

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

Three rare species were reported in five or more locations and will not be discussed further in this report: **Snow Goose**, **Great Egret**, and **Warbling Vireo**. Information for this report was obtained primarily from eBird and the State College Bird Club listserv with background and status now from **Birds of Central Pennsylvania** by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010).

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were identified in a flock of 20 **Canada Geese** on Tadpole Rd. 3/3 (Anon). Two **Red-throated Loons** in "non-breeding plumage" were present 3/30-4/5 at COL (JV, et al.). Another was noted 4/20 at BMSP (NEK, MTK). **Red-necked Grebes** are rare casual migrants - one was

seen 4/2-21 at BESP (CE, et al.).

A "park employee ... leading a field trip" discovered a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at MMNC 4/18. The bird was seen again 4/20-21 and admired by many area birders (Anon, et al.). This species is rarely encountered and is not present every year. A casually occurring **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was in Centre Hall 4/19 (AG, ph.). According to B&G (2010) and eBird, this is the ninth county report for this species. Previous records are from 1955, 1974, 1975, 1980, 1981, and 2000. Rare **Virginia Rails** were heard grunting and giving "kiddik" calls at four locations. One or 2 were noted 4/5-20 at Curtin Wetland (JP, et al.), and up to 3 were heard 4/12-24 at MMNC (MiR, et al.). Birders located another Virginia Rail 4/13-25 at SCO (JP, JV), and a couple were present 4/13-23 at the Julian Wetlands (MN, et al.).

A casually occurring rare **Black-bellied Plover** "in breeding plumage" was spotted in a flock of 24 **Short-billed Dowitchers**, another casually occurring rarity, at BESP 5/13 (JP). These rarities are documented in the eBird checklist by descriptions and many photographs. A single **Sanderling**, another casually occurring rarity, was spotted 5/20 at BESP (JP). A few **Dunlins** were also observed. One was present 4/3-16 on Old Gatesburg Rd. (AIS, et al.), while another was present in a flock of **Spotted Sandpipers** at BESP 4/19 (EZ). A third was present 4/19-21 on Tadpole Rd. (AIS, et al.). As many as 3 rare **Red-necked Phalaropes**, a casually occurring species, were spotted "in a flooded field on Gatesburg Rd." After some discussion, they were determined to be a female in breeding plumage and two males (JoK, et al.). A trio of **Willetts**, considered to be accidental, were present and documented 5/3 at BESP (JP, et al.). Photographs by one observers (JP) clearly show the distinctive markings of the species.

**Little Gull** is an accidental species that has been reported in 2012, 2013, and 2014 at BESP. All these observations were in April. This year, an adult was observed in a flock of **Bonaparte's Gulls** 4/11 at COL (EZ, et al.). At least one **Barn Owl** was observed flying at a known location on Paradise Rd. 5/1 (JeL). There may have been a second owl present as well. Another **Barn Owl** was observed 5/2 near Rebersburg (DeS). A single **Long-eared Owl** was present off Rte. 3025 on 4/1. The observer heard a sequence of "3-4 evenly spaced hoots" (JoC). A **Short-eared Owl** was seen hunting over the fields at the Rusnak Hill reclaimed strip-mine 3/9 (EZ) and again 4/12 (JP). The latter observer noted that the bird "gave a few barking calls as it flew".

Two flycatchers of note were observed. On 5/4 at SCO, a birder was surprised to see a rare **Olive-sided Flycatcher** "perched at the top of a tree" (JP). Birders got "excellent views" of a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Lederer Park 5/15 (CE, JP), and another was located 5/20 in the Moshannon SF (NiB). Several birders spotted a rare **Northern Shrike** at the Julian Wetlands 3/25-28 (JoC, et al.). Two birders located a rare **Philadelphia Vireo** along Steele Hollow Rd. 5/23. They noted it had a "very obvious, almost deep yellow throat" (GaM, RS).

"A small wren moving through the edge of the cattails" at Muddy Paws Marsh 4/22-23 was identified as a rare **Marsh Wren** (AIS, JoC). An unknown number of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were recorded during a series of nocturnal flight call counts. Between 5/12-14, over 100 were recorded in State College; this was the second most abundant thrush noted - the most abundant was **Swainson's Thrush** (CE). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were also recorded 5/14 and 5/21 in Bellefonte (JP), 5/15 at SCO (JV), and 5/23 in State College (JG).

Migration brings warblers, and 34 species of these feathered gems were noted, including 29 that are considered abundant, common, or uncommon. Two **Prothonotary Warblers** were reported; one at the Duck Pond 4/20-23 (CA, et al.), and the other at SCO 5/6 (DB). Both were spotted as they "flitted low in the brush" around the edges of a pond. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was "found probing at [the] base of trees along muddy areas in newly stripped northern area along [the] boardwalk" at MMNC 4/17 (NEK, MTK). Single rare **Mourning Warblers** were found 5/14 at Tudek Park (NW, SM), BESP 5/19-28 (Anon) and Spring Mills 5/22 (JG). **Kentucky Warblers** were seen and heard along Spring Creek and Penns Creek 5/19 (JL), and another was observed 5/24-28 along Steele Hollow Rd. (JP, JoC, LC). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were heard, and sometimes seen, "singing up high in sycamores" at BESP 4/8 (JoC) and along Bald Eagle Cr. in Unionville 4/13-5/12 (JP, et al.). One was also observed 5/6 in Bellefonte (KE). Up to 3 rare **Henslow's Sparrows** were seen or heard singing their "distinctive 'hiccup' song" 4/29-5/25 in SGL 100 (German Settlement Grasslands) (JP, et al.).

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### Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), ChesLen Preserve (CP), Exton Park (EP), Great Marsh (GM), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES)

March came in like a lion, bringing Nor'easters, colder temperatures, and heavy snowfall, more than accumulated during all of winter. This kick-started a cooler and damper spring than the norm, and seemed to influence a slight delay in the arrival of some short-distance migrants returning to the region. Despite the slow start at the front-end, the season featured some outstanding finds, including a Little Gull at Marsh Creek, massive Whimbrel flock in migration, a hybrid Red-shouldered x Red-tailed Hawk, and most notably, an adult male Painted Bunting attending a feeder in the Westtown area.

A surprise at the pond at EP 4/9 was a single **Trumpeter Swan** (MN), a species is increasing in the Commonwealth and county. This individual, which appeared to be a young bird and had no wing tags, remained through part of the day, then disappeared. Unusual was a lone **Tundra Swan** that lingered through the end of the period at CL (RR, m.ob.). Sightings of this swan species tend to drop off after mid-Mar, making one wonder if this individual was unable to migrate.

The (presumed) annually wintering drake **Eurasian Green-winged Teal**, a rare subspecies of Green-winged Teal, was last noted 4/8 (TA). Scoters appear irregularly in spring, making an occurrence of 2 species exciting for local birders. Four **Surf Scoters** were found at MCSP 4/20 (LL, m.ob.), a day after 3 **White-winged Scoters** made an appearance (DH, BB, LL, m.ob.). During this same period, 3 **Long-tailed Ducks** shared space on the lake with the scoters (m.ob.). This species is uncommon, but regular in spring. Another Long-tail was on the lake at MCSP 5/2 (LL). There were only a few sightings of **Common Goldeneye**, all from MCSP; one 3/30 (LL), another there 4/6 (BB), and ON 4/10 (LL). This duck is more commonly found in winter. **Red-breasted Mergansers** are expected in small numbers as they pass through during spring. The high was of 9 at MCSP 4/29, also the latest report of the season (LL, DH).

It was a good Apr for **Red-throated Loons** at MCSP, a species hard to find in some years. Up to 2 were present 4/6-23, seen by many. Irregular during migration, a **Red-necked Grebe** remained at MCSP 3/3-31 (ZB, m.ob.).

**American Bitterns** favor vast wetlands, but sometimes appear during migration in small wetland patches, or unusual places such as streams. This species is an annual migrant here, though there have been some probable nesting records during the last 10 years from EP and CP. This season, most reports came from EP, beginning 4/5 (MH, m.ob.), but one was seen at MCSP 4/7 (BB, LL, m.ob.), and up to 2 were reported at GM 4/21 (MC). Secretive, and irregularly found during migration, a **Least Bittern** was reported from EP 5/24 (JM, m.ob.).

BCP continues to be the most reliable spot in *Pennsylvania* to try your luck at finding a **Mississippi Kite** during May. This southern species is rare in the state, but has been recorded at BCP during this timeframe for the last several years. This year, only 2 Mississippi Kites were seen there during the annual Kite and Shorebird Watch. This is a decrease compared to recent years, which have typically produced at least triple that number. This year's kites were observed 5/18 and 5/22 (LL).

An incredible find 3/29 was a hybrid **Red-shouldered x Red-tailed Hawk**, photographed in Cochranville (JM). This hybrid had not been documented in *Pennsylvania* previously, but these 2 *buteos* are known to hybridize on rare

occasions. A well-known pairing of these two species, with repeated success with nesting, has been recorded in nearby Harford, Maryland, for the last several years. This hybrid hawk was not relocated after this date, despite efforts to relocate it. Unexpected was a **Rough-legged Hawk**, photographed over EP 4/7 (KC). This Arctic raptor is rarely seen in spring, and this past winter was not one for Rough-legs to be found in *Chester*.

**Virginia Rails** are typically detected most often in spring, but may be hard to find without seeking them out. Reports concentrated on the larger known wetlands, including CP, EP, and GM, during 4/6-5/14 (m.ob.). Virginia Rail is a low-density breeding bird in *Chester*, and likely goes undetected while nesting in some vast wetlands. Another difficult to detect marsh bird is **Sora**. This species pushes through each spring, but reported sporadically from the larger wetlands in the county. This spring, reports began 4/21 and continued through 5/26 (m.ob.). A high count of Sora was of 5 detected from the GM 5/6 (MC). A lone **Sandhill Crane** made an appearance at GM 4/18 (MC); cranes are irregular migrants, and some years go unreported, making any encounter notable.

One of the major spectacles of spring shorebird migration in *Chester* is to watch strings of shorebirds coursing north, as they leave their primary migration stopover site, the Delaware Bay. In southeastern Pennsylvania, lucky birders have the chance to witness this phenomenon in the early evening, when the birds are still at lower altitudes, enabling detection by eye or with the assistance of binoculars. Species detected this year, during the evening watches included: **Black-bellied Plovers**, 250 identified 5/21 (LL, JMG); 630 **Whimbrel** spotted 5/21 (LL, JMG, JS); and 300 + **Dunlin** winging it north, 5/25 (LL). Some shorebird flocks are unidentifiable to species due to distance - 1500 shorebirds went over without identification 5/28 (LL).

A thrilling find at MCSP was a **Little Gull** 4/7 (LL). This species has only been recorded twice previously in the county, and is a rare find away from the Susquehanna R. in *Pennsylvania*. Along with the Little Gull were 4 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, expected in small numbers at that time (LL, m.ob.). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** are more regularly found in winter, but one was seen 3/3 in Kennett Square, associating with a flock of **Ring-billed Gulls** (LL, KP), and another was at MCSP 3/22 (MH). **Caspian Terns** are not common in spring, but there were a several reports from 4/7-4/25, with encounters over large bodies of water (m.ob.). A single **Forster's Tern** was at MCSP 5/6 (LL) and 2 were at OCTRES 5/12 (PM). Some years, this species is missing from the spring roster of *Chester* migrants.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** arrived in early May, with reports beginning 5/3 and extending through the season. A high count was of 5, heard 5/12 at Goat Hill Preserve (MJ). It was a good spring for detecting **Black-billed Cuckoos**, especially 5/5-15, a 10-day window when all reports were made (m.ob.).

The Serpentine Barrens in southern *Chester* and *Lancaster* have been devastated by the Southern Pine Beetle, resulting in the death and loss of hundreds of acres of pines in this unique habitat. Specialty species of both flora and fauna in this region are thought to be compromised, and there is much question of the sustainability of their populations due to the extreme changes in the habitat. This region is the last strong-hold for **Eastern Whip-poor-will** in *Chester*, a species that could be impacted by the dramatic changes in the landscape and ecology due to the loss of trees and the impact of logging. The first report was 5/10 (KVN), followed by a handful of reports through the rest of the season (m.ob.).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker**, one of our rarest regularly occurring woodpeckers, continued at French Creek SP's Bare Hill area, recorded multiple times during spring (m.ob.). Another report was from Chester County Solid Waste Authority near Navron 5/2, where a pair was seen (BS). An **Alder Flycatcher** was recorded at MCSP 5/12 (HM). This species is irregularly detected during spring migration and difficult for birders to separate from **Willow Flycatcher**, unless by voice. There were a handful of **Least Flycatcher** reports 5/3-25. While common in other parts of the Commonwealth, this small empid is not commonly found in southeastern Pennsylvania.

**Common Ravens** established a new nesting site at West Chester University, where observations of the pair were regular and a nest was discovered in Mar (JA). Other nesting sites include Hanson Quarry in Downingtown and the Cromby electric plant near Phoenixville (m.ob.). **Bank Swallows** are a low-density migrant, and are only known to nest in one location in the county - Hanson Quarry in Downingtown. Reports of Bank Swallows began 4/25, and continued through the end of the reporting period (m.ob.). There were no reports of Black-capped Chickadees, another indication of a lack of irruption into our region. Likewise, were no reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches, following a non-irruptive year for that species also. A **Marsh Wren** was discovered at CP during a birdwalk there, 4/22

(BB, m.ob.), and marked the only record of this uncommon, but regular, migrant. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** is a less common migrant, but usually found in small numbers during spring; reports were logged 5/11-21 (m.ob.).

Birders enjoyed some great mornings with migrant warblers, and in general it was considered a good spring for birders that got out and searched the region in hopes of seeing warblers. A single female **Golden-winged Warbler** at Hibernia CP 5/7 was an excellent find, since this declining species is only irregularly found in Chester (RR). Five **Tennessee Warblers** were discovered 5/12-18 (PW, JW, KF, HM, JS, JA). A **Nashville Warbler** that overwintered in Chadds Ford was last seen 3/29, after spending many weeks attending a feeder there (HD). In spring, birders found this species 5/2-21 (m.ob.). **Kentucky Warblers** are getting harder to find, but birders managed to detect them at Coventry Woods (where they are presumed nesting species), Waterloo Mills Pres., BCP, and Ashbridge Pres. (KF, AU, LL, SJ, NP, SP, PW, JW). **Cape May Warblers** were concentrated in the first week of May, reported only 5/4-6, but in multiple locations (m.ob.). This boreal nesting species is always a treat for birders, since at one time they were scarce. Often not discovered, **Cerulean Warbler**, an irregular migrant and former breeder, was found 5/4 at French Creek SP's Chester section (SS, NF), 5/13 at Waterloo Mills Preserve (KF), and in Coventry 5/15 (PW, JW). Kerr Park in Downingtown has been a reliable spot for **Yellow-throated Warbler** for the last 8 years, but this year, it was found there only 4/28-29, despite birders' efforts (LL, CH). Other reports, all thought to be migrants, came from the Parris Trail/Pennock Park 5/8 (CM), Upper Uwchlan 5/14 (DH), and BCP 5/20 (LL, m.ob.).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was a surprise at BCP, found during a birdwalk 4/22 (LL, JS, HD, m.ob.). This species does not breed in that location, but utilized the favorable habitat during its migration. Grasshopper Sparrows can be found in low numbers in larger grassland tracts, and were discovered in such habitats at Laurels Reserve 5/4-7 (KF), Wolf's Hollow Preserve 5/22-24 (MG), and in Unionville/Cochranville area in late May (m.ob.). A pair of **Vesper Sparrows** seen at MCSP 4/7 was a good find there (LL), while singles were reported from EP 4/12-13 (MH, SB, m.ob.), and at BCP during a birdwalk 4/22 (m.ob.). Less common in our region during spring migration than in fall, a **Lincoln's Sparrow** photographed at Hibernia CP 5/6 represented a good find (RR).

Remarkably, an adult male **Painted Bunting** was photographed attending a feeder in Westtown area of West Chester 3/25, and was likely the same individual found in two different neighborhoods, based on the timing of the reports, and proximity of the reporting locations (*vide* MN, *vide* LB). One feeder-watcher noted the bunting appearing in mid-Feb., while the other first spotted it the third week of Mar. No other details were obtained, other than photographs of a male Painted Bunting in each yard.

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was a good find in a flock at Cochranville 3/18 (MG). This area of the county tends to be the best bet for finding this flashy western blackbird species. No Pine Siskins were reported, confirming a non-irruptive year.

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### Clarion County

Locations: Curllsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mt. Zion/Piney Tract/SGL 330 (MZ), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT), Rimersburg (RI), Sarah Furnace (SF).

A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** was seen at KL 5/1 (CW), a little late in migration

but breeding is doubtful at this location with limited habitat. **Long-tailed Ducks** made a good showing at this same spot, with 35 present 3/30 (GE, RN, JS, CW), and up to 3 seen 4/7-11 (MC, MD, HM, MM, TR, et al.). Five Long-tailed Ducks were also present at CV strips 3/30 (RN), 10 were at Toby on the Clarion River 4/6 (LT), and 5 at East Brady 4/6 (CW). **Red-breasted Mergansers** continued late into migration with 3 still at KL 5/1 (CW). A remarkable number of 18 **Red-throated Loons** were found at KL 3/30 (GE, RN, JS, CW), with 2 also there 4/28 (MH). At this same location on 3/30 **Horned Grebes** were noted in large numbers, with at least 100 birds present (GE, RN, JS, CW); 5 were also seen here late into migration 5/1 in full breeding plumage (CW). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was at KL 3/30-31 (GE, LG, RN). The last waterfowl of note was an **Eared Grebe** at KL 5/4 (JS).

The long standing **Great Blue Heron** rookery at the confluence of the Allegheny and Clarion Rivers near Foxburg was still active this year with at least 10 active nests noted 4/7 (CW, GV). **Northern Harriers** were less reported this year with just 3 noted. A male was seen near CV 5/1 (CW), another was at MZ 5/5 (RN, CW), and a single was at CV strips 5/29 (MM). **Bald Eagles** continued in their established areas with active nests noted near Callensburg on the Clarion River and near Sligo on the river. A third nest was active near Climax on Redbank Creek (SG, MH, MM, RN, CW).

**American Woodcocks** were calling and displaying at Beaver Creek Nature Area with 4 there 3/2 (TS). They also continued displaying at fields near CV with up to 6 active through 5/14 (CW). **Spotted Sandpipers** were reported at several locations with one at KL 5/1 and 5/23 (CW), 2 at Armstrong Trail at SF 5/5 (RN, CW), and one near RI 5/9 (MM). **Solitary Sandpipers** were also noted at multiple locations with 2 at KL 5/1 (CW), one along the RVT 5/7 (MH, RH, FM), 2 near RI 5/9, and one at Mt Airy 5/9 (MM). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** and 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at KL 5/1 (CW). Neither species is very regular for Clarion in migration, so it was good to have both present and together for size and call comparisons. Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at KL 4/2 (MM) as was a single partially in breeding plumage 5/1 (CW). An excellent number, 9 **Common Terns** were at the same location 5/4 (JS), and the more usual **Forster's Tern** was also located there with one seen 4/11 (MC, HM, CW).

The only reports of owls were of a **Short-eared Owl** at a new location in a field near Strattanville 3/6 (MH), and a **Barred Owl** near SF 5/3 (CW). Another species not found as often is **Common Nighthawk**, so a report from near New Bethlehem was welcome, that of 3 birds seen at dusk 5/10 (JH). **Whip-poor-wills** were noted returning rather early with a bird heard calling softly at dusk near CV 4/22 (CV). One was heard near Fern 5/7 (MW), and a couple were heard calling near East Brady the first week of May (AB). Flycatchers were late in returning to usual breeding spots, with **Willow Flycatchers** not heard back singing until 5/21 near CV and **Acadian Flycatchers** not found along the RVT until 5/22 (CW).

**Purple Martins** now have a couple areas in Clarion where they are nesting again, and one is in the northern part of the county, where 2 were seen at KL 5/1 (CW). The only reported **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was giving its distinctive wiry call near CV 5/16 (CW). **Swainson's Thrush** were first back at SF 5/5 (RN, CW). One or 2 were seen and/or heard at a location near CV from 5/6 through 5/23, with the bird on 5/23 still singing softly at times (CW).

On a general note for warbler migration, a particularly memorable day of activity that is unusual for this writer in many years of spring migration occurred 5/14. Weather patterns in early spring appeared to have held back migration and on the evening of 5/13 the weather promised a break for migrating birds. The radar during the night showed a heavy flight and the morning was rather cool, with calm conditions and fog. General warbler activity was exceptionally heavy through the morning and even later into the day, with 18 species of warbler noted at a small property near CV. This included a high number of **Bay-breasted Warblers** with a minimum count of 8. Many birds went unidentified as hilltop oaks at this location in particular seemed magnets for activity. This was one of very few springs in the last 10 years at least where actual numbers of birds seemed high, as well as variety of species.

**Worm-eating Warblers** were first reported back rather early 4/26 at a new location along Mill Creek at SGL 74 (MH). During a second visit to this area, a singing male was present along the steep south facing slope across Mill Creek 5/17 (MH, CW). Hopefully this may prove to be a new breeding location, unique for the county so far as it is north of I-80 (MH, CW). They were also found in their traditional locations at Phillipston and SF 5/3 and 5/7 with at least 2 birds (RN, TR, CW) and along the RVT in numbers up to 4 from 5/7 through the end of the season (MH, RH, FM, CW). **Louisiana Waterthrush** continues strong in their breeding

areas along Redbank Creek, with 3 birds first heard back along the RVT 4/13 (CW). At various areas along the trail up to 5 were heard on territory through the season (MH, RH, FM, CW). The single **Mourning Warbler** noted was a singing male on the RVT near Redbank 5/17 (CW). **Kentucky Warblers** are usually one of the least reported warblers, so 3 for the season is excellent. Along Lawsonham Rd outside of RI, one was singing in good habitat 5/9 (CW). At Redbank near the junction of the Armstrong Trail and RVT, a singing male was located 5/15 (TB) and heard again singing 5/17 (CW). Further up the trail from Redbank a second singing male was located also 5/17 (CW). **Cerulean Warblers** were found in greater numbers this year also, with the first heard back 5/4 along the RVT and then up to 6 singing males heard regularly from Redbank to Climax through the end of season (CW). The last warbler of note is the **Yellow-throated Warbler**, another species very limited in range for *Clarion*. The only reliable area known by this writer is on the southern border along the RVT, where they were once again present this year, first seen back 4/13 (CW). At least one and at times 2 singing males were then heard between Redbank and Climax through the end of the season (CW).

**Henslow's Sparrows** are routinely back early in the second week of April, but this year the first back called at MZ at dusk 4/23 (CW). This may not have been due to late migration but just from lack of observer effort. They were in typical numbers at most regular locations into summer. A single report of **Vesper Sparrow**, typically the least reported sparrow, was received, of an unknown number at MZ in "the bowl" area 5/14 (RW). **Lincoln's Sparrow** is much more typically noted in fall migration but this year 1-2 birds were seen near CV 5/3- 5/6 (CW). At MZ, a singing male **Dickcissel** was noted 5/5 (LC). Although habitat was promising and the report was followed up, no further activity was noted at this location.

It has been some time since an invasion for **Common Redpolls**, and this season again there was just a single report of a bird at a feeder, in RI 3/21 (MM). **Pine Siskins** were more frequently noted this year, with up to 6 present at the same feeder location in RI 3/23-4/29 (MM). They were also seen at a feeding station near Strattanville through 3/9 and then 2 returned just for 3/28 (RM). At a feeder in Clarion, 5 were present as late as 5/5, although no possible breeding activity was noted in the report (TS).

Observers: **Carole Winslow, 159 Moggey Rd, Sligo, PA 16255, (814) 745-3818, cjwinslow94@gmail.com**, Al Bratkovich, Tony Bruno, Martin Carlin, Lewis Crowell, Michael David, Gary Edwards, Laken Ganoë, Steve Gosser, Mal Hays, Justin Heasley, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Flo McGuire, Holly Merker, Ron Montgomery, Mark Moore, Richard Nugent, Theo Rickert, Tabassam Shah, Jerry Stanley, Larry Towse, Ron Wagner, Gloria Walzak, Mike Weible.

#### **Clearfield County**

Locations: Beaver Meadow Walkway in DuBois (BMW), Bimini Lake (BL), Curwensville Lake (CL), DuBois Reservoir (DBR), Treasure Lake (TL).

**Surf Scoters** were seen at TL 4/10-11 (DR, NW), BL 3/30 and 4/27 (DR), and DBR 4/19 (BM). **White-winged Scoters** were at DBR 4/7 and 4/20 (DR, PW). **Red-throated Loons** were observed at CL 3/30 and 4/19 (JS), TL 3/30 (DR), and BL 4/2 (TG, NV). A **Great Egret** visited a drainage swale near the Tractor Supply store in Clearfield 4/23 (BM). A **Sora** and a **Virginia Rail** were found near Dubois 5/1 (DR).

Two **Ospreys** were observed at a known nesting area at the Shaggers Inn Shallow Water Impoundment 3/31 (JK). Once again, 2 **Merlins** were calling at a DuBois home, having been seen frequently in April and May in the same area where they nested in 2017 (JS). Nine **American Avocets** were at the beach at BL 5/2 (DR, NV, NW). **Upland Sandpipers** were once again observed in a known breeding area on Sandy Ridge Road throughout May (m.ob.). One **Forster's Tern** was at CL 4/19 (JS) and a **Black Tern** was at BL 5/13 (DR).

Two **Swainson's Thrushes** were seen along Luce Road 5/12 (JS) and at BMW 5/14 (ET, NW). Ten **American Pipits** were seen along Platt Road 4/6 (ET, NW). A singing **Orange-crowned Warbler** was heard along Baker Run near Penfield 5/10 (DR). A **Pine Warbler** visited a suet feeder near DuBois 4/16-18 (MA). A **Prairie Warbler** was at Curwensville 4/27 (JS). One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen at BMW 5/14 (ET, NW). Several **Pine Siskins** were seen near DBR 4/12 (DR).

Observers: **Diane K. Bierly, 143 W. Lytle Ave., State College, PA 16801. (814) 238-8183, dkb246@usa.net**, Marianne Atkinson, Dan Richards, Taylor Gillette, Tom Johnson, John Kontier, Bill Mendat, Jerod Skebo, Emily Thomas, Bill Voris, Nick Voris, Nathan Weyandt, Paul Work, Eric Zawatski,

#### **Clinton County**

Locations: Lock Haven (LH) Susquehanna River (SR).

From 4/17 to 4/19 a large fallout of waterfowl occurred on the SR at LH and McElhatten. Highlights included **scaup sp.**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **White-winged Scoter**, **Surf Scoter**, **Bufflehead**, and **Ruddy Duck**. Also seen were **Horned Grebe** and **Bonaparte's Gull** and at least 2 **Caspian Terns** (CCH, DR). On the SR east of LH, 2 **Red-throated Loons** were spotted 3/29 (CCH). On 4/8 through at least 4/17, up to 15 **Double-crested Cormorants** were observed roosting on snags on a small island below the dam on the SR at LH (m.ob.).

A first county record, 2 **Willetts** were at the Central Mountain HS wetlands 5/6 along with several **Semipalmated** and **Least Sandpipers** and one **Spotted Sandpiper** (DR, CCH, Stephen Pinkerton, Eric Hartshaw). Another first county record, 2 **Stilt Sandpipers** were seen 5/19. Along with them were several **Short-billed Dowitchers**, all east of LH in a flooded field (CCH). Yet another likely first county record was documented 4/21 when a pair of **Ospreys** was spotted nest building on a cell tower at a golf course in Mill Hall. The nesting activity continued through the period with apparent feeding behavior later observed (CCH).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, 570-748-7511, wnlaubscher@comcast.net**, Charles and Carol Hildebrand, David Rockey

#### **Columbia County**

Locations: Bloomsburg Boat Launch (BBL), Bloomsburg Town Park (BTP), Briar Creek Lake (BCL), Hemlock Township (HT), Home Depot Fields (HDF), Jamison City (JC), Kocher Park (KP), Montour Township (MT), State Game Lands 58 (SGL58).

The spring season was rather cold and wet. A few storm events produced some good sightings, but overall birder effort was light and reports were relatively few. **Golden Eagles** are most likely regular migrants through the county, however they are seldom reported. This year, an adult was observed flying over Interstate 80 in HT 3/10 (AK). A total of 3 **Barred Owls** responded to playback in SGL58 on 5/10 (AK). They likely nest there but this area of the county is hardly ever birded so this sighting is significant. Also in SGL58, an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard calling from a clearcut 5/10 (AK).

The shrubby fields and wet areas along BCL produced a total of 7 **Willow Flycatchers** 5/24 (MT), likely a county high from a location that has always been good for this species. This was a good season for **Pine Warbler** and a high county high count of 4 were observed at KP 5/2 (TF). **Wilson's Warbler** is another migrant that's most likely regular but rarely reported. This spring seemed to produce strong numbers in all nearby counties and a single bird was reported here singing from a tree near BTP 5/12 (PD).

The HDF in Hemlock Twp. have always been good for grassland species and this trend continued this spring. One **Savannah Sparrow** and one **Grasshopper Sparrow** were heard singing from the short grass 5/5 (AK). **Bobolinks** tend to show up rather randomly in *Columbia*. This year, a high of 6 were observed along the airport at the BBL 5/12 (PD). At least one singing male persisted until 5/16 (AK). The only report of **Pine Siskin** was an observation of one visiting a feeder in JC on 3/3 (JL).

Observers: **Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com**, Paul Dennehy, Traci Fetterman, Judith Lynn, Marcina Trimmell.



## Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Marsh- McMichael Road (CM-MMR), Custards Marsh (CM), Pymatuning S.P.- Espyville Marina (P S.P.-EM), Pymatuning S.P.- Causeway (P S.P.-C), Pymatuning S.P.-Miller's Ponds (P S.P.-MP), Pymatuning S.P.- Spillway (P S.P.-S), Woodcock Lake- Abandoned Road Trail (WART).

**Snow Goose** were scarce this spring season; the only observation was 4 birds at P S.P.-MP 3/24 (DM). An incredible count for western Pennsylvania, 75 **Brant**, a rarely observed bird in *Crawford*, were seen at P S.P.- C 4/21 (RL). A single **Mute Swan**, an uncommon bird, was observed during a University of Pittsburgh Lab of Ornithology field study near West Fallowfield Twp. 5/28 (MW). A single **Trumpeter Swan**, an excellent bird for the county, was seen at P S.P.- MP 3/27 (CN). An excellent count of at least 500 **Tundra Swans** occurred near Conneaut Lake 3/14 (PL).

Several notable counts of **Gadwall** included 54 at Pymatuning S.P.- Fish Hatchery 3/1 (MF), 54 at Pymatuning S.P.- Hartstown Project 3/26 (RH), and 50 at P S.P.-MP 4/15 (CN). A single **Eurasian Wigeon**, an excellent bird for the county, was seen at Conneaut Marsh near Geneva 3/19 (BaK, BrK). A great count of 150 **American Wigeons** were observed at CM 3/25 (RN). Good counts of **Northern Shoveler** included 56 at Pymatuning S.P.- Fish Hatchery 3/17 (MaH), 245 in the Pymatuning area 3/25 (IF, RL), and 75 at CM 3/27 (CN). A notable count of 737 **Northern Pintails** were at CM-MMR 3/10 (RH).

A female **Canvasback** was observed at Pymatuning S.P.- Fish Hatchery 5/11, a very late date. Good counts of **Redhead** included 700 as part of a large raft of waterfowl on Conneaut Lake 3/10 (RH) and 1100 at Conneaut Lake 3/18 (IF, RL). A notable count of 1265 **Ring-necked Duck** were seen in the Pymatuning S.P. and Conneaut Marsh areas 3/28 (RL). A good count for *Crawford* of 20 **Greater Scaup** were observed at Conneaut Lake 3/16 (JF). An incredible count of 10,132 **Lesser Scaup** were seen at Jamestown S.P. and Pymatuning S.P. 3/18 (IF, RL). An additional notable count of 500 were at Conneaut Lake Park Beach 4/1 (ToN, KP) and a single late bird was at P S.P.-S 5/28 (MV) and 5/31 (CH).

A single **Surf Scoter**, a notable bird, was seen at P S.P.-C 4/14 (RL). **Black Scoter** is rarely observed in *Crawford*, so observations of 2 at CM 4/11 (JF, RH, ToN, KP) and a single at P S.P.-C 4/14 (RL) are notable. There were more than average **Long-tailed Duck** observations, at multiple locations throughout *Crawford* (m.ob.). Of note were 26 observed and heard calling at Woodcock Creek Dam overlook 4/7 (ToN). A late **Bufflehead** was at SGL 277 from 5/11-23 (RH, ToN, KP, RS). Good counts of mergansers included 205 **Common Mergansers** at Pymatuning S.P.- Fish Hatchery 3/25 (IF, RL) and 900 **Red-breasted Mergansers** in the Pymatuning S.P. area 4/8 (IF, RL). A notable count of 400 **Ruddy Ducks** were observed at Conneaut Lake Park Beach 4/1 (ToN, KP).

**Ruffed Grouse** are expected but increasingly scarce in *Crawford*, so observations of 2 heard drumming at SGL 146 on 5/22 (ToN) and 5/23 (RH, ToN) and one observed at Erie N.W.R.-Beaver Run Trail 5/27 (KH, TeN) are especially notable. Two **Red-throated Loons**, a notable bird, were at P S.P.- C 4/4 (RL). A good count of 72 **Common Loons** were seen at Pymatuning S.P. Lake 4/21 (IF, RL). A fantastic count of 231 **Horned Grebes** were made at Pymatuning S.P. Lake 4/8 (IF, RL). Excellent counts of **Double-crested Cormorant** included at least 2500 at P S.P.-S 4/14 (MAK) and a notable count of 6242 at Pymatuning S.P. Lake 4/28 (IF, RL).

There were more-than-usual observations of **American Bittern** (m.ob.). In addition to expected locations of Conneaut and Geneva Marshes, there were several observations at new locations, including one at a private property near Cussewago Bottoms 4/15 (LS), one at SGL 277 on 4/30 (RS), and one at Woodcock Creek Park Dam 5/25 (SW). A single **Least Bittern**, a notable bird for *Crawford*, was at Conneaut Marsh 5/25 (CL). Good counts of **Great Egret** included 10 seen at P S.P.-S 4/15 (CN) and 8 at the same location 4/21 (SW). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** is rarely observed here, so single birds at SGL 277 on 4/30 (RS), CM-MMR 5/6 (NA), and Pymatuning S.P.- Fish Hatchery 5/16 (RL) were notable.

A notable count of 48 **Bald Eagles** were observed at Conneaut Marsh and Pymatuning S.P. areas 3/18 (IF, RL). **Rough-legged Hawks** were observed in their expected locations around the Pymatuning area throughout March (m.ob.). A late bird was observed in the Pymatuning area 4/19 (BH). A single **Golden Eagle**, a notable bird, was recorded at Pymatuning S.P.- Goose Management Area 3/31 (RL). Observations of **Merlin**, an increasingly expected but still notable bird,

included singles at a private residence in the Meadville area 3/5 (KP), in the Tamarack Lake area 4/9 (RL), and at Greendale Cemetery in Meadville 4/14 (RH, ToN). Notable observations of **Peregrine Falcon**, an expected but scarce bird in *Crawford*, included one at P S.P.-MP 3/24 (DM) and one at CM-MMR 5/12 (JH, JR, AT, MT, KZ).

**Virginia Rail, Sora, and Common Gallinule**, all notable for *Crawford*, were found in their usual numbers and locations (m.ob.). **Sandhill Cranes**, a notable but expected bird seen in increasing numbers, were reported in expected locations and numbers in the Pymatuning, Erie NWR and Conneaut Marsh areas (m.ob.).

Shorebird observations were down significantly this season, perhaps due to the cold and snowy weather in April. Numbers of **Greater Yellowlegs** were lower than average, with a high count of 58 at P S.P.- MP 4/18 (MAK, GK). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were also lower than average, with a high of 35 at P S.P.-MP 5/2 (RH). **Upland Sandpiper**, expected but notable bird, were observed in their expected locations in the P S.P.- MP and Pymatuning S.P.- Wilson Road areas (m.ob.). Good counts of 4 birds were seen along Route 285 on 5/16 (MHo, SS) and 5/23 (RN). Good counts of **Pectoral Sandpiper** included 13 at P S.P.-MP 4/14 (MAK, GK) and 19 at the same location 4/27 (MV). One was seen near West Fallowfield Township 5/20 (MW). **Short-billed Dowitchers**, expected but scarce in spring, included one at P S.P.- MP 5/8 (CE), and 2 at the same location 5/13 (ToN) and 5/22 (SS).

Notable observations of **Bonaparte's Gull** included a good count of 300 at Conneaut Lake 4/15 (CN) and a late bird seen at Pymatuning S.P.- Jamestown Swimming Beach 5/28 (BV). There were multiple notable observations of **Iceland Gull**, all in the Pymatuning area. Sightings at P S.P.-EM included 2 seen 3/31 (MHa) and one 4/1 (ToN, KP) and 4/2 (RS). An additional bird, missing a foot but otherwise appearing healthy, was seen at Pymatuning S.P.- Dam 4/20 (ToN) and 4/21 (JM). Observations of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** have increased in frequency over the last several years, with almost all observations occurring in the Pymatuning area. This season birds were observed at P S.P.-EM, Pymatuning S.P.- dam, and Pymatuning S.P.- Jamestown Campground, with a date range of 3/10-4/20 (m.ob.). Of note was an excellent count of 9 at Pymatuning S.P.- Jamestown Campground 4/8 (ToN, KP). A single **Glaucous Gull**, a notable bird, was at P S.P.- C 3/25 (RL).

**Caspian Terns** were observed in large numbers, including up to 65 at P S.P.-EM 4/20 (ToN, MV), 153 at Pymatuning S.P.- Fish Hatchery 4/21 (KP), and a total of 200 at P S.P.-C and Pymatuning S.P.- Fish Hatchery 4/28 (IF, RL). **Black Tern** sightings have decreased dramatically from historical numbers, so the observation of 2 at SGL 277 on 5/13 (RS) was notable. Observations of **Common Tern**, a notable bird for the county, included one at P S.P.-S 4/21 (CL) and another single at the same location 5/12 (JH, JR, AT, MT, KZ). **Forster's Tern** are uncommon in the spring in *Crawford*, so observations including an early single bird observed P S.P.-EM 4/2 (RS), one at P S.P.-S 4/17 (CN), and one at P S.P.- EM 4/19 (ToN) are notable. Good counts included 5 at P S.P.-EM 4/20 (MV) and 5 at P S.P.- C 5/12 (JH, JR, AT, MT, KZ).

The only report of **Eastern Screech-Owl**, expected but not often reported, was of one heard at a private residence on Tower Rd. 3/5 (CN). A single **Great Horned Owl** at the Greendale Cemetery in Meadville 3/7 (ToN) was the only report of this expected but infrequently observed species. A **Snowy Owl** was observed in a field on East Spring RD. near Rundelltown 3/3-4 (CN, KZ). One **Short-eared Owl**, expected but scarce in *Crawford*, was at P S.P.-MP. The only **Common Nighthawk** was one in Meadville 5/9 (RL) and one at Erie N.W.R.- Deer Run Trail 5/27 (KH, TeN). This is a disappointingly low number after sightings had been increasing in recent years. Observations of **Red-headed Woodpecker**, a notable bird for *Crawford*, were in expected numbers in their expected locations of CM-MMR and the Pymatuning area (m.ob.). An early **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at a private residence on Tower Rd. 3/31 (CN).

A slightly early **Least Flycatcher** was at SGL 277 on 4/30 (RS). An early **Eastern Kingbird** was observed off Middle Road near SGL 269 on 4/7 (JF). Observations of **Philadelphia Vireo**, a good bird for *Crawford*, included singles at SGL 277 on 5/14 (RS), in the Woodcock Lake area 5/16 (RH, ToN), and in the Rundelltown area 5/16 (LE, JH, AT, MT). Observations of **Common Raven**, increasingly common but still notable, included one at P S.P.-C 4/8 (IF, RL), one at Custards Marsh- Shafer and Towpath Rds. 5/3 (ToN, KP), 2 at Pymatuning S.P.- Dam 5/3 (AWi), and one at Erie N.W.R.- Muddy Creek Holly Trail 5/22 (KZ).

**Horned Lark** sightings are infrequent in April and May in *Crawford* and many likely represent probable breeding birds. Notable observations included one in the Pymatuning S.P. area 5/11 (CH) and one at P S.P.- MP 5/12 (JH). An early

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was at P S.P.- MP 3/30 (JF). Early **Bank Swallows** included 15 at Pymatuning S.P.- Hartstown Marsh 4/19 (JM, MW) and one at P S.P.-S 5/5 (RG, MG). Four early **Barn Swallow** were at P S.P.- MP 3/30 (JF). A good count of 55 **Cliff Swallow** were observed in the Pymatuning area 5/11 (CH).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**, a notable but expected bird, was observed in small numbers in expected locations throughout the county and season (m.ob.). An early **House Wren** was at SGL 277 on 4/14 (RS). Observations of **Winter Wren** were significantly higher than average, and included sightings in expected and new locations (m.ob.). New locations included singles at WART 4/22 (ToN, KP) and 4/27 (ToN), at Woodcock Creek Park Dam 5/5 (CP), at SGL 69- Turkey Track Road Game Lands Access Path 5/6 (ToN, KP), off King Rd. near Cambridge Springs 5/11 (RH, ToN, KP); and 2 wrens at SGL 146 5/22 (ToN). **Marsh Wren**, notable for *Crawford*, were observed in their expected numbers and locations in the CM-MMR and Geneva Marsh areas (m.ob.).

Observations of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, an expected but scarce bird, included singles in the Woodcock Lake area 5/7 (KP) and 5/14 (ToN), at CM 5/9 (RN), and at WART 5/20 (ToN). Early observations of **Swainson's Thrush** included singles at the Greendale Cemetery in Meadville 5/4 (KP), at WART 5/4 (ToN), and at SGL 69 on 5/6 (ES). There was a higher than average frequency of Swainson's Thrush observations this spring as well (m.ob.).

There were a higher than normal number of reports of **Northern Mockingbird**, an expected but scarce bird in *Crawford*. All reports were of single birds, including around the feeders of a private residence on Tower Road 4/24 (CN), at SGL 277 on 4/30 (RS), off Gravel Run Rd. 5/2 (JF), at Geneva Marsh 5/25 (RL), on the Ernst Bike Trail in the Meadville area 5/27 (TE), and in the East Fallowfield Twp. area 5/28 (MW). The only observations of **American Pipit**, an expected but scarce bird, were one seen off Bradshaw Rd. in the Woodcock Lake area 3/12 (KP) and one at P S.P.-MP 5/12 (JH, JR, AT, MT, KZ). **Snow Bunting** was similarly infrequently reported, as the only observation was a single individual seen in a field on East Spring Rd. near Rundelltown 3/5 (KZ).

A single **Golden-winged Warbler**, an excellent sighting for *Crawford*, was observed at a private residence on Seiler Rd. 5/8 (AL, TL). An early **Black-and-white Warbler** was at WART 4/21 (RS). **Prothonotary Warblers**, notable for *Crawford*, were observed in expected locations in the CM-MMR, CM and Geneva Marsh areas (m.ob.). The sighting of 2 birds at Pymatuning S.P.- Hartstown Marsh 5/2 (MW) is a new location for this species. A single **Orange-crowned Warbler**, a notable bird, especially in the spring, was observed at SGL 277 on 5/3 (RS). Notable observations of **Mourning Warbler**, an expected but scarce bird, included a great count of 4 in the Rundelltown area 5/16 (LE, JH, AT, MT) and one at SGL 146, a new location for this species, 5/23 (RH, ToN).

A good count of 5 **Cape May Warblers** were at Pymatuning S.P.- Nature Center 5/12 (DA). Observations of **Cerulean Warbler**, a good bird for the county, included 2 at Pymatuning S.P.- Hartstown Marsh, a new location for this species, a single observed in the Conneautville area 5/14 (CP), and a good count of 4 in the Rundelltown area 5/16 (JH, LE, AT, MT). An excellent count of 6 were observed at Tryon-Weber Woods, a new location for this species, 5/9 (ToN). Two birds were seen at this same location 5/11 (RH, ToN, KP). Observations of **Wilson's Warbler**, an uncommon bird for *Crawford*, included singles observed at SGL 277 on 5/14 and 5/23 (RS) and at Cussewago Bottom IBA 5/19 (ToN).

An early **Eastern Towhee** was at a private residence in the Conneautville area 3/8 (KZ). Late observations of **American Tree Sparrow** included 2 at WART 4/22 (ToN, KP) and 5 at SGL 277 on 4/22 (RS). Early observations of **Field Sparrow** included a very early bird at a private residence on Seiler Rd. 3/3 (AL, TL) and one at Pymatuning S.P.- Hartstown Marsh 4/1 (MHa). **Vesper Sparrow** is infrequently observed in *Crawford*, so observations of one east of Cambridge Springs 5/2-9 (KZ) and one seen off West Vernon Rd. 5/9 (RN) are especially notable. Observations of **Fox Sparrow** were of expected number, frequency, and locations (m.ob.), with the majority occurring at WART (RH, ToN, KP.). A high count of 6 were at WART 4/15 (KP). An early **Swamp Sparrow** was seen at Geneva Marsh 3/4 (AL). A single **Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon race)**, a rarely observed subspecies in *Crawford*, was recorded at the feeders of a private residence on Seiler Rd. 3/9 (AL, TL).

A **Western Tanager**, a fantastic bird for *Crawford*, was photographed at the feeders of a private residence in the Meadville area 4/20 (RJ). A good count of 20 **Bobolinks** were observed at P S.P.-MP 5/8 (CE). Observations of **Rusty Blackbird** occurred in expected locations and numbers (m.ob.). A high count of 300 were at CM-MMR 3/25 (IF, RL). Early observations included 2 at CM 3/1 (MF)

and 8 at CM-MMR 3/5 (RN). A notable count of 35 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were seen near French Creek on Johnston Rd. 3/8 (RS).

**Purple Finches** were reported in increased numbers and frequency this season throughout the county. Notable were counts of 9 at a private residence on Seiler Rd. 4/4 (AL, TL) and 11 at private residence on N. Richmond Rd. 4/17 (RS). There were very few reports of **Common Redpoll** in the western half of Pennsylvania this winter and spring season, so the observation of one at a feeder at a private residence in the Conneautville area 3/11 was notable (KZ). There were several reports of **Pine Siskin**, a higher number and frequency than expected for this species (m.ob.) A high count of 30 were at a private residence on Seiler Rd. 3/9 (AL), and one was at CM-MMR 5/1 (RH, ToN), an unusual location for this species. Especially notable was a juvenile observed at a private residence off Seiler Rd. 5/18 (AL, TL), suggesting that the long-staying birds at their feeders during the winter and spring season had a breeding location nearby.

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#### Cumberland County

Locations: LMBS (Laughlin Millpond on the Big Spring), MSF (Michaux Sate Forest) PSQ (Pennsy Supply Quarry on the Carlisle Pike in Mechanicsburg), SGL 169 (State Game Lands 169), SGL 230 (State Game Lands 230), South Middleton Township Park (SMTP).

The spring period was wet and cooler than normal. May 12 had one of the larger spring fall outs in many years. Unless otherwise stated occurrences and the number of prior occurrences of the species listed in this report are according to eBird records and An Annotated List of the Birds of Cumberland PA Birds 2016 Volume 30 No. 3 (Gauthier). It should also be noted that there may be current and historical sightings for *Cumberland* listed on eBird from the Susquehanna River that may be possible to list on this report, but without clear documentation otherwise they are considered *Dauphin* Birds as the county line is the west shoreline of the river. This report uses the 58th Supplement of the 7th Edition of the AOU Check-list of North American Birds. This is of note as there were a number of taxonomic changes made.

Waterfowl that are less than regular spring migrants included one **Snow Goose** at Zion Rd. Pond 3/1 (DK) and 2 more at PSQ 4/23 (TC). For the second straight month, one **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at LMBS 3/5 (JM); perhaps the same bird reported in Feb. There was also one **Long-tailed Duck** at PSQ 3/3 (AD) and 3/24 (SK), with 8 more at Opossum Lake 3/30 (VG). **Red-necked Grebes** were at PSQ 3/24 and 4/8 (SK).

Three **Cattle Egrets** were seen on Mount Rock Rd., near Newville 5/31 (Wilbur Wolf), the first in the county since 2011. There were a good number of **American Bitterns** around, with 5 reports of one or 2 from SGL 169 during 4/13-5/6 (AnM, EG, VG) and another at Pine Rd., Newville 4/8 (RM). The only reports of **Least Bittern** were again from SGL 169 with 2 seen at Cabin Rd. 5/18 (SS) and one at the Mountain Rd. Marsh 5/24 (VG, AM). One **Common Gallinule** was flushed at the Mountain Rd. Marsh of SGL 169 on 5/24 (VG, AM) and one **Sandhill Crane** seen in flight near the Bridgewater Rd. area of SGL 169 during 4/4-5 (JM). Both the gallinule and crane are rare spring migrants in *Cumberland*.

The only shorebirds of note in a dismal spring season for them were 3 **Black-**

**bellied Plovers** seen and heard in flight near Shippensburg University 4/22 (AnM). Two tern species that are rare in spring were reported. Two **Caspian Terns** were at Opossum Lake 4/16 (TJ) and another there 4/20 (DB, StB), and 2 **Black Terns** at the Mountain Rd. Marsh of SGL 169 on 5/17 (VG).

There was a high count of 9 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at an area of Ridge Rd. MSF just west of the intersection with High Mountain Rd. This was a careful count making sure not to recount any birds. The practice of leaving some of the Oaks along with snags at timber cuts provides excellent habitat for this species. They do not have to contend with European Starlings for nesting holes at these locations. **Common Nighthawks** were not all that common as there were 2 reported at SGL 169 Cabin Rd. 5/11 (SB, DB), one at Silver Spring Presbyterian Church 5/14 (SK), one at SMTP 5/20 (KJ, TJ), and one rather late at Boiling Springs 5/31 (JG).

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at SGL 230 on 5/13 (KJ, TJ), Appalachian Trail Parking Lot at Sherwood Drive 5/20 (RS), Miller's Gap 5/20 (AE), West Fairview Boat Launch 5/20 (RK), and SGL 169 5/24 (AM, VG). An **Alder Flycatcher** was at SGL 169 on 5/18-24 (AnM, VG, AM), and another at Ponderosa Rd. 5/24 (RK). All reports of **Philadelphia Vireo** were on the same day 5/12, on which there was a large fallout of migrants, with 2 at SGL 169 (VG), one at Camp Michaux MSF (VG), and one at Sheet Iron Roof Rd. Mount Holly Springs (EB). Per usual there were only a few reports of spring **Bank Swallows** with one at PSQ 4/23 (TC), 2 at SMTP 5/7 (DB), and 5 at Messiah College 5/11 (DG). The same was true of **Cliff Swallows**, with 4 being at SGL 169 Cabin Rd. and 10 at the Boiling Springs Children's Pond 5/15 (CA).

In a non-invasion year, notable was one **Red-breasted Nuthatch** on Ridge Rd. MSF 4/27 (RGS, TGS) and 5/10 (VG, AM), and one at Miller's Gap 5/20 (AE). This species has been known to breed on occasion in the MSF. One **Pine Siskin** was reported at East Creek Rd. Hopewell Township 5/8 (AnM), an excellent find in a year in which there was only one other report, of four birds in Jan. In a year that **Lapland Longspurs** were scarce the only one was on Mud Level Rd. 3/22 (AnM). Since the pines on Meadows Rd. of the Tuscarora SF have grown-in, there is no good location to find a number of **Yellow-breasted Chats**; in fact, the species is now difficult to locate in *Cumberland*. There were 3 reports this season, all in northwestern *Cumberland* - singles in a hedgerow on a dirt drive off Meadows Rd. 5/11 (VG), on Heckman Rd. 5/11 (VG), and at Ponderosa Rd. 5/24 (RK).

A male **Prothonotary Warbler** was present at Cabin Rd. SGL 169 during 5/11-24 (BK, VG, StB, DB, SK, SB). The species is rare in *Cumberland* though historically it has bred here. For a second straight year **Kentucky Warbler** was not found at Camp Michaux MSF nor was it reported from Thompson Hollow MSF though it was reported last year from that location. Both are locations in which this warbler has recently bred. There were a few reports from the northern edge of the county from Meadows Rd. to Millers Gap. The only report from the southern part of the county was of one at Mount Holly Marsh Preserve 5/12 (EB). There were 3 reports of **Mourning Warbler** with one at Camp Michaux MSF 5/12 (VG), another on the same date at SMTP (TJ, KJ, SB, DB, StB), and one at Pine Hill Arboretum 5/20 (RK). **Cape May Warblers** were more numerous for the spring than they have been in years. This is especially true of Camp Michaux MSF where there were 23 reported 5/7 (VG) and 19 on 5/12 (VG). At most there are just a few reports of single birds in the spring and in some years they go unreported.

There was an extraordinary count of 24 **Cerulean Warblers** at Elk Hill Rd. 5/4 (VG, AM) and another excellent count of 12 again at Elk Hill Rd. 5/12 (BF, LF). Though Elk Hill is the best location in *Cumberland* to find this species a more usual report would be of 6-8 birds. **Bay-breasted Warblers** seemed more prevalent than usual with a high 15 reported throughout Cumberland on eBird 5/12. For a third straight year **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found breeding at the trail along the Conodoguinet at West Fairview 4/21 through the season (RK, m.ob.). There were 2 additional reports with one at a feeding station in Lisburn 4/9 (DB) and another along the Le Tort Creek in Carlisle 5/3 (HW). There was an extraordinary count of **Wilson's Warbler** 5/12 with 15 reported on eBird county-wide. Usually there are very few of this species found in spring.

Per usual all reports of **Blue Grosbeak** were in western *Cumberland*, north of the turnpike. While this species now breeds in the county on a regular basis, it does so in small numbers. A singing male was reported on Center Rd. 5/11 (VG), a male/female pair on Hunter's Rd. 5/31 (SS), and another male/female pair at the Ponderosa/Pinedale Rds, area 5/27 (TJ). There were only 2 reports of **Dickcissel**, which is less than recent years. As in the past they were in western *Cumberland* from the turnpike to north of the turnpike. If one looks at eBird data from the last ten years, most Dickcissel reports in *Franklin* and *Cumberland* form an arc that follows

the ridge in the north and west of both counties. The reports for this year include one on Rock Run Rd. 5/11 (where they have been confirmed breeding as recently as 2017) (VG) and one on Leshner Rd. near SGL 169 5/16 (DL).

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### **Dauphin County**

Locations: Clark's Ferry Bridge (CFB), Detweiler Park (DP), Former Harrisburg State Hospital (HSH), Fort Hunter (FH), Harrisburg Hamilton St (HHSt), Linglestown Road (LR), Milton Hershey Lands (MHL), Rachel Carson State Office Building (RCSOB), State Game Lands 211 (SGL211), State Game Lands 290-Haldeman Island (SGL290HI), Susquehanna River Front Street (SRFS), Susquehanna River West Fairview (SRWF), Three Mile Island (TMI), Weiser State Forest-Lykens Road (WSF-LR), Wildwood Lake (WL).

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was observed at SGL290HI 3/17 (m.ob.). A **Trumpeter Swan** was also seen at SGL290HI 4/8-18 (m.ob.) and photographed 4/8 (S&SB). This species had not been reported in *Dauphin* since 2012.

**Black-crowned Night Herons** were observed at FH, WL and SRWF 4/22 (EB), 5/22 (RS) and 5/29 (DH). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** returned to HHSt 4/1 (IG) for the sixth year in a row and were observed and photographed throughout April and May (m.ob.). A **Snowy Egret** was a one-day wonder at WL 5/8 (SL, KW); last year one arrived 5/11 and stayed until 5/14. An early **Great Egret** in *Dauphin* showed up at WL 3/19 (RS) keeping in line with a mid-March arrival of at least one bird. A **Virginia Rail** was located during a nocturnal rail survey at WL 5/8 (IG) and relocated again 5/22 (IG).

An **American Woodcock** was observed displaying 4/25 just off LR (SL). The exposed mudflats at WL produced various peeps during spring migration, including, **Semipalmated Plover**, **Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, and **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs** (m.ob.). Spring migration was in full swing with numerous reports of terns and gulls from SRFS and SRWR including **Little Gull**, **Black Tern**, **Common Tern** and **Forster's Tern** (m.ob.).

An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was observed at SRWF 5/5 (AV) and photographed in flight (AH). There was one other report from WSF-LR 5/9 (IG). The earliest report for a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was 4/28, when two private homes in the Harrisburg area reported a male at their feeders (MB, JF). The pair of **Peregrine Falcons** at RCSOB in Harrisburg produced 4 young, all successfully fledged by the end of May. The pair at CFB produced 2 young (EC) but were not confirmed fledged as of the end of this reporting period. The pair at TMI could not be confirmed this year.

Warblers made good appearances throughout April and May. Thirty-one of the 35 most common warblers seen in the state passed through *Dauphin* including a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at HSH 4/23 (TA) and a **Prothonotary Warbler** caught in a mist net and banded at WL 5/11 (SL). Occasionally seen in the east, a **Dark-eyed Junco** of the Oregon population was photographed at a backyard feeder in Harrisburg 4/6-12 (AM). A **Vesper Sparrow** was heard 5/11 on SGL211 (CW). Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were located, one was on SGL246 on 5/7 (DH) and one heard at DP 5/11 (ED). Seen more regularly in the southeast corner of the state, there were 2 sightings of **Blue Grosbeak** in *Dauphin*. One occurred at a home feeder near Halifax 5/18 (S&SB) and the other was on MHL 5/31 (NM).

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## Delaware County

Locations: Bethel Springs Elementary School (BSES), Big Bend Farm (BBF), Commodore Barry bridge/riverfront (CB), Concord Trail (CT), Crum Creek (CC), Crum Creek Reservoir (CCR), Crum Woods (CW), Darlington Tract (DT), Delaware County Community College (DCCC), Delaware River (DR), Episcopal Academy (EA), Fort Mifflin (FM), Glen Providence Park (GP), Haverford College (HC), Hildacy Farm Preserve (HILD), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Marcus Hook (MH), Philadelphia Airport (PHL), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Ridley Township Marina (RTM), Springton Reservoir (SR), Taylor Memorial Arboretum (TMA), The Willows (WILL).

March came in like a lion on the 2nd, with a Nor'easter bringing a trace to several inches of snow across the county and winds of 30-50 mph that downed many trees. Three subsequent storms with significant snowfalls of 5-14" occurred 3/7, 3/12-14, and 3/21-22. Depending on the exact location in the county, snowfall total for the month ranged between 15-28". Temperatures were generally in the 30's and 40's as expected. The last trace of frozen precipitation was 4/2 with that month's precipitation totaling about 4". Temperatures generally ranged from the 30's to upper 50's with a high temperature of 84F on 4/13 and 4/14. High winds 4/4-6 and again 4/14-16 may have influenced migration, particularly of seabirds, as scoters and loons showed up across the state. Southerly winds were generally favorable for migration 4/11-14. The first 90's were felt 5/2-3 during a three-day warm spell, though otherwise temperatures were in the mid-50 to mid-70 range. Precipitation for May was approximately 5". Winds were generally helpful for northbound migrants 5/1-5, 14-15, 24-26, and 29.

The only report of migrating **Snow Geese** was 3/17 with 190 over Glen Mills (RI); otherwise, 2 were at GPP 4/6 (RF). A single **Cackling Goose** report came from CB 4/4 (RF). Two **Tundra Swans** visited SR 3/3 (AB, DB), and 7 were reported from JHNWR 3/10 (GJ). There were 3 other incidental reports of one or two bird flyovers in March.

A single **Northern Shoveler** from CB 4/4 (RF) and 2 at JHNWR 3/11 (BH) were the only reports of this species, which is plentiful just over the border in *Philadelphia*. JHNWR was also the only *Delaware* location for **Gadwall** with five reports 3/9-27 (JMc, BH, DO, AG, AB, DB) and **Northern Pintail** 3/9 (JMc) and 3/11 (AB, DB). **Green-winged Teal** were present at JHNWR mid-March through April, reaching a maximum of 44 on 4/12 (AG). Two **Lesser Scaup** at CCR 3/2 (AG) and 3 on the DR at FM the same day were bested by an easily-viewed pair that camped out at Liseter Pond 3/24-4/7 (KJ, SJ).

A rare pair of **Surf Scoters** on the DR at FM 4/19 (RF) was part of a fallout across the state. **Common Goldeneye** is not common in *Delaware*: a single bird was found 3/3 CCR (AB, DB). While **Common Mergansers** lived up to their name with appearances at all the usual water bodies, **Red-breasted Merganser** also proved more common than usual, reported 7 times from 4 different locations, SR, RTM, JHNWR, DR (AB, DB, AG, BH, RF), with the last date on DR at FM 5/16 (AG). Only two **Ruddy Ducks** were reported, from JHNWR 3/11 (BH).

**Red-throated Loon** surfaced early at CB 4/4 (RF) and then 4/19-20 DR at FM (RF) during the widespread fallout event. One or 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** were found reliably throughout March and April at their preferential site, CCR, with a few additional reports from SR, RTM, and JHNWR (m.ob.). Four **Horned Grebes** at RTM 3/30 (RF) were part of a movement that day, but other reports were from SR 3/4 (DB), 3/23 (AG), and 3/25 (AB, DB) and DR at FM 3/25 (DB).

**Wild Turkey** once again made the *Delaware* list, from Chadds Ford 3/27 and 3/28 (EW). The DR is about the only *Delaware* location for **Great Cormorant**: CB produced singles 3/1 (RF, AG) and 4/6 (RF). An **American Bittern** discovered at HILD 5/3 (MC) lingered only a day in the small wetland area by the center, but was seen at close range by seven lucky birders. A **Little Blue Heron** discovered at JHNWR 4/18 (GJa, DO) was also seen 4/21 (JMc, RZ) and 4/22 (LT, RZ). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported only from MH 5/25 (AG, NP, AB, DB), 5/28 (RF) and 5/30 (AG). The even less common **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was photographed stalking behind the playground along Crum Creek at the Ridley Park Swim Club 4/16 (NC, DB, RF). A single **Glossy Ibis** was feeding in the fire-practice, AKA "snipe," area behind PHL 4/17 (JMc), and singles were noted at JHNWR 4/14 (JMc) and 5/2 (DO).

The first **Osprey** was noted over Glen Mills 3/20 by Doug Martin, a visiting birder from British Columbia. An adult **Mississippi Kite** was a good find at TMA 5/15 (RF) as it headed up Ridley Creek. Although **Broad-winged Hawks** moved through from mid- to the end of April, there were no reports of groups beyond 3 in

size.

**American Coot** was spotted at JHNWR only on 3/11 (BH). An **American Oystercatcher** was a rare surprise on a sandbar DR at FM 4/15 (AG). This location also produced **Black-bellied Plover** 5/16 (AG) and 5/17 (AG, RF); multiple **Semipalmated Plovers** on six May dates (AG, RF); **Dunlins** 4/4 (AG), 26 on 5/16 (AG), and 22 on 5/22 (RF, AG); and **Least Sandpiper** 5/10-18 (RF, AG). The latter species were also found 4 times at JHNWR 5/3-18 when they reached a max of about 20 (JMc). A flock of 40 **Red Knots** headed high on northbound migration over MH 5/28 (RF) was rewarding. An estimated 140 peeps were also seen during that evening's shorebird migration watch. A single **Pectoral Sandpiper** was in the wet "snipe" field at PHL 4/15 (AG, MS). **Wilson's Snipe** counts at that location reached a max. of 17 on 3/23 (AG), with snipe present at least from the end of March to the end of April (m.ob.). JHNWR was also a good location for multiple snipe, with 14 reported 3/27 (AB, DB). More people need to get out and look for displaying **American Woodcock!** Six pre-dawn at EA 3/19 (WS), and evenings behind PHL 3/11 (AG) and 4/16 (RF) were the only reports that weren't chance encounters with flushed birds.

A **Black-headed Gull** at JHNWR was sighted in *Delaware* 3/9 (JMc). Was this the returning bird from *Philadelphia*? The last report there was 2/17 (SG). The DR is about the only place for **Bonaparte's Gull** in the county. Three were seen at FM 4/1 (AB, DB, AG), as were singletons 4/4 (AG) and 5/15 (RF). That location also produced the rare report of 4 **Black Skimmers** 5/30 (AG).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** seemed more widespread than usual, reported in May from more than a half-dozen locations across *Delaware* with about an equal number of reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** (m.ob.). An exciting find 3/19 was a **Barn Owl**, or two, heard from the CT (BQ), but no additional encounters were reported thereafter. This species is basically extirpated from Southeast PA, so even a chance encounter is welcomed. It would be amazing to document a pair. For now, we are left wondering, hopeful. **Great-horned Owls** breed throughout *Delaware* with fledglings photographed 4/29 in RCSP (RB) where **Barred Owl** also bred along the BT as usual (m.ob.). **Eastern Screech-Owl** reports were again fewer in number than those of the larger owls, but at least one pair successfully used a nest box in a Media backyard where a fluffy youngster was photographed half out of the box 5/27 (AG). An adult was found dead in a Drexel Hill yard 4/10, following storms that damaged trees (Jane Hill). Many enjoyed the **Snowy Owls** at PHL this winter, with the last report 3/24 (AG, MW, AB).

A few **Common Nighthawks** were spotted as they made their usual passage through *Delaware* in May (m.ob.). **Chimney Swifts** arrived in timely fashion 4/14 (SJ) followed by the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** to a Bryn Mawr yard 4/23, on the early side (LN). One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at the BT 5/7 (RF, AG) and one at EA 5/9 (WS) constitute the sum of this species reports. Those are about 20 days ahead of last year's three sightings. Other flycatchers arrived at the usual time. There were 2 reports of **Alder Flycatcher**, at DR at FM 5/15 (RF) and RCSP 5/23 (SB); and 2 of **Least**, at Glen Mills 5/14 (NP) and HILD 5/21 (RF).

Vireos arrived as expected, with **Yellow-throated Vireo** reported not just from its usual RCSP location but also from BBF, CW, JHNWR, TMA, and WILL on multiple dates (m.ob.). Is this species just passing through in increasing numbers or are more breeding in our area? A **Horned Lark** at PHL 5/22 (Tom Reed) was a surprise, though historically this species did occasionally nest there. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** arrived at JHNWR 3/25 (JMc) while **Bank Swallows** were found there 4/20 (DO), 5/3 (DO), and 5/4 (AG); and at TMA 4/27 (DO).

Red-breasted Nuthatches remained *in absentia*. An early **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was foraging at BBF 3/31 (NP, SP). Reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 5/12 DCCC (RF) and 5/16 BT(RF) were more than doubled with night flight calls 5/21 and 5/22 (at least 5 individuals) over a Wallingford yard (RF). An **American Pipit** from DT 3/24 (AG) provided the only report.

Thirty warbler species were reported. Unfortunately, the year's first **Black-and-white Warbler** was seen flitting around the Villanova parking garage 4/5 when it hit a window and dropped dead (Paul Bernhardt); not the kind of welcome we would wish for a tired traveler! The good news is that overall warbler counts for individual species were higher than last year. **Palm Warblers** were particularly prevalent with a high count estimated at 45 at the BT 4/20 (JMc). Other highlights include: 8 reports of **Worm-eating** (m.ob.); a **Kentucky** at the BT 5/17 (AG); 7 reports of **Cape May** (m.ob.), up from last year's single report; a single, singing male **Cerulean** 5/5 HC (KJ, SJ) and a possible singing male (not seen) 5/7 EA (WS); multiple **Bay-breasted** 5/6-20 (m.ob.), often with more than one individual at a location; 8 reports of **Blackburnian** beginning 5/5 (m.ob.); **Yellow-throated**

at RCSP 4/8 (JMc), Glen Mills 4/20 (WS), TTT 4/21(JM), and DT 5/2(NP); and 5 reports of **Wilson's** in a narrow window 5/12-18 (m.ob.).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** found foraging behind PHL among a flock of roadside **Chipping Sparrows** 4/15 (DB) was highly unusual for *Delaware*. The group also contained single **Field** and a **Savannah Sparrows** (DB, AG). As usual, **American Tree Sparrows** were found only at JHNWR, on 3/25 (JMc) and 3/27 (AB, DB). **Fox Sparrows** were widely reported in passage 3/12-4/11 (m.ob.). A late **White-throated Sparrow** was reported from the BT 5/20 (AG). **White-crowned Sparrows** were at JHNWR 3/18 (BB) and 4/22 (BB), and at HC 5/8 (EK). Savannah Sparrow was added to the BSES checklist when 2 showed up 4/19 (BQ). There were 2 additional reports, from JHNWR 4/22 (BB) and 5/4 (AG), and a NFC record from Wallingford 5/21 (RF).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was heard and seen in the fields near EA 5/12 (KJ, SJ). This location also held an estimated 35 **Bobolinks** on that same date (KJ, SJ); that species was present there 5/11 (WS) through at least 5/18 (EK). Bobolink was also reported from a field in Glen Mills 5/17 (SJ) and as a NFC from Wallingford 5/21 (RF). A **Blue Grosbeak** was photographed in the Haverfarm area at HC 5/21 (EK). **Rusty Blackbirds** are only reliable at JHNWR where they were reported 3/6-4/23 (m.ob.) with a high of 13 on 3/25 (JMc). Again, this year, there were no migrant winter finches.

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### Elk County

Locations: Allegheny NF--Buzzard Swamp (BS), Allegheny NF--Twin Lakes Recreation Area (TL), East Branch Lake (EBL), Highland Twp. (HT), Jones Twp. (JT), Laurel Run Reservoir (LRR), Marion Brooks Natural Area (MBNA), Quehanna Wild Area (QWA), West Creek Conservancy (WCC).

Six species of waterfowl were reported this season. Notables included 2 **Lesser Scaups** at a private pond along PA 948 in HT 4/20 (HM). Four **Hooded Mergansers** were noted at BS 3/31 (FM), and one female was at EBL 4/20 (BB). **Common Merganser**, on the other hand, was reported from 6 locations across the county. **Ruffed Grouse** were found at 4 locations in the the county, including JT (BB), TL (BB, DS), SGL 25 (BB), and WH (LB, MJ, MW).

Reports of **Common Loons** were from the private pond in Highland Twp 4/20 (HM) and EBL, with 4 on 5/19, 7 on 5/20, and 3 on 5/27 (BB). **Horned Grebes** made their annual appearance at EBL, with one there 4/20 and 2 there 5/20 (BB). A nice flock of 18 **Double-crested Cormorants** was seen flying over JT 4/21. Four were also at EBL 4/20 (BB). A rare bird any time of year in *Elk*, including spring, is **Great Egret** - 2 were at WCC 4/15 (LC). The only report of **Green Heron** was of one at the Dam Inn Restaurant 5/19 (BB).

The **Ospreys** once again returned to EBL, present by mid-April (BB). A nice find was an immature **Golden Eagle** at MBNA 3/11 (PW), keeping with the standard of the southeast corner of the county being the best area to find these birds. A **Northern Harrier** was at WH 5/16 (MJ). Possibly a local nester, a **Northern Goshawk** was seen flying over EBL 5/26 in an area of extensive northern hardwoods and hemlocks.

A surprising **Least Sandpiper** was heard flying over JT 5/25 just after dusk (BB). Up to 3 **American Woodcocks** were present at JT in April and May, and up to 11 **Spotted Sandpipers** were at their stronghold of EBL (BB). A group of 5 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was at EBL 4/21, and 3 **Ring-billed Gulls** were at St. Mary's Walmart 5/6 (BH). **Great Horned Owl** was at TL 5/16 along with 2 **Barred Owls** (DS). Barred Owls were also at QWA 5/18 and 5/24 (BH). Two **Common Nighthawks** were at WCC (LC). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were consistently reported from Benezette throughout May (CL), and 3 were also at TL 5/16 (DS). The only report of **American Kestrel** was of 2 along Kyler Rd in Fox Twp. 4/15 (CB).

**Common Ravens** were once again widely reported across the county

(m.ob.). The only **Horned Lark** was a single flyover at JT 4/20 (BB). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** could be found not only at their regular location of JT (BB), but 3 were also at HT 5/16 (SJ) and one at QWA 5/27 (BH). **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** could be found at TL 5/16 (DS) and a nocturnal flyover at JT 5/26 (BB). Notable warblers included a **Tennessee Warbler**, a **Kentucky Warbler**, and a **Blackpoll Warbler** at TL 5/16 (DS), a **Palm Warbler** at WH 5/16 (MJ), a **Pine Warbler** at JT 4/21 (BB), a **Prairie Warbler** at HT 5/24 (SJ), and a **Canada Warbler** at JT 5/28 (BB).

Three **Grasshopper Sparrows** could be found among the reclaimed strip mines at WH 5/16 (MJ). With the lingering cold weather into April, up to 6 **American Tree Sparrows** could be found until 4/21 at JT (BB). Good numbers of **Fox Sparrows** were present during the second half of April, with nice totals of 17 at JT 4/20, 8 at SGL 25 on 4/20, and 10 at JT 4/21 (BB). This area always seems to have good numbers of **Fox Sparrows** in April and Nov during their migration. **White-crowned Sparrows** were well-reported during early May, including reports of up to 5 from Benezette Twp. (CL), Fox Twp. (CB), and St. Marys (LC). A nice find was 2 **Vesper Sparrows** at WH 5/9 (PW), which is also where the only **Savannah Sparrow** report came from (MJ).

**Orchard Oriole** can be a hard bird to come by in *Elk*, so a single along Elk Creek near St. Marys is notable (PWi). **Pine Siskins** moved through in decent numbers during April and May. Reports included 26 at SGL 25 on 4/20, up to 25 at JT 4/20-21 (BB), and 3 at Fox Twp. 5/5 and 5/14 (CB). A sighting of a pair of **Pine Siskins** at JT 5/28 is notable for the possibility of breeding (BB). The pair was seen at a feeder in a pine, larch, aspen forest where there are plenty of conifers for them to nest in.

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### Erie County

It was a cold spring with continued snow fall higher than normal topping out at just shy of 200 inches in the Erie area for the winter-spring season, which extended waterfowl numbers well into May. **Common Loons** and **Horned Grebes** were especially common with hundreds of both species staging in Presque Isle Bay. The pair of **Piping Plovers** that nested at Gull Point last year returned to nest again this year. Four eggs were in the nest at the time of this writing (MB). The cool spring delayed movement of warblers through the area, but when they arrived in early May, numbers of birds remained consistently high through the migration period. Aberrant, partial albino, and leucistic birds are regularly reported, but a bilateral gynandromorph **Northern Cardinal** coming to a feeder in Millcreek Twp. from early to mid-March was a first (PW).

The following birds of note were recorded from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

One or 2 **Snow Geese** were reported from Wattsburg, Presque Isle S.P., and the Fairview Business Park 3/2-25 (SW, ES, JT) with up to 24 at the latter site 3/28 (JT). A **Cackling Goose** passed over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 4/14 (JM). Up to 12 **Surf Scoters** were at Presque Isle S.P. 4/18-5/1 (JM) and 8 were on Edinboro Lake 5/4 (JH, SW). A **White-winged Scoter** off Gull Point was late 5/20 (JM). A **Red-throated Loon** was off Leo's landing 3/31 (AE, et al.) and another on Edinboro Lake 4/7 (JH). A **Red-necked Grebe** that passed over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 4/21 was totally unexpected (JM). Another Red-necked Grebe was nicely photographed at the head of Presque Isle Bay 5/1 (BB).

Several **American Bitterns** were reported during the height of their migration period 4/13-5/1, mainly from Niagara Pond (JF, KA, JM). Single **Least Bitterns** were reported from 5/5 through the period at various locations on Presque Isle S.P. A **Cattle Egret** at Gull Point was a very rare find 5/26 (DM, MB, SS), the last reported from *Erie* was in 2012. A few **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported 4/5-5/19 throughout Presque Isle S.P. An immature **Northern Goshawk** passed low over the Presque Isle Hawk Watch 3/26 (JM). **Sandhill Cranes** were reported in small numbers through most of the period from several sites along Lake Erie and around Waterford.

The male **Piping Plover** that successfully nested last year at Gull Point returned to Gull Point 4/21 (RD) and was later joined by its mate (MB). Nesting was confirmed 5/15 with 4 eggs present by the end of the period (MB). A whopping

40 **Willet**s made landfall at Beach 11 on 5/2 (DZ, JM, LM., et al.) A single Willet was spotted at Gull Point 5/7 (MB). Since nearly all records of **Whimbrel** come from Gull Point, it was a surprise to see about 24 flying north over Sidewalk Trail (SSt.) and 8 over the Sheetz gas station at West 8th and Peninsula Drive (KA) 5/20. Three were at the expected location at Gull Point 5/25 (MB). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was identified at Gull Point 5/28 (MB). The 40 **Dunlins** at Gull Point 4/15 was a record local high count for this early in the season (RD).

Single **Iceland Gulls** were reported 3/6-19 mainland from Presque Isle Bay (MB, JM). The only **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was one at the channel 3/7 (JM). A few **Glaucous Gulls** were around Presque Isle S.P. 3/8-4/20 (JM, MB). A pair of **Common Terns** was sitting on a nest by 5/31 at Gull Point (MB). There still has not been confirmed nesting success of **Common Terns** despite several attempts in recent years.

A **Barn Owl** seen periodically in mid-April was photographed and confirmed (DS). A few **Snowy Owls** from the winter invasion spilled into the spring season with one or 2 remaining at Gull Point to 5/2 (RD, MB). RD spent a lot of time tramping through the pines on Presque Isle S.P. to find 3 **Long-eared Owls** 4/7-19. The single **Short-eared Owl** reported was at Gull Point (RD). The effort to find **Northern Saw-whet Owls** in the pines yielded only 4 birds 3/18-4/19 (RD). The **Northern Shrike** spotted during the winter season in Summit Twp. remained until 3/3 (JM).

A **Gray Catbird** spotted 3/17 at Leo's landing may have been a successful wintering bird (MF). However, the **Brown Thrasher** found on the same day at the same site, may have been an early migrant (MF). A **Brewster's Warbler** was at Fry's landing 5/4 and another was in Girard 5/15 (JB). A female **Golden-winged Warbler** banded at the banding station at Fry's landing, had some plumage characteristics consistent with Lawrence's Warbler (LK). A definite **Lawrence's Warbler** was well photographed at Thompson's Circle 5/10 (KS). A male Golden-winged Warbler was banded at Fry's landing 5/11 (LK) and a female was there 5/14 (CK). The rarely reported **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen well near Marina Rd. 5/10 (JH, SW). At least 5 **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported on Presque Isle S.P. from 5/6-19 (m.ob.) with at least a couple banded at Fry's landing. Always difficult to spot, a singing **Connecticut Warbler** was along Pine Tree Trail 5/20 (SM, et al.).

A county record late **American Tree Sparrow** was satisfactorily described 5/21 on Presque Isle S.P. (FY). More **Clay-colored Sparrows** than usual were reported this May with perhaps as many as 6 different birds, mainly from the east end of the park 5/5-22 (m.ob.). **Grasshopper Sparrows** are rarely reported on the park, so one that was captured and banded at Fry's landing 4/24 was notable (LK). Likely the first confirmed **Henslow's Sparrow** for Presque Isle S.P. was nicely photographed at Thompson Circle 5/5 (AL).

An immature male **Summer Tanager** was photographed at a feeder in Harborcreek Twp. 5/5 (BPZ), and an adult male was in a backyard in Erie the same day (NA). A male **Dickcissel** visited a feeder at the Ranger's station 5/5 for a rare county sighting (BG, AL). It was a real surprise on eBird to see a bird listed as "Passerine" and find a photo of an obviously stunning adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** from Lawrence Park 5/4 (TD, CH). Providing a late county record, a **Common Redpoll** in breeding plumage was spotted foraging in a gravel drive at the maintenance building on Presque Isle S.P. 5/15 (RD).

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### Fayette County

Location: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL).

Winter held its grip into April with cold temperatures. A major fallout of waterfowl occurred 4/19 in this part of the state with waterfowl dropping onto bodies of water in great numbers.

A **Trumpeter Swan** was seen in the *Fayette* side of Bridgeport Reservoir

3/25 (MJ) but never relocated, possibly the first county record. There was one in *Westmoreland* around this time so it could have been the same bird. A waterfowl fallout at GRL 4/19 was the best in years. Hundreds of ducks covered the lake along with smaller numbers of grebes and gulls. Rain during the day resulted in fallouts throughout western Pennsylvania. The majority at GRL appeared to be **Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck** and scaup, with several hundred of each. Others included 2 **Blue-winged Teal**, 9 **Gadwall**, 8 **Northern Shovelers**, 12 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 2 **Surf Scoters**, and 8 **White-winged Scoters** (m.ob.). Over 20 **Horned Grebes** (and probably many more) and 20 **Double-crested Cormorants** were present.

Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were at GRL 4/7 (BB). Two **Surf Scoters** and 2 **White-winged Scoters** were nice finds in Farmington 3/20 (MD).

All **Common Loon** reports are from GRL and include one 4/6 (MF), two 4/7 (BB), and one 4/19 (MF). Two **Red-throated Loons** were at GRL 3/25 (MF) and later that day 3 were found (MD). One was there 4/6 (MF). A nice count of 38 **Horned Grebes** were at GRL 3/29 (MF). **Bonaparte's Gull** is an uncommon but regular migrant in *Fayette*. Six were at Nemaacolin Woodlands Resort 3/30 (MD), one was at GRL 4/16 (MF), and 145 were there 4/19 during the fallout (MF). The birds began to leave the lake late in the day; small groups would lift off together. Thirty **Ring-billed Gulls** were there 4/16 (MF).

A **Bald Eagle** was seen near Farmington 4/1 (DB). A **Broad-winged Hawk** was near GRL 4/19 (MF) and 2 were at Nemaacolin Woodlands Resport 4/22 (MD). **Common Raven** is resident in the county but I don't often receive reports. One was seen at Quebec Run Wild Area 5/20 (KSJ).

Three **Veeries** were at Quebec Run Wild Area 5/20 (KSJ). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at GRL 4/28 (MA) and 2 **Hermit Thrushes** were at Nemaacolin Woodlands Resort 4/22 (MD). Two **Purple Finches** visited a feeder in Dunbar 4/11 (AJ) and 2 were at Nemaacolin Woodlands Resort 4/22 (MD). A few **Pine Siskins** were present during the entire season at various locations. High counts include 6 at Farmington (MD, CT) and 5 at Nemaacolin Woodlands Resort (DW, MD, DB).

**Rusty Blackbird** reports include one near Greenlick Run Lake 3/29 (MF), one at Ohioptyle SP 4/8 (GG), 5 at GRL 4/28 (MA), and 15 at Farmington 5/6 (CT, ebird). A male **Pine Warbler** was photographed at a feeder in Dunbar 4/11 (AJ). Warblers reported at Quebec Run Wild Area 5/20 included one **Ovenbird**, one **Louisiana Waterthrush**, 2 **Black-and-white Warblers**, 7 **Hooded Warblers**, 6 **American Redstarts**, 2 **Magnolia Warblers**, 12 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, 6 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, and 9 **Canada Warblers** (KSJ).

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### Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest (ANF), Dawson Run Rd. (DRR), Lighthouse Island (LI), Marienville (MA), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Outflow (TO).

Spring migration was more interesting than usual this year with 156 species reported in *Forest*. The increased number of species seen this spring is most likely because of an increase in birders – a very positive fact to report. Not often found in *Forest*, **Northern Shovelers** were at BS 3/31 and at LI 4/11 (FM). A single **Common Goldeneye** was on the Allegheny River at West Hickory 4/13; although common migrants throughout the state, this is the first spring record for *Forest*.

For the 4th year, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed in northern *Forest* near Yellowhammer; a pair was spotted at a nest cavity 5/26 (FM, JM). An uncommon to rare regular spring migrant, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** located in the ANF near MA 5/24 was a nice find. A **White-eyed Vireo**, a rare, irregular migrant in northern Pennsylvania, was spotted the same day in the same area (SJ).

**Common Raven** observations were low last spring, but they were sighted multiple times throughout the county this year (m.ob.). **Bank Swallows** were found twice at LI: 5/13 (FM) and 5/20 (KS). Although a regular migrant throughout the commonwealth, they are rarely noted in *Forest* in spring. **Swainson's Thrushes** were seen at several areas beginning the second week of May (m.ob.). A **Northern Mockingbird** was a good find at DRR 4/16 (KS). They are rare in

northwestern Pennsylvania, but are extending their range to the north and west.

Twenty-eight species of warbler were reported, contributing to the lively spring migration. **Blue-winged Warblers** were observed several times in May at DRR (KS, FM, JM). **Tennessee Warblers**, not often recorded in *Forest*, were present 5/19 at Nebraska Bridge (RW) and 5/20 at LI (KS). The only report of **Nashville Warbler** was near MA 5/4 (SS). **Mourning Warblers** were noted in several areas during the latter half of May (SJ, FM, JM). Uncommon to rare in spring, a **Cape May Warbler** at DRR 5/12 provided a nice sighting (FM, JM). **Northern Parulas** were at several locations during May (KS, RW, FM, JM). **Bay-breasted Warblers**, rarely spotted in spring, were at DRR 5/11 (FM) and at Nebraska Bridge 5/19 (RW). **Blackpoll Warblers** were at TO 5/19 and at LI 5/20 (KS). **Yellow-throated Warblers**, rare during any season in *Forest*, have been extending their range northward along streams; they were present at LI 4/16(KS) and at TO 5/13 (FM, JM). There were 4 reports of **Prairie Warbler**, all in May from the ANF, in the under-birded northeastern part of the county (SJ). There was only one **Canada Warbler**, in the ANF on Minister Creek Trail 5/26 (BH). A single **Wilson's Warbler** on Blue Jay Creek Rd. 5/14 was a nice find, as this species is rarely reported on spring migration in *Forest* (TS).

An **Orchard Oriole** visited feeders near TI 5/10 (FM), and a pair was located on LI 5/20 (KS) and 5/24 (JC). These appear to be expanding their range northward. Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were found near TI 3/2 (FM), and also 2 on 4/13 and one on 4/16 at LI (KS). **Pine Siskins**, with a high of 3, came to feeders near TI regularly from April through May (FM, JM); they were also seen 4/15 (KS) and (5/25) (SJ) near Beaver Meadows.

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### Franklin County

Locations: Bender's Farm (BEFA), Black Gap Road Ponds (BGRP), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Kriner Road Retention Ponds (KRRP), Letterkenny Reservoir (LERE), Mountain Brook Road Pond (MBRP), Little Dipper Pond (LDP), Long Lane Pond (LLP), Mountain Lake Fannettsburg (MLF), Stillhouse Hollow/Heisey Road (SHHR), Wilson College (WC).

A single **Snow Goose** was reported at LDP 3/25 (CG, BO), and 3 were at a pond near Letterkenny 3/30 (BO, KH, BKO, TK, CG). A **Cackling Goose** was at LLP 3/25 (CG, BO). A long staying **Trumpeter Swan** provided the waterfowl highlight of the period, observed beginning 4/3 (BO) and continuing through at least 4/16 at BEFA (BO, VB, DG, CG, NM, BKO, TK, ph). The high report of **Tundra Swan** was 155 at BEFA 3/17-18 (BO). The duck highlight was 4 **Common Goldeneyes** at BGRP 3/29 (JD, ph). Three **Canvasbacks** were at MBRP 4/2 (CG, BO). There was higher than normal reporting of **Long-tailed Duck** with one at a Letterkenny area pond 3/30 (BKO, TK, BO, KH, CG), one at a Horse Valley pond 3/30 (BO, KH), 2 at MBRP 4/2 (CG, BO), one at KRRP 4/11 (JD, SD), one at MLF 4/14 (BO), and one at BEFA 4/16 (BO). There were also many sightings of **Red-breasted Merganser**, with high counts of 18 at MBRP 3/24 (CG) and 10 at LLP 3/29 (CG, BO).

**Common Loon** reports were 3 at BGRP 3/28 (BO), one at BGRP 3/29 (JD), 3 at MBRP 4/3 (CG), 11 at LERE 4/3-4 (BO), 2 at LERE 4/8 (BO), and one at BGRP 4/17 (VB, NM). **Double-crested Cormorant** reports have increased in frequency and number of individuals; this year's high counts were 23 at BEFA 3/29 (BO), 5 at LDP 4/18 (CG), and 8 flying over Irishtown Road 5/7 (NM).

There was report of a flyover **American Bittern** on Mowersville Rd. 5/3 (SK). **Great Egret** is not a common spring bird here - singles were at MLF 3/30 (BO), Conocodell 4/9 (DD), and LDP 4/17 (VB, NM). A highlight of the period was the **Great Blue Heron** rookery near Shippensburg and the fact that **Black-crowned Night-Herons** (photos) are also using the rookery (AM, BK, DB, SB, BO, DC, VB, NM). There were e-bird reports of up to 72 Great Blue Herons and 8 Black-crowned Night-Herons at this rookery, which sits at the *Cumberland-Franklin* line. From the land-owner, it was learned that the trees in this rookery are on the *Franklin* side of Middle Spring Cr., which is the border between the counties (BO, JW). It appeared that at least 2 night-herons were on nests.

## PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

A marsh in Horse Valley that is posted private property and is entered with owner permission yielded a **Sora** flushed 4/14 (BO) and a **Virginia Rail** grunting 5/12 (BO, JW). The only **American Coot** reports were one at BGRP 3/29 (JD), 2 at MLF 3/30 (BO), and one at Iron Bridge Rd. 4/6 (JD, SD).

Shorebirds were scarce, but there were a few good sightings. Two **American Golden-Plovers** (CG) and 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** (CG, GA, BO) were at GRRE 5/23. Eight **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at Two Turn Rd. pond 4/15 (JD, SD) and one near Doylesburg 5/4 (MW). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was photographed at GRRE 5/22 (GA) and seen there later same day (BO). **Bonaparte's Gull** reports were two at BEFA 3/29 (BO), 5 at GRRE 4/1 (CG), one at GRRE 4/3 (JD, SD), 2 at MLF 4/4 (BO), one at BEFA 4/12 (VB, NM), 2 at MLF 4/14 (BO), and larger flocks of unsubstantiated numbers at BEFA two other times. Fourteen **Herring Gulls** were reported at Antrim Twp. Community Park 3/10. (HW).

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** continue in the Shady Grove area, present year-round. **Common Nighthawk** reports were 2 near Caledonia 5/4 (DP) and one at Wilson College 5/14 (BO). The first **Eastern Whip-poor-will** report was 5/6 from SHHR (BK). A **Chuck-wills-widow**, both early and out of its normal range, was heard singing in the pre-dawn in woods near Rockdale Rd. 4/13 (LN); it was not heard that same evening (LN, BO). A **Merlin** was reported 3/9 and 3/25 at Antietam Meadow Park (GA), and **Peregrine Falcon** reports continued from the winter in downtown Chambersburg 3/22 (BO) and at WC 4/15 (RG, TSG).

**Least Flycatcher** was at WC 4/29 (BO), at SHHR 5/5 (BK), at WC 5/12 (RG, TSG), in Horse Valley 5/12 (BO, JW), and at WC 5/13 (BO). **Alder Flycatcher** reports were 5/21 at Sandy Mount Rd. pond and 5/26 at Fort McCord Rd. marsh with the birds identified by song and call note (BO). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found at WC 5/13 (BO). **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported from SHHR 5/8 (BK). **Cliff Swallows** returned to nest under the Wenger Rd. bridge over Wilson Run (VB, BO, NM, DC). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported at Renfrew Park 5/19 (LL). Late-night thrush migration flight calls were heard around midnight 5/15 and 5/16 in Chambersburg, the large majority of calls being **Swainson's Thrush** with a few Gray-cheeked and **Veery** mixed in (BO).

Winged warblers were found in Horse Valley, Stillhouse Hollow, and the Bricker Rd. game lands. **Golden-winged Warbler** reports included a male and female interacting 5/5 in Upper Horse Valley SGL 235 (BO, JW), one at SHHR 5/7 (BK), and 2 in Lower Horse Valley SGL 076 on 5/20 (DC). **Blue-winged Warbler** reports were one 5/12 in Lower Horse Valley SGL 076 (BO, JW) and 2 at Bricker Rd. SGL 235 on 5/17(DC). A winged warbler hybrid was found 5/20 in Lower Horse Valley SGL 076 (DC). **Mourning Warbler** sightings were at WC 5/12 (RG, TSG), and SHHR 5/15 (BK). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported at WC 4/24 (BO) and SHHR 5/5 (BK). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at WC 5/14 (RG, TSG, ph).

A breeding plumaged **Lapland Longspur** was seen on Wenger Rd. 3/21 with a large number of **Horned Larks** after a snowstorm (BO). **Bobolinks** were first reported on Portico Rd. 5/4 (CG). The eastward invasion of **Dickcissel** of last year seemed to be repeating this year with reports of 2 along Wenger Rd. 5/19-21 (DC, BO, CG), 3 on Portico Rd. 5/19-20 (DC, BKO, TK), one at Church Rd. 5/21 (BO), and up to 3 at Pioneer Drive/Windmill Rds. 5/22-23 (SK, LN). **Pine Siskins** continued from late winter in the Caledonia area (BO, CG, m.ob.) with a high of 37 at a feeder in Green Knolls (VB, NM). Single **Purple Finches** were in Green Knolls 3/9 (VB), SHHR 4/6 (BK), and Green Knolls 4/21 (VB).

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### Fulton County

Locations: Cowans Gap State Park (CG), Crystal Spring (CS), Heavenly Acres Road (HR), Valley-Hi Eagle Lake (EL).

Five **Ruffed Grouse** were spotted at CG 4/25, the first sightings of the season (SM). *Fulton* remains a good place to hear **Eastern Whip-poor-will**; 3

were reported at CG 4/25 (SM) and one was reported early in the morning at EL 5/26 (RK). Two **Tennessee Warblers** were seen near HR close to the southern border of **Fulton** 5/13 (JS), an infrequent sighting in the county. Finally, the first-of-season **Savannah Sparrow** was observed next to I-70 near CS (JSk), also an infrequently reported in **Fulton**.

[*Fulton needs a compiler – contact the editor.*]

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### **Greene County**

Locations: Center Twp. (CT), East View (EV), Enlow Fork (EF), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Ryerson State Park (RSP), Sycamore (SY).

At EV, 3 **Wood Ducks** were the first of season, observed 3/8 (MH). At RSP **Blue-winged Teal** was found 4/21 (MH, KK). At Waynesburg Sportsmen's Association 8 **Buffleheads** were found 4/29 (JH, MH). In Wayne Twp. **Hooded Mergansers** with 6 young were found 5/14 (TC, JH, MH, KK). **Common Merganser** was sighted at RSP 4/21 (KK, MH).

**Pied-billed Grebe** was in CT 4/11 (MH, KK). SY had the first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 5/11 (AC, JC). First **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at LCR 4/25 (MLP). At SGL 223 **Virginia Rail** was found 4/18 (JB). One **American Coot** was at RSP 3/26 (AL). In Wayne Twp. 2 **Sandhill Cranes** were found foraging 5/14 (TC, JH, MH). At RSP **Semipalmated Plover**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Dunlin** were found 5/6 (MD). **American Woodcock** was heard in SY 3/17 (JC, AC). **Wilson's Snipe** was at EF 4/11 (JB). **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Greater Yellowlegs** were at RSP 4/19 (JB).

In Franklin Twp. **Ring-billed Gull** was seen flying around McDonald's 3/15 (JH). At Lake Wilma, 4 **Double-crested Cormorants** were found 5/12 (RA, LA). An **American Bittern** was observed for an extended time while sitting motionless in middle of wetland at SGL 223 on 4/26 (GD). In Wayne Twp., **Great Egret** was reported 5/8 (TC). **Green Heron** was seen flying over EF 4/29 (m.ob.).

**Black Vulture** was reported at LCR 4/4 (MLP). At RSP **Osprey** was sighted 4/21 (MH, KK). **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Claylick 4/11 (LA). In CT **Barred Owl** was found 5/1 (JC, MH, KK). A **Rough-legged Hawk** fed on an opossum at LCR 4/20 (MLP).

At Claylick **Belted Kingfisher** was seen 3/10 (RA, LA). A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was seen flying across the road in Jackson Twp. 5/12 (RA, LA, MH). At EF **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was located 4/18 (JB). On the PAMC **Eastern Wood Pewee**, **Acadian Flycatcher**, and **Great Crested Flycatcher** were first reported 5/12 (m.ob.). **Willow Flycatcher** was found in CT 5/1 (JC, MH, KK). At LCR **Eastern Phoebe** was first observed 3/24 (MLP). At EF **Eastern Kingbird** was first reported 4/29 (m.ob.). **White-eyed Vireo**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, and **Red-eyed Vireo** were first heard in CT 5/1 (JC, MH, KK). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found at EF 4/26 and **Warbling Vireo** was heard there 4/29 (m.ob.).

At LCR **Purple Martin** 4/20, **Tree Swallow**, which "circled around while we were trying to erect the purple martin house", and **Barn Swallow** were reported 4/12 (MLP). In Dunkard Twp. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was reported 4/11 (MH, KK). **Brown Creeper** was at EF 4/11 (JB). In Morgan Twp. **House Wren** was first heard 4/23 (MH, KK). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was first located at EF 4/18 (JB). At RSP **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was first reported 4/11 (AnL) and at EF **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was sighted 4/29 (m.ob.).

On the PAMC **Veery**, **Swainson's Thrush**, and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were found 5/12 (m.ob.). At EF **Wood Thrush** was found 4/26 (KSJ). **Gray Catbird** was first sighted 5/2 at LCR and at same location **Purple Finch** was last reported 4/8 (MLP). In Morgan Twp. **Brown Thrasher** was first heard 4/11 (MH, KK). On the PAMC **Cedar Waxwing** was first sighted 5/12 (m.ob.). In EV **Chipping Sparrow** was reported 3/31 (MH). In Jefferson Twp. **Field Sparrow** was seen 4/11 (MH, KK). **Fox Sparrow** was last seen at SY 4/22 (AC, JC). At EF **Swamp Sparrow** was found 4/11 (JB). At RSP **White-throated Sparrow** was last reported 5/6 (MD). On PAMC **White-crowned Sparrow** was last seen 5/12 (m.ob.). In Morgan Twp. **Dark-eyed Junco** was last reported 4/23 (MH, KK). On the PAMC **Yellow-breasted Chat** and **Bobolink** were first reported 5/12 (m.ob.).

LCR was the site for the first **Orchard Oriole** 5/2 and first **Baltimore Oriole** 4/28 (MLP). At SGL 223 4 **Rusty Blackbirds** were very vocal 4/26 (GD). CT was

the site of the first reported **Ovenbird**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, and **Prairie Warbler** 5/1 (JC, KK, MH). At LCR **Louisiana Waterthrush** was first heard 4/14 (MLP). **Black-and-White Warbler** and **Cerulean Warbler** were at EF 4/29 (m.ob.), as were **Common Yellowthroat**, **American Redstart**, **Northern Parula**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, and **Black-throated Green Warbler** 4/26 (KSJ). On the PAMC the following were found: **Hooded Warbler** (m.ob.), **Blackpoll Warbler** (MH, RA, LA), **Tennessee Warbler** (AH), **Nashville Warbler**, **Kentucky Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler** and **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 5/12 (m.ob.). In Jackson Twp. **Magnolia Warbler** was found 5/9 (BD, RL). In CT **Blackburnian Warbler** was found 5/1 (JC, KK, MH). At SY **Yellow Warbler** was first reported 5/3 (JC). In EV **Yellow-throated Warbler** checked out a feeder 4/7 (MH). In Jackson Twp. **Scarlet Tanager** and **Indigo Bunting** were sighted 5/9 (BD, RL). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen at EV 4/24 (MH).

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### **Huntingdon County**

Locations: Aitch Access at Raystown Lake (AA), Allison Road fields at Petersburg (AR), Brumbaugh's Access at Raystown Lake (BA), Compropst Mills (CM), Ennisville (ENN), Greenwood Furnace SP (GF), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Lower Trail (LT), Markesburg waterfowl area-SGL 420 (MAR), Old Crow wetland (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd. (PF), Raystown Lake (RL), Seven Points Rec Area at Raystown Lake (SP), SGL 112/Mill Creek (SGL 112), Stone Creek Ridge (SCR), Tussey Mt. (TM), Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch (TMHW).

The highlights of the spring birding season in *Huntingdon* were first-record **Snowy Egret** and **Townsend's Solitaire**, and second-ever **Brewer's Blackbird**. Reports for the county continue to increase, thanks to the popularity of eBird, but also, and by no means separable from eBird, an obviously spreading interest in birding. *Huntingdon* is a large county, with many areas visited infrequently by birders; nevertheless, northern and central *Huntingdon* locations get plenty of coverage nowadays compared to a decade or two ago. In contrast, the relatively less populated and more remote southeast gets limited coverage.

The spring weather was two-phased. March and April were cold, 3 and 5 degrees below normal, respectively, but May was very warm at 6 degrees above average. Total liquid precipitation was close to normal, although late May was very rainy. Two of the winter's biggest snowfalls came in the spring reporting season. In the JR valley at Huntingdon, 8 inches of snow fell 3/21 and 6.5 on 4/2; significantly higher amounts were measured in areas of higher elevation.

A winged-tagged **Trumpeter Swan**, whose number could not be read, was at MAR 3/10 (Jennifer Whitesell) and presumably the same bird was at nearby AA 3/24 (m.ob.). Minimum counts of 100 **Tundra Swans** came from BA 3/13 (GG, DG) and the RL dam 3/18 (DGm, SB, Diane Bierly, Jen Lee).

All 24 expected (but not always found annually) duck species were recorded. A fallout at LP 4/19 was highlighted by 40 **Long-tailed Ducks** and all 3 scoters (m.ob.), along with 45 **Horned Grebes**. In most years, one or more of the scoters goes unrecorded, but on 4/19, all 3 were could be viewed in the same scope field together, including 2 **Black Scoters**, the least often encountered, 3 **Surf Scoters**, and 2 **White-winged Scoters**. Three Surf Scoters were also at LP 5/6 (JP). Additional White-winged Scoters were 7 at SP 3/30 during bad weather (GG, DG)



and 5 at LP 4/25 (m.ob.). Other good duck counts were 15 **Blue-winged Teal** at LP 3/30 (GG, DG), where the species was present until at least 4/19, and 54 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at AA 4/10 (CY), the best among many reports of that species. A **Red-throated Loon** was at RL dam 4/6 (GG, DG).

Topping even the Snowy Egret, the bird of the season was a one-day only **Townsend's Solitaire** found and nicely photographed by Shawn Davis at Greenwood Furnace SP 5/5. Ironically, later that day, Shawn told a group of birders who were participating in the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center Fund-raiser Big Day Birding Cup that he had seen a "good" bird, but the team quickly warned that competition rules prohibited getting information from a non-participant – and went about their birding assuming "good" bird simply meant something uncommon and nothing remarkable. To make matters worse (for the team) Shawn actually saw the bird again later that afternoon. Sad to relate, the team which adhered to the highest standards of birding ethics, missed one of the "best" birds ever in *Huntingdon*, and yes, this compiler was a member of that honorable team.

Eight heron species were recorded, likely an all-time high for the county. The star was a **Snowy Egret**, the first ever in *Huntingdon*, present at OC 5/14-15 (GG, m.ob., ph); possibly the same bird was found in nearby *Centre* two days later. Overlapping with the Snowy, a **Little Blue Heron** was at OC 5/13-17 (KT, m.ob., ph), providing the 6th known county record, the first of which was in July 1928, found by ornithologist George Miksch Sutton at McAlevy's Fort. A **Great Egret**, uncommon but expected, was present at the same time as the Snowy and Little Blue.

An adult **Black-crowned Night Heron** was first noted on a cold snowy day 3/30 and was present until at least 4/25 (GG, DG, m.ob.). A **Least Bittern** was at OC during the same time frame as the Snowy Egret and Little Blue Heron, seen 5/14-17 (m.ob., ph). At least one **American Bittern** was at OC 3/30-5/5 (m.ob.), and singles were at CM 4/21 and 5/1 (GG, DG, DM, ph) and at MAR 4/17 (KT) and 5/6 (Gordon Dimmig).

The Tussey Mt. spring hawk watch was conducted for the 18th year, with Henry Hvizdos as official counter. Results are detailed in the spring raptor report elsewhere in this issue. Briefly, 150 **Golden Eagles** were counted, well below the 10-years average of 198; the low count was attributed to lack of days with productive S/SE winds. The 84 **Bald Eagles** represented a record high; counting of Bald Eagles has become problematic with the increase in year-round resident pairs (Nick Bolgiano).

Formerly very rare, but seen slightly more often in recent years, single **Common Gallinules** were at OC 5/14-15 (m.ob.) and CM 5/15 (JK) and 5/30 (GG). After an eventful spring in 2017, shorebird reports this season were routine, with 2 plover and 10 sandpiper species. Most notable was a **Dunlin**, not annual, in a wet field near Shirleysburg 5/20 (GG, DG, DK, TK). As usual, there were no notable gull reports. Terns were few - a **Caspian Tern** was at RL 4/14 (JK), 5 **Forster's Terns** at AA 4/6 KT (somewhat early), 2 **Common Terns** at LP 4/19 (DW, JK, Madison Botch), and one Common at AA 4/27-28 (DK, TK, KT).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were routine – widely and sparsely scattered. Only 3 reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos** were entered in eBird. Continuing from the winter, up to 2 **Short-eared Owls** remained at PF until at least 4/20 (m.ob.). **Common Nighthawk** observations were discouraging, with only 4 reports, all of singles - 3 on 5/14 and one 5/20 (LF, SB, JK, CM).

The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at GF 5/23 (NB). **White-eyed Vireos** are now regular summer residents at MAR, reported there at least 5 times beginning 5/6; 2 were at nearby AA (m.ob.) and one in seldom-birded SGL 99 in southeastern *Huntingdon* 5/21 (Jennifer and Jerry Snyder). **Philadelphia Vireos** were on SCR 5/17 (GG) and along the JR 5/21 (LF).

**Purple Martins** returned to their only known (to this compiler) location, in the Amish community near Allensville, just over the county line from *Mifflin* in Big Valley where there are several thriving colonies. **Bank Swallows** were reported only from LP, where migrants were reported several times, with a high of 12 on 5/16 (JK, m.ob.); and from a quarry near Alexandria, where they probably nest and where 3 were recorded 5/31 (DG).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported from only 3 locations, all in forested areas with lots of conifers in northern *Huntingdon*, where they probably nest widely and variably year-to-year. An early **Marsh Wren** was at OC in late Apr (DK) and one was at AA 5/5 (DW).

Thirty-three warbler species were recorded, as well the **Brewster's** and **Lawrence's** hybrids. **Mourning Warblers** are not reported annually, but this season singles were found at LP 5/11 (Danielle Williams), on TM 5/21 (NB), and in Smith Valley 5/23 (GG). Another very uncommon species, **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at LT 5/12 (KT) and at Mothersbaugh Swamp in Stone Valley 5/18 (JK). Nice to report, **Cerulean Warblers** were found at over a dozen locations, most of them within the JR corridor (m.ob.). **Tennessee Warbler** was abundant – 38 were tallied by one party during the PAMC 5/12 (JK). A 7-mile hike on TM, most of it along the narrow ridge at 2000 feet elevation, produced 56 **Black-throated Green Warblers**, 82 **Ovenbirds**, and 122 **Red-eyed Vireos** 5/21 (NB).

**Yellow-breasted Chats** were found in at least 7 locations, with good counts of 4 and 5 in SGL 112 on 5/22 and 5/26, respectively (JK). **Bobolinks** returned to Nelson Rd. and Longhorn Rd. locations where they summer, hopefully to get broods off before mowing. Otherwise, only singles were reported – at ENN 5/7 (Mike Butzer) and CM 5/14 (GG).

*Huntingdon's* second **Brewer's Blackbird** was found at AR 4/17 (JK), and stayed another day to be seen by many, with good photos obtained. The previous record was 1/12/1991 near McAlevy's Fort. Only 6 **Purple Finch** reports were entered in eBird, at 4 feeder locations, with a max. of only 2 birds. **Pine Siskins** were similarly scarce, reported from only 3 locations, with a max. of only 2 birds.

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#### *Indiana County*

Locations: Conemaugh Dam (CD), Hemlock Lake Co. Park (HL), Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Pine Ridge Co. Park (PR), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Yellow Creek Lake remained partially frozen into April. High **Tundra Swan** tally was 188 at YC 3/17 (TAr). Twenty-two species of ducks were reported this season. **Gadwalls** peaked at 35 on 3/30 (JKa) and top **American Wigeon** count was a mere 16 on 3/24 (LC, MH, RH, GL); respective numbers last year were 78 and 107. A good count of 57 **American Black Ducks** was the top tally on 3/17 (LC, SD, TG); this was the highest count since 3/18/2008 (LC, CG, MH, GL) when 71 were present. **Northern Pintail** maxima included 52 on 3/13 (LC, TG) and 45 on 3/6 (LC, PF, TG, MH, RH), down from last year's 81 on 3/11/2017 (TB, LC, MH, RH, JP). March The high **Green-winged Teal** tally of 49 was also 3/17 (LC, SD, TG), the highest count since 3/29/2008 (LC).

A single **Canvasback** lingered at YC 5/5 (LC, RC, JK *et al*); this is the second latest date on record as one remained at YC 5/19/2015 (LC, MH, RH, JK, GL, MS). YC yielded eight March days with double digits on **Redheads** with the top count of 120 on 3/24 (AW), down from last year's peak of 193 on 3/21/2017 (LC, RC *et al*). **Ring-necked Ducks** peaked at 554 on 3/17 (LC, SD, TG); this tally has not been surpassed since 3/23/2008 (LC). **Greater Scaup** normally occur at YC in single digits, but a flock of 34 on 3/4 (LC) was a good find; this is the highest number since 3/17/2013 (DW) when 80 were listed; last noted were 4 on 4/21 (LC, RC, MH, DK, GL, RN, KT). Top **Lesser Scaup** count was 69 on 3/13 (LC, TG), down from last year's 3/11/2017 (TB, LC, TG, MH, RH, JP) tally of 421.

Two **White-winged Scoters** visited HL 3/17-4/3 (AK, JKe); YC hosted one 3/30 (JKa) and 6 on 4/29 (AH). Sixty-five **Long-tailed Ducks** at YC 3/30 (JKa) and 21 at HL 4/7 (AK, JKe) were the highs; the 65 is YC's highest tally since 4/5/2008 (LC) when 71 were counted. **Bufflehead** high counts included an estimate of 500 on 4/1 (LC), the highest count since 761 occurred 3/24/2012 (LC, TG, MH, RH, SS, JT). Three **Common Goldeneyes** on 3/30 (JKa) and one on 4/7 (BR) were the only ones noted. Fifty-six **Hooded Mergansers** and 8 **Common Mergansers** were listed at YC 3/17 (LC, SD, TG). This was the highest Hooded Merg count since 3/30/2013 (LC, TG *et al*). YC yielded an all-time high of 500 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 4/1 (LC); the previous high tally of 350 occurred 4/7/1992 (GC, MH, GL, JSa, GS).

**Ruffed Grouse** continue in low numbers with only four reports – 2 near Waterworks Conservation Area 3/14 (SD) and singles at Nolo 4/9 (AB, DB), at YC 5/5 (SG), and at a second Nolo location 5/9 (CL, GL). **Common Nighthawk** reports were limited to a yard near LV – one on 5/11-12 (MC) and 5 on 5/17 (MC).

An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** appeared near YC in early May (LS) and was heard at dusk and dawn through mid-May.

Three **Least Sandpipers** visited YC between 5/4 (LC, MH, RH, GL) and 5/14 (JaP, JP); 4 were also noted near IN 5/12 (MH, RH). Three **White-rumped Sandpipers** were a nice find at YC 5/4 (LC, MH, RH, GL); 2 were still present the following day (LC, RC, MH, RH, JK, GL, DM, VS, JS, JT, WT, KT, RW). First **American Woodcock** and **Wilson's Snipe** were noted near Blairsville 3/29 (DL); this was the only snipe listed. An early **Solitary Sandpiper** appeared at YC 4/14 (LC, TG). YC hosted 1-3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/1 (LC, SD, MH, RH, DK, GL, DM) to 5/5 (LC, RC *et al*), the same day a **Willet** arrived. The Willet was still present 5/6 (AS). Musser's Pond yielded the first **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/29 (AH); 5 was YC's high 5/1 (LC, SD *et al*).

A plethora of 264 **Bonaparte's Gulls** graced YC Lake 4/7 (JB, VB, PB, LC, MH, RH, GL). Three **Herring Gulls**, an uncommon migrant at YC, waited out the rain at YC 4/3 (LC, MH, RH). The only tern species was **Forster's Tern**, which visited YC between 4/10 (LC, MH, RH, DK) and 5/22 (LC, MH, RH); the top count of 4 was reported on 5/2 (JP). Thirty-one was the high **Common Loon** count 3/30 (JKa). A single **Red-throated Loon** was observed at YC 3/31 (LC, RC *et al*). Two **Great Egrets** stopped at YC 4/14 (KT). **Green Herons** arrived late this year with first sightings 4/26 (MC) near LV and 5/1 (LC, SD *et al*).

**Black Vulture** reports continue to increase with multiple sightings over PR including 5 on 4/20 (DL). When an **Osprey** was shot and killed near SH 4/21 (MH), the PGC responded. An amazing 6 **Bald Eagles** – 2 adults and 4 immatures – were in sight at the same time at YC 3/24 (LC, MH, RH, GL). The only **Northern Harriers** noted were singletons near YC 3/13 (LC, TG) and at YC 3/20 (LC, MH, RH). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** seem to be in low numbers with only 3 March reports; one was at Nolo 4/26 (CL, GL) and 5/2 (GL). First **Broad-winged Hawks** arrived 4/12 (DB) at Nolo, and 4/14 near LV (MC) and at BS (LC, JH, MH, RH, DK, VS, RW, EY).

The owl box that fledged 2 **Eastern Screech-Owl** owlets last year in IN fledged one successfully again this year (RGH, SH); the observers were concerned after finding a screech-owl egg broken on the ground on 4/13 under the box. The only **Merlin** noted was near LV 3/22 (MC).

Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were found at PR 5/11 (DL) and near Allen Bridge 5/12 (MH, RH). First **Philadelphia Vireo** appeared at PR 5/11 (DL); 5/12 (MH, RH) yielded singletons near SH and at HL; another was observed at YC 5/15 (LC, SD, PF, TG, DK, JT). A **Fish Crow** at YC 3/27 (MH, RH) was only the park's second sighting. Thirty-eight was a good count of **Purple Martins** northeast of Plumville 5/1 (AK, JKe); the observer stated that there were probably many more out of sight inside the boxes. Uncommon in the county, single **Bank Swallows** were at YC 5/4 (LC, MH, RH, GL) and at HL 5/12 (MH, RH). **Cliff Swallows** reported included only one at YC 5/6 (AS) and 3 at Allen Bridge 5/12 (MH, RH).

Last report for **Red-breasted Nuthatch** near SH where they formerly nested occurred 4/29 (MH, RH); 2 at YC 5/5 (SG) were the only others reported. A pair of **Brown Creepers** nested in the main rec. area at YC 4/17 (LC, MH, RH, GL) when nest building, which must have been nest repair, was observed; parents were making repeated trips to the nest feeding young 4/24 (SD). **Winter Wren** was noted at the Waterworks Conservation Area 3/8 (SD) and at BS 4/14 (LC, JH, MH, RH, DK, VS, RW, EY).

**Veeries** arrived 5/5 with sightings in IN (JP) and at CD (MH, RH). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was photographed near LV 5/12 (MC). **Swainson's Thrushes** moved through between 5/2 (JK, TK) when one was observed along the West Penn Trail near Conemaugh Dam and 5/19 (LC, RC, TG, MH, RH, JHo, DK, JaP, JP, JT) when 2 were listed at BS. **Hermit Thrush** reports include one in IN 4/12 (JP), one near Reservoir Hill 5/6 (PJ), and 4 on 5/12 in northeast *Indiana* where they nest (MH, RH). One **American Pipit** visited YC 3/27 (LC, MH, RH), and 2 were found there 4/7 (JB *et al*).

One to 3 **Pine Siskins** were seen regularly near LV 3/17-5/4 (MC) and near SH 3/19-5/11 (MH, RH); highs included 10 near LV 3/18 (MC) and 5 at Nolo 4/20 (CL, GL). First **Eastern Towhee** arrived near LV 3/24 (MC). **Fox Sparrow** reports included one near LV 3/20, 23 (MC), one near Gipsy 4/2 (JaP, JP), one at YC 4/7 (JB *et al*) and 4/15 (BR), and one near SH that lingered 3/3-4/19 (MH, RH). **White-crowned Sparrow** was found near SH 3/3-4/18 and 5/3, 6 (MH, RH); among the 12 noted on the PAMC, 2 were near Tunnelton (NM), 3 near IN (GF), and 4 at Urey Cemetery (MH, RH).

The only **Yellow-breasted Chats** were one near West Lebanon and another between Clarksburg and Elders Ridge 5/12 (DC, MC), and one on the

Parkwood BBS 5/29 (MH, RH). Four **Bobolinks** were listed near Penn Run 5/12 (BF, TF) and 4 in the northeastern *Indiana*, also 5/12 (MH, RH). A **Rusty Blackbird** appeared in a snowstorm at a feeder near SH 3/21 (MH, RH); BS yielded singletons 4/14 (LC, JH *et al*) and 4/30 (MH, RH, FM, JM); YC hosted 4 on 4/7 (JB *et al*), 3 on 4/10 (LC, MH, RH, DK), and one on 5/4 (LC, MH, RH, GL).

**Louisiana Waterthrush** arrived 3/29 (DL) at PR, where by 5/31 (DL) the young had fledged. A late **Northern Waterthrush** lingered at YC 5/22 (LC, MH, RH). A **Mourning Warbler** was a good find 5/12 (LC, DL) near the Homer City Power Plant. The PAMC (LC, DL) yielded only one **Kentucky Warbler**, near Homer City.

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#### Jefferson County

Locations: Brown Road (BR), Clear Creek State Park (CC), Cloe Lake (CL), Fordham Lake (FL), Heathville (HV), Kyle Lake (KL), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Martini Road (MI), Mill Road (MR), Orchard Road (OR), Punxsutawney (PX), Redbank Valley Trail (RB), Ringgold (RG), Sandy Ridge Road (SR), Sprague Road (SP), Winslow Pond (WP).

Data from eBird was used to create report.

Highlights for the period include possible first ever record for *Jefferson* for **Great Black-backed Gull**, with one found on WP 4/19 (JS). Several other species were reported in eBird in the county for first time, including 4 **Canvasbacks**, on WP 4/2 (JS); one **Common Goldeneye**, noted on CL 4/3 (AK, JK); and one **Northern Waterthrush**, recorded on the MS 4/28 (MH, RH). Thirty **Redheads** were found on WP 3/30 (JS), 45 **Lesser Scaup** on WP 3/30 (JS), and 15 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were there 5/14 (KD); all of these represent the highest ever eBird totals for the respective species. Eight **Bald Eagles** seen in HV 5/1 (AB) were another highest count ever for the county.

Other waterfowl and wading birds of note included 2 **Greater White-fronted Geese** on the WP recorded 3/19, 3/20, and 4/10 (JS), one **Mute Swan** in HV 5/1 (AB), 100 **Tundra Swans** on KL 3/19 (NW), 4 **Horned Grebes** on the WP 4/19 (JS), and one **Great Egret** on FL 3/31 (AK, JK).

The resident **Bald Eagles** of MS hatched 2 chicks and were observed in the nest throughout the period. The only **Rough-legged Hawk** was on MR 3/31 (NV). Five **Broad-winged Hawks** were in PX 6/3 (NV), the high for the period. One **Red-shouldered Hawk** was in CC 5/6 (KS, RS) and 2 in PX 5/12 (KD).

First shore bird dates included one **Spotted Sandpiper** at KL 4/20 (AS). **Greater Yellowlegs** were first at two locations 4/19 - one on WP (JS) and one on FL (AK, JK). One **Lesser Yellowleg** was on WP 4/19 (JS), also a season first. WP proved to be productive for migrating gulls and terns, including the **Great Black-backed Gull** noted above, 20 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 4/19, 6 **Ring-billed Gulls** 3/30, and 5 **Caspian Terns** 4/19 (all JS).

The only owl reported was **Barred Owl**, with one in CC 4/22 (SK) and 2 on SP 5/8 (JO). The only **Merlin** was found at WP 4/2 (JS). Other birds recorded only once included one **Willow Flycatcher** at MS 5/14 (KD), one **Least Flycatcher** at MS 5/14 (KD), one **White-eyed Vireo** at MS 5/28 (JD, TG), 2 **Purple Martins** at CC 5/27 (MC), one **Bank Swallow** at CC 5/27 (MC), one **Swainson's Thrush** at MS 5/15 (AK, JK), and one **Northern Mockingbird** at OR 5/7 (AK, JK).

Twenty-five species of warbler were noted, most of which were the expected for *Jefferson*. Species of interest included the **Northern Waterthrush** mentioned above; a single **Blue-winged Warbler**, at MS 5/10 (KD); one **Tennessee Warbler**

at PX 5/12 (KD); first 2 **Nashville Warblers** of the season at MS 5/14 (KD); one **Cerulean Warbler** at MS 5/15 (AK, JK); one **Pine Warbler** at RB 5/4 (AK, JK), one **Canada Warbler** at CC 5/27 (MC), and one **Wilson's Warbler** at MI 5/19 (DK).

Sparrow highlights included 3 **Grasshopper Sparrows** on SR 5/19 (JS), the only report for the season. The first **Henslow's Sparrow** was on SR 5/1 (EZ). The only **Fox Sparrows** were 5 on the MS 4/13 (MH, RH, FM, JM) and the only **Savannah Sparrow** on SR 5/28 (JG, TG). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were last noted in southern *Jefferson* in RG 4/16 (AK, JK); in heavy forested northern *Jefferson*, they were reported into June. The only **Orchard Oriole** was on MI 5/19 (DK). **Rusty Blackbirds** were 10 on the MS 4/9 (KD) and one there 4/28 (MH, RH). The last **Pine Siskin** was on BR 5/8 (JN).

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### Juniata County

Locations: Casner's Crossing - Juniata River (CC), Juniata River (JR), Kratzer's Ponds (KP), Licking Creek Valley (LCV), McAlisterville (MA), Mifflintown (MIF), Mifflintown River Access (MRA), Muskrat Springs (MS), Port Royal (PR).

A colder than average March and April eventually gave way to a very warm May. A year-long project of the *Juniata* birding community to reach 200 species had already reached that goal by the end of May. The highlight of the season was a county-first **Red-necked Phalarope**.

Not easy to find in *Juniata*, 12 **Snow Geese** were at MA 3/15 (DT). Twenty species of ducks were reported; however, despite the good waterfowl spring, no scoters were found. Among highlights were several reports of uncommon **Long-tailed Ducks**, topped by 9 at MRA 3/30 (CK). Among many reports of **Common Merganser** was a good count of 25 at MS 3/10 (CK).

These days, reports of declining **Ruffed Grouse** are of interest – the only observations were of singles in LCV 3/30 (DB) and near MIF 5/12 (CK, TW). Rare for the county, a **Red-throated Loon** was at MRA 4/19(CK). Among several reports of **Horned Grebe**, high was 12 at MRA 4/19 (CK). An **American Bittern** was at KP 5/5 (CK, VG, DT, THP). **Great Egrets** were reported 5 times (m.ob.). A **Sora** was at MA 4/18 (Ivan Peachey). A **Sandhill Crane** was spotted in flight over Texas Hollow Rd. 5/8 (Sam Swarey).

By *Juniata* standards, it was a good spring for shorebirds with 13 species of plovers and sandpipers reported. A **Red-necked Phalarope** was found on a small farm pond along Cedar Springs Rd. 5/31, first confused as a shorebird or a small duck. It was observed spinning and picking food off the grass at the water's edge, staying for three days. The Sam Kanagy family owns the property and found it first, confirmed with pictures and seen by multiple observers.

Three **Dunlins**, rare here, were at MA 5/9 (CK, RD, ph). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was on Metz Rd. 4/29 (LY). Excellent numbers of **Wilson Snipe** were at MA 4/2-4, peaking at 27 (CK, ph). Among several **Bonaparte's Gull** reports, high count was 50 at MIF on the JR 4/4 (CK).

Single **Barn Owls** were at 2 undisclosed locations in early May (anon.). Perched nicely, but briefly, was a **Short-eared Owl** at roadside near CC 4/20 (CK). **Common Nighthawk** was reported only at CC and only 5/18-19, with 12 video-recorded over the JR on the latter date (CK). The only **Merlin** was at CC 4/1 (CK). The period started with a **Peregrine Falcon** at the Lost Creek Golf Course 3/1 (Dan Kanagy) and ended with a second **Peregrine**, at CC 5/25 (CK).

Uncommon in *Juniata*, single **White-eyed Vireos** were near MA 5/10 (AT, et al.) and at Chubb Hollow Rd. 5/12 and 5/17 (DH). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was in LCV 5/12 (CK, TW). A **Marsh Wren** was found in appropriate habitat near PR, seen and heard 5/6 (NK, LY). A good flock of 75 **American Pipits** was at Long Rd. 4/15 (CK, DG, GG).

Thirty-two warbler species were recorded. Among highlights was a **Mourning Warbler** at Chubb Hollow Rd. 5/17 (DH) and a **Kentucky Warbler** at Black Log Rd. 5/12 (CK, AbT, MT, TW). Also notable was the count of 59 **Tennessee Warblers** during the all-day PA Migration Count 5/12 (CK, AbT, MT,

TW), reflective of an apparent ongoing population spike of this species, one believed to respond favorably to spruce budworm outbreaks in Canada.

Only 3 reports of **Yellow-breasted Chat** were entered into eBird, and only a single **Bobolink**, found on Billyville Rd. 5/4 (DT). Among just 4 reports of **Rusty Blackbird** was a high of 15 at MS 3/10 (CK).

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### Lackawanna County

Locations: Chapman Lake (CL), Corby Swamp (CS), Eales Preserve (EP), Lackawanna S.P. (LSP), State Game Lands 300 (SGL 300).

The various lakes and ponds of *Lackawanna* appear to be excellent stopping points for migratory waterfowl. Twenty species were reported for the period. A seasonal high of three **Blue-winged Teal** were seen at CS 3/26 (TD). Relatively small flocks of **Ruddy Ducks** were recorded across the county as well (m.ob.). Nine **Long-tailed Ducks** were at LSP 3/30 (TD) and 8 of possibly the same individuals were found the same day at CL (MM). Another 5 made an appearance at Merli-Samoski Park 4/7 (DL, DT). Several **Red-breasted Mergansers** congregated at LSP 3/27 and continued through 4/2 (m.ob.); the high count was 10 at LSP 3/29 (TS). A **Red-throated Loon** visited LSP 3/28 and remained until 4/5 (TD). This bird was likely the same reported at nearby CL 4/4 (MM). *Lackawanna* hosted several **Horned Grebes**, more so this year than in previous (m.ob.).

**American Coots** are rarely reported in northeastern Pennsylvania, therefore one at LSP 4/9 and 4/22, and at CS 4/10 (TD) is significant. A **Virginia Rail** was heard calling at CS 4/23 (TD). The only notable shorebird was a single **Dunlin** found foraging along the shoreline at LSP 4/21 (TD). Gulls can be hard to come by in *Lackawanna* as well, so a **Glaucous Gull** found at Lake Scranton 3/4 (DT) deserves mention.

The lack of abundant forests within the county do not make it favorable for **Eastern Whip-poor-wills**, but one was observed in SGL 300 on 5/25 (NF). **Red-headed Woodpecker** numbers also lack a strong presence in the region, so one encountered at a cabin near Fleetville 5/27 (LV) is noteworthy.

Another group making a good appearance was migrating warblers. Six **Bay-breasted Warblers** were reported (m.ob.) with 4 as the high count at SGL 300 on 5/20 (LJ, MJ, DT). One **Wilson's Warbler** was observed at LSP 5/19 (TD) and another at EP 5/12 (BM). Three **Tennessee Warblers** were found at CL 5/17 (MM) followed by one at Summit Lake Creek west of Chinchilla 5/18 (NF). One especially uncommon species is the **Kentucky Warbler**, so one located 5/14 along Creamery Rd. (DS) was a great find. Also uncommon is the **Cerulean Warbler**, 2 were found at LSP 5/23 (SP).

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### Lancaster County

Locations: Alcoa Marsh (AM), Beechdale Rd. Farm Pond (BRFP), Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Chickie's Rock County Park (CRCP), Conewago Recreation Trail & Wetlands (CRTW), Greenfield Ponds (GP), Lancaster Airport (LA), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCVMA), Muddy Run Reservoir (MRR), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Prescott Rd (PR), Riverfront Park (RFP), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Speedwell Forge Lake (SFL), Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve (SFWP), Spalding Conservancy (SC), Sporting Valley Turf Farm (SVTF), Susquehanna River Bainbridge Islands (SRBI), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake

Clarke (SRLC), Susquehanna River Long Level (SRL), Susquehanna SP (SSP), SGL 156, Susquehanna W.T.P Washington Boro (SWTPWB), Wood's Edge Park (WEP).

Average low and high temperatures were 28/43°F in Mar (31/51°F historical average), 36/55°F in Apr (40/63°F), and 52/76°F in May (50/73°F). An otherwise dry, cool Mar saw 18" of snow 3/21-22, and Apr remained quite cool as well. May finally broke the trend with a quick warm-up early on. This month felt gloomy, with spells of seeming non-stop rain, and indeed we received 1.5" more than usual. Any distribution notes (were more abundant, less common, etc.) are compared to that species' 5-year eBird data trend. A total of 232 species was recorded during the period.

Small numbers of oft-injured **Snow Geese** lingered through the period, most at MCWMA (m.ob.). Up to 4 **Ross's Geese** were documented at MCWMA through 3/30 (TF, m.ob.). Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** continued at MCWMA 3/25 (EB). **Cackling Geese** numbered at least 3 through 3/30 at MCWMA (BC, m.ob.), and one at WEP 4/1 (ZM). A late **Gadwall** was described at MCWMA 5/23 (PF, DH, BH). A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** hung around the SRCF 3/11-18, and another at RFP 3/26. **Canvasback** flocks numbered up to 30 through 3/18 (ME, EW), with singles there 4/1 and WEP 3/23 (m.ob.). A lingering drake **Redhead** was at the SRCF 5/26 (EW).

A female **Surf Scoter** was on the SRLC 3/31-4/2 (TG, m.ob.), and another at the SRCF 5/12 (ME, ZM, EW). A **White-winged Scoter** was on the SRLC 3/16 (MLo, ZM), and 2 more there 3/30, including an adult male (ME, TG, m.ob.). A flock of up to 14 **Long-tailed Ducks** was grounded in inclement weather at MCWMA 3/30 (m.ob.), and another large flock of 23 was on the SRLC 4/7 (ME, ZM). The last of the season were 4 at MCWMA 4/20 (BC). Late **Buffleheads** were a hen on the SRLC 5/26 (EW) and a drake at CRTW 5/28 (ME). Hen **Hooded Mergansers** with fledged young were found in May, with 2 at RFP (BL) and one at PR (MLo). It was a red-letter season for **Red-throated Loon**, with at least 5 on SRLC 3/30-4/7 (ME, m.ob.), one there on 5/6 (ME, ZM), and a pair at MCWMA 4/20-24 (BC, m.ob.). A good count of 19 **Common Loons** was taken on SRLC 5/12 (ME, ZM, EW). A late **Horned Grebe** was on SRLC 5/28 (BC, JS, EW). Single **Red-necked Grebes** were at MCWMA 3/30 (ZM, m.ob.) and SRLC 4/12 (ME). An **American White Pelican** was back on the SRCF 4/15-16 (TG, m.ob.).

**American Bittern** reports were up with 9 total birds (m.ob.). An adult **Snowy Egret** was at the SRCF 4/14 (BC, EW, m.ob.). An adult male **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** returned to the night-heron rookery at the Ephrata hospital by 3/31 (BC, m.ob.), presumably the same individual for his 4th season. Last year it attracted a mate and successfully raised 2 young. However, in a strange turn of events it was found on 5/26 to have begun mating with a young female **Black-crowned Night-Heron**. Whether the 2 will raise young remains to be seen, and more information will follow in next season's report. Four **Glossy Ibis** briefly dropped in to MCWMA 5/15 (DK, m.ob.).

An apparent adult **Golden Eagle** continued at MCWMA through 3/15 (m.ob.), and singles were seen in migration at the Greenfield Corporate Center 4/9 (ZM) and over a Manheim field 4/13 (DS). **Virginia Rail** reports came from 4 locations, with WEP remaining a stronghold with 4 individuals 3/31 (AM). A **Sora** was at MCWMA 5/5 (PF). A late **American Coot** was at CRTW 5/28 (ME). A single **Sandhill Crane** was seen in flight 5/2 over Manheim fields (PB).

Sixteen shorebird species were observed this season, and all the following observations were made at SRCF. A single **Black-bellied Plover** was there 5/5 (BC, TG, EW), followed by a pair 5/26-30 (EW, m.ob.). Twenty-four was the highest count of **Semipalmated Plover** 5/12 (EW, m.ob.). Single **Sanderlings** were seen 5/6 and 5/12 (ME, ZM, EW). An early **Dunlin** was there 4/7 (JH, m.ob.), and a flock of about 25 nearly put down in early morning rain before continuing north 5/19 (ZM). Several counts of 100+ **Least Sandpipers** were taken, with about 175 on 5/12 (ME, ZM, EW). Lone **White-rumped Sandpipers** were present 5/12, 26, & 28 (BC, ZM, JSc, EW), and **Semipalmated Sandpipers** numbered 22 on 5/12 (EW). A flock of 5 **Short-billed Dowitchers** flew by 5/12 (ME).

**Little Gulls** were found on the Susquehanna R. in banner numbers after weak migrations the previous two springs. From the very early record just prior to the season to the last one 4/15 (MLo), this diminutive gull was seemingly everywhere, and at least 15 total adult individuals would likely be a low estimate. A first-winter **Iceland Gull** was on the SRLC 3/24-25 (ME, MLo, m.ob.), and a first-summer **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was there SRCF 5/12 (ME, ZM, EW). On the SRLC were a few single **Common Terns** 4/7 & 4/14 (m.ob.), an incredible count

of 24 on 4/16 (JB), and a pair 5/18-19 (JB, ZM). Pairs of **Forster's Terns** were at SRCF 4/16 (DH) and 5/6 (ME, ZM), plus 6 on the Susquehanna R. at Falmouth 4/14 (IG).

Up to 4 **Short-eared Owls** wintered at MCWMA through 4/11 (m.ob.). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard at a Wrightsdales home 4/29 (SB). **Common Nighthawks** numbered 43 at CRCP 5/23 (ME), and an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was recorded at a Manheim home 5/2 (*fide* DH).

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** were only 3, all at MCWMA, with one 5/12 (FB, JC), and 2 on 5/25 (ME). Lone singing **Alder Flycatchers** were found in migration 5/12 at CGNA (ZM) and SRCF (ME), 5/20 at NDP (SM), and 5/23 at the LCSWMA landfill (JM); and 3 singing breeders returned to MCWMA from 5/13 on (ME, m.ob.). A rare spring **Philadelphia Vireo** was at NDP 5/14 (SM ph.), continuing his impressive production at this small, urban park. **Cliff Swallows** returned to breed at several locations bordering the Susquehanna R. by 4/28 (ZM, m.ob.). The last **Lapland Longspur** was seen near Groffdale 3/7 (ZM).

Thirty-three warbler species were recorded. A hybrid **Brewster's Warbler** was at PSR 5/7 (JSc, MLo). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** continued at NDP 4/17-23 (SM, m.ob.), one worked a field edge in Manheim 4/21 (PB), and another was at MCWMA 5/1 (BC). Single **Cerulean Warblers** were at SSP 5/6 (TA), SFWP 5/12 (ZM), and SRCF 5/12 (ME).

The continuing 4th county record adult male **Painted Bunting** was last observed in Mohnton 4/13 (*fide* AH). At least 3 singing **Dickcissels** returned to a Durlach area field by 5/25 (P&RW, BC), one was at LA beginning 5/29 (JH), one in a Peach Bottom field 5/30 (DH), and more would be discovered post-period. An apparent female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen at a Gap feeder 3/20 (PF). A pair of **Pine Siskins** were at an Akron feeder 3/21 (BC), a pair at a home near Wrightsdales 4/14-5/1 (SB), and one in Millersville 4/30 (MLE).

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#### Lawrence County

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Plain Grove Township (PG), Shaner Road Marsh (SR), Volant Strips (VSM), Wampum-New Galilee Road Marsh (WNGM).

A **Mute Swan** at Black Swamp 3/27 (ST) was unusual for *Lawrence*. Early Mar brought **Tundra Swans** to the county, with up to 16 at BS 3/3-11 (MV, et al.), 14 in the New Wilmingtown area 3/3 (MH), and 6 late birds at BS 4/8 (MC). It was a good season for puddle ducks; notable totals included up to 10 **Gadwall** around PGT 3/13-4/15 (m.ob.), 5 **Blue-winged Teal** at BS for much of Apr (m.ob.), 22 **Northern Shoveler** at BS 4/6 (ST), 30 **Northern Pintail** at the Copper Road Marsh 3/17 (RN), and a flock of **Green-winged Teal** at SR which peaked at 29 birds 3/25 (MV). SR was also host to 47 **Redhead** 3/13 (HM, et al.), with 30 still there 3/25 (BB). After not appearing in big numbers in a few recent springs, **Ring-necked Ducks** showed well with up to 200 at SR 3/11 (HM, et al.), 140 at the Glacial Sands gravel pond 3/10 (MJ), and 108 at Mason Road, PGT 3/25 (BB). A few lingered at SR to 5/5 (DW). A late **Greater Scaup** was at SR 5/26-28 (MV), and reports of **Long-tailed Ducks** included 6 at Mason Road 3/30 (MC), 4 at SR 4/6 (MV), and one at Mason Road also on 4/6 (MV). Otherwise reports of bay and sea ducks were poor, save a flock of 32 late **Bufflehead** at SR 5/5 (MV) and 16 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at the Glacial Sands pond 4/14 (OM). Other late ducks 5/5 included 2 **Lesser Scaup** at Mason Road, and a **Redhead** and a **Red-breasted Merganser** at Vosler Road in Washington Twp. (MV).

May **Common Loons** included one at Mason Road 5/5 (MV) and one at SR 5/20 (GK, MAK, MV, GM). **Horned Grebes** put down in three different locations in ne. *Lawrence* 4/7 (JF, LF). Very nice was a **Red-necked Grebe** at McConahy Rd., PGT 4/6 (MV). First and only **Great Egret** of the season was at VSM 4/2 (SS). The only **Rough-legged Hawk** seen after Feb was one at VSM 3/13 (HM, et al.). Two each of **Sora**, **Virginia Rail**, and **Common Moorhen** at BS

5/5 (GK, MAK) were probably all settled in for the breeding season by that time, and another **Common Moorhen** was at WNGM 5/26 (MV), a traditional breeding location for the species. The wintering flock of **Sandhill Cranes** in PGT was still 52 birds strong 3/8 (MC), but they dwindled rapidly thereafter. A few stayed to breed in the area once again (m.ob.).

It was a good season for shorebirds, albeit with low species diversity, highlighted by one historically significant record for western Pennsylvania. SR was the hotspot, and all sightings that follow were from that location unless noted otherwise. Up to 4 **Semipalmated Plovers** were present 5/12-26 (MV, et al.). Counts of **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** topped out at 6 and 7 birds, respectively, and both were last seen 5/20 (GK, MAK). Representing a first for *Lawrence*, observers at SR 5/20 watched a **Whimbrel** fly in at 11:15 and put down on the pond on the north side of the road, where it remained for the next few hours (ph GK, MAK). But the show was just starting at that point. As other observers gathered at SR to see the bird, a flock of 9 more Whimbrels overflowed the ponds around 12:00 without stopping (GK, MAK, MC, MV), and these were followed by a spectacular flock of at least 49 and perhaps as many as 51 more Whimbrels at 12:20 (GK, MAK, MC, MV, GM). The total of at least 59 birds represented the highest count ever anywhere in western Pennsylvania away from Lake Erie. Also at SR on this notable day were 34 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and 2 **Dunlin** (GK, MAK, MC, MV, GM). Twenty-two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were still there 5/26 (MV). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found 5/12 (MV) and one was there 5/30 (MC). Three **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at Vosler Road 4/21 (MV), and then they were present at SR 4/22-5/9 (m.ob.). An excellent flock of 40 **Short-billed Dowitchers** was seen 5/12 (RS), with 2 still present the next day (BB).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** in PGT on Miller Rd. 4/22 (MC), and a **Forster's Tern** was at SR 5/13 (BB) were the only gulls or terns of note. A **Merlin** was noted in PGT 3/25 (BB).

As usual, reports of passerines were very thin and mostly pedestrian, as many birders turn to more productive areas in western Pennsylvania during spring songbird migration. An **Alder Flycatcher** just outside McConnell's Mill State Park 5/17 was a nice find (OL). A great count of 55 **American Pipits** was tallied at VSM 4/19 (MC). One was on Vosler Rd., Washington Twp. 5/5 (GK, MAK), and one was at VSM 5/6-13 (MC). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was heard at VSM again this spring, first on 5/30 (DY). **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted at BS 3/25-4/21, with a high of 20 at McConaghy Rd. 4/7 (JF, LF).

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### Lebanon County

Locations: Cornwall Iron Mine Lake (CIML), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Locations: Cold Springs Rd (CSR), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Fox and Prescott Rd Ponds (FXP), Governor Dick Park (GDP), Krieder's Pond (KP), Lions Lake (LL), Marquette Lake (ML), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Mt Gretna (MG), Mt Pleasant Road (MPR), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), SGL 145, SGL 156, SGL 211, Shuey Lake (SL), Spring Hill Acres (SHA), Stover's Dam Park (SDP), Swatara State Park (SSP).

A **Ross's Goose** was seen near Kleinfeltersville 3/6-9 (SSt, AM). **Cackling Geese** were at LL 3/4 (RS) and the Spangler Rd Pond 3/18 (JH). A Cackling Goose provided a new county late date at MLSP 4/14 (JH). A **Blue-winged Teal** was at SL 3/31 (JH). Two were at MLSP 4/10 (TB, JH, MD) and 4/16 (TB, JH). Forty-five **Redheads** were at MC 3/4-8 (JH, AR). Twelve were at MC 3/30 (P&RW), and a single there 4/27 (P&RW). Nine Redheads were at SDP 3/8 (P&RW). A **Greater Scaup** was at MLSP 3/10-18 (MC, JH, SS, ME, m.ob.) and 2 there 3/23-4/1 (P&RW, TB, KB). A male Greater Scaup provided a new county late date at MLSP 5/5-30 (TB, JE, DH, m.ob.). A female **Surf Scoter** was at MLSP 4/19 (MDa). Twenty-seven **Long-tailed Ducks** were at MLSP 4/4 (JH, TB, LB). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at MLSP 4/4 (JH). A female provided a new county late date on the lake at MG 5/20-23 (P&RW, JH, JE).

On 4/28, 2 **Ruffed Grouse** were found at 2Mtn (SW), with 3 along nearby

CSR (JH). A grouse was at SGL 211 on 5/12-20 (JH, TK). It was a remarkable spring for **Red-throated Loons**. Singles were at MLSP 3/30-4/1 (JH, TN, TB, MC, P&RW, m.ob.), 4/9-10 (TB, JH, MD), 4/15-16 (TB, KB, JH), and 5/12-14 (TB, KB, JS, MC, PD). Two Red-throated Loons were at MLSP 4/4 (LB, TB, KB), and 4/21 (EY). Four flew over SL 4/16 (IG), and a single was at ML 4/27-28 (TB, KB, JH). Twenty **Common Loons** provided a good count at MLSP 4/4 (TB, KB), with 81 there 4/16 (TB, KB, IG, MS, m.ob.).

Single **American Bitterns** were seen at multiple locations within FIG 4/3-5/6 (IG, JH, TB, m.ob.). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at SL 4/14 (JH, TB, KB). One was at MLSP 5/2 (MC) and at Mine and Birch Roads 5/24 (P&RW). Rare for the county was a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at MLSP 4/3-20 (TB, KB, JH, ME, m.ob.). A **Golden Eagle** was at MC 3/6-9 (JF, P&RW) and one flew over MLSP 4/11 (AB). Single **Merlins** were at MC 3/15 (RK), Royal Oaks Golf Course 3/17 (SW), FIG 4/16 (IG), MLSP 4/20 (SW), and SGL 211 on 5/12 (JH).

It was a terrific spring for rails at FIG, with up to 5 **Virginia Rails** in multiple locations 4/11-5/29 (IG, JH, TB, DM, m.ob.). At least 4 **Sora** were at multiple FIG sites 4/20-5/29 (IG, JH, DM, TB, m.ob.). Two **Sandhill Cranes** flew over MC 3/31 (JW) and another was there 4/29 (SF). A calling crane flew over FIG 5/11 (IG). An **American Golden Plover** was a rare spring sight at MPR 3/31 (JH, TN, TB, KB, ME, BC, EW). Two **Dunlins** were at FXP 4/9-12 (P&RW, JH) and at MPR 4/20 (JH). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at KP 4/21 (JH). **Bonaparte's Gulls** were occasional at MLSP 4/7-26 (JH, TB, KB, MC, AM). Twenty-five were there 4/15 (TB, KB) and 18 on 4/23 (AS). Two Bonaparte's Gulls were at KP 4/7 (JH), and at nearby MPR 4/10 (JH). **Caspian Terns** were intermittent in small numbers at MLSP 4/7-5/16 (TK, JH, TB). Four were there 5/6 (TB). Seven Caspian Terns were diving at a pond along Pine Rd 5/1 (TB).

A **Barn Owl** flushed from the trees at SGL 145 on 5/25 (CL). Two **Barred Owls** were calling at SGL 211 on 5/12 (JH). Up to 3 **Short-eared Owls** were seen from Stop #3 at MC 3/6-18 (EH, JH, AH). Single **Common Nighthawks** were in the Grantville area 5/12 and 5/15 (TB, KB). Two were in Cornwall 5/21-22 (P&RW) and at MLSP 5/14 (PD). The first **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard along Tomstown Rd and CSR at FIG 4/14 (JH, KB, TB).

A pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was at ML throughout the period (m.ob.). Single Red-heads were at MC 4/22 (ST), Fredericksburg 5/26 (NM), and South Hills Park 5/29 (DW). Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen at SGL 145 on 5/14 (P&RW) and 5/20 (P&RW, JH), and one was ML 5/20 (SW). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at SGL 145 on 5/12 (JH), and SHA 5/13 (JH). **Alder Flycatchers** were found at ML 5/20 (SW) and at SGL 145 on 5/20 (JH).

A **Winter Wren** was at SSP 3/4 (RS). Two **Marsh Wrens** were singing at FIG 5/3-4 (IG, TB). Single **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were observed at FIG 5/14 (IG), SGL 145 on 5/15 (JH), and SHA 5/17-20 (JH). A **Cerulean Warbler** was singing at 2Mtn 5/15 (SW). Two **Kentucky Warblers** were found at SSP 5/25-28 (MC, TB, TJ, P&RW, m.ob.). **Mourning Warblers** were found at SGL 145 on 5/11 (PB), ML 5/12 (DM, JH, SW, JD, m.ob.), MC 5/12 (P&RW), and GDP 5/14 (JH). Single **Wilson's Warblers** were at ML 5/12 (JH, DM, m.ob.), SHA 5/17 (JH), and ML 5/20 (SW). Two were at SGL 145 on 5/15-16 (JH).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was found at FIG 4/14 (JH). **Fox Sparrows** provided good counts of 5 at SGL 145 on 3/17 (JH), and one at MC 4/4 (P&RW). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at MC 5/12 (JH). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** was seen at SGL 156 near Cornwall 5/25 (P&RW). **Rusty Blackbird** sightings were sparse. Two were at MC 4/4 (P&RW) and one at SGL 145 on 4/12 (JH). Six **Pine Siskins** were at MG 3/9 (PB, RP), with a single there 4/29 (JH). Single Siskins were also reported from SHA 4/1 and 4/26 (JH), and at SGL 145 on 4/22 (JH).

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## Lehigh County

There were not nearly as many **Snow Geese** in the county as usual this winter, with the max count for the reporting period just 300 at Leaser Lake 3/24 (FD). A **Cackling Goose** was present at Leaser Lake the same day (FD), as were four **Blue-winged Teal** (FD). The wintering **Northern Shoveler** remained from last period through at least 4/21 at Dorney Pond. Leaser Lake held the max count for **Ring-necked Duck** (91) 3/11 (KD). Lone **Long-tailed Ducks** were found at Fogelsville Quarry 3/1 (KD), and at the flooded field at Cetronia Rd. 3/31 (JH); a small group (4) was at Leaser Lake 4/7 (m.ob.). The following waterfowl reports were all from Leaser Lake. Max count for **Bufflehead** (10) was 4/4 (BE). **Common Goldeneye** was a good find, present 4/7 (FD). Max count for **Red-breasted Merganser** was a small flock of seven 4/4 (BE).

A long-staying **Red-throated Loon** was first noted 4/4 (BE), and subsequently seen just about daily through at least 5/18. Presumably the same bird the entire time, this loon was seen and photographed by many. **Common Loons** were also reported nearly daily 3/30 to 5/28, but in widely varying numbers. The max count (62) occurred 4/16 following a rain storm (JHo). The only **Horned Grebe** reported was a nice alternate plumage adult, photographed 4/22 (KD). **American Bittern** was noted 4/21-28 at Leaser Lake (JH, JHo, FD). A bittern was found at North Whitehall, perched at the top of a cottonwood tree 4/23; it wasn't conclusively identified, but the brief description and the bird's behavior indicate a probable American Bittern (EN, *vide* BCM).

**Bald Eagle** reports were too numerous to catalog here; there were nearly 40 to eBird alone, mainly singles and pairs of all ages, and distributed all over the county. All **Red-shouldered Hawk** reports were from Leaser Lake 3/11-4/22, indicating probable breeding. A **Virginia Rail** was a nice find at Leaser 4/30 (FD). A flock of 6 **Sandhill Cranes** migrating over Dorney Park was photographed 4/29 (KD). The following day, a lone **Sandhill Crane** was reported over SGL 217 (JH).

Shorebird migration was uneventful, with only a few highlights. A pair of **Semipalmated Plovers** was at Cetronia Rd. 5/18 (AM). **Dunlin** were found at Leaser Lake 4/28 (2) and 5/12 (FD). Most notable was a nice female **Red-necked Phalarope** photographed at Cetronia Rd. 5/20 (KD). This appears to be only the second county record. *Lehigh* is not known for its gull and tern variety in any given year, so spring 2018 was exceptional. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were present sporadically at Cetronia Rd. 4/2-10, with max count (14) 4/4 (JH). Up to 3 were at Leaser Lake 4/12-15 (JHi, BE). A **Laughing Gull** was a brief visitor to Leaser Lake, where it was photographed 4/15 (BE). This is just the third county record. A lone **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen daily through 4/8 in the area around Dorney Pond and Lake Muhlenberg. **Black Tern** was a nice find at Leaser Lake 5/23 (FB, DG), the most recent of only a few county records. New to the *Lehigh* bird list was another great find at Leaser Lake, an **Arctic Tern** found and photographed 5/20 (KD, JH). Photographs and complete descriptions have been submitted to PORC by multiple parties. Another somewhat surprising first county record was a group of 4 **Common Terns**, also at Leaser, 4/14 (JHo). Local record keepers have been unable to uncover any previous reports for this species for *Lehigh*.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was photographed at Haafsville 5/7 (DN), and the breeding pair near Slatington continued through the period. Unfortunately, at the latter location, irrational hostility toward birders from landowners in this otherwise lovely, safe, rural area has put a damper on reports of the birds here. **Peregrine Falcons** have nested almost annually at various locations in downtown Allentown over the past fifteen years or so, but 2018 saw a pair return to the original nest location, high atop the PP&L building in center city. Three chicks were fledged from the 23rd floor nest, banded 5/31 before an audience of local elementary school students (AMc). This was the first time the PP&L nest site had been used since 2008. Adult Peregrines from a different pair nesting at the Sand's Casino property just across the Northampton County line were reported around Bethlehem several times. **Purple Martins** arrived at the Slatedale colony by 3/31, and to the more recent colony at Leaser Lake by 4/3. Both colonies supported over 20 pairs each. **Cliff Swallows** nested at Leaser Lake as well, with max count (10) found there 4/30 (FD).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was a nice, unexpected yard bird, singing at Whitehall 5/25 (JH). The only 2 reports of **American Pipit** both occurred 4/2, from Krock's Rd. in Macungie (3), and at North Whitehall (6) (KD, BE). There were a few highlights among the 30 species of warblers identified this spring. A **Mourning Warbler** was at Allentown 5/19 (CR). **Kentucky Warbler** was found at 3 locations 5/14-28, two of which were probable breeding territories at the base of Blue Mountain (AS, JL, FD). There were 4 reports of **Wilson's Warbler**, max count (2)

at Trexler Pines 5/17 (AS). A **Prairie Warbler** at Trexler Park 4/7 was quite early, a new arrival date for the area by several days (GD). Very notable was a fallout of **Palm Warblers** and **Pine Warblers** that occurred at several locations around the region 4/17. A mixed flock of well over 50 individuals of these 2 species fed around the lawn and shoreline at Leaser Lake's north boat launch that day, and continued in diminishing numbers over the next several days (BE, mobs). **Rusty Blackbird** was reported to eBird 10 times, max count (10) 3/13 at Bethlehem (DY). The only **Purple Finch** report was of a female at Washington Twp 4/8 (JG).

Thanks to Linda Freedman for researching and sharing several historic records for context in this report.

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## Lycoming County

Locations: Canfield Island (CI), Mill Street (MS), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), South Williamsport Park (SWP), Williamsport (WPT), Williamsport Dam (WD).

The most notable effect of weather during the spring was an abundance of north wind that really put a damper on raptor migration. Species that are often seen in decent numbers, such as Golden Eagles and Red-shouldered Hawks, were well below normal. A few weather systems provided for fallout of waterfowl and other waterbirds, but there weren't many surprises that were seemingly caused by weather conditions.

The spring saw some good records for *Lycoming*, both from waterfowl/waterbirds and songbirds. A couple of good gull records, along with the ones from the winter, push 2018 to the best gull year for the county since 2015. For the first season since spring of 2015, four tern species were recorded. The big highlights of the spring came from two county-record sparrows, one long-staying and the other not so much. In total, 212 species were reported during the spring.

**Snow Geese** were seen a few times, but most notably, a single bird was present at Indian Park from 3/21 through the end of the season (BB, DeB, BoB, m.ob.). **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found several times. The first was a single bird in a flock of **Canada Geese** at RVL 3/18-19 (NF, BB, SP, et al.). A flyover bird was seen at MS 4/1 (BB, DeB), with a second sighting that day at the wetland adjacent to SWP (EH, YH), which was presumably the same individual. Two birds were present at a small pond in Hughesville 4/3-4 (GM). A **Cackling Goose** was reported from the wetland adjacent to SWP 4/1 (EH, YH). **Trumpeter Swan "R45"** reportedly arrived at a small pond near Glen Mawr 5/31, but it was not widely reported until the following day, at which time it was photographed. Additional details will follow in the summer report. That sighting represents the fifth confirmed *Lycoming* record of the species.

**Blue-winged Teal** reports were much more frequent than in past years, including at least 30 at SWP 4/16 (BB, DeB, BoB), which provided an eBird high count for *Lycoming*. Up to 3 late **Gadwall** were at RVL 5/4-5 (m.ob.), and 3 were present 5/19 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). An **American Black Duck** was at SWP 5/13 (BB, DeB), providing an uncommon May record of that species. There were a few late sightings of **Northern Pintails**, with the last being a pair at SWP 4/21 (BB, et al.). Over 100 **Green-winged Teal** were at SGL 252 on 4/8 (BB, AK), providing an all-time high-count for *Lycoming*.

**Canvasback** reports were a little above average, with consistent sightings at RVL from the end of Mar through mid-Apr. A female **Redhead** was at RVL from 5/5 through the end of the season (m.ob.). A male **Ring-necked Duck** was present at Indian Park from 5/28 through the end of the season (BB, DeB, BoB, et al.). A male **Lesser Scaup** remained at RVL through the end of the season.

There were a few **Surf Scoter** reports: one was at WD 4/12-13 and 5/4 (BB, DeB, BoB), a pair were at RVL 4/19 (m.ob.), and 2 dropped onto the river at CI 5/4 (BB, DeB). Four **White-winged Scoters** were at RVL 4/19 (m.ob.), and a drake dropped in at the same location 5/6 (BB, DeB, BoB). One was also reported from WD 4/28 (MD, JD). The only **Black Scoter** report was from Susquehanna S.P. 5/12 (MD, JD). Flocks of **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported at RVL during late Mar through mid-Apr, with 3 on the lake as late as 5/6 (BB, DeB, BoB). The species

was also reported several times on the river. **Buffleheads** were present through mid-May, with the last sighting at RVL 5/19 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were regularly seen from mid-March through mid-May. **Ruddy Duck** sightings were mostly contained to RVL, where the species was abundant at times during Apr. More than 100 were present 4/7 (BB, DeB, BoB) and 4/19 (BB, DeB).

**Red-throated Loons** were seen with surprising regularity at RVL, with most of the reports coming during late Mar through mid-Apr, including more than 50 during a rainstorm 4/6 (EH). The latest report from that location was 5/12 (BB, et al.). The only other location was Cl, with a sighting 5/1 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen regularly during migration, but of note were at least 2 vocalizing birds at SGL 252 during Apr and May, suggesting possible breeding (BB, AK, et al.). A **Horned Grebe** was at RVL as late as 5/12 (BB, et al.). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was at RVL 3/30 (NF, et al.), along with a late bird 5/5 (NF, et al.).

**American Bitterns** were reported at four locations. The first was at a small roadside wetland along Rte. 44 on 4/1 (MS, et al.). Next, one was present at RVL 4/8-9 (CR, et al.). There were several reports of the species in the Sylvan Dell Wetlands 4/7-12 (JD). The last report was of a bird photographed at a private pond in Fairfield Twp. by the homeowner 5/13. **Great Egrets** were reported several times between late Mar and early May. An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found at Indian Park 4/15 (BB, DeB, et al.), providing the third known *Lycoming* record of that species.

**Golden Eagle** reports were well below normal. The only sightings were at SWP 3/3 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB) and a late imm. migrating over MS 4/28 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were somewhat below normal, but there were still several sightings in many of the normal locations, including SGL 252. A strong push of migrating **Broad-winged Hawks** moved through 4/14 (m.ob.).

**Virginia Rails** were at Powys Wetland during mid-Apr, with at least 3 present at times. The only sighting away from that location was a silent bird briefly seen at SGL 252 on 4/29 (BB, DeB, AK). A **Common Gallinule** was briefly seen at SGL 252 on 4/29 (BB, DeB).

A **Semipalmated Plover** was at MS 5/12 (BB, DeB, BoB, et al.) and at least 3 were at the same location 5/17 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB, et al.). A **Dunlin** was found at RVL 5/12 (SP, et al.), and 3 were at MS 5/17 (BB, DB, DeB, et al.). **Least Sandpipers** were regularly seen in puddles during mid-May, including at least 26 birds at MS 5/12 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Wilson's Snipe** sightings were normal, but a count of at least 49 birds at MS 3/30 (BB, DeB) provided an eBird high count for *Lycoming*. An extremely early **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at MS 3/4 (BB, DeB, BoB). Otherwise, sightings of both yellowlegs species were normal.

An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at WD 3/11 (BB, DB, DeB), providing the sixth *Lycoming* record of that species, all from that location (four of the records were different individuals over four consecutive nights in 2015). An imm. **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen at dusk at WD 3/13 (BB, SP, DB, DeB). **Caspian Terns** were seen at RVL on several occasions during the second half of Apr. Additionally, the species was observed at MS 4/15 (BB, DeB, BoB) and Indian Park later that same day (BB, DeB, BoB, et al.). A **Black Tern** in breeding plumage was briefly seen at RVL 5/4 (BB, DeB, BoB), providing the first spring record since 2015. Four **Common Terns** were at RVL 4/19 (AK, BB, DeB, NF), and one was at the same location 5/4 (BB, DeB, BoB). Five **Forster's Terns** were at RVL 5/6 (SP). An unidentifiable **Sterna sp.** was also seen at RVL 4/16 (BB, DeB, BoB).

**Short-eared Owls** were still present at Mill Hill Rd. 3/17 (DF). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was photographed in Nisbet 5/9 (EC), with a second sighting about a mile away 5/12 (BB, DeB, BoB, et al.). The species was also present at the Williamsport Water Authority 5/22 and 5/24 (DF, et al.). No probable **Merlin** nest sites were found, but there were regular sightings of the species. The **Peregrine Falcons** at the bridge near Montgomery Boat Launch successfully nested again this year, with a recently-fledged bird seen 5/28 (VE). The falcons at the Market St. Bridge in WPT were present, but did not successfully nest.

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at SGL 298 on 5/18 (AK, BB, DB, DeB, BoB). The **Acadian Flycatcher** that summered at MS in 2017 returned to the same spot in May. The species was also observed at many other locations with more typical habitat. **Alder Flycatchers** were found regularly during the second half of May. A **White-eyed Vireo** was present at a private residence near WPT 5/7-11 (DF, et al.). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were extremely scarce during spring migration, but one was heard singing in breeding habitat along Bodines Rd. 5/26 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). A **Common Raven** nest in Montoursville successfully fledged at least 2 young during May (BB, et al.). **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were detected by nocturnal flight call over Montoursville 5/21 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). **Swainson's Thrushes** were observed somewhat regularly during most of May.

**Worm-eating Warblers** were reported from MS 5/6 (BB, DeB) and 5/23 (EH) and from Skyline Dr. 5/14 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Blue-winged Warblers** were observed near WPT 5/3 and 5/5 (DF) and at MS 5/4 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Mourning Warblers** were heard singing at MS 5/11 (BB, DeB) and at Cl 5/12 (BB, DeB, BoB), and one was reported on Rock Run Rd. 5/25 (NF). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were more abundant than normal, with regular sightings in early and mid-May. **Yellow-throated Warblers** returned to their annual breeding location at Trout Run Park. **Prairie Warblers** were scarce for the second spring in a row, but there were sightings at five locations during the spring. **Canada Warblers** were seen quite a few times during migration, probably more than normal. At least 3 **Wilson's Warblers** were at RVL 5/16 (BB, DeB, BoB, EvH), along with reports of individuals at MS 5/13 (BB, DeB) and SWP 5/19 (EH). In total, 29 warbler species were recorded during the spring.

**Grasshopper Sparrows** were mostly reported at MS, with the first sighting 5/3 (BB). One was also heard singing in Cogan House Twp. 5/26 (BB, DB, DeB, BoB). A **LeConte's Sparrow** was found at RVL 4/21 (NF, et al., ph., doc. submitted), providing the first *Lycoming* record of that rare and hard-to-detect species. A **Harris's Sparrow** was present at a feeder near WPT from at least 4/9 through 5/8 (LW, et al., ph., doc. submitted), which was also a first *Lycoming* record. A **Vesper Sparrow** was near the Lycoming Cr. Bikeway Wetlands 4/14 (BB, DeB, BoB), and at least 4 were at MS 4/18 (EH, BB, DeB, BoB), with 3 at the same location 4/21 (BB). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at MS 5/2 (BB), and one visited a feeder outside of WPT 5/12 (DF). There were some scattered **Purple Finch** reports, but the numbers seemed to be low compared to most years. A few **Pine Siskins** were present at the Williamsport Water Authority as late as 5/24 (BB), and one continued to visit a feeder in Ralston as late as 5/26 (NF).

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#### **Mercer County**

Locations: Buhl Park (BP), Chestnut Road (CR), Clark (CL), Creek Road (CRR), East Zahnizer Road (EZ), Golden Run (GRU), Greenville (GR), Hermitage (HE), Huron Road (HR), Jamestown (JA), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Leesburg Station (LS), Limber Road (LR), Line Road (LI), Mahaney Recreation Area (MA), Maurice Goddard State Park (MG), Mercer County (ME), Milledgeville Road (MI), New Hamburg (NH), Old Fredonia Road (OF), Otter Creek (OC), Pennys Swamp (PS), Pitt Street (PI), Power Line Road (PL), Raisch Cabin (RC), Rattlesnake Swamp (RS), Reed's Furnace Road (RF), Route 19 (R19), Triple Link Road (TL), SGL 270 (S270), Sharon (SH), Shenango Dam (SD), Shenango Propagation Area (PR), Shenango Causeway (CA), Shenango Reservoir, West River (WR), Shenango Trail (ST), Spring Road (SP), Summer Lane (SL), YeTieline Road (TI), Tower Road (TO), Trout Island (TR), Valley Road (VR), Williamson Road (WI).

Note that this report follows ABA checklist version 8.0.1.

This was a good spring for waterfowl with 20 species reported. The highlight of waterfowl was a **Harlequin Duck** seen at CA 4/10 (RS). This is the first e-bird record of this bird for *Mercer* and possibly first record ever. A photo was submitted to the compiler and documentation was requested to be sent to PORC. One **Greater White-fronted Goose** was seen 3/28 and 4/10 at PR (MH, SS, RS). One **Trumpeter Swan** was found at PR 3/1 (NT). **Tundra Swans** were seen 3/3-4/2 with up to 180 at MG 3/18 (DW). Only one report of **Cackling Goose** was received, a single 3/26 at PR (BW). Mergansers showed up in good numbers: 100 **Common Mergansers** 3/15 at MG (SS, MH), 2045 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at MG 3/11 (SK), and 100 **Hooded Mergansers** at MG 3/15 (SS, MH). Another good find was a late **White-winged Scoter** at TO 5/23 (RN) and seen through the end of the period (m.ob.). Thirty-six **Long-tailed Ducks** at LW 3/30 (JS) was the highest count. A nice count of 363 **Ruddy Ducks** came from CR 4/21 (BW).

One **Ring-necked Pheasant** was reported at WI throughout the period (NT) and one was at RS 4/20 (DK, RN). **Horned Grebes** showed up in decent numbers 3/11-4/28 with a max of 33 at MG 4/21 (SS, KS).

Cuckoos were hard to find, a lack of tent caterpillars perhaps the cause. One

**Black-billed Cuckoo** was at SP 5/21 (SS/MH) and one 5/2-31 at WR (NT). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were no easier, with one at SP 5/29 (MH) and one at WR 5/27-31 (NT) providing the only reports. **Common Nighthawks** are always a treat - 12 at WI 5/15 (NT, RT, RUT) was the high reported. No other night-jars were reported. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** appeared starting 5/2 at WR (NT) with a max of 3 at TI 5/16 (BW).

**Virginia Rail** was reported at PS 4/25 (JM, MH) and TL 5/4 (SS, NT). **Sora** was reported twice, one at TL 5/12 (GK, NT) and 3 at JA 5/1 (JM, MW). **Sandhill Cranes** are becoming more regular in *Mercer*, most often seen at Otter Creek. Those seen at PS are most likely from the Volant area population. Highest number was 5 at OC 3/17 (BW).

Shorebirds are more common in the fall in *Mercer* but still 12 species were recorded this spring. Highest numbers include 19 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at TI along with 15 **Wilson's Snipe** 4/13 (MV). Only 2 **American Woodcocks** were noted, one at PR 4/13 (MH) and one throughout the period at WI (NT). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were a highlight this spring, up to 6 were reported at various locations 3/22-4/21 (m.ob.). There were only 2 reports of **Great Black-backed Gulls**, one from TR 4/12 (JM) and 2 from PR 4/14 (BW). The only tern reports were of **Forster's Tern** 4/13-5/12 at CR, PR, and LW (SS, BW, DK, RN, NT)

A high count of 223 **Common Loons** at LW 4/6 (SK) was notable, with loons present 3/31-5/14 (m.ob.). Also of note, 8 Common Loons were at LW in full alternate plumage 5/12 (GK, NT). Single **Red-throated Loons** were noted from 3/23-4/20 at several locations (m.ob.). Bitterns are always noteworthy. A single **American Bittern** was a flyover at WI 4/29 (NT, RUT). Two **Least Bitterns** were heard at TL 5/28 (NT, TB). Six **Great Egrets** at S270 4/16 (JM) provided the max. number reported.

The first **Osprey** were 3 at CL 3/22 (RH, MAH), where there are several nests in the area. **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was noted once, 3/21 at PI (MH). **Broad-winged Hawks** started showing up 4/15 with up to 5 at WI 4/26 (NT, RT, RUT). The last **Rough-legged Hawk** was at LR 3/3 (MV), the site of the winter's Snowy Owl.

The most reliable spot for **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was BP, with up to 3 seen 5/1 (KS, SS). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported from WI (NT) 4/18-5/31 and BP 4/20 (SS). No Peregrine Falcons were reported, however single **Merlins** were noted 3 times between 4/8-29 (NT, KS, JM). **American Kestrels** were noted throughout the period.

Eight species of flycatchers came through this spring. **Eastern Wood-Pewees** appeared at WI 5/9 (NT) and **Alder Flycatcher** at WI 5/27 (NT). Notable were 2 **Least Flycatchers** at TL 5/4 (SS, NT), a traditional breeding location. All six vireos were observed. **Yellow-throated Vireos** were at WR 5/2 (KS). **Blue-headed Vireos** were seen 4/20-5/1 at MA and BP (SS, KS). Of note was a **Philadelphia Vireo** singing and calling at SL 5/15 (NT). **Common Raven** reports were scarce - 2 were in OC 3/11 (KS, SS, MH) and one in ME from 4/21-5/11 (BW).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported only 2 times, one at BP 4/23 (SS) and 2 at BP 5/1 (SS, KS). **Brown Creepers** were easier to find, seen at SD 3/9-5/14 (KS, MH, m.ob.) and heard singing at TL (NT), where known to breed in the past. Single **Marsh Wrens** were at VR 3/18 (KS) and ST 5/6 (MW). Surprisingly, none were reported at TL where they are usually plentiful. The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were singles at WI 5/5-7 (NT) and GR 5/8 (JM), Single **Hermit Thrush** were seen at various locations 4/13-5/6 (m.ob.).

A single **Pine Siskin** was the only winter finch noted, seen 5/4 at OF (KS). **Purple Finches** were widely reported: first 3/6 at OF (KS) and last one at MA 5/17 (SS). Up to 3 were reported from OF during that time (KS). Surprisingly with all the agricultural land in *Mercer*, no Lapland Longspurs or Snow Buntings were reported. The only **American Pipits** were singles at OC 5/13 (RN) and 5/14 (KS). Sparrows showed up in good numbers. Notables include one **Clay-colored Sparrow** at SP 5/25-26 (m.ob.), single **Vesper Sparrows** at WI 4/18 (NT/HT) and 4/21 on EZ (NT), one **Grasshopper Sparrow** at PR 5/5 (BW), one **Henslow's Sparrow** at WI 5/15-21 (NT), and one to 2 **Fox Sparrows** 4/13-30 at various locations (m.ob.).

**Rusty Blackbirds** were widely reported 3/14-5/4 with the highest single count of 10 at TL 5/4 (NT, ST, SS). Otter Creek remains the best area to find this bird. *Mercer* continues to be a good spot for warblers with 29 species seen. Some first arrival dates: **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/21 at LW (SS, KS, MH), **Northern Waterthrush** at TL 5/2 (GK, NT, MAK), **Blue-winged Warbler** 5/2 at WR (KS), **Prothonotary Warbler** at GR 5/7 (SS), **Cerulean Warbler** at RC 5/5 (KS, MH), **Magnolia Warbler** at ST 5/8 (GK, MAK, NT), **Blackpoll Warbler** at GR 5/12 (SS),

**Canada Warbler** at RF 5/12 (GK, NT, RT, RUT, HT), and **Wilson's Warbler** at TL 5/4 (SS, NT, ST). First **Yellow-breasted Chat** (no longer a warbler) was at WI 5/14 (NT). After good numbers last year, only one **Dickcissel** was reported, from ME 5/3 (BW).

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### **Mifflin County**

Locations: Cooper's Gap Road (CGR) State Game Lands 107-Woodcock Management Area (SGL 107), Licking Creek Road (LCR).

Following a big year initiative for *Mifflin* in 2017, hopes of increasing field observation hours in 2018 continued through *Mifflin* residents Rob Dickerson, Robert Hosler, Jay Zook, and efforts from the Amish community. Through eBird, community outreach, and communications among other observers, knowledge of locations of specific species is increasing. The spring season ended with 182 species overall, four less than in spring 2017. The year to date total as of the end of May is 191, one less than 2017.

Barbara Bohn reported a flock of 32 **Snow Geese** on Dry Valley Rd. 3/14 (*vide* RD) making this the second consecutive spring to have 30 or more individuals reported. **Great Egret** are noted each spring but locations vary between each year. One was first observed at a private residence outside Milroy 4/25 (AG) and later seen again 5/3 (AG, JK). Another was along the Juniata R. 5/31 (RD).

Nine species of shorebirds were observed: **Killdeer**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **American Woodcock**, high count of 5 **Wilson Snipe**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, and **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**. Representing a new county record, 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were observed alongside 2 **Bonaparte's Gulls** and 18 **Ring-billed Gulls** near a Sheetz just outside Reedsville 4/4 (RD).

Another county record, a **White-winged Dove** visited a feeding station in Belleville 4/20 (DD). Four **Barn Owl** nestlings were banded at a private residence outside Milroy. One parent was observed in flight during banding 5/30. The nestlings were being reared in a provided Barn Owl box while the parents roosted in a nearby silo (TB, SE, AG, JK, NM, AP). Two **Peregrine Falcons** were noted along the Juniata R. just south of Lewistown perched on top of a dead tree 3/10 (RD). There has been speculation that a pair may be nearby with recent winter sightings of one individual in Lewistown.

A **White-eyed Vireo** was observed outside McVeytown 5/4 (ZA, GD). Twenty-seven species of warblers were recorded, 3 less than the previous spring. Highlights included **Golden-winged Warbler** at SGL 107 on 5/18 (RD); **Cerulean Warbler** on CGR 5/8 (RD) and LCR 5/3 (DT), 5/16 (RH), and 5/18 (RD); **Prairie Warbler** at SGL 107 on 4/30 (RD) and LCR 5/3 (DT); and **Canada Warbler** on CGR 5/10 (RD) and outside Milroy on Lower Creek Rd. 5/12 (RH).

**Grasshopper Sparrow** sightings are common starting in late April through the breeding season. One individual in particular was observed earlier than expected at a private residence outside Milroy 4/13 (RD, JK). **Yellow-breasted Chat** is not common every season but due to recent timber harvest within the Tuscarora SF, they have been reported for 3 consecutive seasons. One was observed on LCR 5/16 (RH) and 5/18 (RD). One **Dickcissel** was reported at the feeders of a private residence off Back Mountain Rd. 3/9 (JZ). The homeowner had been observing it before 3/9 and it was last seen around 4/20.

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## Monroe County

Locations: Lynchwood Lake (LL), Mount Airy Lake (MAL), Mountain Springs Lake (MSL), Pocono Summit Lake (PSL), Stillwater Lake (SL), Summit Pointe Lake (SPL), Trout Lake (TL).

Spring was slow in coming with a stormy March that included a damaging nor'easter and significant snowfalls through the month. The period ended with another storm in mid-May that produced much rain, damaging winds, and widespread power outages. Storm-related birds were plentiful.

A single **Red-throated Loon** joined 2 **Common Loons** on PSL 4/16 and an outstanding high count of 6 Red-throated Loons was reported from MSL 4/18 (BJ). At least one **Horned Grebe** frequented TL through March and into early April (BJ, BH), and the 18 **Double-crested Cormorants** on PSL 4/1 represented a personal high for the observer (BJ). In the aftermath of the nor'easter, TL held a nice mix of waterfowl 3/5 that included 7 **Canvasbacks**, 18 **Redheads**, and 160 **Ring-necked Ducks** (BJ). The **Ring-necked Duck** count at TL topped out at approximately 250 on 3/28 (BH). The 11 **Greater Scaup** at PSL 4/2 was an excellent count for this species (BJ) and the single **Surf Scoter** at SPL 4/16 was a good find (BJ). **Long-tailed Duck**, another uncommon county bird, dropped in at several locations including 2 at PSL 4/2 that increased to 6 on 4/10, and a high count of 12 was recorded at SL 4/18 (BJ). The only **Red-breasted Merganser** report came from SL where one was seen 4/10 (BJ).

The flock of 44 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at MAL 4/16 was an exceptional find (BJ). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continue their presence in the county—one returned to a Saylorburg yard 5/5 for the second spring in a row (RW), and a pair visited feeders in a Stroudsburg yard through the period (DP). The bird of the season was the **Sedge Wren** found and photographed at LL 5/3 (BJ). This species is rare anywhere in the state.

Observers: **Brian Hardiman, Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (570) 629-3061, bhmccd@ptd.net.** Bruce Johnson, Dee Patrick, Rick Wiltraut.

## Montgomery County

Locations: Evansburg S.P. (ESP), Fort Washington S.P. (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Norristown Dam (ND), Norristown Riverfront Park (NRP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

Spring 2018 was wetter and warmer than average, and the arrival of many migratory species seemed delayed overall. *Montgomery's* total species count was 207, almost exactly the average of species counts from the past five spring seasons. Perhaps due in part to the generous precipitation, the season also boasted a good number of new high count and late date records.

The female **Summer Tanager**, dubbed Estée, that visited the feeders of a home in Harleysville throughout much of the winter continued to do so until at least 3/25 (EB, doc. submitted). This bird may have represented the first winter Summer Tanager record in Pennsylvania since the 1970s, as well as a definite first overwintering record for *Montgomery*.

Another rarity of particular, albeit unfortunate, note was a badly-injured **Common Gallinule**, found at NRP 5/21 (MRe, ph.). Per the finder, it was "using its wings to crawl, dragging its legs behind it." The gallinule was taken to a wildlife rehabber, but, sadly, did not survive. While it may have shuffled off this mortal coil, the bird left a remarkable record behind. It was potentially the first Common Gallinule observed in *Montgomery* in 18 years.

A late immature **Snow Goose** was at Dodsworth Run Preserve in Lansdale 5/28 (CB, ph.). Single **Cackling Geese** were noted at Rockledge 3/1 (SP), GLP 3/18 (ML), and WWP 3/24 (AF). A male **Blue-winged Teal** at WWP 3/18 was about ten days early (LG). The couple other dabbling duck notables were late by about the same length of time: an **American Wigeon** was at WWP 4/30 (JM, CB, KeJ), and a pair of **Northern Pintails** stayed at GLP through 4/15 (SG, m.ob.). The latest duck record of the period, and likely a new county late record for spring migration, was represented by a **Lesser Scaup** photographed at GLP 5/28 (JF). A rain event dropped 28 Lesser Scaup on GLP 3/30 (m.ob.), during normal scaup season.

Five **Long-tailed Ducks** were at GLP 3/29 (LH, ph.) and singles were also noted at GLP 4/6-8 (m.ob.). Three late **Buffleheads** were at GLP 5/6 (PD). A ridiculously late female-type **Common Goldeneye** was spotted in the Schuylkill at VFNHP 5/12 (PB), representing another probable *Montgomery* late date record. **Hooded Mergansers** once again bred at GLP, with 5 juveniles noted at Knight Lake, at the south end of the park, 4/25 (ML). Reports of this species at Knight Lake were frequent throughout the period (m.ob., ph.). Somewhat more unexpected, but further indication of Hooded Merganser breeding range expansion, was a female found with 4 juveniles on East Branch Perkiomen Creek in Franconia Twp. 5/5 and beyond (SG). A male Hooded Merg was at ND 5/24 to the end of the period (MR). There were a minimum of 8 reports of **Red-breasted Merganser** between GLP, ND, and VFNHP, including yet another eBird late duck date record: a female-type was noted at GLP 5/15 (ML), two days later than the old record.

**Red-throated Loons** were observed on multiple occasions at GLP in Apr. Three were present 4/4 (PH, m.ob., ph.), and one 4/8-9 (GF, m.ob.). An astonishing 6 Red-throats were at GLP 4/16 entered the record books as representatives of a new county high count (PD, KC, vt.). Twenty-eight **Common Loons** at GLP 4/4, while not record-shattering, still exemplified a hefty total (SGr, PD). A new county record high count of **Horned Grebes** was set 3/30 with 44 at GLP (SGr, m.ob.). Knocking on the county record door was a weather-related collection of 228 **Double-crested Cormorants** at GLP 4/19 (WBH).

An **American Bittern** was discovered at a wetland in Lower Moreland Twp. 4/1 (PD, ph.). The only other report of this species was as a nocturnal migrant, passing over Elkins Park 5/2 (PD, vr.). The most unexpected heron of the period was a bit deceptive. Though there are a good number of late summer/fall records of **Snowy Egret** in *Montgomery*, in eBird at least, there were no prior spring records. That changed in 2018. Two Snowies were observed at GLP 4/19 (WBH, ph.). Precedent smashed, another Snowy was well-described at GLP 4/28 (DH). A roosting adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was spied at NRP 3/28 (MRe, ph.), and an immature bird was reported as a flyover at Red Hill 5/2 (ML). The first-of-season **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, almost certainly now a breeding species in the Norristown area, was located at ND 5/27 (PD).

VFNHP hosted a large concentration of **Northern Harriers** throughout most of Mar (m.ob.), including 14 individuals 3/16-17 (SGr, SJ, KJ), with even higher numbers possible on a couple of other nights. This quantity of harriers in one spot set a new county high count record. Hatfield's leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was noted on three occasions 3/11-4/8 (SG, AM, ph.). Both Apr reports of this stunning, near-white hawk were of the bird on a nest.

Five **Virginia Rails** were observed at four wetland areas 4/21-5/12 (m.ob.). **Sora** were encountered flying over Elkins Park during the evening of 5/2 (PD, vr.), and in marshes at SGL 234 on 5/12 (PB) and Plymouth Meeting 5/12 (PD). A Sora was also heard vocalizing from tall bluestem grass at PERT 5/21 (FB, HB). Although Sora have been noted in these dry upland fields on several occasions during fall migration, this was the first time they have been observed there during spring. This encounter also took place on what was likely to have been a new Sora late date. **American Coot** sightings were quite sparse overall (m.ob.). One coot wound up hanging around past its normal departure date, present at the UCV's Skymount Park through 5/12 (SG).

Spring shorebirding was mostly unremarkable, though one impressive evening flyover flock was reported from VFNHP 5/29, said to contain an estimated 80 **Red Knots** and 250 **Ruddy Turnstones** (SGr). That flyover flock set a new turnstone high count record for *Montgomery*. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at WWP 5/12 (RC, JS, PD, ph.). Single **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at GLP 5/6 (SG, ph.) and 5/31 (WBH, ph.). The spring of many high count records produced yet another on 4/16, when 227 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were counted at GLP (GF). The previous county high count in eBird of this species was 55, set in 2014, a mere 25% of the 2018 tally. Also worthy of mention were 770 **Ring-billed Gulls** at GLP 3/11 (PH). Potentially 3 different first year **Iceland Gulls** were observed at GLP: 3/8-11 (WBH, m.ob., ph.), 3/18 (ML), and 4/1 (BE, ph.). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at GLP did not top their 2017 spring high of 88. The spring 2018 high was "just" 31, seen on 4/1 (BE). A **Great Black-backed Gull** was spotted over the Schuylkill in Bala Cynwyd 3/11 (GG). Six **Caspian Terns** were at GLP 5/6 (PD, m.ob.). GLP **Forster's Tern** reports were more regular than in recent prior years, and included 2 on 4/15 (KC), 3 on 4/16 (PD), one on 4/19 (WBH, vt.), and 2 on 5/6 (PD, m.ob., ph.).

At least 21 solid reports of 1-2 **Black-billed Cuckoo** were filed from 11 locations (m.ob.), an above-average showing for the species. As many as 3 **Short-**

**eared Owls** continued from the winter season at GLP, until 3/22 (m.ob.). One to 3 Short-eared Owls were also a popular headliner to the harrier warm-up act at VFNHP 3/10-29 (m.ob.). An infrequently-vocalizing **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was reported in King of Prussia 5/6 (SGr). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** visiting a feeder in Lederach 4/18 was about a week earlier than typical (MRa, ph.).

Solo **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were in Gilbertsville 3/20 (MA), at Briar Bush Nature Center 4/30 (MF, ph.), and in Lederach 5/7-8 (LC, ph.). A notable **Northern Flicker** migration was a group of at least 19 at VFNHP 4/7, part of an overall walk-count of 27 (AB, MS). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was in a powerline cut in the UCV 5/12-14 (SG, WBH, ph.), possibly kept at the same spot for multiple days due to non-favorable migratory conditions. Another Olive-sided was at FWSP 5/16 (DB). Single **Alder Flycatchers** were encountered vocalizing at GLP 5/20 (PD, vr.) and SGL 234 on 5/24 (WBH). A **Least Flycatcher** at Fulshaw-Craeg Preserve 4/28 (WBH, ph.) tied the species early date in eBird. Least Flycatchers were also noted at a minimum of 8 other locations in May (m.ob.).

Many tardy **Blue-headed Vireos** were encountered in mid-May (m.ob.), with the latest of these observed at Haverford College 5/20 (SJ). The largest **Fish Crow** flocks of the period were both encountered 3/17: 70 in King of Prussia (AR) and 65 in Kulpsville (AD). After several years of strong suspicion, **Common Raven** nesting was finally confirmed in *Montgomery*. Nest-building was observed on a small cliff at VFNHP 3/18, and 3 juveniles were seen peeking out of that nest 4/20 (both AMe, ph.). At least 53 credible reports of ravens from practically as many locations demonstrated their increased presence throughout the county. Though most such reports were of 1-2 individuals only, a probable family group of 5 was encountered at FWSP 5/31 (PBu, vr.).

Late, possibly breeding-inclined **Horned Larks** were noted on fields in Franconia Twp. 5/4 (KR) and in northern Douglass Twp. 5/28 (DM, PM, ph.). In both cases, however, only one bird was detected. Mildly noteworthy **Tree Swallow** milestones include a pair at GLP 3/1 (PH), about a week early, and a storm-related fallout of approximately 350 at GLP 4/19 (WBH). A single **Cliff Swallow** was at WWP 4/28 (PD).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** made a final appearance at a feeder in Gilbertsville 3/3 (MA). The preceding winter season saw essentially zero southbound irruption of this species, so it made sense that essentially zero lingered into spring. **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were noted at 10 locations in May (m.ob.). A patchy, leucistic **American Robin** was seen several times in Collegetown, including 3/13, when it posed for a photograph (JD). A pink-bellied, but otherwise fully-white, robin was an unexpected find in Salford Twp. 5/12 (WBH, ph.).

The only **Golden-winged Warbler** report came from Salford Twp., when a singing male turned up in this compiler's yard 5/6 (WBH, ph.). More scarce still, a hybrid **Brewster's Warbler** was found at Trewelley Park 5/2 (KR). Spruce budworm-fancier **Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warbler** were all found with above average frequency (m.ob.). A high count of 6 Bay-breasted Warblers were noted at PERT 5/14, a number that included 5 males in the same tree (PD). At least 8 different **Mourning Warblers** were reported through assorted locations 5/12-20 (m.ob.). A ninth Mourning Warbler, in Salford Twp. 5/29, set a new county late day record in eBird by one day (WBH, vr.). **Kentucky Warbler** was detected at Lorimer Park 5/4 (PD, vr.), PERT 5/5 (PD, vr.) and ESP 5/20 (SGr). **Hooded Warbler**, often inexplicably difficult to find in *Montgomery*, was noted at 5 locations 4/28-5/20 (m.ob.). What was presumed to be the same **Cerulean Warbler** from the spring/summer of 2017 returned to the same spot in the UCV 5/5 and continued singing there through at least 5/21 (SG, m.ob., ph.). On the first day, 5/5, a second individual was heard counter-singing (SG), but all other reports were of just one individual. This species used to be a more common breeder in the UCV, but was effectively extirpated during the 1990s.

**Pine Warbler**, a species that is also thin on the ground during the breeding season, was encountered singing at Natural Lands' newly-opened Stoneleigh Garden 5/29 (AG), VFNHP 5/29 (SGr), and in Pennsburg 5/31 (JG). Single **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found at PERT 4/18-22 (MG, m.ob., ph.), Flat Rock Park in Gladwyne 4/23 (MW), Haverford College 4/26 (EK), and at another site along the Schuylkill in Gladwyne 5/26, not too far upstream from Flat Rock (EF, vt.). The 5/26 warbler was observed gathering nesting material. A wave of at least 150 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was reported at ESP 5/5 (PB). Other warbler high count notables included 16 **Canada Warblers** 5/12 and 6 **Wilson's Warblers** 5/14, both at PERT (both PD), and both representing new eBird county high count tallies.

The overwintering **Chipping Sparrow** flock at PERT continued there until the species' widespread return to the region in late Mar (m.ob.). Eight were noted

at PERT 3/10 (KL, FB, HB), for example. An early, or potentially lingering overwintering, **Chipping Sparrow** was also reported at GLP 3/10 (EKo). There were only a handful of reports of **White-crowned Sparrow**, all single birds (m.ob.), the latest observed at GLP 5/12 (ML). An abnormally late **White-throated Sparrow** appeared in Upper Gwynedd Twp. 5/30 and continued through the end of the period (AM, ph.). Two **Vesper Sparrows** were reported from VFNHP 4/7 (BD), and one at PERT 4/19 (MG, AnM). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at PERT 3/10-16 (FB, HB, ph.), likely representing *Montgomery's* first ever Mar record. Four other Lincoln's turned up in assorted locations 5/7-20 (m.ob.).

**Blue Grosbeaks** returned to nest VFNHP for a second year. Reports of 1-2 began 4/29 (AMe, ph.) and continued through the end of the season (m.ob.). Wandering male Blue Grosbeaks also turned up at a feeder in Salford Twp. 5/11 (WBH, ph.) and at Saunders Woods Preserve in Gladwyne 5/20 (EK). The **Dickcissel** first spotted in a Harleysville yard 2/22 remained there until 4/11 (TF, ph.). There were 18 reports of **Rusty Blackbirds** from 14 locations in eBird 3/5-4/25 (m.ob.). All reports were singled-digits, with 8 at Bethayres Swamp, near PERT, 4/13 the largest group seen (PD). Given that there was effectively no winter finch irruption, it's not particularly shocking that there was also almost no irruptive overflow into the spring season. The only **Purple Finch** was in Salford Twp. 4/5-7 (WBH, ph.). There were no reports of the less common winter nomad-finches. A group of 38 **American Goldfinches** feasted on nyjer in Schwenksville 3/25 (MC), an unusually large quantity that represents a new (eBird) county high count for the month of Mar.

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### Montour County

Locations: Greenhouse Ponds (GP), Kelly's Dam Rd. Marsh (KDM), Montour Preserve (MP), State Game Lands 115 (SGL 115)

Unsettled, rainy weather on 4/16 produced the most notable day of the period, with MP hosting a **Red Phalarope** (EH, AK), one of the earliest spring records for this species in Pennsylvania; and up to 4 **Little Gulls** (KP, LS, AK, PD, CE), possibly the first ever for *Montour*. The following 3 species are rarely reported here: An **American Bittern** was at KDM 4/14 (PW, RW), a **Whimbrel** was at the GP 5/23 (AK), and a **Laughing Gull** was at MP 3/17 (PW, RW).

A late **Snow Goose** at MP 5/31 (EH) may have had a damaged wing. **Blue-winged Teal** had a good spring, with 3 different locations in northern *Montour* hosting high counts of 4-10 individuals (m.ob.); in Spring 2017, the high count was only 2. Only one **Canvasback** was reported, at MP 3/30 (SF). MP had 5 **Surf Scoters** (LS) and 10 **White-winged Scoters** (KJ) on a rainy day 4/19. Impressive fallouts of **Long-tailed Duck** occurred at MP, including 108 on 4/4 (KJ) and 162 on 3/30 (SF), which may be an all-time county high count. A late **Red-throated Loon** at MP first reported 5/29 (PW, RW) continued into the summer.

It was a relatively good spring for terns at MP, with many reports of **Caspian Terns**; **Forster's Terns** reported 4/19 (LS), 5/6 (AK, KJ), and 5/16 (PW, RW); one **Common Tern** 4/16-17 (KP, LS, AK, PD); and 3 **Black Terns** 5/19 (AK). Like usual, most of the terns dropped down only briefly, as this observer was at MP on several of these days and failed to see a single tern of any species.

Notable passerine sightings included both a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** and a **Cerulean Warbler** at SGL 115 on 5/14 (EH). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at MP 5/5 (AK). It was a good spring for **Mourning Warbler**, with sightings of at possibly at least 4 individuals at MP, including 2 on 5/12 (EH, AK) and 2 on 5/16 (AK, PW, RW).

Observers: **Evan Houston, 136 Ridgeview, Danville, PA 17821, evanghouston@gmail.com**, Paul Dennehy, Carl Engstrom, Steph Fullmer, Kirk Jeffreys, Andy Keister, Karol Pasquinelli, Lauri Shaffer, Patricia Williams, Richard Williams.

### **Northampton County**

Some bird species that are regularly seen during the winter months will hang around into April and sometimes later. Waterfowl and gulls fit this category. Southeastern Pennsylvania are winter hotspots for large numbers of **Snow Geese** which commonly linger in *Northampton*. Seventeen Snow Geese were at Seiple's Farm Pond 5/31 and among them was a **Ross's Goose** (BE), seen by many birders since March and which continued into June. At Martins Creek Environmental Preserve, a late **Ring-necked Duck** and a **Ruddy Duck** were seen 5/30 (MSa). A **Long-tailed Duck** found on Green Pond was quite late 5/3-4 (BW). Seventeen **Common Loons** and 5 **Red-throated Loons** flew over the drawn-down Minsi Lake 4/16 (MSa). Two **Red-necked Grebes** were at Nazareth Quarry 4/10 (AM).

**American Bittern** was at Bear Swamp Park 3/30-4/7 (BS). Nearby at Minsi Lake, 2 American Bitterns were located on 5/3 (BW). On a small pond at Bieber Rd., Bath a **Cattle Egret** was seen 4/14 (SB). Another Cattle Egret was found at Christian Spring Rd. pond 5/7 (AM) and stayed all day for others to see. A **Golden Eagle** flew over Ballas Park 3/17 (AM, JF). An immature **Northern Goshawk** was seen well in Washington Twp. 3/25 (MSa). Golden Eagle and Northern Goshawk are migrants in the county.

One **Virginia Rail** was reported from East Bangor Dam 4/29 (AS) and 3 Virginia Rails and a **Sora** were at East Bangor Dam 5/3 (JH). On 3/1, a **Sandhill Crane** flew over Seiple's Farm Pond (AM, RR, JH). The only unexpected shorebird was **White-rumped Sandpiper**. The Amazon retention pond at Main St, Tatamy had one White-rump 5/19 (AM) and 3 on 5/26 (BW) because of bad weather. Three White-rumped Sandpipers were at Minsi Lake 5/17 (AM). Four species of gulls continued at Grand Central Landfill into May and there was a high count of 175 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** 3/28 (AM).

**Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported from Upper Mt Bethel Twp. 3/31-4/7 (MSa) and 5/30 (BE). The dark morph **Gyrfalcon** that showed up 2/28 (BE) was last seen 3/17. The falcon was occasionally seen near Snow Goose flocks in the East Allen Twp. area north of the airport. A **Northern Shrike** showed up in a Weaversville yard 3/7 (JF) and then was seen at Seiple's Farm Pond 3/8 (RR, JH). In Bethlehem on the D & L Towpath, a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found 5/25 (DH).

There were 32 species of warbler reported during the period. Highlighting the list was an Audubon's **Yellow-rumped Warbler** seen near the bird blind at Jacobsburg SP 3/14-3/28 (RW). At Archibald Johnston Conservation Area, a **Prothonotary Warbler** was observed 5/23 (AM). **Mourning Warbler** reports were from Jacobsburg SP 5/14 (BD), Housenick Memorial Park 5/13 (LF), and Monacacy Nature Center Park 5/22 (BE). A **Kentucky Warbler** was seen singing along a powerline cut in the Delaware Water Gap NRA on National Park Rd. 5/27-30 (BW). The **Clay-colored Sparrow** that wintered at Ballas Park was last seen 4/7 (AM). **Blue Grosbeak** returned to the grasslands at Grand Central Landfill 5/7, where it has nested in recent years. On 3/6, a young male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was in a huge mixed blackbird flock on the Martins Creek - Belvidere Hwy. near the intersection with Koehler Rd. (JH).

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### **Northumberland County**

Locations: Adam T. Bower Dam (ATBD), Amish Pond (AP), Boyd Station (BS), Old Swamp Road (OSR), Paradise Road (PR), Redman Acres Road (RAR), Riverside (RIV), State Game Lands 84 (SGL84).

The spring season was characterized by cold and wet weather that kept

many birders inside rather than out in the field. A few storm events produced very good birds, including a few rarities.

The highlight of the spring season was the observation of an **American White Pelican** at RAR (KP). The bird was found by a local property owner who quickly got the word out to birders; however, it only lingered for a few hours before it flew off the west not to be found again.

A lone **Cackling Goose** was observed with a large group of waterfowl at the AP 3/3 (AK). The lack of lakes in the county along with the fact that Cackling Geese are usually only present during migration make this somewhat of a rare sighting. Two **White-winged Scoters** stopped over at the ATBD 4/15 (KP). **Wild Turkey** commonly form large flocks over the winter, but the sighting of 96 together in a field near BS (PW, RW) represents the high count for the county.

Bad weather put down some shorebirds in the northern portion of the county. A total of 7 **Black-bellied Plovers** and 4 **Semipalmated Plovers** were found in a flooded field along PR 5/16 (EH). These birds stayed only until the skies cleared. However, a few days later 8 Semipalmated Plovers were found at the same location (AK). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were regular at the AP 3/27-4/12 with a high count of 12 on 4/12 (m.ob.). As many as 9 **Dunlins** were reported flying over the flooded field along PR 5/16 (AK). **Wilson's Snipe** were also regular at the AP but a high count of 68 during a snow storm 4/6 (AK) was notable. **Caspian Terns** are rarely reported away from the ATBD, but this spring a county high count of 5 were seen at the ponds at RAR (KP).

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** are regular along OSR, but the sighting of 6 adults 4/20 (AK) represents a high count and might be an indication that their colony is continuing to expand. One **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed on a fence at SGL84 on 5/23 (KP), only the fifth eBird report in the county.

There weren't many unusual warbler sightings, but the presence of a **Northern Waterthrush** along OSR 5/22 (AK) is one of only a few eBird reports for this species in the county and the only report this season. Normally **Chipping Sparrows** wouldn't be notable in spring, but the presence of 42 at a feeder in RIV during bad weather 4/15 (SF) was particularly unusual. OSR has always been a hot spot for **Rusty Blackbirds** and this spring was no different, with a county high of 100 there 4/10 (KP).

Observers: **Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com**, Steph Fullmer, Evan Houston, Karol Pasquinelli, Patricia Williams, Richard Williams.

### **Philadelphia County**

Locations: Bartram's Garden (BG), Carpenter's Woods (CW), Cresheim Woods (CRW), Cumberland Street on the Delaware (CS), Delaware River Trail (DRT), East Fairmount Park-Lemon Hill (LH), East Fairmount Park-Sedgley Woods (SW), Fort Mifflin (FM), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), Glen Foerd Mansion (GF), Houston Meadow (HM), Island Green Country Club and Golf Course-abandoned (IGCC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum-Philadelphia (TI), Kaseky Park (KP), Navy Yard (NY), Northeast Philadelphia Airport (NEPA), Pennypack Park (PP), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Pleasant Hill Park (PHP), Saylor Grove Stormwater Wetland (SG), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Tacony Creek Park (TCP), Upper Roxborough Reservoir (URR), Wissahickon Valley Park (WVP).

The highlight of this spring season was the Pennsylvania migration count on 5/12. After falling dormant in 2015, this year was once again actively organized in *Philadelphia*. Overall, 45 participants in 32 parties recorded 135 species covering a large area of the county including a significant number of under-birded, but important sites (73 miles on foot). Twenty-seven warbler species were observed with highlights being 40 **Northern Waterthrushes**, 151 **Black-and-white Warblers**, 90 **Magnolia Warblers**, 28 **Bay-breasted Warblers**, 121 **Blackpoll Warblers**, 19 **Canada Warblers** and 14 **Wilson's Warblers**. A great feat in a largely urban county.

After **Mute Swans** started breeding at TI last year (and continued this year), FDR emerged as another new site for this species with one occupied nest as early as 4/1 (m.ob.). Up to 60 **Tundra Swans** were at TI throughout the month of March with two stragglers staying until 3/24 (m.ob.). Eleven **Redheads** at TI were unusual 3/29 (BQ). Numbers in the overwintering flock of **Canvasback**, **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup** at NY continued to dwindle throughout March and all were gone

by 3/31. Amazingly, one pair of **Long-tailed Ducks** that joined that pack earlier in the year enjoyed the views at the decommissioned USS John F. Kennedy so much they stuck around for another two weeks until 4/13 (m.ob.). Four additional individuals were at GF 4/7 (PK).

**Red-throated Loons** were numerous in early spring with up to 2 at POD until 4/21 (m.ob.), one each at DRT 3/4 (DE), at GF 3/19 (PM, RZ), at NY 3/19 (HP) and 3/24 (AB) and at FM 4/21 (HP, GA). Oddly enough, one individual arrived at the main impoundment at TI 4/17 where this species is typically not recorded. Found hunkered down below the observation platform 4/22, it was brought to a wildlife rehabilitation center where it sadly had to be euthanized the following day. Good numbers of **Horned Grebes** for *Philadelphia* were observed after a state-wide waterfowl fall-out 3/30 with 15 birds at TI and 6 at FDR (TC, DE, BQ). A new high count of 25 individuals was recorded at GF 4/7 (PK). After two years without records of **Red-necked Grebes** in the first half of a year, a max. of 2 were regularly observed on the Delaware River at GF and POD throughout March (m.ob.).

Spring records of **American Bitterns** are somewhat spotty in *Philadelphia* but up to 2 were recorded from TI during April (m.ob.) and one showed up rather late 5/26 (WK, PS, KY). At FDR - a place where this species has been recorded in fall since 2016 - the first spring observations were made between 4/7 and 4/15 (RK, HP). An adult and immature **Little Blue Heron** were discovered at TI 4/17 (TF, PB) with the adult bird staying until 4/22. Additional birds were seen there in the first week of May including 4 at the frog pond 5/4 (BB). A very rare sight in *Philadelphia*, a **Cattle Egret** was photographed at TI 4/24 (WM) and an astonishing 3 were observed at NEPA 5/4 (CF). Single **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were seen at TI 5/6 and 5/23 (m.ob.) and at PHP 4/30 (DM) and 5/12 (MW). Every other year in early May since 2012 a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** has been observed at TI. And like clockwork one individual was photographed 5/4 (MG) and 5/5 (JI).

A pair of **Mississippi Kites** circled over a backyard adjacent to WVP 5/21 (KB). A **Virginia Rail** was heard at TI 4/28-5/6 (m.ob.) and another was discovered in the phragmites opposite the entrance to FM 4/1 (DB, AB, SK). Shorebird migration was hardly noticeable by day, but an extraordinary number of just over 1000 **Least Sandpiper** flight calls was recorded after midnight 5/18 including a four-minute stretch of uninterrupted calls likely indicating a continuous stream of birds flying over the city (HP). Nineteen **Wilson's Snipe** in the tidal marsh at POD 4/13 were a new high count for this location and a number that is only uncommonly seen (PK). Super early were 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** on the river mudflats at the same site 3/4 (HP).

**Iceland Gulls** continued to be seen along the Delaware River at POD 3/4 (HP), at GF 3/18 (HP), and NY 4/15 (DB, MDe). On 4/22, two **Glaucous Gulls** were part of a minor gull movement over the area with one seen at DRT (GA) and another at TI (FW et al.). An interesting putative **Lesser Black-backed Gull x Herring Gull** hybrid was observed at POD 3/3 (FW). This bird was roosting among **Herring** and **Ring-billed Gulls** and displayed the same bulky structure and size as the former, but with a darker mantle and yellow legs reminiscent of a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. This appears to be the first record for *Philadelphia* and observers should keep their eyes open for this kind of hybrid given the increasing number of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and the likelihood of both species to hybridize.

**Great-Horned Owls** were reported from nine locations with breeding evidence recorded for 3 pairs (m.ob.). One **Barred Owl** was seen 5/15-23 at the north end of PP and constitutes a new species for the park (PK, PM, LW). Two **Snowy Owls** still hung around PHL in March with one passing through in the early days of the month. A two-year old female was trapped 3/12 and released 70 miles WNW of the airport. Three days later a very similar looking female appeared in the same areas the translocated bird frequented. Trapping failed twice in the following week with the bird cunningly avoiding the traps. Based on these observations it would be interesting to speculate whether the translocated bird returned to PHL before it finally left at the end of March. The **Eastern Screech-Owl** at POD appeared to have not found a mate and was last seen 3/6 (EK, DM, HP).

On 5/1 a male **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was enjoying the sun in a green space close to the sidewalk at Chestnut and 33rd Streets until it was startled by a passerby. After flying into the street where it was predictably hit by a car, the bird was rescued and left to recover for 90 minutes before it was released (EO). A **Pileated Woodpecker** was an unusual sight at TI 4/26 (DO, FW, MW). There have been less than a handful of observations per year even though the site provides a good amount of decaying wood. The bird was last observed 5/9 (m.ob.). Five **American Kestrels** were not a high count for IGGC 4/21 (GA, HP), but

underline again the importance of that location as a resting place during this species' migration. Unfortunately, plans have been drawn up to build warehouses on the site.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at POD 5/29 just made the list for this report (PM, FW). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** are rare in *Philadelphia* in spring, but this year one stopped at TI 5/9 (FW) and another posed nicely in a backyard in the Point Breeze neighborhood 5/17 (GA). A nice surprise during the migration count was an **Alder Flycatcher** at POD 5/12 (FW). **Eastern Phoebe**s were everywhere at FDR 4/1 with 19 counted throughout the park (HP). Five **Yellow-throated Vireos** at CW 5/6 were a high count for a single site (KR). The same was true for 7 **Blue-headed Vireos** at FDR 4/29 (GA, HM, AR).

The usual scattered observations of **Common Ravens** somewhat concentrated in the NW of the city this season, including a pair frequently carrying branches into a disused plant at the end of March (DM). To the delight of nearby workers, the birds stuck around until the end of April, though no fledglings were observed. The only **Horned Lark** this spring was seen at CS 4/8 (HP). A **Cliff Swallow** was recorded during the migration count at TI 5/12 (DB). At the same site, a **Black-capped Chickadee** was observed 3/22-27 (MG, JM, DO), presumably the same bird recorded earlier in the year. Reliably, peak migration for **Swainson's Thrushes** was in mid-May with 434 nocturnal flight calls remotely recorded (HP) and 80 actively observed (GA) during the night of 5/14 in south Philadelphia. Up to 12 were seen at CW 5/12 (KR) and 15 in a section of PP 5/6 (HP). Sixteen **Hermit Thrushes** at FDR 4/16 were a unusual high count (HP).

There were excellent warbler flights during the nights of 5/1, 5/14, 5/17 and 5/20 when 760, 1800, 800, and 1600 nocturnal flight calls were remotely recorded, respectively, in south Philadelphia (HP). **Ovenbirds** outnumbered **House Sparrows** at a tiny urban plaza in Center City Philadelphia with 10 observed 5/17 (MH) and 12 on 5/21 (MiG). A **Brewster's Warbler** briefly stayed at TI from 5/11 (LC) to 5/12 (GV). A male **Prothonotary Warbler** was observed at TI 4/29 and 4/30 (m.ob.) and seen again 5/5 (SG). Individual **Orange-crowned warblers** were seen at PP 4/14 (HP), DRT 4/21 (GA), and TI 5/2 (TF, FW, MW). To everyone's excitement **Mourning Warblers** were discovered at three sites: at TI 5/12 (WK), at BG 5/13 (GA, et al.), and at PP 5/19-20 (PM, SB). **Kentucky Warblers** were at SCEE 5/14 (PM) and CW 5/7 (AB) and 5/15 (MD). A new all-time high of 67 **Common Yellowthroats** was recorded at TI 5/6 (GA). Up to 4 **Hooded Warblers** were observed at TI 5/7 (AR, GV). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** hit a seasonal high count of 162 at TI 4/19 (HP). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were present at TI 4/6-27 (SB, et al.), at FDR 4/14-21 (CH, et al.), at SG 4/14 (BD) and at CRW 5/10 (PB).

A **Vesper Sparrow** at POD 4/21 was a big surprise as this species is generally not recorded in spring in *Philadelphia* (GA, HP, DE, LT). A seasonal high count of 34 **Savannah Sparrows** was at CS 4/20 (HP). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at TI 5/11-14 (m.ob.), at BG 5/15 (DE), at SCEE 5/11-14 (PM), and at TCP 5/12 (RI). **Summer Tanagers** ventured further north than usual at a higher incidence compared to previous years: females at TI 5/11 (GV) and URR 5/6, 17 (AB, KJ), and males at KP 5/8 (JD), CW 5/8 (m.ob.), and in a private backyard in NW Philadelphia 4/27-29 (CH). Individual **Blue Grosbeaks** were observed at PP 5/20 (PM) and in a private backyard in south Philadelphia 5/21 (GA). Besides the handful of observations of **Eastern Meadowlarks** at POD and IGGC the sighting of a bird at SW 4/10-15 (MH, DE, JD) and at nearby LH 4/19 (LW) in the city was rather unusual.

Observers: **Holger Pflücke, Philadelphia, PA 19148, pflucke.holger@gmail.com**, Anne Bekker, Debbie Beer, Kevin Berkoff, Adrian Binns, Peter Burns, Sara Busch, Brian Byrnes, Lamar Corlis, Tony Croasdale, Martin Dellwo (MDe), Michael Drake, Joe Durrance, Ben Dziedzic, Dan Efrogmson, Barb Elliot, Todd Fellenbaum, Charles Fuller, Mark Greenberry, Mike Grubb (MiG), Steven Grunwald, Jessica Im, Matthew Halley, Brian Hart, Clifford Hence, Charles Homler, Robin Irizarry, Ken Januski, Robert Karchnyak, Sandra Keller, Eric Kubilus, William Kunze, Peter Kurtz, Jim McConnell, Patrick McGill (PM), Holly Merker, Denis Mora, William Moses, Damon Orsetti, Emily Ostrow, Brian Quindlen, Ann Reeves, Keith Russell, Perri Strawn, Linda Timlin, Geoff Veith, Michael Walter, Linda Widdop, Frank Windfelder, Karie Youngdahl, Rich Ziegler.

## Pike County

There was a surprisingly good number of uncommon species for the period from Pike. On 4/16, 2 **Red-necked Grebes** were seen on McConnell Pond (DM). A **Great Egret** was searching for food at Pecks Pond 4/28 (DM, PM). At the Pocono Environmental Education Center, birders saw an immature **Golden Eagle** circling overhead 4/28 (DM, BW) and an adult **Northern Goshawk** was found 4/18 (DM). At Camp Hidden Falls in the Delaware Water Gap NRA on 4/25, a **Virginia Rail** was calling in a swamp on the property (DM). Another heard-only bird was a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** on SGL 209 on 5/1 (DM). At this time of year, this owl may be on territory.

An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in a gated development near Milford 3/31 (PG). In Hawley, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen 5/21 (GG). **Rusty Blackbird** was seen during migration at several locations. In Delaware SF, 20 Rusty Blackbirds were on Marshalls Creek Rd. 4/13 (JC) and one on Pit Rd. 5/2 (DJM). Another Rusty was seen in White House 4/20 (BW).

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## Potter County

Locations: Baker Creek Sr 4009 (BC), Billy Lewis Rd (BL), Crandall Hill Community Building (CH), Coudersport (CO), 904 First Fork Rd., Coudersport; rural (COR), Eleven Mile Rd (EM), Galeton (GA), Galeton Lake (GL), Gates Hill Road (GHR), Johnson's Pond, Roulette (JPR), Lyman Run State Park (LRSP), Rte. 49 and Peet Brook Rd near Colesburg (PBR), PA Game Lands 64 (SGL 64), PA Game Lands 204 (SGL 204), Phoenix Run Rd (PRR), Pine Creek at Galeton (PCG), Pond at intersection of Rte. 44 and T343 (PD), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP), Steer Run at intersection of Rte. 44 and Rte. 49 (SR), Sweden Hill on SR 1001 (SWH), Shinglehouse (SH), Ulysses (UL), White Chopin Rd (WCR), and (Whitney Valley (WV).

Data were obtained from eBird reports submitted for twenty-four locations by eleven observers. Spring waterfowl numbers were low as can be expected due to a lack of large bodies of water, except for small lakes in the state parks, various farm ponds, Galeton Lake at the town of Galeton, or the Allegheny River at Coudersport, and also due to a geography of forested ridges and canyons making up the Allegheny Plateau. Birders appear to be few and the population density of Potter is low (16/square mile), with the major population centers located in the river valleys. However, a significant rare bird observation for the spring was a single **Snowy Egret** that was photographed in April at a pond at a remote location north of Coudersport. Also, in early May, 4 **American Avocets** were photographed at Lyman Run S.P. Though small, there is a dedicated and experienced contingent of birders that report to eBird from Potter, and their sightings will now appear in "Pennsylvania Birds".

One **Wood Duck** was reported as a flyover at CH 5/18 (SaG), 2 **Gadwalls** were observed on Peet Brook PBR 3/21 (SeG), 2 **American Wigeons** on GL 4/15 (KR), and one **American Black Duck** from PBR 3/29 (SeG). Two **Northern Shovelers** were reported from COR 4/13 (ES). Two **Canvasbacks** and one **Redhead** were at BC 3/1 (SeG), and one **Ring-necked Duck** on GL 4/19 (KR). Two **Buffleheads** were present at JPR 4/28 (SeG), one **Common Goldeneye** was reported from BC 3/3 (SeG), a single **Hooded Merganser** at GL 5/9 (SeG), 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at JPR 4/28 (SeG), and one **Ruddy Duck** from GL 5/22 (KR). Two **Greater Scaup** were present at COR 4/13 (ES), 2 **Lesser Scaup** at GL 5/22 (KR) and one **Long-tailed Duck** was reported from GL 4/15 (KR). Loons and grebes had low representation: one **Red-throated Loon** was at JPR 3/30 (SeG), one **Common Loon** was at LRSP 5/8 (TK), 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** at GL 4/16 (KR), and one **Horned Grebe** reported from PD 5/13 (SeG).

An **American Bittern** was photographed at LRSP 4/28 (KS) and photographs were obtained of a **Snowy Egret** at SR 4/14 (SeG). A **Green Heron** was reported at PCG 5/24 (DB). One **Osprey** and one **Bald Eagle** were at GL 5/22 (KR). A **Northern Harrier** hunted the fields at WV 5/13 (SeG). One **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at SGL 64 on 5/2 (SeG) and a **Cooper's Hawk** was reported from WV 5/13 (SeG). One **Red-shouldered Hawk** was recorded at GL 5/24 (KR) and one **Broad-winged Hawk** along WCR 4/21 (SaG).

Four **American Avocets** were photographed at LSP 5/7 (BS). Five **Spotted Sandpipers** and one **Solitary Sandpiper** were seen along PCG 5/24 (DB). One **Greater Yellowlegs** was reported from CB 5/15 (SaG). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and a **Least Sandpiper** were reported near UL 5/16 (SaG). One **Wilson's Snipe** was reported from SWH 5/8 (SaG). One each of 3 gull species were reported: **Bonaparte's Gull** at JPR 4/28 (SaG), **Ring-billed Gull** at GL 5/22 (KR), and **Herring Gull** at GL 4/16 (KR).

A calling **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard at CH 4/20 (SeG). During nocturnal birding, an **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard at GA 3/28 (ML). A **Merlin** was photographed at PRR 3/31 (SaG). An **Acadian Flycatcher** was observed approximately one mile north of Rt. 6 on PRR 5/6 (KR). A **Warbling Vireo** was at SGL 64 on 5/27 (KR). The season's first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen at CH 5/4 (SeG) and 2 **Horned Larks** were observed at UL 5/16 (SaG). Nine **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** and 2 **Bank Swallows** were seen along Pine Creek at GA 5/24 (DB). A single **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was observed at CH 5/14 (SaG).

Warblers were represented by 12 species, reported between 4/20 and 5/27. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at PRR 5/6 (KR). A single **Golden-winged Warbler** was the earliest observation of any warbler, reported at COR 4/20 (ES). A **Tennessee Warbler** was recorded at CO 5/23 (SeG). A **Nashville Warbler** was reported from a logging road off BL 5/8 (TK). A **Cape May Warbler** was seen at WCR 5/23 (SeG). A **Northern Parula** was observed on a logging road off BL 5/08 (TK). One **Bay-breasted Warbler** was photographed at CO 5/23 (SeG). A **Palm Warbler** was photographed along WCR 5/07 (SaG). One **Pine Warbler** was at PD 5/27 (TJ) and one **Prairie Warbler** on SGL 64 on 5/27 (KR). Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were observed on WCR 5/23 (SeG), one **Canada Warbler** was at PD 5/26 (TJ), and one **Wilson's Warbler** was photographed at SSP 5/20 (SeG).

Six species of migrating sparrows were reported. Three **American Tree Sparrows** were at WV 4/13 (SeG), and 3 **Vesper Sparrows** were also reported from the fields at WV 4/13 (SeG). Four **Fox Sparrows** were found along WCR 4/13 (SeG). One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found in the fields in WV 5/13 (SeG). Two **White-throated Sparrows** were seen along WCR 5/06 (SeG) and 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported at GHR 5/11 (ES). **Bobolinks** reports were one from WCR 5/23 (SaG, SeG) and 10 along EM 5/28 (MB). One **Rusty Blackbird** was at a farm at PBR 4/18 (SaG) and one **Pine Siskin** was seen along WCR 5/15 (SaG).

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## Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Deer Lake (DL), Landingville Dam and Marsh (LVD), Lebanon Reservoir (LR), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Owl Creek (OC), Swatara State Park (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tumbling Run (TR), Tuscarora State Park (TSP).

*Schuylkill* has no large water bodies that attract good numbers of waterfowl. The lakes we have range from farm ponds to modest sized municipal reservoirs. The reservoirs are in steep valleys so they generally lack extensive shallow zones which would support aquatic vegetation. With some minor exceptions, waterfowl are low in numbers and range from uncommon to occasional to rare. This year, there was a rather typical assemblage of waterfowl throughout the county with a few notable birds. A **Northern Shoveler** was found 4/8 at SAL and again 4/19 (DD), a species not found every year. A pair of **Long-tailed Ducks** was found at LLSP 4/12 (LR). **Red-breasted Mergansers**, another species not seen every year, was relatively abundant with reports from LVD 3/30 (DK, DR), OC 3/31 (DK), and SAL 4/19 (MD). The first **Red-throated Loon** in at least 7 years was spotted at TSP 4/5 (MD) and again 4/6 (JoD). **Horned Grebes**, occasional here, were also relatively abundant with reports from LR 3/10 (TK), LVD 3/25 (TB), TR 3/26 (DK), LLSP 3/30 (DK, JF, LR, TB, TJ), OC 3/30-31 (DK), and TSP 4/20 (JoD).

We average one **American Bittern** a year passing through the county every spring but we may have doubled or even tripled that number this year with 3

reports from LVD on 3/30 (DR), 4/21 (DK), and 4/28 (TB). A **Least Bittern**, considered accidental in the county and the first eBird record, was reported at APWS 5/14 (JoD). Only the second time in 7 years but the second year in a row, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen at DL 4/18 (LG). An immature **Golden Eagle** was photographed at SGL 227 on 3/17 (TB).

A **Semipalmated Plover** was found on the mudflats at LVD 5/14 along with a **Dunlin**, the first spring sighting since 2000 (DR). In addition to a handful of **Ring-billed Gulls** and a single **Herring Gull** seen this spring, 3 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, considered occasional, were reported at TSP 5/5 (JoD). At one time **Caspian Terns** were not found in the county during the spring season but this year marks the fourth year in five they were seen: one was found at LLSP 4/22 (DK, TB, TJ) and 2 more at TSP 4/15 (JoD, TJ).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will** are hanging on in the Brockton area with reports 5/3 (JoD) and 5/4 (TJ). One was also heard in Wayne Twp. 5/15 (AL). It was another big year for **Red-headed Woodpeckers** with 3 reports. One was at TSP 5/3 (JoD), another in a recently logged area of Weiser SF 5/8 (DR), and a pair was found along WDD 5/11-21 (DR). Some of the flycatcher and vireo species are found every year but in very low numbers and can be easily missed on local birder's year lists. Rare for the county, **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were spotted in 3 locations: LLSP 5/17 (TB), near Forrestville 5/18 (DK), and OC 5/21 (DK). **Acadian Flycatchers** were present at LLSP 5/11-28 (DK, TB, TC), along Hawk Mountain Rd. 5/18 (AR) and along the Little Schuylkill River (RK). A **Least Flycatcher** was also found at LLSP 5/3-28 (DK, LR, TB, TJ) as well as at a cemetery in St. Clair 5/7 (TJ) and at SAL 5/12 (DK). **White-eyed Vireos** were reported in SSP 5/2-27 (BR, TB) and along WDD 5/6 (DR). **Yellow-throated Vireo** were found in 4 locations: TR 4/29 (DR) and again 5/9 (DK), LLSP 5/2-28 (DK, JSt, LR, TB, TC, TJ), SSP 5/6-8 (BR), and St Clair 5/10 (TJ).

Twenty-seven warbler species were found, three less than last year. The overall warbler migration was fairly typical. Individual **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found at LLSP 5/2 (TB) and again 5/13 (TB, TJ). **Yellow-breasted Chat**, a bird found every year but in very low numbers, was reported at SSP 5/15 and again 5/28 (BR). A bird that breeds in the county but is hard to find is **Bobolink**; this year, one was at APWS 5/14 (JoD), and another in the median of 1-81 MP 131 on 5/21 (MW). Finally, **Orchard Orioles**, another "they're here but hard to find bird" were reported 5/5 at SGL 106 (LG, SO), 5/16 at SSP (TK), and in Ashland 5/20 (TB).

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stony Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**. Ed Barrell, Ed Bernot, Thomas Buehl Jr., Dan Brennan, Tim Carney, Robert Curry, Michael David, John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko JD), Frank Dickman, Denise Donmoyer, Bill Etter, Traci Fetterman, Jim Figlar, Laurie Goodrich, Ellen Grim, Kerry Grim, Deborah Grove, Greg Grove, Paul Heveran, Daniel Hinnebusch, Tonia Jordan, Barb Jucker, Ted Keen, Rudy Keller, Edward Komito, Dave Krueel, Ann Marie Liebner, Holly Merker, Zack Moyer, Sally Obyrne, Luke Redmond, Ari Rice, Barb Ritzheimer, Lynn Roman, John Slotterback, Rosemary Spreha, John Stetson (JSt), Marcina Trimmel, Ken Walsh, Scott Weidensaul, Audrey Wells, Patricia and Richard Williams, Tiffany Willow, Peter and Jane Wolfe.

### Snyder County

A nice fallout of 51 **Long-tailed Ducks** were found at Faylor Lake 3/30 along with more expected numbers of a diverse set of migrant waterfowl (SS). Two **Great Egrets** were on Faylor Lake 4/14 (GT). A possibly county-first **Red-necked Phalarope** was seen in flooded fields at a biosecure poultry farm in the southeastern part of the county 5/17. A **Black Tern** and a **Forster's Tern** provided a nice pre-Mother's Day treat for a PAMC expedition as the terns flew over the middle of Faylor Lake 5/12 (LS, JG, EG).

On 3/18 a **Northern Shrike** perched high on a young tree along a path at Walker Lake, barely glancing at a small flock of goldfinches that circled it a few times chirping and making close passes (JG). An early **Brown Thrasher** was present in the Walker Lake boat launch parking lot the same day (JG). A small group of **Pine Siskins** fed on cones of the giant hemlocks at Snyder Middlesworth NA 3/18 (JG).

Observers: **Joe Gyekis, j99psu.edu** Elody Gyekis, Steve Schmitt, Loanne Snavelly, Gerard Troisi, Jason Weller.

### Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA); Blueberry Hill Farm (BHF); Buffalo Creek (BC); Confluence Area (CA); Flight 93 National Memorial (FLT93); Hidden Acres Farm (HAF); Laurel Hill State Park (LHSP); Payne Property (PP); Somerset Lake (SL); Quemahoning Reservoir (QR).

All eBird records were reviewed for this report. Unfortunately, there were ID numbers for observers instead of names, so many sightings are not properly recognized by name. In some instances, the numbers of records are compared to get a rough estimate of abundance.

Waterfowl migration was better than expected with SL having been drained completely in Fall 2017. The pool was allowed to refill to about 50% surface area to prevent erosion and it was maintained there through the season as dam repairs are delayed for a year. March was cold until late and lakes which were open in the warm February refroze. By 3/30, there was a good fallout of approximately 1,000 birds on SL which was overshadowed by a county-wide fallout 4/19 which included approximately 3,500 birds on SL. Some of the high counts follow. **Tundra Swans** moved early in March including 120 passing PP 3/11 (JP). Eighty **Gadwall** on the 3/30 SL fallout was high count (CP, JP). **American Wigeon** max was 51 at QR 3/31 (anon). **American Black Ducks** were present but high was only 7 on 3/30 in BA (JP). The 3/30 fallout at SL had 55 **Blue-winged Teal** with 30 present 4/19 (JP). Up to 12 **Northern Shovelers** were at SL 3/30-4/1 (m.ob.). **Northern Pintails** were sparse compared to recent years with only 2 at QR 3/23 and SL 3/30 (CP, JP). **Green-winged Teal** were near Rockwood 4/4 (anon).

QR had 5 **Canvasbacks** 3/10 and 3/19 (LG). Twenty **Redheads** were at SL 3/30 (CP, JP). **Ring-necked Ducks** maxed at 260 both at QR 3/10 (LG) and at Stonycreek Lake 3/29 (CP) while a male lingered at SL until at least 5/13 (JP). Ten **Greater Scaup** rested on a small reservoir by PP 4/12 with about 75 at SL during 3/30 fallout (CP, JP). **Lesser Scaup** highs were 250 at SL 3/30 (CP, JP) and 200 4/19 (JP). **Surf Scoters** put on a good showing with 3 at SL 4/19 (JM, MM, JP) while 4 were new property birds at PP same day; late and at a very unlikely spot were 4 at a pond east of the Allegheny Front near Fairhope 4/28 with one still present 5/25! (JP). A county high 15 **White-winged Scoters** were in the 3/30 SL fallout (CP, JP), 3 were at QR 4/18 (anon), and one was at SL 4/19 and same day for new property bird at PP (JP). A very high 52 **Long-tailed Ducks** were at SL 3/30 (CP, JP) with 7 there 4/19 and another PP first when 2 were present 4/3 (JP), and 2 more were at QR 4/6 (CP). The 4/19 fallout at SL had a very impressive 1,800 **Buffleheads** (JM, MM, JP). The only **Common Goldeneye** report was of one at QR 4/7 (anon). **Merganser** highs were 35 **Hooded** at QR 3/20 (LG), 17 **Common** in one group at Youghiogheny River in Confluence 5/15 (JP), and 44 **Red-breasted** 4/21 at QR (JP). The 4/19 SL fallout included 1000 **Ruddy Ducks** (CP, JP) and 2 lingered there until 5/10 (JP).

The only **Ruffed Grouse** reports were 2 at PP 4/14 (CP), although certainly present in other spots they seem severely depressed. Up to 12 **Common Loons** were reported 4/7 at QR (236715), and a short period of hawk watching at PP yielded 6 flyovers (CP). Up to 22 **Pied-billed Grebes** were at QR 4/7 (CP) and a high of 90 **Horned Grebes** were at SL during the 3/30 fallout (CP, JP). Very interesting was a good description of an **Eared Grebe** at QR 4/5 (LG) in company with other grebes. Interesting was the only **Great Egret** report, which represented an all-time yard bird at PP 4/1 (CaP, CP, JP).

**Black Vultures** are only occasionally spotted so a kettle of 7 at PP 3/31 was a good count (CP, JP). **Ospreys** were only seen as singles; hopefully the Cranberry Lake report 4/29 represented a breeding bird (anon). **Bald Eagles** were seen with a young bird in CA 5/8 and 5/11 (BO, TO) An immature **Golden Eagle** was soaring with a Bald Eagle over PP 3/19 (CP) for the only report. **Virginia Rail** was first heard at BC 4/3 (CP, JP), then heard and well seen there 4/14 (AP, CP, JP). **American Coot** numbers have been low the last couple years; max. was 10 at QR 4/16 and 4/10 (CP, LG).

Shorebirds put on a good showing with 15 species, mostly seen at SL. With the dam repairs delayed for a year, there were still considerable mudflats. Some high numbers there were 5 **Black-bellied Plovers** 5/13, 19 **Semipalmated Plovers** 5/28, 12 **Spotted Sandpipers** 5/22, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** 4/15, 12 **Greater Yellowlegs** 5/10, 10 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/19, one **Dunlin** 5/13, a nice 96 **Least Sandpipers** 5/10, 6 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 5/13, 18 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 4/14, 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/28 (MD), and 5 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/13 (all JP unless marked). Hopefully long term plans to establish yearly, dependable habitat at this site will be adopted. An increasingly rare sighting

was an **Upland Sandpiper** on old strip mines near Gallitzin SF 5/29 (JP). A nice count of 24 **Wilson's Snipe** 4/4 was near Rockwood (447025), and up to 7 **American Woodcocks** were displaying at BC (CP, JP).

Up to 30 **Bonaparte's Gulls** stopped by SL 4/19 (JP, anon). Uncommon in this western county was a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 4/18-19 (JP and anon). Rather early was a **Caspian Tern** that flew in during the 3/30 SL fallout (JP, CP). **Forster's Terns** were scarce with only reports of one at SL 5/9 (292335) and 5/22 (JP).

Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported several times. The only **Eastern Screech Owl** report was in Somerset Borough 3/3 (NB), Great Horned Owls were at HAF (SD), CA (CO, TO) and Holsopple area (LG). **Barred Owls** were more common. A group of 9 **Common Nighthawks** took to the air at SL late evening 5/13 (CaP, JP). **Whip-poor-wills** were at HAF 5/3 (SD) and on Imgrund Mountain Rd. 5/31 (JP). The first **Chimney Swift** was at BC 4/13(AP, CP, JP). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** showed up ready to eat 5/1 at PP. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported 5/5 and 5/15 at BHF (PL), 5/2 and 5/15 near Hays Mills (anon) and a pair there 5/7 (MaL). The only **Yellow-Bellied Sapsuckers** were several around PP early April (CP, JP). **American Kestrel** numbers seem quite depressed so 18 total eBird reports was encouraging. The only **Peregrine Falcon** was at SL 5/10 (anon).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, less common in spring than fall, was at PP 5/17 (JP). **Eastern Wood Pewees** were widespread with up to 7 in CA 5/15 (JP). The same trip to CA revealed 4 **Acadian Flycatchers**, which were the only ones reported. Always late passing through, the first **Alder Flycatchers** were 2 near Shanksville 5/31 (JP). **Willow Flycatcher** was more widely reported with 5 reports of 1-3 birds. **Least Flycatchers** were reported 6 times, mostly from Flt 93. **Eastern Phoebe** was widely reported with up to 7 at QR 4/4(anon). **Great Crested Flycatchers** garnered only 4 reports while **Eastern Kingbird** had many including 4 in CA 5/15 (JP). The less common county vireos include **White-eyed** 5/9 and 5/21 at SL (anon) and 5/15 in CA (JP); **Yellow-throated** 5/15 in CA (JP), 5/3 in Fort Hill (anon) and 5/26 LHSP (anon); and lastly **Warbling** with the only report from CA 5/15 (JP). **Red-eyed Vireo** had 24 reports of up to 10 and **Blue-headed Vireo** had 15 reports of 1-3 birds.

**American Crows** had 215 eBird reports and **Common Raven** had 36. **Horned Larks** were only mentioned 5 times. Swallow reports included only one early scout **Purple Martin** 4/13 at BC (AP, P, JP), 78 **Tree Swallow** listings, several **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** including 23 near Holsopple 4/15 (LG), one **Bank Swallow** at SL 4/28 (JP), 2 **Cliff Swallow** from CA 4/27 and 5/15 (BO, TO, JP), and 83 **Barn Swallow** mentions. **Black-capped Chickadees** warranted 133 mentions, **Tufted Titmouse** 64, and **White-breasted Nuthatch** 44. There were no Red-breasted Nuthatch reports. **Brown Creepers** were detected at HAF 4/9 (SD), PP 4/14 (CP), and QR 4/21 (JP). **House Wrens** had 10 reports while the only **Winter Wren** was an active, singing bird 4/28 at PP (JP). **Carolina Wrens** were mentioned 27 times, so surviving well a couple winter cold spells. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** had 11 reports, **Golden-crowned Kinglets** 18, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** 20.

Thrushes were all observed with separate reports of 57 **Eastern Bluebird**, 7 **Veery**, one **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at North Fork Res. 5/5 (LG), **Swainson's Thrushes** at Old Shetler Farm 5/15 (LG) and SL 5/9 (anon), 5 **Hermit Thrush**, 23 **Wood Thrush**, and 228 **American Robin**. **Gray Catbirds** were mentioned 50 times; **Brown Thrashers** 38, with 3 pair at PP; and **Northern Mockingbird** 9. **Cedar Waxwings** were reported 9 times with up to 23 at SL 3/19 (MD).

Twenty-nine warbler species and **Yellow-breasted Chat** 5/15 CA (JP) were reported. The following number of mentions gives a rough estimate of relative prevalence- **Ovenbird** – 33, **Worm-eating Warbler**- 1, **Louisiana Waterthrush** – 1, **Northern Waterthrush**-1, **Golden-winged Warbler** – 1, **Blue-winged Warbler** – 3, **Black and White Warbler** – 23, **Tennessee Warbler** – 3, **Nashville Warbler** – 2, **Kentucky Warbler**- 5, **Common Yellowthroat** – 50, **Hooded Warbler** – 12, **American Redstart** – 21, **Cape May Warbler** – 2, **Cerulean Warbler**- 2, **Northern Parula** – 13, **Magnolia Warbler**- 9, **Bay-Breasted Warbler** – 4, **Blackburnian Warbler** – 5, **Yellow Warbler** – 45, **Chestnut-sided Warbler** – 20, **Blackpoll Warbler** – 2, **Black-throated Blue Warbler** – 11, **Palm-Warbler** – 5, **Yellow-rumped Warbler** – 14, **Yellow-throated Warbler** (CA) – 1, **Black-throated Green Warbler** – 22, **Canada Warbler** – 5, **Wilson's Warbler** – 1.

**American Tree Sparrows** were listed 17 times. They usually depart within a couple days of **Chipping Sparrow** arrival, which was 4/1 at PP; the last Tree Sparrow departed 4/16. **Field Sparrows** were reported 38 times with an

impressive high of 40 on 5/29 at Gallitzin SF strip mines (JP). Of the 6 **Vesper Sparrow** reports, 4 were from the grasslands at Flt 93. Similarly, 8 of 12 **Savannah Sparrows**, 8 of 13 **Grasshopper Sparrows**, and 5 of 8 **Henslow's Sparrow** reports were from Flt 93. Both Flt 93 and Gallitzin strip mines have some of the best grasslands in the county and are under government ownership – hopefully there is some management plan to maintain grasslands. Gallitzin had at least 22 Grasshopper Sparrows on a 5/29 drive (JP). **Fox Sparrows** garnered 16 reports with a high of 18 at PP 4/3. **Song Sparrows** were reported 179 times but the 40 on 4/8 in old millet fields at PP was an impressive count (JP). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** 5/3 at PP was the first spring record there even though they are rather common in fall. Sixteen **Swamp Sparrow** reports were reviewed, with 25 in a one-mile walk at BC 4/14 being highest (CP, JP). **White-throated Sparrows** were reported 27 times and **White-crowned Sparrows** had 14 reports. **Dark-eyed Junco** got 65 mentions.

**Scarlet Tanager**s seemed a little scarce with only 16 reports. Widespread **Northern Cardinals** made 163 lists. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** high number was 12 at HAF 5/4 (SD), out of 30 reports. **Indigo Buntings** had 28 records. Fifteen of 31 **Bobolink** records and 6 of 34 **Eastern Meadowlark** records were from Flt 93. **Rusty Blackbirds** were only reported 9 times with a high of 6 in BA 4/3 (CP, JP). **Orchard Orioles** had 6 reports and **Baltimore Orioles** 12. **House Finches** beat **Purple Finches** 59 to 26. Six **Pine Siskins** 3/31 at PP thinned down to one by 5/29.

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#### Sullivan County

Locations: Airport Road (AR), Cherry Township (CT), Deer Lake (DL), Dutch Mtn (DM), High Knob (HK), Hunter's Lake (HL), Kinsley's Corner (KC), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), Ogdonia Road (OR), SGL 13 Splashdam Pond (SDP), SGL13 Grassy Hollow (GH), SGL 66 Shady Nook (SN), Shanersburg Bog (SB), Sullivan Falls Road (SF).

The spring season weather was unremarkable. There were no late snow storms or otherwise extraordinary weather events. Ponds and lakes were mostly thawed prior to April. The month of May was wetter and cooler than normal. This observer was present for Global Big Day but was not in county for the PA Migration Count. All observations are by the compiler except where noted.

Waterfowl migration was not especially spectacular but there were still notable observations. A high of 19 **Wood Duck** were on SDP 5/1 (DG). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** was at DL 4/14 and again 4/21. A high of 8 **Green-winged Teal** were on SDP 4/14. The best finds were single **Long-tailed Ducks** at SN 4/21 and HL 4/22. Two **Ruddy Duck** were on SN 4/21. Seven **Common Loons** and six **Horned Grebes** were on HL 4/13 (NF). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was present on DL 5/5.

**Northern Harrier** were present at SDP on multiple occasions including 2 on 5/1 (DG). **Osprey** was at HL on numerous occasions including 4/13 (NF). **Sandhill Crane** again nested in CT. Two adults with 2 chicks were first spotted 5/19. The water level at SDP was unusually low early in the season, providing some shorebird habitat. Yellowlegs were present on several occasions including one **Lesser Yellowlegs** and 7 **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/21. A high of 8 Greater Yellowlegs were present 5/5 along with 3 **Solitary Sandpipers** and one **Spotted Sandpiper**. Five **Wilson's Snipe** were in a field in CT 4/22. Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were also at SDP 4/21. A lone **Northern Saw-whet Owl** called at SDP 4/21.

Five **Acadian Flycatchers** were counted along OR 5/28 (DB). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at GH 5/11 (DG). **Yellow-throated Vireos** were at GH 5/11 (DG) and LSF 5/14 (DG). A single **Warbling Vireo** was in CT 5/5. An estimated 70f **Horned Lark** were in CT 3/24. Two **Pine Siskin** were seen on DM 5/25.

There were several notable warbler sightings. Six **Louisiana Waterthrush** were found along SF 4/23 (JL). A **Pine Warbler** was on DM 4/28. A four-mile walk in the Dry Run area of LSF on 5/14 produced 57 **Ovenbirds**, 31 **Common Yellowthroats**, 51 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 5 **Canada Warblers** and 44

**Eastern Towhees.** Two **Mourning Warblers** were spotted at HK 5/24 (SM). An **American Tree Sparrow** was still present on DM 3/24. Four **Savannah Sparrow** were in the KC area 4/14 and at least one **Grasshopper Sparrow** was along AR 5/27.

Observers: **Rob Megraw**, Dan Brauning, Skip Conant, Norwood Frederick Doug Gross, Judith Lynn, Sean Minnick

### **Susquehanna County**

Spring 2018 was unusually late in arriving in this northeastern county. This resulted in a shortened opportunity for observing waterfowl and shorebirds. On some local lakes, ice-out occurred the week of the opening of trout season and the influx of fishermen and their boats. Temperate migrants, often thought of as the harbingers of spring, endured a few initial weeks of cold weather and limited insect activity. Later the cool temperatures suppressed leaf development and provided good viewing as neo-tropical migrants arrived and passed through in May.

**Blue-winged Teals** can be problematic finds in spring migration. Two were located on a pond/wetland complex just north of Big Elk Lake 4/9 (EM, BS, NV) and a single at Nagle's Pond 4/12 (JSt). The season's only **American Black Ducks** were spotted at the private wetland north of Big Elk Lake 4/9 (EM, BS, NV) and 4/23 (JSt). It was a good year for observing **Long-tailed Ducks** with an above average number of sightings. A single female in non-breeding plumage was photographed on Lake Chrisann 4/7-13 (m.ob.). Three were on Heart Lake 4/7 (JS). A handsome couple spent 4/24-29 on Quaker Lake (EM) and a flock of 9 closed out the month on Lake Montrose 4/29 (TN, BS). Lake Walter hosted 2 species reported no where else in the county this spring – 2 **Ruddy Ducks** 4/11-16 (JS) and 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 4/2 (BS, NV, EM). The only sighting of an **American Bittern** was of one doing his best grouse imitation, "waiting until the last possible second to flush directly in front of you," at a small farm pond 4/23 (EM).

From 4/27 through 5/21 a total of 25 **Ospreys** were reported across the county (m.ob.). This was an above average number of migrant reports, yet none are known to have set up nesting territories. **Red-shouldered Hawks** are a species that has been decidedly absent, undetected, or underreported in past years. This year, 4 different observations of soaring birds in Apr and May were an encouraging sign of their presence (JSt, JS, EM). Low flying **Broad-winged Hawks** were real showstoppers on 2 organized bird walks in May. One displayed nicely for 15 birders at Florence Shelly Wetland Preserve 5/5 (m.ob.) and a heavily molting juvenile was over SGL35 on 5/26 showing off for a party of 19. Runner-up status went to a single **Sandhill Crane** seen by 9 participants on a walk at Woodbourne Forest Preserve 5/5. This was the only report of the season, 2 years to the day after a lone flyover was heard during the same event in 2016.

Spring 2018 was disappointing for those seeking members of the *Raillidae* family. A single **Virginia Rail** was located at Bendix Wetland 5/5 (JS) and there were no reports of Sora for the first spring in many years. Several of our traditional wetland locations were unusually dry and vegetation was slow in emerging. A similar story can be told for shorebird activity. Hollister's (Dump Hill) Pond, our "muddiest" location, was visited by the expected **Least Sandpipers**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. Our other regular spring visitors, **Solitary** and **Spotted Sandpipers** were found in modest numbers at various locations. But those looking for shorebird surprises will have to wait for southbound migration this year.

Secondhand reports continued of a rare **Red-headed Woodpecker** visiting a suet feeder at a private home that remains off limits to the birding community. Even absent the checks on county lists, birders are thrilled that this bird appears to have taken up residence in the county. The expected tyrant flycatchers were all present, on time, and in good numbers including four empids. The exception was a single **Acadian Flycatcher** who was the only singing male heard in *Susquehanna*. He may have been the most eBirded individual in the county with 12 reports from 10 different birders on multiple dates. Hopefully his singing was heard by more than human ears and he had a successful nesting season. Good numbers of **Bank Swallows** and **Cliff Swallows** returned to their respective colony sites along the Susquehanna River.

**Golden-crowned Kinglets** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were especially numerous this year, observed within the same mixed flocks and both species still being seen in May. **Northern Mockingbirds** are scarce and infrequent visitors to this northern county. A single sighting along the interstate 5/21 was the only report

(BM).

Twenty-seven wood warbler species were reported. The only regular species missing from this year's line-up was Northern Waterthrush. The 2 county locations which have been historically good for this species were drier than normal and the birds were absent. Four **Tennessee Warblers** posed for photographs at a private residence south of New Milford 5/17 (NV) and a single was a nice find in SGL35 on 5/28 (WS). A post-timber harvest area in SGL35 continued to attract **Mourning Warblers**, as it has for the past several years. Three individuals were observed there 5/26 (m.ob.). While we once thought **Hooded Warblers** were absent from *Susquehanna*, a healthy population continued to return to SGL35 where a number of observers were able to see, hear, and photograph them. **Cerulean Warblers** proved to be more problematic this year. A small flock of 5 individuals was discovered foraging in a remote stand of mature red oak trees at SGL35 on 5/9 (JM). The only other reports were of 2 at SGL35 on 5/16 (EM, JM).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was a nice April surprise south of New Milford 4/19 (NV). **Orchard Orioles** returned to their 2 private residence outposts in May, one near New Milford (NV) and the other south of Dimock (NB). These 2 have proven to be the only dependable locations for seeing these beautiful birds. Pine Siskins were completely absent during, not seen since the first half of January 2018.

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### **Union County**

A **Greater Scaup** was at the Spruce Run Fish Ponds 4/11 (AS). SGL 317, with its small forest-side pond, sported a beautiful breeding plumage **Long-tailed Duck** 3/31, and 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** were present as well (IA). A **Black-crowned Night Heron** was found along Penns Creek, between the town of Penns Creek and Millmont 4/21 (IW).

After a big morning out birding in the many interesting riverside habitats that *Union* offers, while making a U-turn in Lewisburg's Walmart parking lot, a **Franklin's Gull** was spotted among a group of **Ring-billed Gulls** lounging on the tarmac 3/31 (JG).

The **Prothonotary Warbler** made a shining appearance along Penns Creek at Dale's Ridge Trail, and the delighted discoverer noted that his photo couldn't do justice to this stunning little gem of a bird with its intense yellowish-orange coloration, even in poor light 5/6 (MH).

Observers: **Joe Gyekis**, [j99psu.edu](mailto:j99psu.edu); Ian Adrian, Matthew Heintzelman, Allen Schweinsberg, Imogen Warren.

### **Venango County**

Locations: Belmar Area (BA), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Cooperstown Sand & Gravel Co. (CSGC), Kahle Lake (KL), Kolodick's Yard (KY), Lambertson Road (LR), Oil Creek S.P. (OCSP), Two-Mile Run County Park (TMRP), Van Game Lands (SGL 45), Windy Hills Area (WH).

The species total for the period was 192, one more than last year. Probably due to snow events on about 50% of the days during March and April, it was one of the best waterfowl seasons in recent years as evidenced by over 700-900 individuals at KL, 4/1 and 4/6 (JS). Waterfowl of note were: a **Northern Shoveller** at TMRP, 3/26 (MK, NK), a few **Northern Pintails** at KL 3/11-19 (KG, JS), 6 **White-winged Scoters** on KL, 4/29 (GE, JS), more than 90 **Long-tailed Ducks** at various locations 3/30 (GE, JS, RS), **Red throated Loon** on multiple occasions at KL, 3/2-5/13 (GE, JS, RS) with a county record fall-out of 19 on 3/30 (GE, JS), a **Red-necked Grebe** at KL, (4/15-18), and an **Eared Grebe** found by JS at KL 5/4.

**Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at WH 3/3-4/6 (GE, ML, JS, RS). Two **Sandhill Cranes** flew over BHNS 4/17 (KG). A **Semipalmated Plover** was at TMRP 5/14 (GE) and 8 were at KL 5/22 (JS). A first county record, 2 **Whimbrels** flew by KL 5/20 (JS). A **Dunlin** was at KL 5/22 (JS). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** lingered at TWRP 5/20-22 (GE, MK, NK). Three **Wilson's Snipe** were recorded at KL 4/7 (JS). A **Red-necked Phalarope** was at KL 5/19, five days earlier than



the 3 that showed up last year. Just 3 of the 4 tern species made appearances at KL: **Caspian Tern** 4/1–5/7 (JS), **Common Tern** 5/4 (JS, GE), and **Forster's Tern** beginning 4/11 (JS, MK, NK, GE). Black Tern, was absent.

The only **Eastern Whip-poor-will** report was from VG 5/16 (GE). The first **Common Nighthawk** was reported in Franklin 5/8 (JH). A **Peregrine Falcon** was photographed after cooperating by staying put for nearly three hours after being located at the edge of a wood lot at KL (GE, JS). An uncommon **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited a feeder at Utica 5/10 (EA). There were no reports for Olive-sided or Yellow-bellied Flycatchers. **Philadelphia Vireo** was recorded at BHNS 5/15-19 (KG, JS) but White-eyed Vireo was not reported.

A second active **Purple Martin** colony was located just inside the county on an Amish farm near Venus. The other continues to thrive at an Amish lumberyard in the BS. The **Bank Swallow** colony at CSGC was doing well 5/12 (GE). The only **Winter Wren** reports were 4/15 at BHNS (JS, KG) and 5/19 at OCSP (RS). An early **Wood Thrush** and 38 **Hermit Thrushes** made appearances following a snow squall at BHNS 4/17 (KG, JS). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at BHNS 5/22 (KG, JS) and KY 5/22 (MK, NK). **Swainson's Thrush** moved through BHNS and KY 5/3-17 (KG, JS, MK, NK).

Thirty-two warbler species were recorded, highlighted by **Worm-eating Warbler** at BA 5/5-8 (DH, JH), **Northern Waterthrush** at KL 5/12 (JS) and OCSP 5/19 (CW), **Mourning Warbler** photographed at KY 5/22 (MK, NK) and seen at BHNS 5/22 (JS), **Kentucky Warbler** at OCSP 5/19 (GE, CW), and **Cape May Warbler** at OCSP 5/7 (DM) and 5/16 at KY (MK, NK). The only **Pine Warbler** report was from BHNS 4/13 (KG, JS). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported as several locations in BA and OCSP 4/5-5/14. **Prairie Warbler** was at BA 5/17 (DH, JH). **Wilson's Warbler** was at BHNS and OCSP 5/12-20 (CW, KG, JS).

The first **Yellow-breasted Chat** since 2012 was singing at BHNS 5/2 (KG, JS). **Fox Sparrow** moved through the area 4/4-22 (NB, KG, MK, NK, JS). The only **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported from LR 5/12 (NB). The last **White-throated Sparrow** was reported at KY 5/13 (MK, NK) and the first **White-crowned Sparrow** was at KY 5/2 (MK, NK). **Rusty Blackbird** was reported at KL 3/2-4/7 (KG, JS) after being conspicuous by its absence last year. An uncommon **Orchard Oriole** was seen at KL 5/17 (JS). A **Common Redpoll** was photographed at KY 4/6 (MK, NK).

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### Warren County

Locations: Akeley Swamp (AS), Betts Field, Warren (BF), Blueberry Hill Golf Course (BH), Chapman Dam State Park (CD), City of Warren (CW), Crescent Point Park (CP), Game Lands 86 (GL), Glade Bridge (GB), Hatch Patch (HP), Hearts Content Natural Area (HC), Kinzua Point (KP), MA, Mud Run (MR), Sandstone Springs (SS), Sugar Grove (SG), Tidioute Trail (TT), Willow Bay (WB).

Nine **Long-tailed Ducks** were present at KP as late as 4/6 (JF). Four **Ring-necked Ducks**, 7 **Buffleheads**, 20 **Hooded Mergansers**, and several courting **Common Goldeneyes** were at WB 3/19 (MM). Four **Blue-winged Teal** lingered as late 4/27 at AS (NW, ET), suggesting possible breeding. The first **Broad-winged Hawks** seen were 3 at CD 4/20 (JF), and a single at HC 4/22 (FM); but satellite-tagged female 'Patty', monitored by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary for the past two years, returned to her territory near SS unseen 4/15. **Merlins** were seen regularly, including a pair courting near MA 4/13 (JF), and probable nesting pairs at BF and BH (DW), making a likely total of 4 nesting pairs in Warren. The first **Turkey Vulture** was reported 3/23 at AS (GB).

A group of 16 **Solitary Sandpipers** was seen just west of AS 4/27 and 2 **Least Sandpipers** at AS 4/28 (NW, ET). Of note was a reported **Black-headed Gull** in full breeding plumage at HP 4/18 in the company of several **Ring-billed Gulls** (JF). Three **Forster's Terns** were spotted flying over the Allegheny River near CP 4/17 (JF). Rails are particularly sparse in Warren, so notable were 3 **Soras** and 4 **Virginia Rails** at AS 4/29 (NW).

Blizzard-like conditions in mid-April pushed lots of early migrants to the roadsides, such as 27 **Northern Flickers** near SS 4/17, in the company of at least

17 **Hermit Thrushes** (SHS, DW). The season's first reported **Blue-headed Vireo** was at HC 4/22 (FM). Unseasonably cold weather concentrated swallows over the Allegheny and other waterways, with up to 87 **Tree Swallows** seen together at GB 4/18 (JF). Unusual in this heavily wooded county was a colony of 9 **Purple Martins** on an Amish farm outside SG 5/30 (FM). The first **Wood Thrush** was reported at MR 4/21 (LB).

The first warblers of the season – **Black-and-White Warbler** and **Black-throated Green Warbler** – were seen on 4/24 at TT (SI). Several warblers arrived earlier than usual, including **Cape May Warbler** at GL 5/2 (SS) and **Tennessee Warbler** at AS 5/8 (TS). In contrast, other warblers arrived late including 8 **Cerulean Warblers** at GL 5/11, six days later than the average arrival dates here (SS). An amazing (for Warren) 5 **Prairie Warblers** were noted at CD 5/13 (SJ), along with an impressive 34 Black-throated Green Warblers and 11 **Northern Parulas**. Also noteworthy was an **Orchard Oriole** visiting an oriole feeder in CW on 5/3 (RC).

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### Washington County

Locations: AMD Pond on Hahn Road (AMD), Bentleyville (BENT), Buffalo Creek IBA 80 (BC), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Hillman State Park (HSP), Mingo Creek County Park (MC), Peters Lake (PL), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

A **Mute Swan** appeared at CC 3/11-19 (JF, LF, RI), unusual for this location. Reports of **Tundra Swans** included 19 and 45 near BENT 3/18 and 3/15, respectively (RI), and one at Boone Res. 3/28 (GG). Nine **Gadwall** tarried near BENT to 4/22 (RI), where the species was regularly reported since early Mar. **American Wigeon** moved through quickly in Mar, with the last 2 for the season at R4 on 3/31 (LC). It was a fine season for **Blue-winged Teal**, with reports from several locations 3/29-5/3 (m.ob.) headed by a high of 7 at Cherry Valley Res. 4/1 (MJ) and the two final birds at CL 5/3 (JF, LF) which were a bit late departing. It was an even better season for **Northern Shoveler**, which had one of its best showings throughout southwest Pennsylvania in this author's recent memory. Most sightings were from CL, but the best count was 8 at CC 4/1 (MJ). The only **Northern Pintail** reported, typically the earliest-departing of the dabblers, was one at BENT 3/18 (RI).

A pond in Ginger Hill held an impressive collection of ducks 3/4-9, which included 12 **Canvasbacks** and 22 **Redheads** (JF), both excellent totals for Washington. **Ring-necked Ducks** showed about as well as they possibly could in this water-starved county; high counts included 80 at the same Ginger Hill pond 3/4-9 (JF), up to 37 at R4 from 3/16-20 (RI, MJ), and 20 near BENT 3/18 (RI). Rare here, one or 2 **Greater Scaup** were near BENT 3/18 and 3/25 (RI). A great count of 62 **Lesser Scaup** was made at R4 on 4/1 (LF). Sea ducks are exceedingly rare here.

Three **White-winged Scoters** were at R4 on 3/31 (LC, SG), and there were 2 reports of **Long-tailed Duck**: one at Mortons Lake (near BENT) from 4/5-7 (LC, et al.) and one at CC 4/18 (RI). Late **Common Mergansers** included a male near GCW 5/11 (RT) and one at PL 5/14 (GG). It was very good season also for **Red-breasted Mergansers** through the end of Mar, and very late birds were located at R4 from 5/22-23 (MJ) and at AMD 5/23 (MJ).

Both **Common Loon** and **Horned Grebe** were reported at above-average frequency, highlighted by a late loon at CC 5/9 (FK), a high count of 19 grebes at CL 4/1 (MJ), and a tarrying grebe at Lake Joann 4/29 (GG). Very nice were 2 reports of **Red-necked Grebe**: one at BENT 3/4 (RI) and one at R4 on 4/17 (RI). Even **Double-crested Cormorants** got in on the action and showed up in good numbers, peaking at 50 at R4 on 4/7 (LC). Two cormorants at PL 5/22 (JF) were out of place for that late date. Six **Great Egrets** appeared at CL 3/29 (JF) and were reported there in smaller numbers through 5/17 (m.ob.), and one was at R4 from 5/18-23 (MV, et al.). Considerably less than annual in the county, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** spent a day at CL 3/29 (JM, et al.).

**Osprey** was recorded at six different locations in the county this season, beginning with the first (early) bird at BENT 3/18 (RI). A pair of **Bald Eagles** nested

at CL again this year, and by mid-May they were still tending to one nestling which hatched 4/9 (LC). A **Sora** was at GCW 4/20 (RI) and both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were noted there 4/22 (RT); later in the season, 3 Virginias and 4 Soras were noted at the wetlands 5/12 (RG), certainly both species nesting by then.

Shorebirds unremarkable, with just about all reports coming from CL or R4. Highlights included 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** at CL and R4 on 5/22 (JF) and 5/23 (MV), respectively, a count of 15 **Solitary Sandpipers** at R4 on 5/4 (RI), 10 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at CL 5/20 (MJ), and 2 **Dunlin** photographed in handsome breeding plumage at CL 5/17 (MJ). Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at CL 4/19 (ST), a species frequently seen in nearby counties but rare (or unlooked-for) in *Washington*. Two **Herring Gulls** at a pond near BENT 3/4 (RI) were on their way through, as there are still no known nesting areas in the county.

Once again **Black-billed Cuckoo** was hardly reported, in this season's case, only twice. There were 4 sightings of single **Common Nighthawks** around the county (mostly near *Washington*) 5/14-22 (m.ob.). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in Cecil Twp. 5/8 (PB) and near *Atlasburg* 5/9 (RI, SG) were nice surprises. **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were reported from at least 10 locations through 5/3, a late departure date for here. A **Merlin** at CC 4/9 (MJ) was a nice find.

**Alder Flycatcher** is less than annual, so 2 reports were noteworthy: one near *Taylorstown* 5/11-12 (RT) and one in Cecil Twp. 5/15 (FK). **Common Ravens** were everywhere once again, seen at MC throughout the season (as for the past three years now) and at five other locations, at least. One or 2 **Horned Larks** were at *Parkview Road* outside of CC 5/8-12 (LC, RG), a species with little history of breeding in *Washington*. **Purple Martins** were back at CC 4/18 (RI). Unusual both in that they are frequently missed altogether in spring, and for the somewhat early date, was a **Cliff Swallow** at CL 4/16 (JF). An early **Barn Swallow** was at CL 3/25 (JF) as well. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present but thinly reported at their two typical haunts: *Washington Cemetery* through 3/19 (LC) and HSP through at least the beginning of May (m.ob.). The only **Winter Wren** was one at MC 3/18 (FK). Spot-breasted thrushes were very few, except for **Swainson's Thrush**, which saw one of its best spring flights in recent memory.

A **Worm-eating Warbler** at PL 5/8 (JF) was a wonderful find for *Washington*. A survey of gamelands near *Burgettstown* 5/12 turned up 12 **Blue-winged Warblers** and 15 **Tennessee Warblers** (RG), among impressive counts of other species. That was not the season's top count of the season for *Tennessee Warbler*, however, an honor that instead went to the 22 noted throughout the BC area 5/11 (RT). A nice count of 10 **Nashville Warblers** was made at the same location near *BURG* 5/4 (RG). The best bird of the season was a well-described **Prothonotary Warbler** at PL on the early date of 4/14 (MM). There are probably only one or two other records in the history of *Washington*. **Cerulean Warblers** were well reported this year, from at least six locations (m.ob.), an encouraging sign for this troubled species. Surprisingly, **Blackpoll Warbler** was seldom reported this year; typically, here in southwest Pennsylvania, their squeaky-wheel song is almost impossible to miss just about anywhere one goes in the third week of May. It was not so for **Palm Warbler**, though, which had a very good showing with many reports 4/26-5/13. **Prairie Warblers** were thick in and around HSP as usual, but that is the only regular breeding location for them in the county. A late **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at MC 5/22 (GG). **Wilson's Warbler** was reported thrice: one at CC 5/9 (FK), one at BC 5/11 (RT), and one at MC 5/14 (LC). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported from eight locations, an excellent showing.

**Lincoln's Sparrow** is quite rare in spring; this season one was located at MC 5/11 (JF, LF). **Bobolinks** were noted at several of northwest *Washington's* many reclaimed strip mine grasslands, beginning 4/27 (m.ob.). **Rusty Blackbirds** were limited to one at CL 3/6 (JF) and 13 there 3/22 (JF). A **Pine Siskin** stopped at a feeder in *Peters Twp.* 5/1 (GG).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 450 Amherst Avenue, Moon Township, PA 15108-2654, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Paul Brown, Lauren Conkle, Leslie Ferree, Mike Fialkovich, John Flannigan, Ross Gallardy, Gigi Gerben, Sayre Greenfield, Roy Ickes, Matthew Juskowich, Fred Kachmarik, Michele Mannella, Jeff McDonald, Russ Ruffing, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

#### Wayne County

Locations: Lake Wallenpaupack (LW).

### PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

There was a nice diversity of waterfowl with 14 species recorded. Two **Blue-winged Teal** 4/14 and 2 **Green-winged Teal** 4/11 were at a private residence near *Bethany* (JH). A male **American Wigeon** was seen at *Cooks Pond* 3/31 (RJ). An outing at LW 3/25 yielded 14 **Greater Scaup**, one **Bufflehead**, 4 **Common Goldeneyes**, 12 **Common Mergansers**, and one **Common Loon** (MS). The first county eBird record of **Horned Grebe** was of one reported at LW 3/30 (MN). This is somewhat of a surprise considering the species is reported in the *Pike* portion of LW almost annually. Another first *Wayne* eBird record was one **Lesser Black-backed Gull** photographed at *Gouldsboro Lake* 4/15 (JC).

Twenty-three warbler species were counted, matching last year's Spring total. Notable was a county-breeding **Mourning Warbler** at SGL 299 on 5/26 (DW). The highlight of the season was the first county eBird report of **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at a private residence near *Gouldsboro* 5/17 (AS, BS, RS). The adult male blackbird was photographed while eating under feeders at the residence.

Observers: **Josh Jones, unclechu76@gmail.com**, Jon Corcoran, John Harvey, Ryan Johnson, Michael Niven, Michael Schall, Anthony Staiano, Becky Staiano, Rob Staiano, Drew Weber.

#### Westmoreland County

Locations: *Beaver Run Reservoir* (BRR-380), *Cedar Creek County Park* (CCCC), *Donegal Lake* (DL), *Ethel Springs Reservoir* (ESR, also more commonly known as *Derry Lake*), *Jacob's Creek Wetland* (JCW), *Ligonier Ice Pond /Lady of the Lake* (IP), *Kuehl Property – Murrysville* (KP), *Latrobe Reservoir* (LR, also known as *Trout Run Reservoir*), *Laughlin Farm Road near Blairsville* (LFR), *Love Hollow – Andy Mack location north of Ligonier* (LH), *Lowber Wetlands* (LW), *Loyalhanna Dam* (LD), *Morosini Reserve* (MR), *Murrysville Community Park* (MCP), *New Stanton* (NS), *Powdermill Nature Reserve* (PNR), *St. Vincent Lake/Wetland* (SVW), *Trees Mill at bridge over Beaver Run* (TM), *Twin Lakes Park* (TLP), *Westmoreland Heritage Trail* locations: *MAWC Beaver Run property* (WHT - BRR), *Saunders Station to Trafford* (WHT-SS), *Delmont* (WHT-D) and *Sarah Steel Trailhead* (WHT-SST), *West Pen Trail for Livermore/Conemaugh* (WPT).

An unusual number of rarely reported wetland species was the highlight of the season. Also, substantial eBird submissions greatly contributed to the report, as did the participants of the PA Migration Count (PAMC) of 5/12 (appreciation to Dick Byers for compiling).

At quite a late date, 7 **Snow Geese** were tallied for the 5/12 PAMC; a V-flyover seen from the east side of *Beaver Run Reservoir* (MM). Three **Mute Swans** and one **Trumpeter Swan** were found at LW by a WB&NC group 3/18. eBird Checklists (often with photographs) provided for continuing reports of the **Trumpeter Swan** to 4/14. There was no evidence that the **Trumpeter Swan** was tagged. A large dead swan was reported as floating belly-up in the water 4/27 (MJS); no other swans were present that day. Regular LW visitor Jim Pemberton reported that the deceased bird was in fact the **Trumpeter Swan** and indicated the long history of erratic behavior of this bird. While at times very tame, aggressive behavior of both swan species was also reported by the many observers. Jim also reported that a snapping turtle was seen with the deceased **Trumpeter Swan**, however stated he was aware of no evidence that the snapper caused the death of the swan. Nine **Tundra Swans** were at IP 3/10 and 3/17 (AM).

A high count of 20 **Wood Ducks** was reported at WHT-BRR 3/16 (KB). DL provided for the season high count of 8 for **Blue-winged Teal** 4/13 (AM) and again 4/29 (MJ). Observed at just a few locations, the season high report for **Northern Shoveler** was 6 at LR 3/17 (AM). Also, just modest counts and at just a few locations, the high count of 6 **Gadwalls** was tallied at LR 3/17 (AM) and at IP 3/24 (AM). The only substantial report for **American Wigeon** was of 8 at ESL that were tallied on the WB&NC 3/11 (KB, et al.). Reported at only 2 locations, a high of just 4 **American Black Ducks** were at LR 3/10 (AM). **Northern Pintails** were also scarce - one at DL 3/3 (AM), 2 at *Turners Pond* 3/17 (KB), and one at PNR 4/4 (NL/MW). The high of scattered reports for **Green-winged Teal** was 7 at WHT-BRR 3/16 (KB).

Overall, diving ducks were lightly reported, with no reports of *Canvasback*, *Common Goldeneye*, *scoters*, and *Long-tailed Duck*. ESL provided for all the several good counts for **Redheads** with earliest and latest reports of 25 both on

3/2 (PC) and on 3/17 (AM). Several high counts of **Ring-necked Ducks** were all reported in March: 45 at Turner's Pond 3/16 (KB), 66 at Hamilton Road pond 3/16 (KB), 98 at LR 3/17 (AM), and more than 100 at LR 3/30 (CK). The only significant report of the season, 29 **Greater Scaup** were at BRR-380 on 3/29 (KB). The high count of limited reporting of **Lesser Scaup** was of 6 at DL 4/13 (AM). The season-high count for **Bufflehead** was 50 at LR 3/30 (CK). Season-high reports for mergansers were 15 **Hooded Mergansers** at IP (AM), 16 **Common Mergansers** at WHT-BRR 3/1 (KB), and 7 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Tubmill Reservoir 4/13 (AM). Reporting of **Ruddy Duck** was light, with a high of 10 at LR 3/30 (CK).

An indication of how rare the species has become, Byers reported that the lone **Ruffed Grouse** at his home in Stahlstown 3/6 is the first there since 2005, and that was the only report provided for *Westmoreland* this season. One **Red-throated Loon** at ESR, likely the same bird at that location at the end of the winter, was seen on a WB&NC Outing 3/11, and a final report was provided 3/15 (KSJ). The season-high counts for **Common Loon** were both at LR: 3 on 4/1 (RH) and 3 on 4/28 (AM). The season-high counts of 5 **Pied-billed Grebes** were all at ESR: 3/11 (WB&NC), 3/15 (KSJ), and 4/7 (KB). Several reports for **Horned Grebe** were at BRR-380 with 6 on 3/17 (KB/RH) and 7 on 4/7 (KB). The season high count for Horned Grebe was 13 at LR 3/30 (CK). The only report of the season, one **Red-necked Grebe** was at BRR-380 3/16 (MJS). The only significant of just a few reports, 13 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at BRR-380 3/29 (KB). One **American Bittern** was at PNR 4/3 (NL). A very good find while traveling, Carl Kish provided photos with his eBird checklist of 4/22 of an American Bittern on Beatty County Rd., not far from the St. Vincent Wetlands. And adding even more to this good season for American Bittern, Sue Miller got excellent videos of one at the MCP Wetlands 5/9 and Rebecca Hart heard one at LW 5/12-PAMC day. During a 5/12 visit, 7 **Great Blue Herons** were seen, with more likely on the nest at the rookery at LW 5/12 (RH). Another species most often missing from a *Westmoreland* spring report, one **Great Egret** was at WHT-BRR 4/12 (KB).

Two **Black Vultures** and 4 **Turkey Vultures** were interested in a road-killed skunk on Rt. 381, not far from PNR 5/12 (TK, JK). One early-returning **Osprey** was found at Northmoreland Park 3/23 (JS). Up to 2 Ospreys were at the long-time DL nest site beginning 3/24 with 2 (AM) and continuing to 5/26 with one (AM). Remarkably, 5 Osprey were at TLP 4/23 (PC). Single **Northern Harrier** were at WHT-BRR 4/27 (KB) and DL 4/28 (AM). Possibly a pair, 2 **Cooper's Hawks** were seen flying together at Schramm's Farm Market outside of Harrison City 5/2 (JK, TK). There were many scattered reports for **Bald Eagle** during the season; the high count of 5 was 3/10 at LD, an over-wintering site. A sample of reports at likely nesting sites for Bald Eagle include 2 at IP 3/17 (AM), 2 at BRR-380 4/20 (SM), and one at WPT 5/5 (M-RH). Among the many reports for **Red-shouldered Hawk** at PNR was an eBird checklist submission of 2 on 4/18 (NL). A walk of the WHT-SS provided for the sighting of 4 **Broad-winged Hawks** 4/25 (WB&NC outing participants). One adult **Golden Eagle** was an opportune sighting by Ken Byerly - he watched it get dive-bombed by a **Red-tailed Hawk** near the reclaimed area just north of the WHT-SST 4/15.

Two **Virginia Rails**, one seen and one heard, were tallied at LW on the 5/12 PAMC (RH). One **Sora** was first heard at the MCP 5/5 (SM) and continued to at least 5/12. Contributing to the PAMC species tally was one Sora, heard at LW 5/12 (RH). The high of well-scattered reports for **American Coot** was 8 at ESR by the WB&NC outing group 3/11. Four **Killdeer** chicks with 2 adults nearby were videoed at MCP 5/5 (SM). A **Whimbrel** flew close-by at LR 5/10 (LS). A flock of at least 20 **Dunlins** was reported at LW for the 5/12 PAMC (RH). A productive visit to drained DL 5/26 (AM) provided for several shorebird reports: 2 **Semipalmated Plovers**, 3 **Least Sandpipers**, 4 **White-rumped Sandpipers**, 24 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** (and 34 were reported there on the same day by MJ) and 3 **Western Sandpipers**; and on 4/13, DL provided for a report of 7 **Pectoral Sandpipers**. The only report for the season, 3 **Wilson's Snipe** were at DL 4/10 (NL). The high of scattered reports, including 7 reports at DL was of 10 **Spotted Sandpipers** 4/29 (MJ), and that location also provided for the season high count of 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** (MJ). One **Greater Yellowlegs** was at the Hamilton Rd. ponds 4/12 (KB) and 8 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at DL 4/28 (AM). A late date due to cold March weather, the first tally of **American Woodcock** was one heard at KP 3/30 (TK).

Two significant reports indicate a substantial migration of **Bonaparte's Gull** - 37 on 4/11 at WHT-BRR (KB) and 52 at the Rt. 286 causeway over the Beaver Run Reservoir 4/21 (SM). The high of scattered sightings of **Ring-billed Gull** was 9 at LR 4/1 (RH). One **Herring Gull** flew over a home in Delmont 4/21 (KB). The only tern was of a **Common Tern** at BRR-380 on 4/16 (KB).

One **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was heard on the KP 5/24 (JK); and among

many Laurel Highland reports was for one on the WB&NC Evening Vespers outing at SFB, also on 5/24. A chance sighting of the more elusive **Black-billed Cuckoo** was made in LRSP on the 5/12 PAMC-day (JK, TK) and 2 Black-bills were at the Morosini Reserve near Delmont 5/15 (SM). Roger Haltrup uploaded a nice photograph of an **Eastern Screech-Owl** on an eBird checklist that an agitated **American Robin** brought to his attention at his home near New Alexandria 5/20. Heard first 3/25, one or 2 **Barred Owls** continued to be heard on many days at KP through 5/25 (JK, TK), and 2 were seen together there 5/21. Three **Barred Owls** were heard during nocturnal birding of Rod and Gun Road on Chestnut Ridge outside of Derry for the 5/12 PAMC Migration Count (SM).

One **Common Nighthawk** flew over KP 5/19 (JK, TK). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard along Rt. 259 north of Ligonier 5/31 (LS). Low elevation reports of single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were made at WHT-D 4/8 and WHT-SSP 4/19 (KB); all other reports were from the Laurel Highlands. One birder was justly rewarded with a turn-around visit to check out a suspected falcon perched on top of a large Norway Spruce - a **Merlin** in New Stanton 2/20 (MF). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen near the Westmoreland Fairground 3/25 (SG).

Although **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** captures were made during the season at the PNR Banding Station, no field reports were received and the same was true for another boreal migrant, **Philadelphia Vireo**. One **Alder Flycatcher** was tallied in the field (SM) and 3 were banding station captures at PNR for the 5/12 PAMC. Single Alder Flycatchers were at Raven's Roost near PNR 5/17 (MW) and on Mallard's Lane near Ligonier 5/27 (AM). **Willow Flycatchers** were reported at several locations in May; one 5/14 at NS (MF), one singing while in sight at MCP 5/15 (TK), 2 on LFR 5/17 (PF), one heard on Kemmerer Rd. 5/25 (TK), and one heard at Schamm's Farm Market 5/25 (TK). Two **Least Flycatchers** were tallied for the 5/12 PAMC LRSP (JK, TK). The earliest of several reports for the location, 2 **White-eyed Vireo** were at MR 5/15 (SM). One **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported in the Hunter's Lane area 5/9 (JK/TK), and a later report was of 2 at SFB 5/26 (MW). As expected, there were quite a few reports for **Blue-headed Vireo** in the Laurel Highlands; one lower elevation report was at the MR 5/10 (SM). There were several scattered reports for **Warbling Vireo**, including reports on the WHT-D 5/1 (KB) and 5/2 (SM).

**Common Raven** sightings continue to be, well, quite common in low elevation areas; one raven flew north over Rt. 22, carrying a stick with its feet and had something in its bill as well 5/2 (JK, TK). On 5/22, two "Big Crows" were observed taking eggs from a Killdeer nest (*fide* MF). Shortly thereafter 2 ravens were sighted, one flying with something in its bill - a **Common Grackle** in hot pursuit (MF). One **Horned Lark** was at DL 4/28 (AM). **Purple Martins** again nested at MCP with 16 present 5/5 and 20 on 5/12 (SM). Seventy-five Purple Martins were on Aviation Lane (near the Rt. 286 crossing of Beaver Run Reservoir) on 5/12 for the PAMC (KB, et al.). The high count provided at the Municipal Authority office at BRR-380 was the 10 martins seen 4/20 (SM). Several reports for **Bank Swallow** came from TLP, including the earliest of 5 on 4/20 and continuing with the latest report of 3 on 5/20 (PC). Two **Cliff Swallows** were at DL 4/30 (NL).

Providing the only report of the season, one **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at DL 3/10 (AM). Likely over-wintering, one **Brown Creeper** was found on WHT-BR 3/12 (KB) and on WHT-D 4/8 (KB); and then possibly nesting birds, a group of birders reported 2 creepers on the Wolf Rocks Trail 5/24. Always a target species for the PAMC, 3 **Winter Wrens** were tallied in LSP 5/12 (JK, TK). A lower elevation report, one Winter Wren was at the hilly Duff Park in Murrysville 4/29 (MF). A singing **Marsh Wren** was at Donegal Lake 4/13 (AM). There were many well-scattered reports of both kinglets; both were at LR 4/21, with 5 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and 5 **Ruby Crowned Kinglets** (SM).

Reports for **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were limited to captures at PNR. Along with many PNR-captures of **Swainson's Thrush**, other reports were provided by the 5/12 PAMC parties and of interest as a possible breeder was a late season report of one Swainson's Thrush at SFB 5/26 (MW). Seen, rather than heard were 2 **Hermit Thrush** on the 5/12 PAMC effort at SFB (TK, JK). Of interest are eBird checklists for MR that included Hermit Thrush beginning 5/1 and continuing through 5/29, with a high of 8 on 5/17 (SM). A nice flock of 40 **American Pipits** was at WHT-SST 4/29 (KB). Seven hours of birding and banding provided for a report of 75 **Cedar Waxwings** at PNR 5/19 (NL).

Waterthrush species were reported at reliable locations - 5 **Northern Waterthrush** were at WPT 5/2 (JK, TK) and among many reports for **Louisiana Waterthrush** were 5 at CCCP 4/14 (MD) and 4 at LRSP 5/12 (JK, TK). Two **Louisiana Waterthrush** were at Duff Park in Murrysville 4/29, so at that late date

it seems possible they are nesting there. **Blue-winged Warblers** were reported 5/4-29 at MR, with a high count of 3 on 5/8 (SM). One **Brewster's Warbler** was banded at PNR 5/2 (NL). Migrant **Tennessee, Nashville** and **Cape May Warblers** were tallied in the field for the 5/12 PAMC. One **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at MR 5/10 (SM). Field reports for **Mourning Warbler** included one at LH 5/13 (AM) and one near PNR 5/25 (NL/MW). **Kentucky Warblers** were found in good numbers on Chestnut Ridge outside of Derry, a total of 5 tallied for the 5/12 PAMC on 2 eBird Checklists (SM).

One **Blackpoll Warbler** was recorded near PNR 5/17 (MW). Photos were supplied with the eBird checklist of one **Palm Warbler** and of a fallout of 22 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at SVW 4/30 (AM). The only report of the season, one **Pine Warbler** was at the Hart Farm near Latrobe 4/22 (RH). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were noted at long-time reliable locations; the earliest report for CCCP was of 2 on 4/14 (MD), and there were 2 at WPT 5/2 (JK, TK). And now the extension of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail from Murrysville to Trafford is providing access to a new **Yellow-throated Warbler** hot spot with 5 tallied (including one ridiculously close look of one bouncing about a log beside the trail) on a WB&NC outing 4/25 (WHT-SS). One of 3 **Prairie Warblers** reported was photographed at the MR 4/21 (SM). Laurel Highland specialty warblers - **Northern Parula, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green and Canada Warbler** - were all tallied for the 5/12 PAMC; with a stunning total of 26 **Canada Warblers** (JK, TK) while covering from SFB and LRSP. All 7 **Wilson Warblers** for the 5/12 PAMC were PNR Banding Station captures. There was an encouraging number of scattered reports for **Cerulean Warbler**, the earliest was one at CCCP 4/27 (RN), and there were many reports for the 5/12 PAMC, including 2 at LRSP (JK, TK), 6 on Chestnut Ridge above Derry (SM), and 3 at WPT (SM).

**Four Grasshopper Sparrows** and 4 **Savannah Sparrows** were found on LFR 5/17 (PF). One **Fox Sparrow** was in Stahlstown for just a day 3/3 (DB). No field reports were made; however, 16 **Lincoln's Sparrow** were captured at the PNR Banding Station in May. Now quite rare in *Westmoreland*, a photo of one of 3 **Yellow-breasted Chats** was included in an eBird Checklist for LR 5/19 (AM). Fulfilling a PAMC-obligation to tally this species, driving through the open farm area on Ft. 381 near PNR 3 **Bobolinks** were heard 5/12 (TK, JK). Two **Orchard Orioles** were at LFR 5/17 (PF), and then later in the day, one **Eastern Meadowlark** (MJS). The high-count of just several reports for this species was of 10 **Rusty Blackbirds** at JCW 3/25 (MJ). Never more than 2 at any time, **Purple Finch** were reported at LH 3/21-5/19, and 5 **Pine Siskins** were at that same location 3/21 (AM). Quite a gathering, 17 male **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 31 **American Goldfinches** were at Stahlstown feeders 3/9, with 50 there 3/14 (DB); and in similar fashion 40 male Red-winged Blackbirds were at feeders at the KP 3/9 (TK).

Observers: **Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724)-325-1918, tjuehl@comcast.net**, Ken Byerly, Dick Byers, Pete Campolongo, Michael David, Mike Fialkovich, Patience Fisher, Sharon Gewecke, Steve Gosser, Rebecca Hart (RH), Margaret and Roger Higbee (M-RH), Matt Juskowich, Chuck Kutcha, Janet Kuehl, Nicholas Liadis, Andy Mack, Steve Manns, Mark McConaughy, Sue Miller, Richard Nugent, Lauren Schneider, Mary Jane Seipler, Kate St. John, Joyce Shelhammer, Matt Webb, Nathan Weyandt, WB&C Club (Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club), and note that observers at Lowber Wetlands were Ken Byerly, Dale Matuza, Mark Bowers, Rebecca Hart, and perhaps others.

### Wyoming County

Locations: Beaumont (BM), Brown's Farm (BF), Davis Crossing (DC), Endless Mountains Nature Center/Vosburg Neck (EMNC), Grist Flats (GF), Iroquois Trail (IT), Lake Carey (LC), Lake Winola (LW), Lazybrook Park (LP), Little Rocky Glen (LG), Mary Robbin's Pond (MRP), Mulligan's Pond (MP), Oxbow Lake (OL), Russell Hill (RH), Scavazzo's Pond (SCP), Scottsville Road (SR), Sharpe's Lake (SL), Sordoni's Farm (SF), State Gamelands 57 (SGL).

The 2018 Pennsylvania Spring Migration Count yielded 90 species, the lowest count in over 20 years, and 1417 individuals, the second lowest yield over the same period. As during last year's count, the weather was disagreeable, with rain, sometimes heavy, throughout the day. In addition, this year we were missing three of our most skilled and experienced birders, so the rest of us were stretched

thin.

Two **Blue-winged Teal** were recorded at a small pond on Mason Rd. (near Lake Carey) 4/15 (JD). Three **Gadwall** were at LC 3/13 (JD). **Green-winged Teal** were recorded twice: 3/24, when 2 were observed at Scavazzo's Pond; and 4/17, when 4 were at LC (both JD). **Ring-necked Duck** were reported 9 times, in various numbers, from various locations, from 3/6 through 4/19 (JD, MC, JS). Most of the counts were of a dozen or less, but 31 were seen at LC 4/4 (MC), and 146 made a brief visit to Scavazzo's Pond 3/18 (JD). A rare record for *Wyoming*, a **Greater Scaup** was observed 4/16 at LC (JS). **Lesser Scaup**, a more regular visitor, although still uncommon, made some stops on the way north: 7 at OL 4/2, and 2 at LC on the same day (EM, NVC). Lesser Scaup were recorded at LC several times 3/18-4/4, with a large flock of 54 on 3/30 (MC).

Two **White-winged Scoters**, also rarely reported in *Wyoming*, were recorded 4/19 at LC (JD). **Long-tailed Ducks** were recorded several times: 14 at LC 3/30, 4 at LC 4/4, (both MC), 8 at LC 4/19, and 5 at OL 4/19 (both JD). **Bufflehead**, a commonly reported species during both spring and fall, was reported from five locations eight times 3/8-5/24 (EM, JD, MC, SP, JS, JRL, NVC, and JC). The largest group, numbering 18, was reported at LC 3/7 (JS). **Ruddy Ducks** were at LC 3/29-4/16, and 15 were recorded 3/30 (MC).

**Common Loon** was reported on and off 4/6-4/27: a single bird 4/8 at OL (JD), singles at LC, 4/6 (JS), 4/19 (JD), and 4/22 (JRL), 3 on 4/23 (TA); 4 on 4/16 (JS); and 6 on 4/17 (AT). Eight birders reported **Horned Grebes** 3/30-4/26, all on LC, where a few make an appearance each year (MC, ST, JRL, JC, JS, EM, MVC, JD). For the most part, reports were of 1 or 2 birds. However, 9 were observed 4/6-4/11 (MS), 4/16 (JS), and 4/17 (JD).

Once again, spring went by with no reported evidence of **Osprey** breeding. As in past years, a few singles were seen, apparently in transit or over their feeding range: 4/7 over Nicholson (DT), 4/19 over OL (JD), 4/20 (ST), 4/22 at LC (JRL), and 5/24, again at LC (MC). A single **American Coot**, uncommon for *Wyoming*, was observed 3/21 and 3/23 at LC (MC, ST). **Solitary Sandpiper**, another transient, was recorded at LC and Newton 5/5 (SP) and 5/24 (MC). Bad weather preceded the appearance of 8 **Caspian Terns** at LC 4/15 (JD), the first county record since 2007, according to my records.

Several flocks of **Horned Lark** were observed at BF, where they are usually seen in winter and in migration: a flock of 80 on 3/6 (MC), a flock of 25 on 3/27 (JD), and a flock of 40 on 3/31 (MC) **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, a regular winter resident, was recorded 3 times: 3 at LC 4/22; one near their home at RH 4/24; and 2 at EMNC 4/29 (all JRL).

Seventeen species of warblers were recorded, all returning breeders, except migrant **Palm Warbler**, recorded 5/3 at VN (MC) and 5/8 at DC (JD). **Fox Sparrow** was recorded 3/30 at a LC bird feeder (MC) and observed over a period of weeks at that location before leaving. **White-crowned Sparrow**, another winter transient, was reported at several locations during first two weeks of May, before leaving the area for breeding grounds: a single bird 5/1 in BM (SG), 2 birds 5/2 at LC (MC), and singles 5/4 in Vernon (DPB), 5/11 at Russell Hill (JRL), and during the PAMC 5/12 at GF (JD).

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### York County

Locations: Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Nixon County Park (NIX), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP),

This spring's species count of 194 was reasonable considering the lack of a shorebird season due to high water levels and the loss of access to one of the

county's better birding areas, Brunner's Island. Individual species highlights were paced by a state rarity, **Brown Pelican**, and **Common Gallinule and Cattle Egret** were also noteworthy finds. The PAMC effort, co-compiled by Ann Pettigrew and Randy Phillips, netted 113 species. Overall, the county's passerine migration through the county was viewed as a positive.

Waterfowl species count at 28 was better than average with some better flock counts for York. March usually brings a few Snow Goose reports with low numbers but this year there were none. A nice early spring count of 55 **Wood Ducks** came from LW 3/29 (AWG). The five locales holding **American Wigeon** were paced by a 25-count at Lake Lea 3/29 (DNN). **American Black Duck** saw 5 reports 3/9-29 (KC, RMH, DN, AWG) with a high of 15 birds at Marsh Run 3/11 (DN). A trio of **Canvasbacks** were found at LR 3/10 (MC) and a single was at GPSP 3/31 (DN). A nice **Redhead** flock of up to 33 birds was at CSP 3/6-4/17 (VB, JSD, DHo, NM, PM) and a **Long-tailed Duck** flock of up to 17 birds was at CSP & LAR 4/17 (JSD). GPSP also held Long-tailed Duck with a pair 4/5-6 (CB, JC, DNN). Likely a county record count, 79 **Common Goldeneyes** were at GPSP 3/10 (DNN). A much more typical count, a pair was at LW 3/29 (AWG). **Red-breasted Merganser** reports spanned 3/1-4/19 (m.ob.) with good counts of 19 at CSP and 16 at GPSP. A good find, **Red-throated Loon**, put in an extended stay at GPSP 3/31-4/10 (CB, JC, DN, MR).

Single **Ring-necked Pheasants** were at Hoff Rd 3/27 (TB) and Shrewsbury Twp 5/9 (JF). Thirty reports of **Wild Turkey** were led by a count of 31 along Indian Rock Dam Rd 3/25 (RS). The adult **Brown Pelican** was a morning find at Shepperd-Myers Reservoir 5/22 (RS, et al). It was well photographed by several observers with PORC documentation submitted (CB, KS). The bird was last seen at ~2030 hours that day as it took flight. Almost assuredly the same bird showed up at the Susquehanna R.'s Conowingo Dam in Maryland the following day (a distance of ~20 miles from the Pennsylvania sighting). PORC archives indicate this is the second spring record for this species in the state. County archives indicate one was shot at Goldsboro in 1910 for the only other record for this species in the county. A very large flock of **Double-crested Cormorants**, with counts ranging from 350-440 birds, was at CSP 3/31-4/20 (CB, RS, DW, et al).

A noteworthy find was a chance observation (ph doc submitted) of an adult **Cattle Egret** in a field along Smith Station Rd 4/10 (Carolyn Boose). This appears to be the first report of this species in the county in the last 20 years. The Kivanis Lake mixed rookery had counts of up to 22 **Great Egrets** and 22 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** during the period (m.ob.). The egrets continue to favor LR/LW for their foraging trips. The night-heron reporting showed a somewhat wider foraging range than normal with up to 2 birds at GPSP 5/16 (DA) and a single at HTP 5/30 (DN). A **Snowy Egret** at CSP 5/22 (BA) was beautifully photographed.

Raptor reporting continues positive but CSP's PGC nestcam **Bald Eagle** pair were challenged by an aggressive interloper and the nest was apparently abandoned. A **Common Gallinule** provided the county's first report since a May 2008 sighting at Brunner's Island. Speaking of Brunner's Island, the utility company placed restrictions closing access to all areas. Any future observations will be very limited as those will need to be made from limited local roadsides. Fortunately, at this time, no plans were announced to alter the habitat. The closure announcement cited liability and security concerns.

A **Wilson's Snipe** was at Sunnyside Rd 3/1 (CB). Five were found at LAR 4/7 (JSD) and HTP held birds 4/7-26 (DF, JH, KJ, MJ, DN) with a high of 14 on 4/13 (KJ). Nice **Bonaparte Gull** counts came from LR 4/11 (AWG) with 74 birds; 50 were at CSP 4/7 (JSD). Up to a trio of **Herring Gulls** were at CSP 3/12-4/10 (m. ob.) and a single was at GPSP 4/29 (MH). Not often found away from the Susquehanna R., a **Great Black-backed Gull** was at CSP 3/1 (DN). **Caspian Terns** were found at three sites 4/8-5/2 (m.ob.) with a good county count of 16 at CSP 4/22 (HM).

Singles of **Black-billed Cuckoo** were found at LR & RRCP 5/5-23 (BH, AP, AW). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reporting was a bit lower than recent springs with five sites producing reports with no count exceeding 2 birds. Up to 7 **Common Nighthawks** were at Goldsboro 5/9-20 (JMu, BS), a trio at Saginaw 5/20 (DW), and a single at GPSP 5/29 (DN). A targeted effort at Camp Tuckahoe produced 2 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** 5/29 (CB, DC, DNN, DW). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found at 13 sites with high counts of 7 birds at GPSP 4/17 (DN) and 5 birds at HTP 5/27 (DF). Falcon reporting frequency was typical but 4 **Merlin** reports 3/1-4/8 (DK, DN, DW) were better than normal. A 5/8 (CK) **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at LW was running a bit late.

A 4.5-mile trail hike at GPSP produced a nice count of 18 **Eastern Wood**

**Pewees** 5/9 (EB). Five sites reporting **Least Flycatcher** 5/1-15 (m.ob.) were more than normal. Some better vireo counts included 7 **White-eyed Vireos** at GPSP 5/11 (DN), 8 **Yellow-throated Vireos** at GPSP 5/6 (DA), and 7 **Blue-headed Vireos** at RRCP 4/21 (MA). Ten sites reporting **Horned Lark** were more than normal but no count exceed 8 birds. A 5/2 (AM) **Purple Martin** count of 82 birds came from Lock 12. Up to 8 **Bank Swallows** were at GPSP 5/12-13 (KJ, RK) and a trio were at Ski Roundtop 5/10 (CH). The **Cliff Swallow** colony at the CSP bridges continues but max count was on the low side with 12 birds.

The two **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports were both in May, - 5/6 (AO) at Mt. Wolf and 5/9 (EB) at GPSP. Fourteen **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at GPSP 4/14 (DNN), 18 **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at NIX 4/21 (KJ), and 18 **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at GPSP 5/9 (EB) were the high counts for those species. A 5/6 (DA) visit to GPSP produced a rewarding count of 10 **Veeries**. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reporting was limited to singles at RRCP 5/1-9 (MH) and 5/8 (JF) in Shrewsbury Twp. A nice 9 count of **Hermit Thrushes** came from GPSP 4/8 (AWG). **American Pipit** reporting was limited to a pair at Kline's Run Park 3/23 (JM) and a single at GPSP 5/9 (EB).

The warbler migration thru the county was certainly one of the better in recent years with 34 species detected and several positive counts. **Blue-winged Warbler** was found at 4 sites 5/11-24 (KJ, AWG, DW) and single **Golden-winged Warblers** visited NIX 5/2 (MA) and RRCP 5/5 (CK). Good county counts included; 6 **Tennessee Warblers** at RRCP 5/12 (AW), trios of **Nashville Warblers** at GPSP & RRCP, a dozen **Northern Parulas** at GPSP 5/6 (DA), 10 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** on the PAMC, 10 **Magnolia Warblers** at GPSP 5/12 (RK, AM), 4 **Cape May Warblers** at GPSP & RRCP, 155 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at GPSP 4/29 (RK, AM), 5 **Blackburnian Warblers** at RRCP 5/12 (AW), 5 **Pine Warblers** at NIX and GPSP, 8 **Prairie Warblers** at GPSP 5/9 (EB), 12 **Palm Warblers** at GPSP 4/6 (DN), 5 **Bay-breasted Warblers** at RRCP 5/12 (AW), 23 **American Redstarts** at GPSP 5/12 (RK, AM), and 42 **Ovenbirds** at GPSP 5/9 (EB).

**Yellow-throated Warbler** singles were at NIX 4/18-23 (DF, DT, AWG) and at Shrewsbury Twp 5/8 (JF). Pairs of **Cerulean Warblers** were found during the PAMC and 5/20 (AW) at Lock 12; and a single visited GPSP 5/9-11 (EB, DNN). Four **Prothonotary Warblers** were found on the PAMC, a single was at the confluence of the Conewago Creek and Susquehanna R. 5/8 (DN), and a single was at Indian Steps 5/20 (AW). **Mourning Warbler** was found at RRCP 5/5 (MC, CK, DK). Five sites reporting **Wilson's Warbler** and 7 recording **Canada Warbler** were more than normal. Up to 2 **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found at RRCP 5/8-28 (m.ob.) and Apollo County Park 5/24 (DW), while a single was at NIX 5/15 (DHu). The warbler group demonstrated normal arrivals/departures except a 4/4 (DG) **Prairie Warbler** report from GPSP, a known breeding site. The timing would suggest **Palm Warbler**. However, a detailed report of the 10-minute observation with good facial pattern and behavioral descriptions appears to favor a very early female **Prairie**.

**American Tree Sparrow** was last reported 3/18 (MA, JH) with a trio at GPSP and a single at LR. **Savannah, Grasshopper, and Swamp Sparrows** all saw good reporting frequency. As is typical, HTP produced the high counts for Savannahs with 9 birds 5/21 (DF) and 18 Grasshoppers 5/30 (DN). There were 10 reports of **Fox Sparrow** 3/10-4/10 (m.ob.). The county enjoyed another good **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** migration with reports from 20 sites 4/27-5/19 (m. ob.). High count was 8 (5M/3F) at Fairview Twp 5/6 (DNN). Four sites reporting **Blue Grosbeak** were much better than average. Singles were at NIX 5/3 (AWG), Highpoint Scenic Vista & Recreation Area 5/5 (AWG), and Goldsboro 5/9 (BS); and up to 3 (2M/1F) were in the Sherman's Oaks area 5/1-29 (TC). A pair of **Dickcissels** appeared at HTP 5/27-30 (CB, DF, KJ, DN, DW). A 5/1 visit to HTP found 15 **Bobolinks** moving thru (KJ) while singles were later found at NIX 5/3 (AWG) and HTP 5/21 (DF). Five sites produced **Eastern Meadowlark** reports with high counts of 10 at LAR 4/23 (ZM) and 20 at HTP 5/30 (DN). **Rusty Blackbird** reporting frequency was a positive. A single was at Yorkana 3/3 (DK), 4 at Dover 3/20 (DT), 9 along the Rail Trail 4/6 (CK), a trio at GPSP 4/8 (DT), a pair at NIX 4/20 (DT), and up to 25 at LW 3/30-4/10 (DK, DW). The six reports of **Purple Finch** spanned 3/11-5/13 (m.ob.) with a high count of 4 at York Twp 4/28 (JG, AU).

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**PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:** Materials to be included in the publication are needed by the due dates below.

Issue	Sightings due to Compilers by...	Articles due to Editor by...	Publication Date
Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)	31 March	1 May	July
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 June	1 August	October
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 August	1 October	December
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 December	1 February	April

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For articles, the Microsoft Office suite (any version) is preferred; however we will accept any popularly used format, or plain text. Please email written materials in an attached document in its original source format (i.e., no PDF files, please).

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## IN FOCUS



**Upland Sandpiper** at Pymatuning, *Crawford* 23 May; nesting was confirmed in this area during summer season. (*Jeffrey Hall*)



**Short-billed Dowitcher** at Independence Marsh, *Beaver* 13 May. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Red-necked Phalarope** at Two Mile Run County Park, *Venango* 19 May. (*Jeffrey Hall*)



**Whimbrels**, part of a flock of at least 49 birds that passed over the Shaner Rd. ponds, *Lawrence* 20 May, easily the largest single flock ever recorded west of the Allegheny Front and away from *Erie*; additional birds brought the day's total to at least 59. (*Geoff Malosh*)



**Willet** at Mill Hall, *Clinton* 6 May, first county record. (*Wayne Laubscher*)