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Cover: This Virginia Rail, found at Harrison Hills Park, Allegheny, 22 (here 29) April was eventually joined by another; both stayed through the season and were seen mating - stay tuned for the summer issue for the outcome. (Dave Brooke)

Annual PSO meeting

The 30th annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology was held 13-15 September 2019 in Williamsport, *Lycoming*. Details of the meeting will be in the next *PSO Pileated*, possibly out by the time you read this. Here, I would simply like to add my thanks to Wayne Laubscher and Lycoming Audubon and all those who made the meeting come off as a big success. For the third year in a row, attendance topped 100. Congratulations to award winners Nick Bolgiano (Poole Award), Lycoming Audubon Society (Conservation), and Ty Sharrow from *Carbon* and Dominic Mirarchi of *Cumberland* (Youth Scholarship).

Special thanks go to out-going PSO President Mike Fialkovich, who has served in that capacity for over three years (since spring 2016) - to my knowledge, the second longest tenure of any PSO President. Evan Mann, of *Susquehanna*, will move up to the position of President, and Deborah Grove, of *Huntingdon* (and lay-out editor for *Pennsylvania Birds*) is the next Vice-President. Further details on changes in the Board of Directors can be found in *The PSO Pileated* as already mentioned.

In this Issue

Climate change is happening. It will affect the human species in many ways, perhaps it already is if drastic weather events are indeed a result; and perhaps in some ways not even yet envisioned. Climate change is likely altering the migration timing and winter range of bird species as demonstrated in the article on changes noted in *Erie* by Jerry McWilliams in this issue. Comparisons of data there from many decades suggest many species are arriving earlier in spring and staying later in fall, as might be logically predicted with warmer annual conditions. Perhaps even more striking are the species that can now be found with some regularity in winter in *Erie* – species never or rarely found so far north in the winter seasons of 50 years ago.

Two developments in ornithology and birding within the fairly recent past are eBird (of course!) and night flight call (“NFC”) monitoring. See how these two technologies intersect to shed light (or at least raise interesting questions) on spring arrival timing and beginning of territorial behavior of Grasshopper Sparrows in the

article by Gyekis, Hill, and Evans. And of night flight calls, as I read the county reports (during migration seasons), increasingly I find references to this phenomenon (for example, see *Philadelphia*), which can be appreciated simply by ear, or with recording equipment and software to facilitate analysis of data.

As always, there is lots of information to be gleaned from the county reports. Attendees of the PSO meeting heard an excellent talk by Dr. David Toews on the now-famous triple hybrid warbler found in *Blair* by Lowell Burket. Find out more about hybrid warblers in the *Carbon* report.

As if climate change is not bad enough (not to mention habitat loss and cats, to name a couple more issues), from *Philadelphia*, read details on yet another serious issue affecting bird populations – window strikes and the data gathered over several years by the Penn Bird Strikes Project.

Elsewhere, migration characteristics of Henslow’s Sparrow are discussed in the *Clarion* report. Rather unusually widespread in spring this year, read of Willets in six western counties. Even more rare, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were in three counties (*Montour*, *Lebanon*, *Berks*) – is this another example of a southern species moving north with warming climate, or perhaps in response to changes in water conditions within their expected range?

Compiler news

We have new compilers in three counties beginning with this issue. **Paul Heveran** takes over for **August Mirabella** in *Bucks*, and **Carol Light** will succeed Flo McGuire in *Forest* and **Brendyn Baptiste** in *Elk*.

The following counties need a compiler: *Bradford*, *Fulton*, *Luzerne*, and *McKean*. Contact the editor.

County compilers: **Phil Keener** (Adams, York), **Mike Fialkovich** (Allegheny, Fayette), **Marjorie Van Tassel** (Armstrong), **Geoff Malosh** (Beaver, Lawrence, Washington), **Laura** and **Mike Jackson** (Bedford), **Rudy Keller** and **Matt Wlasniewski** (Berks), **John Carter** (Blair), **Paul Heveran** (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), **Carol Light** (Elk, Forest), **Jerry McWilliams** (Erie), **Bill Oyler** (Franklin), **Marjorie Howard** (Greene), **Greg Grove** (Huntingdon, Juniata), **Margaret Higbee** (Indiana), **Thomas Glover** (Jefferson), **Chad Kauffman** (Juniata), **Ryan Johnson** (Lackawanna), **Zach 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 Pflücke** (Philadelphia), **Dan Hinnebusch** (Perry), **Robert Snyder** (Potter, Tioga), **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).

Twenty-fourth Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
2017 Records
April 2019
Mike Fialkovich for the Committee

The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter "PORC" or "the committee") evaluates and archives documentation it receives of any species or recognizable form that is on the official Review List for Pennsylvania. In addition, the committee reviews documentation for species or subspecies that were previously unrecorded in the Commonwealth. This report covers submissions for 2017 that include 67 records of 46 species. The 62 accepted records represented a 92% acceptance rate. Reports were received from 27 counties.

Highlights include Pink-footed Goose, Purple Gallinule, Purple Sandpiper, Ruff, Long-tailed Jaeger, California Gull, first state record of White-winged Tern, Pacific Loon, third record of the white form of Great Blue Heron, two Roseate Spoonbills (the third and fourth state records), an immature Swainson's Hawk, Ash-throated Flycatcher, two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, LeConte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow (Atlantic race, *subvirgatus*), fourth record of Saltmarsh Sparrow, first accepted North American record of Black-backed Oriole, fifth record of Townsend's Warbler, Western Tanager and Painted Bunting.

PORC encourages observers to document their sightings with photos, video, or audio whenever possible. Even poor photos can be diagnostic and elevate a report from Class III to Class I. However, written documentation is also extremely important, as there have been instances where a photograph was not diagnostic, but the report was still accepted as a Class III (sight record) based on the supporting information of the observer's written account.

Documentation can be submitted to PORC Secretary Ian Gardner at gardnie07@gmail.com or on the PORC section of the PSO Website at this address <<http://jotform.us/form/22068006649151>>.

The Committee

In 2017, four members were serving their third terms; the remainder were serving their first terms. Terms are three years in length; there are no limits to the number of terms served. Committee Members and terms for 2017 are as follows:

Andy McGann – Chair, third term (2016-2019)
Mike Fialkovich – third term (2016-2019)
Dave DeReamus – third term (2016-2019)
Devich Farbotnik – third term (2016-2019)
Holly Merker – first term (2015-2018)
Mike Weible – first term (2015-2018)
Billy Weber – first term (2016-2019)
Ian Gardner – Non-voting Secretary (2015 – Present)

The committee meets face to face annually to discuss committee activities, procedures, second round voting, etc. Ongoing business is covered through email exchanges throughout the year as necessary.

Classification of Records

Class I: An accepted record based on an existing identifiable specimen, a diagnostic photograph, or a diagnostic recording. Abbreviations are (P) photograph, (R) sound recording, (V) video clip, (S) specimen.

Class II: An accepted sight record written up independently by two or more observers.

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

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

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

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

Class V: The identification is correct, but the bird represents or may represent an escapee from artificial aviculture or an introduced bird not yet established in Pennsylvania.

Format of This Report

The records in each section are arranged taxonomically following the 2017 American Ornithological Society Check-list of North American Birds. The number in parentheses after the species name represents the number of accepted records, including those in this report, since the establishment of PORC in 1989. A (+) after the number signifies accepted historical records prior to the formation of PORC. Each accepted record includes the locality and county and date(s) when known. In some cases, dates are taken from the seasonal reports published in Pennsylvania Birds, and from incidental information gleaned from the PABIRDS email listserv, the Pennsylvania Birders Facebook Group, the PARBA GroupMe text message alert service, and its regional sub-groups and the eBird database. Enclosed in parentheses following the date are the name(s) of the observer(s) who submitted documentation. Following the list of observers is the PORC record number, the record's classification and the votes for/against. All photographs, video, and sound recordings are currently being held with the Secretary and archived on the PORC section of the PSO Website.

Abbreviations: Twp. (Township), V (Volume), N (Number), PB (Pennsylvania Birds).

2017 Accepted Records

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) (17)

One at Pine Run Dam, *Bucks*, 30 November 2017 (August Mirabella (p); 108-02-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V31:N4.

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 1 December 2017 (August Mirabella (p), Judy Mirabella, Bill Culp; 108-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. Possibly the same bird as above. Photo published in PB V32:N1.

Eider sp. (*Somateria sp.*).

One at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 13 December 2017 (Jerry McWilliams; 145a-01-2017; Class III). 6/0. A female was observed flying past Sunset Point with a small group of Red-breasted Mergansers. The larger size, heavier build and other details were noted in the description, however the bird could not be identified to species.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (32)

One at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 29 November 2017 (Jerry McWilliams; 149-01-2017; Class III). 6/0. A female observed flying just offshore at Sunset Point with Bufflehead. The size

difference and face pattern was described as well as the differences between this species and female scoters.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) (14)

One near Williamsburg, *Blair* 3 June 2017 (Nick Bolgiano, Betsy Manlove; 413-01-2017; Class III). 7/0.

Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) (32+)

One at Carlisle, *Cumberland* 19 May 2017 (Peter Lusardi (r); 463-01-2017; Class I-R). 7/0. One heard calling from the submitter's yard and recorded. Cumberland has produced this species regularly in recent years.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) (10)

An adult at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, *Delaware* 16 June 2017 (Kurt Hummel; 242-01-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V31:N3.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) (17)

One along the Susquehanna River at the Norman Wood Bridge in Martic Twp., *Lancaster* 28 April 2017 (Meredith Lombard, Jeff Musser; 268-01-2017; Class III). 7/0. The bird was observed flying along the river but never landed.

Ruff (*Calidrus pugnax*) (9+)

A female at Old Crow Wetland, Smithfield Twp., *Huntingdon* 18 May 2017 (Greg Grove, Deb Grove, Dave Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Dave Kerr (p), Rob Dickerson (p), Carl Engstrom (p), Jon Kauffman (p), Steve Schmidt (p), Eric Hartshaw; 321-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. Photo published in PB V31:N2. This bird was observed 16-17 May but not identified. It was very well photographed by many observers and not seen after 18 May.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) (61)

One at Lake Somerset, *Somerset* 31 October 2017 (Jeff Payne (v), Jim Moses; 331-01-2017; Class III). 7/0. Slow motion video was submitted allowing careful study.

One at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 29 April 2017 (Scott Godshall, Paul Driver, 331-02-2017; Class III). 6/0. This park hosted a Red Phalarope last fall.



Image 1. Red Phalarope, Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 29 April 2017. Photo by Scott Godshall.

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris martitima*) (4+)

One at Nockamixon State Park, *Bucks* 30 May 2017 (Devich Farbotnik, Ken Reiker (p); 313-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. Excellent photographs were taken of this bird before it flew off never to be relocated. This is the second record for *Bucks* and the second state record away from Lake Erie. Photo published in PB V31:N2.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) (36)

One at Bradford Dam Reservoir, *Bucks* 31 May 2017 (Devich Farbotnik; 333-01-2015; Class III). 6/0.

One at Van Sciver Lakes in Tullytown, *Bucks* 17 September 2017 (Devich Farbotnik; 333-01-2017; Class III). 6/0. This bird may have been pushed into the area following the remnants of Hurricane Irma.

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) (6)

One at the river walk in Williamsport, *Lycoming* 26 August 2017 (Maddi Dunlap, David Brown (p); 334-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/1.



Image 2. Long-tailed Jaeger, Williamsport River Walk, *Lycoming* 26 August 2017. Photo by David Brown. The long central retrices can be seen in the photo.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) (41)

One at Broadmeadow Farms, *Bucks* 7 April 2017 (Mark Gallagher (p); 344-01-2017; Class III). 7/0.

One on the Delaware River at Morrisville, *Bucks* 7 December 2017 (Armas Hill; 344-02-2017; Class III). 6/1.

An adult in basic plumage at Moraine State Park, *Butler* 26 November 2017 (Geoff Malosh (p); 344-03-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. This site has hosted a Black-headed Gull around the same time for eight years (annually from 2011-2017). Photo published in PB V31:N1.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (20)

An adult at Moraine State Park, *Butler* 3 December 2017 (Geoff Malosh (p); Jeff McDonald, Lauren Nagoda, et al.; 346-01-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo published in PB V32:N1. An unexpected discovery and a first for western Pennsylvania away from Erie.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*) (15+)

Three at Van Sciver Lakes in Tullytown, *Bucks* 22 May 2017 (Devich Farbotnik; 339-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. Three together and all in first winter plumage is a rare occurrence. The birds were photographed resting on a mudflat and in flight. This is bit later than expected for this species to occur in the state and the birds remained at the site for a few weeks.



Image 3. Three first winter Little Gulls at Van Sciver Lakes in Tullytown, Bucks 22 May 2017. Photo by Devich Farbotnik.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) (2)

An adult in the parking lot of Presque Isle Downs Casino in Erie 27 January 2017 and at Presque Isle State Park, Erie 29 January 2017 (Jerry McWilliams (p), David Yeany II (v); 351-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. The bird at the casino was photographed at close range in the parking lot. The video was taken on Erie Bay from Presque Isle State Park. Stills from the video show the diagnostic primary pattern. Photo published in PB V31:N1.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (15+)

A juvenile at Kahle Lake Clarion/Venango 6 September 2017 (Geoff Malosh (p); 360-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. The bird was first discovered 5 September and remained until 8 September and observed by many. Photo published in PB V31:N4.

White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) (1)

An adult at Nessmuk Lake, Tioga 10 August 2017 (Rich Hanlon (p), Kathy Riley, John Corcoran; 376-01-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. An amazing find at a small lake in the mountains of northern Pennsylvania providing the first state record. The bird generated excitement across and beyond the state with visitors from several states. Many observers enjoyed close views of this cooperative individual as it perched on pilings just offshore for extended periods of time. Many photographs were taken and entered in ebird. The bird remained until 13 August. Two photos were published in PB V31:N4.

Least Tern (*Sturnula antillarum*) (26)

One flying past Sunset Point at Presque Isle State Park, Erie 19 October 2017 (Jerry McWilliams; 372-01-2017; Class III). 6/0. The wing and head pattern and small size was noted in the written description.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (15)

One at Lake Wilhelm, Maurice Goddard State Park, Mercer 27 November 2018 (Michael David (p), Mike Fialkovich (p); 002-01-2017; Class II). 6/0. The Class II designation was due to details not visible in the photographs submitted, however the descriptions provided additional details. Photo published in PB V31:N4.

Great Blue Heron (White Form) (*Ardea herodias*) (3)

One at East Great Bend Swamp, Susquehanna 23 July 2017 (Barbara Stone (p), many observers; 080-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. The bird was seen at this swamp and nearby wetlands for several weeks and was seen for the last time at this location 25 September. There are numerous ebird checklists with photographs from the

numerous observers. Photos show a bulky bill and pale legs eliminating Great Egret. Photo published in PB V31:N3.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) (43)

An adult at the Route 54 Wetlands, Montour 1 August 2017 (Evan Houston (p); 087-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0.

A juvenile at Lake Redman, York 24 July 2017 (Don Weidemann, Dick Cleary, Chuck Berthoud; 087-02-2017; Class III). 6/0. This bird remained in the county at various locations to mid-August. Photos published in PB V31:N3 and V31:N4.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) (49)

A juvenile found dead on Mill Creek Road, Lehigh 17 July 2017 (Lynn Schaeffer (p); 093-02-2017; Class (I-P). 6/0. Photographs were submitted; the head and wings were all that remained on this specimen and were enough to identify it.

A juvenile at Trewellyn Park, Montgomery 12 July 2017 (Jeffrey Collins (p); 093-03-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. Photo published in PB V31:N3.

A juvenile at Conewago Creek, York 16 July 2017 (Craig Beam (p); 093-04-2017; Class I-P). 6/0.

A juvenile at the intersection at Boiling Springs Road and West Lisburn Road, Cumberland 20 July 2017 (Andrew Dapkins (p); 093-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. Photo published in PB V31:N3.

A juvenile at the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster 17 August 2017 (Marvin Stauffer (p); 093-05-2017; Class I-P). 7/0.

White Ibis wandered north in a similar pattern to Roseate Spoonbill (see below) in the summer of 2017 with records from New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Delaware, inland Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and inland in Georgia.



Image 4. White Ibis, Conejohela Flats, Lancaster 17 August 2017. Photo by Marvin Stauffer.

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) (4)

One at the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster 15 July 2017 (Mike Epler (p), Zach Millen, Eric Witmer, Tom Garner; 097-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. Photo published in PB V31:N3.

One along the Conodoguinet Creek, Camp Hill, Cumberland 6 August 2017 (Nick Pulcinella (p); 097-02-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. This bird was first discovered 15 July 2017. Three photos published in PB V31:N3.

The extraordinary occurrence of two individuals within days of each other coincided with a movement of this species northward during a drought in the southern states that reduced water levels severely,

resulting in the birds moving north to find suitable habitat. While the bird in *Lancaster* only remained for a day, the bird in *Cumberland* extraordinarily remained at the site for over two months! During the summer of 2017, Roseate Spoonbills were present in New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and other states further south and west.

The submissions represent the third and fourth records in the state and the first since 1968. The previous two records are from Lancaster County in 1884 and Erie County in 1968 (Haas, Haas, 2005).

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) (28)

One in Buckingham Twp., *Bucks* 21 May 2017 (Jere Schade; 168-01-2017; Class III). 6/0.

One at Lake Nockamixon, *Bucks* 5 & 8 June 2017 (Fred Zahradnik (p), John Good; 168-02-2017; Class I-P). 6/0.



Image 5. Swallow-tailed Kite, Lake Nockamixon, *Bucks* 5 June 2017. Photo by Fred Zahradnik.

One at Exton Park, *Chester*, 8 June 2017 (John Mercer (p), et al.; 168-03-2017; Class I-P). 6/0.



Image 6. Swallow-tailed Kite, Exton Park, *Chester* 8 June 2017. Photo by John Mercer.

One at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch, *Somerset/Bedford*, 28 August 2017 (James Rocco, Bob Stewart, Janet Kuehl; 168-04-2017; Class III). 6/0.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (110)

One at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve, *Montgomery* 19 May 2017 (Matthew Jewell (p); 171-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. One of the few



submissions of this species with good photographic documentation.

Image 7. Mississippi Kite, Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve, *Montgomery* 19 May 2017. Photo by Matthew Jewell. Photo documentation of this species is difficult as they are typically seen briefly passing over hawkwatch sites with little time to identify them and less time to take photographs. Not the case here.

One at the Presque Isle Hawkwatch, *Erie* 17 May 2017 (Jerry McWilliams (p), Joao Taveres; 171-03-2017; Class III). 7/0. A bird flew past the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and a few photos were obtained that showed the distinctive shape of the bird. Photo published in PB V31:N2.

One at Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch, *Delaware* 20 September 2017 (John Mercer (p), Chuck Root, Mike Coll; 171-05-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. As usual this species is most often observed at hawk watches and is often difficult to photograph.

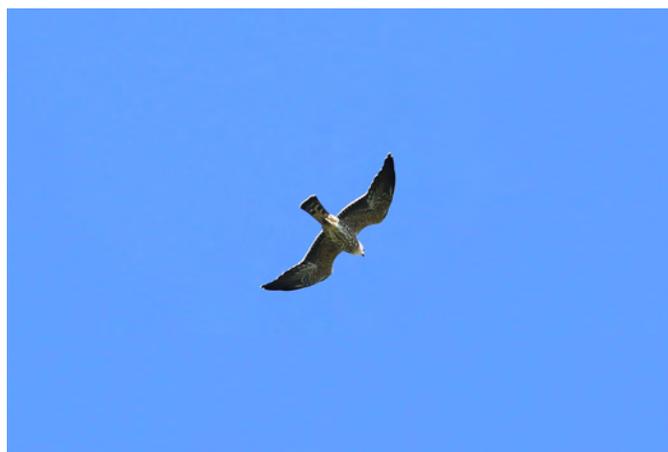


Image 8. Mississippi Kite, Rose Tree Park Hawk Watch, *Delaware* 20 September 2017. Photo by John Mercer. Another successful photo of this species and one of the best photo documented Mississippi Kites ever submitted.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (9+)

A juvenile over Spring Lane and Manatawana Farms, *Philadelphia* 25 October 2017 (Anthony Crosdale, Dan Efroymson; 186-01-2017; Class II). 6/1. A juvenile soaring with vultures seen independently by both observers. Interestingly, a juvenile was photographed and confirmed in Delaware the following day.

A juvenile in North Londonderry Twp., *Lebanon* 2 May 2015 (Brian Newhouse; 186-03-2015; Class I-P). 7/0. The observer could not identify the hawk at the time but fortunately obtained excellent photographs and requested assistance by submitting the photos to ID That PA Bird on facebook. The observer was encouraged to submit the record to the committee for review and documentation. The photos are probably the best ever taken of this species in Pennsylvania. Swainson's Hawks often occur at hawkwatch sites and the observers often concentrate on studying the bird and often don't have time or the conditions aren't right to obtain good photographs at the time of observation.



Image 9. Juvenile Swainson's Hawk with a mobbing American Crow in North Londonderry Twp., *Lebanon* 2 May 2015. Photo by Brian Newhouse. One of several excellent photos submitted of this species that is rarely documented with detailed photos.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) (7)

One at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 17 December 2017 (Joseph Greco (p), Andrew Curtis, John Becker, Tyler Sacks; 545-01-2017; Class III). 6/1.



Image 10. Ash-throated Flycatcher, Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 17 December 2017. Photo by Joseph Greco.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) (19+)

One in Danville, *Northumberland* 23 April 2017 (Sean Jeffreys, Todd Jeffreys; 561-01-2017; Class III). 6/1.

One in Bridgewater Twp., *Susquehanna* 12 May 2014 (Bruce McNaught (p); 561-04-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. This record from 2014 was never submitted until now.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) (22)

One at Donegal Lake, *Westmoreland* 8 September 2017 (Mike Fialkovich (p); 820-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. The bird was discovered 7 September by Josh Lefever but not relocated after the second day.



Image 11. Lark Sparrow, Donegal Lake, *Westmoreland* 8 September 2017. Photo by Mike Fialkovich.

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*) (18)

One at Pennypack Environmental Restoration Trust, *Montgomery*; 4 November 2017 (Paul Driver, Scott Godshall, Anna Mindel; 829-01-2017; Class I-P). 7/0. Excellent photographs were submitted for this elusive species. Photo published in PB V31:N4.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) (1)

One at Pine Run Dam, *Bucks* 1 November 2017 (August Mirabella (p), Judy Mirabella, Richard Smith, Vicky Smith; Class I-P). 6/0. Good photographs combined with a detailed description provided the evidence needed to identify this to subspecies. Typically the inland subspecies *nelsoni* passes through Pennsylvania during migration.



Image 12. **Nelson's Sparrow** (subspecies *subvirgatus*), Pine Run Dam, *Bucks* 1 November 2017. Photo by August Mirabella.

Saltmarsh Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) (4)

One at Bradford Dam, Warrington Twp., *Bucks* 22 September 2017 (August Mirabella, Scott Godshall (p); 830-01-2017; Class II). 6/1. The description was detailed comparing the differences between Nelson's streaking and breast coloring in particular to arrive at an identification. Unfortunately the photograph submitted was

hampered by glare; however, the two written descriptions were detailed enough for a majority in favor of this identification.

Black-backed Oriole (*Icturus abeleii*) (1)

A male visited a feeder in Sinking Spring, *Berks* 2 February 2017 (Michael Slater (p), Josh Cantor (p), many observers; 874-011-2017; Class I-P). 5/1. This bird was observed by numerous birders during its lengthy stay. The committee researched this species extensively and had lengthy discussions about it. This represented a first state record and a first record for North America. It was subsequently accepted by the ABA Checklist Committee (*Birding*, V50:N6). A photograph was published in PB V31:N1 and two in PB V31:N2. An article was published in the PSO Pileated, V28:N1.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) (5)

One visiting a feeder at a private residence in Bloomsburg, *Columbia* 31 January 2017 (Kathryn Yelinek (p),(v), Karol Pasquinnelli (p); 738-01-2017; Class I-P). 6/0. The observer was unfamiliar with this species and posted photos and a video to facebook. The photo was not close but the video submitted did show the bird better and photographs posted on ebird were very detailed. Photo published in PB V31:N1.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) (43)

A female at Noel Dorwart Park, *Lancaster* 9 May 2017 (Seth McComsey (p), Marvin Stauffer; 780-01-2017; Class I-P). 7/0.

A first year male at Plymouth Meeting, *Montgomery* 19 May 2017 (Paul Bernhardt; 780-02-2017; Class III). 6/1.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) (15+)

A female at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, *Lancaster* 31 December 2017 (Jonathan Heller, Larry Bernhardt, Andrew Keister, Pamela Fisher, Marcy Connie; 782-01-2017; Class III). 7/0.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) (23)

A male visiting a feeder at a private residence in Brecknock Twp., *Lancaster* 22 January 2017 (Anne Hurst (p); 794-01-2017; Class I-P). 7/0.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established.

(Votes are listed as for/against. A vote of 6/1 or 7/0 is required for acceptance).

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

One at Lake Wilhelm, Maurice Goddard State Park, *Mercer* 12 March 2017 (009-01-2017; Class IV-C) 0/6. The photograph submitted shows a Horned Grebe in transitional plumage (with two other Horned Grebes). Birds transitioning into breeding plumage can cause identification confusion.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

One at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 2 June 2017 (316-01-2017; Class IV-C). 2/5. A bird was photographed at Gull Point, said to be associating with Dunlin. Unfortunately the photos did not show enough detail due to distance and lighting conditions and the observer was not certain about the identification. The written description did not include enough details regarding the identification to eliminate other species.

Black-browed Albatross (*Thelassarche melanophris*)

One observed in flight over Glen Mills, *Delaware* 1 April 2015 (16a-01-2015; Class IV-C). 0/6. This bird was observed briefly well inland without optics during a moderate snowfall. The basic shape of the bird was described including the long, thin wings and flapping aspect and a sketch drawn immediately following the observation was submitted. The observer admitted uncertainty but stated it didn't fit anything other than an albatross. For such a substantial

record, there was not enough detail to make an informed decision regarding this bird, unfortunately.

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

One at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, *Lancaster/Lebanon* 9 September 2017 (089-01-2017; Class IV-B). 1/5. The description lacked details, and the observer stated they were not sure about the identification.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

One at the Allegheny Front Hawkwatch, *Bedford* 17 September 2017 (171-02-2017; Class IV-B). 1/5. A number of committee members expressed concern regarding the identification due to distance, missing details and the mention of the bird having a white tail when adult Mississippi Kites have dark tails.

One at Militia Hill Hawk Watch, *Montgomery* 16 September 2017 (171-04-2017; Class IV-B). 3/4. The committee was nearly split on this record. While several acknowledged the observer's experience with this species, the distant view and lack of detail including comparisons with other species was not enough for some committee members to eliminate other similar size raptors.

White-tailed Hawk (*Geranoaetus albicaudatus*)

One observed in flight over Hershey, *Dauphin* 1 December 2016 (187-01-2015; Class IV-C). 0/6. The observer saw a hawk soaring over the area described as having a brownish head and back, white underparts and a white tail. The committee agreed the details were too brief to evaluate a potential state record such as this. In addition, the observer admitted not being an experienced birder but was familiar with the local Red-tailed Hawks and this bird was different. The observer was unaware (prior to checking a reference) the White-tailed Hawk was only found in the U.S. in south Texas. White-tailed Hawks do not have a history of vagrancy. It's possible the bird was a leucistic Red-tailed Hawk.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 7 November 2017 (576-01-2017; Class IV-B). 2/4. This submission went through two rounds of voting. The description seemed to favor Cave Swallow including the time of year, however some committee members would have preferred the observer saw the throat to completely rule out a juvenile Cliff Swallow. There was also concern from some members regarding the distant view and brief time of observation.

Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*)

One at East Fairmount Park, *Philadelphia* 8 September 2017 (Holger Pflücke; 746-01-2017; Class IV-C). 3/4. Some committee members felt the identification was correct, while others would have preferred more details for such a rarity. The bird was noted as bobbing its tail however the viewing time was rather brief and some committee members felt Magnolia Warbler was not completely ruled out.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, because they represent or may represent an escapee or an introduced species not established in Pennsylvania. IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTED.

African Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*)

One at a residence in Clay Township, *Butler* 18 February 2017 (Brendyn Baptiste (p); 409a-01-2017; Class V). 0/7. This species is considered an escape in Pennsylvania.

CORRECTION TO 2016 REPORT

The Gyrfalcon in the 2016 PORC Report was reported as a white morph; it was actually a gray morph. This was my error, not the error of the submitters. The record did not receive the details it

should have in my previous report, so a revised entry along with a photograph is below.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) (7+)

A juvenile gray morph near Tylersburg, *Clarion* 20 February 2016 (Philip Smith, Taylor Smith, Laurel Smith (v); 200-01-2016; Class I-V). 6/1. The bird was spotted perched on a power pole. The observers passed it, turned around and returned for a better look and obtained video of the bird. The video shows the bird perched on the pole and eventually flying off. The broad based wings could be seen as the bird took flight as well as the overall heavy build and falcon shape and lack of bold facial pattern.



Gyr Falcon (video capture) near Tylersburg, *Clarion* 20 February 2016. Video by Philip Smith, Taylor Smith, Laurel Smith. The lack of a strong facial pattern and the broad based pointed wings are shown well in the video.

This report brings the committee up to date with rare bird voting and reporting. The committee has acknowledged the lack of annual reports and falling behind in voting to the birding community of Pennsylvania through the PA Birds Listserv and other outlets. We have been committed to getting caught up and current with reviewing rare bird submissions and appreciate the patience of Pennsylvania birders.

The PORC would like to thank all the observers for continuing to submit rare bird documentation to the committee for review during this time.

Reference

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Effects of Climate Change on Bird Migration in Erie County

Jerry McWilliams

Scientists continue to accumulate evidence that our planet has been warming rapidly in the past several decades. Melting of the Arctic ice pack, rising sea levels, severe droughts, more violent storms, and record breaking high temperatures all lead to a planet that is undergoing a change that is likely to impact all living organisms. In just the last year the average concentration of global atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) reached 405 ppm. Carbon dioxide is a natural greenhouse gas that has been increasing at an accelerated rate in the past couple of centuries, due in part to our burning of fossil fuels. The CO₂ levels are higher today than at any time in at least the past 800,000 years, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the American Meteorological Society (AMS). The annual rate of increase in atmospheric CO₂ over the past 60 years is about 100 times faster than previous natural increases, such as those that occurred at the end of the last ice age 11,000 to 17,000 years ago. At this rate, the atmospheric CO₂ will likely exceed 900 ppm by the end of this century according to the AMS. So, how are these changes affecting bird behavior?

The Presque Isle Audubon Society (PIAS) has collected detailed data on the status of birds recorded in Erie County for the past 65 years. This period coincides with the greatest increase in atmospheric CO₂. The correlation between these two events raises an interesting question for investigation, so I decided to compare one of our oldest cumulative bird checklists with our present bird checklist to see if there was a difference in their status, particularly average arrival dates.

There have been four bird record compilers for the PIAS during these 65 years. Jean Stull Cunningham was the first, then Dr. Richard Bollinger, followed by Dr. Donald B. Snyder. In 1983, I took over the responsibility and continue to the present.

Several detailed bird checklists have been published by the PIAS over the course of this time. One of the first of these checklists that showed the average arrival and departure times of migrating birds was published in 1976. Charts indicated the earliest and latest dates of arrival and departure, using the characters 1 through 12 for the months and A through D for the weeks in each month. This method was used for the next several checklists, which were updated as often as every five years.

In 1987 we changed the format of the checklist to bar graphs, one for each species, which allowed for a clearer display of information. We have followed this method to the present. Comparisons between the 1976 checklist and the 2019 updated version show significant changes in the timing of bird migration.

The graph below shows earlier average arrival dates and later departure dates for many species of birds as well as changes in their wintering status. Solid colored bars indicate the time periods that the species have been present in Erie County. For each species the

top graph indicates the average arrival and departure dates, as well as their summer and winter status in 1976, and the bottom graph indicates the same data for 2019. The letter "R" in the graphs means a species was recorded at least once sometime during the month indicated. The single dot represents a single record within a five-day period. Since 1976, of the 339 species of birds recorded in Erie County, PA, 121 of those show some evidence of status change that could perhaps be attributed to climate change over the past 43 years. However, most of the changes have occurred in the last couple of decades.

Of the 339 species of birds ever recorded in Erie County, well over a third, or about 122 species, show some status change. About 87 species appear to be arriving earlier in the spring and/or staying later in the fall now than prior to 1976. That is more than half of the 150 or so regular occurring migrant bird species in the county. About 32 species have been known to winter in the county that were never recorded in winter prior to 1976. On average, 23% of migrant birds recorded in Erie County are arriving in spring 11 days earlier now than prior to 1976.

It will be important to track this trend into the future. As temperatures rise we will need to look for correlations as to how this continues to affect bird migration, as well as our own wellbeing.

Acknowledgements

A special thanks to the reviewers of the 2019 checklist, Dr. Donald B. Snyder and Ben Coulter, and layout and graphic design by Dr. Patrick M. Kramer and James R. Hill III. Also to my author wife, Linda McWilliams, for her critical review of the paper.

References

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- McWilliams, Gerald M. 2019. Checklist of Birds Recorded in Erie County, Pennsylvania, Including Presque Isle State Park. Presque Isle Audubon Society, Erie, Pa.

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Species Name	Year	Seasonal Distribution												
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Snow Goose	1976													
	2019													
Brant	1976													R
	2019													
Wood Duck	1976													
	2019													
Blue-winged Teal	1976													
	2019													
Red-necked Grebe	1976		R	R	R	R						R		
	2019													
American Bittern	1976													
	2019													
Least Bittern	1976													
	2019													
Great Egret	1976							R						
	2019													
Green Heron	1976													
	2019													
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1976													
	2019													
Glossy Ibis	1976					R	R		R					
	2019													
Turkey Vulture	1976													
	2019													
Osprey	1976													
	2019													
Bald Eagle	1976											R	R	R
	2019													
Broad-winged Hawk	1976													
	2019													
Virginia Rail	1976													
	2019													
Sora	1976													
	2019													
Common Gallinule	1976													
	2019													
Sandhill Crane	1976						R							
	2019													
Black-bellied Plover	1976													
	2019													
American Golden Plover	1976													
	2019													
Semipalmated Plover	1976													
	2019													
Piping Plover	1976													
	2019													
American Avocet	1976								R	R	R			
	2019													
Spotted Sandpiper	1976													
	2019													
Solitary Sandpiper	1976													
	2019													
Greater Yellowlegs	1976													
	2019													
Willet	1976						R		R	R				
	2019													
Lesser Yellowlegs	1976													
	2019													
Hudsonian Godwit	1976													
	2019													
Marbled Godwit	1976													
	2019													

Species Name	Year	Seasonal Distribution												
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Ruddy Turnstone	1976													
	2019		*											
Sanderling	1976													
	2019	*												
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1976													
	2019													
Least Sandpiper	1976													
	2019													
White-rumped Sandpiper	1976													
	2019													
Baird's Sandpiper	1976													
	2019												*	
Pectoral Sandpiper	1976													
	2019													
Dunlin	1976													
	2019													
Iceland Gull	1976	R	R	R										R
	2019											*		
Glaucous Gull	1976													
	2019									*	*	*		
Caspian Tern	1976													
	2019													
Common Tern	1976													
	2019													
Forster's Tern	1976					R		R	R	R	R	R		
	2019													
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1976													
	2019													
Black-billed Cuckoo	1976													
	2019													
Short-eared Owl	1976													
	2019						*		*	*				
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1976			R	R	R					R	R		
	2019							*						
Common Nighthawk	1976													
	2019													
Eastern Whip-poor Will	1976													
	2019													
Chimney Swift	1976													
	2019													
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1976													
	2019													
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1976					R				R	R			
	2019													
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1976													
	2019													
Merlin	1976													
	2019													
Eastern Wood Pewee	1976													
	2019													
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1976													
	2019													
Eastern Phoebe	1976													
	2019													
Great Crested Flycatcher	1976													
	2019													
Eastern Kingbird	1976													
	2019													
White-eyed Vireo	1976					R						R		
	2019								*				*	
Yellow-throated Vireo	1976													
	2019													

Species Name	Year	Seasonal Distribution												
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Blue-headed Vireo	1976													
	2019													
Warbling Vireo	1976													
	2019													
Philadelphia Vireo	1976													
	2019													
Red-eyed Vireo	1976													
	2019													
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	1976													
	2019													
Purple Martin	1976													
	2019													
Tree Swallow	1976													
	2019													
Bank Swallow	1976													
	2019													
Barn Swallow	1976													
	2019													
Cliff Swallow	1976													
	2019													
House Wren	1976													
	2019													
Marsh Wren	1976													
	2019													
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1976													
	2019													
Eastern Bluebird	1976													
	2019													
Veery	1976													
	2019													
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1976													
	2019													
Swainson's Thrush	1976													
	2019													
Gray Catbird	1976													
	2019													
American Pipit	1976													
	2019													
Ovenbird	1976													
	2019													
Louisiana Waterthrush	1976													
	2019													
Northern Waterthrush	1976													
	2019													
Blue-winged Warbler	1976													
	2019													
Golden-winged Warbler	1976													
	2019													
Black-and-White Warbler	1976													
	2019													
Tennessee Warbler	1976													
	2019													
Orange-crowned Warbler	1976													
	2019													
Nashville Warbler	1976													
	2019													
Common Yellowthroat	1976													
	2019													
Hooded Warbler	1976													
	2019													
American Redstart	1976													
	2019													

Species Name	Year	Seasonal Distribution												
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Cape May Warbler	1976													
Cape May Warbler	2019													*
Cerulean Warbler	1976													
Cerulean Warbler	2019													
Northern Parula	1976													
Northern Parula	2019													
Magnolia Warbler	1976													
Magnolia Warbler	2019													
Bay-breasted Warbler	1976													
Bay-breasted Warbler	2019													
Blackburnian Warbler	1976													
Blackburnian Warbler	2019													
Yellow Warbler	1976													
Yellow Warbler	2019													
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1976													
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2019													
Blackpoll Warbler	1976													
Blackpoll Warbler	2019													
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1976													
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2019													
Palm Warbler	1976													
Palm Warbler	2019													
Pine Warbler	1976													
Pine Warbler	2019													
Prairie Warbler	1976													
Prairie Warbler	2019													
Black-throated Green Warbler	1976													
Black-throated Green Warbler	2019													
Wilson's Warbler	1976													
Wilson's Warbler	2019													
Eastern Towhee	1976													
Eastern Towhee	2019													
Chipping Sparrow	1976													
Chipping Sparrow	2019													
Clay-colored Sparrow	1976							R						
Clay-colored Sparrow	2019													*
Savannah Sparrow	1976													
Savannah Sparrow	2019													
Fox Sparrow	1976													
Fox Sparrow	2019													
Lincoln's Sparrow	1976													
Lincoln's Sparrow	2019	*								*				
Scarlet Tanager	1976													
Scarlet Tanager	2019													
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1976													
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2019													
Indigo Bunting	1976													
Indigo Bunting	2019													
Bobolink	1976													
Bobolink	2019													*
Orchard Oriole	1976									R				
Orchard Oriole	2019										*			
Baltimore Oriole	1976													
Baltimore Oriole	2019	*												
Pine Siskin	1976													
Pine Siskin	2019										*			

An Exciting Afternoon with a Gyrfalcon in Northhampton County November 11, 2018

Dave DeReamus

Jason Horn called me to let me know that the Gyrfalcon had returned that was present most of last winter in East Allen Township, Northampton County and nearby New Jersey. He found it near the intersection of Green Meadow and Cricket Roads on 7 November. With Sunday afternoon free, I decided to drive over to see if I could find it.

I ran into Tom Garner from Lancaster, who, like me, had looked for it last winter and been unsuccessful. We watched for about an hour from Green Meadow Road, spotting an immature Bald Eagle, but no 'Gyr'. I told Tom that I was going to work my way over to the nearby Northampton Quarry and check out that area. We exchanged phone numbers and I headed west. Tom worked his way around south of there. As I was at the quarry, checking out another Bald Eagle, my phone rang. It was Tom. He had found the bird on a cell tower along Jacksonville Road. Luckily, the bird stayed there until I got to the spot.

After about a half-hour, the bird bolted off the tower and flew northeast towards some flying ducks. When it was almost out of sight, we saw something drop down below it. It looked like it may have nailed one of them. We waited a while to see if it would return to the tower, but it never did, so I decided to head over to Route 512 in the direction of where it went, hoping that maybe I could find it feeding on whatever it might have caught. I pulled into a parking lot at the St. Luke's care center at Silver Crest Road and checked a grassy field across Route 512. Then, I went over to the retention pond behind the center and checked the area around there. I saw a raptor perched on a distant cell tower in Bath, but couldn't make

out what it was, so I decided to head up that way and check it out. As I got back onto 512, there was Tom Garner parked along the road, looking at the bird in the same field I had searched earlier! As it turned out, it was in a part of the field that I couldn't see when I checked it from the parking lot. The bird was ripping apart a Mallard no more than 50 yards from the road! It fed for a long time, giving us great looks as it ripped apart the duck. A few times, it tried to drag the kill to a different area of the field but was unable to (below left).

Eventually, Shannon Thompson, Mike and Corrine Schall, and Jim Funk showed up at the spot. Little did we know that the show would get even better. A Red-tailed Hawk came in and chased the Gyr off of its kill, followed soon after by a Peregrine Falcon. The Gyr flew towards the cement mill's buildings and landed on a pole in that direction (below right). I tried getting some flight shots, but everything was so badly blurred due to the speed of the bird and the lowering sun. After a while, it flew over the kill a couple times and landed on a much closer pole near our cars.

Then, as it tried to return to the kill, one of the two present Peregrine Falcons veered in towards it. The Gyr flipped upside-down as the Peregrine zoomed above it over the field and again about 30 feet over us! I got a couple terribly-blurred photos of the two interacting (below left).

I was happily surprised that I was able to get anything at all since it happened so fast. As dusk approached, it flew off to the west towards the southern end of the quarries along Route 987. It was a super afternoon!



Spring Migration Timing of Grasshopper Sparrows in Central Pennsylvania as Estimated from eBird Records and Two Nocturnal Flight Call Stations

Joe Gyekis, Jason Hill and Bill Evans

Abstract

Most of our knowledge regarding the migration timing of passerines comes from diurnal observations, even though much of the actual migration occurs at night. Global climate change is expected to advance the spring arrival of many migrant bird species, but documenting these changes requires knowledge of current migration phenology. This goal may be especially challenging in species, like Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), that are relatively cryptic and non-vocal following spring arrival on the breeding grounds. Nocturnal flight call monitoring, however, is a promising research method to elucidate the migration timing of such species by documenting their nighttime vocalizations made during spring migration. Here we compare spring observations from nocturnal audio recordings (April and May, 2018) to primarily diurnal eBird observations in central Pennsylvania (Centre and Union Counties, April and May, 2008-2018). We detected a minimum of 79 Grasshopper Sparrow nocturnal flight calls over this two month period, and the earliest detection occurred on 12 April. The pattern of our nocturnal flight call detections contrasts sharply with the largely diurnal observations submitted to eBird. Most noticeably, we documented a mid-April surge of Grasshopper Sparrow nocturnal flight activity that was largely absent from observations submitted to eBird. Grasshopper Sparrows were most frequently reported on eBird checklists during the last week of May, but our data suggested that spring arrival likely peaked during the first week of May. Our results caution against using diurnal birding data as the sole source of information regarding spring migration phenology, and underscore the benefit of integrating nocturnal flight call monitoring into investigations of climate-induced changes to movement behavior.

Introduction

Advances in the timing of spring migration have been reported for many bird species in connection with anthropogenic climate change (Knudsen et al. 2011; Gill et al. 2014). These migrant populations are potentially vulnerable to ecological mismatches, where peak resource availability no longer matches the peak in arrival or breeding dates of these populations (Jones and Cresswell 2010). Before we can detect advances in migration timing and assess the vulnerability of migrant populations to these mismatches, however, we must have good baseline estimates of arrival dates. Simply detecting the earliest spring arrivals can be challenging, and thus present a challenge to establishing such baselines. Vocalization rates tend to increase with the local density of conspecific competitors, so we would expect lower vocalization rates for the earliest arrivals compared to later arrivals, and vocalization rates of songbirds account for a large amount of variation in detection probability during avian surveys (Farnsworth et al. 2002). This is especially true for grassland sparrows and other relatively cryptic and less-vocal species, which can be difficult to detect when not singing (Tryjanowski and Sparks 2001; Diefenbach et al. 2003).

The Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) is an example of a bird species that can be difficult to detect when males are not singing, and female sparrows are rarely detected at all (Hill 2012). The Birds of North America account (Vickery et al. 1996) describes the species as so secretive that fall migration timing is largely unknown; during spring migration, the earliest males are thought to arrive on the breeding grounds in early-mid April (e.g., Missouri) to late April (e.g., Ohio). The bulk of spring migrants



Grasshopper Sparrow on former strip mine land on Strip Rd., Cambria 16 July 2019. (Laura Palmer)

likely appear a week or two later in May, and females arrive a week after that peak (Vickery et al. 1996). These estimates largely stem from diurnal anecdotal observations and typical birding data, and do not likely include nocturnal observations of this species (e.g., from nocturnal flight call monitoring or carcass recovery from buildings and energy infrastructure).

Alternative evidence about spring migration timing of Grasshopper Sparrows comes from a recently published light-level geolocator study that sought to monitor fall migration routes and timing and migratory connectivity in six populations of Grasshopper Sparrows across the eastern and central United States (Hill and Renfrew 2019). Some of the geolocators continued to function into the spring migration period, and 12 male sparrows commenced spring migration in early March (mean = 8 March, range = 15 January to 30 March). Three male sparrows arrived on their breeding grounds in Kansas ($n = 2$) and Wisconsin ($n = 1$) with functioning geolocators on 17 April, 20 April or 2 May. If we assume that these three males are representative of adult Grasshopper Sparrows, then these data suggest that most male sparrows arrive substantially earlier than estimated in Vickery et al. (1996) from diurnal observations. This finding is understandable, given that male Grasshopper Sparrows typically start singing in early May in Pennsylvania; before then, they are infrequently detected as they spend most of their time on the ground concealed in grassland vegetation (J. Hill personal observation).

Given the challenges of detecting Grasshopper Sparrows when not singing, nocturnal flight calls may be a more efficient method of detecting Grasshopper Sparrow arrival on the breeding grounds in spring (Evans and Mellinger 1999). Like most other grassland passerine species in the region, Grasshopper Sparrows are primarily nocturnal migrants that are highly vocal during night flight, with distinct call notes (Vickery et al. 1996). For some species, the timing of ground observations (e.g., from banding operations) during migration closely match nocturnal flight call detections (Sanders and Mennill 2014), but this is unlikely the case for Grasshopper Sparrows. In Texas, nocturnal flight call monitoring detected large numbers of Grasshopper Sparrows, but this species was not captured during simultaneous, nearby banding efforts (Evans and Rosenberg 2000). Based on the results of Hill and Renfrew (2019), we would expect central Pennsylvania nocturnal flight call stations to begin regularly detecting Grasshopper Sparrows in mid-April: two weeks before birders generally begin

regularly detecting them in the region in late April. Grasshopper Sparrows are a conservation priority species in the state and much of their range (Vickery et al. 1996), and identifying the timing of their arrival on the breeding grounds could lead to changes in grassland management during this period.

Methods

Two stations were established to monitor nocturnal flight calls in residential communities in central Pennsylvania: near State College, Centre County (~40.7989°N, -77.8761°W) and in Lewisburg, Union County (~40.9657°N, -76.8803°W). Both stations were in typical suburban landscapes, and neither one was located in grassland habitat. Recordings were conducted all night--from astronomical dusk to astronomical twilight--every night through the months of April and May in 2018.

OldBird 21c microphones were connected to ThinkPad (Lenovo Group Limited) laptops and set to automatically record each night. OldBird Tseep-r software was used to extract high pitched noises from the microphones and to save as short .wav files. These files were browsed with the OldBird GlassOFire program which created small spectrograms for each snippet. Compared to a trained human observer, the software may miss a greater frequency of soft calls. However, it usually takes less than 20 minutes to identify Grasshopper Sparrow calls from a collection of extracts from an overnight recording compared to the 5 hours (late May) to 8 hours (early April) a human observer would spend in real time listening to full length recordings or live observation from astronomical dusk to astronomical dawn.

A single observer (author JG) learned to identify Grasshopper Sparrow calls based on spectrograms provided in O'Brien and Evans (2002) and from consultation with other nocturnal flight call enthusiasts. O'Brien and Evans (2002) list Seaside (*Ammodramus maritimus*), Bairds (*Centronyx bairdii*), and Saltmarsh Sparrows (*Ammodramus caudacuta*) as species with similar nocturnal flight call spectrograms, however, these species are extremely unlikely to occur in central Pennsylvania. Based on eBird records reviewed in June 2019, only Seaside Sparrow has been confirmed in Pennsylvania during April and May, and these detections were in southeast Pennsylvania. Author JG used a conservative approach to identify the nocturnal flight calls of Grasshopper Sparrows--some lower quality detections that might have been this species--were omitted. For some insight into identification quality, an eBird media search for Grasshopper Sparrow audio files uploaded from sites in Pennsylvania for observation dates in April-May of 2018 can be skimmed through--all the extremely short audio files are part of the analysis here. No Grasshopper Sparrows were detected repeatedly chirping many times in quick succession--it seemed based on timing that there were at most two calls per bird, and usually only one bird passing at a time giving just one detected call. Call counts from both stations were combined for analysis of migration timing.

For comparison to diurnal birding, we downloaded eBird frequency data for Centre and Union Counties from 2008-2018, April and May. These eBird data provide the number of complete checklists and the proportion of these checklists reporting Grasshopper Sparrow in these counties. Complete checklists include "traveling" and "stationary" eBird protocol data where observers indicated that they noted all species that they had identified during the count period. Nocturnal flight call protocol data is not included in the bar charts. eBird bar chart data is aggregated by "weeks" with the 29th through the 31st of any month included in week four. Again, both counties' data were combined for analysis.

Results

Across the two stations, we detected 79 nocturnal flight calls of Grasshopper Sparrows. At the Lewisburg station, the earliest detection dates were April 12th, two more calls from the 13th, and

seven more calls from the 14th. In State College, Grasshopper Sparrow nocturnal flight calls were first detected during April 13-14. Overall, 34% of flight call detections occurred in April. Grasshopper Sparrow flight call detections continued through the final week of May. Overall, the trend in nocturnal flight calls was indicative of a mass arrival of Grasshopper Sparrow in the region starting mid-April and then a peak migration in the first week of May, steadily declining thereafter (Figure 1).

In the April-May eBird data consisting of 15,754 complete checklists, Grasshopper Sparrow were rarely reported in the first week (one checklist), second week (three checklists), and third week (four checklists). Thereafter in late April and throughout May, Grasshopper Sparrow reports increased dramatically (Figure 2).

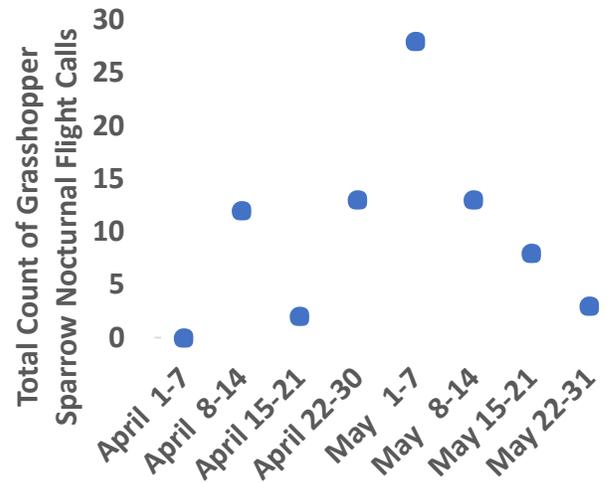


Figure 1. Total number of nocturnal flight call detections for Grasshopper Sparrows monitored at two nocturnal recording stations in Central Pennsylvania between astronomical dusk and astronomical dawn in April and May of 2018. (Note that data are aggregated into "weeks" to be comparable to eBird summary data, where the final "week" of the month is longer than 7 days.)

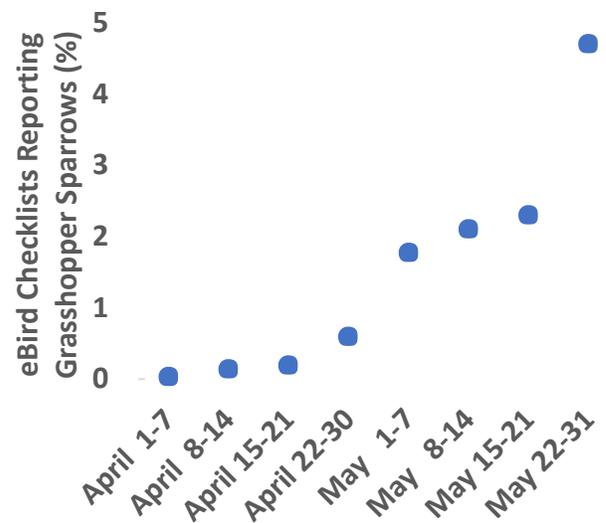


Figure 2. Proportion of complete traveling or stationary protocol eBird checklists from Union and Centre Counties, Pennsylvania, reporting Grasshopper Sparrows in April and May of 2008-2018. (Note that the final "week" of each month is longer than 7 days.)

Discussion

During spring migration, we detected substantial numbers of Grasshopper Sparrow via nocturnal flight calls, before this species was regularly detected in eBird checklists. If both datasets had recorded the timing of migration equally well, then we would have expected similar estimates to the timing of passage through Central Pennsylvania (Figures 1-2). Both datasets were generally consistent with the literature review by Vickery et al. (1996), which estimated that most Grasshopper Sparrows arrived on the breeding grounds in May, with fewer individuals arriving in late April. Our nocturnal flight call dataset, however, strongly suggested that about 15% of Grasshopper Sparrows arrived in the first half of April, with a migration peak in early May. An early, somewhat cryptic migration of Grasshopper Sparrow is consistent with the geolocator data collected by Hill and Renfrew (2019). Together, these converging lines of evidence suggest that Grasshopper Sparrows likely arrive in Central Pennsylvania at least several weeks before they are regularly detected by birders. Several more years of monitoring during spring migration would help to determine how much these dates vary between years. For example, in 2019 at a monitoring station on Isle of Que in Snyder County (12 miles south of the Lewisburg station), the first Grasshopper Sparrow nocturnal flight call of the spring was detected on April 7--five days prior to the earliest detection in 2018 (JG personal observation).

The early surge of migrants are likely mature males arriving in hopes of securing high-quality territories. For many passerines (e.g. Kokko et al. 2006, Coppack and Pulido 2009) and several species of sparrows (e.g. White-throated Sparrows [*Zonotrichia albicollis*], Mazerolle and Hobson, 2007; Seaside and Saltmarsh Sparrows, Borowske et al., 2016), adult males initiate migration and arrive earlier than females--a phenomenon called protandry which is generally associated with territory procurement and maximizing individual fitness (Morbey and Ydenberg 2001). Furthermore, for many passerines, older males may arrive earlier than first year individuals (Stewart et al. 2002).

If these early arriving Grasshopper Sparrows are indeed mature males eager to seek out and defend territory, why would so few be detected by diurnal birding activities upon arrival in mid-April? Do these early individuals bypass the easily accessible (to birders) hayfields of our populated valleys to land in remote, and under-surveyed, grassland habitats? Or are these Grasshopper Sparrows simply staying quiet and cryptic until the population density rises at the end of April and early May, thus finally allowing most birders to begin to detect them? Alternatively, most birders may eschew grassland habitat in April, under the false assumption that grassland birds have not yet returned. In our experience, Grasshopper Sparrows in mid-April rarely sing or perch when flushed; they fly several meters and drop to the ground (JH personal observation) which makes identification extremely difficult for most birders. During this time of year, tail shape and color (the only field marks visible from a Grasshopper Sparrow flushing low and away from you) are the best field marks for positively identifying this species (JH personal observation).

Systematic surveys of the full suite of potential Grasshopper Sparrow habitat during April would help to refine estimates of their arrival into our region. Grasshopper Sparrows are known to use parklands (grassland-woodland mix), brushlands ($\geq 30\%$ woody canopy coverage), and woodlands (closed canopy with trees ≥ 3 m tall) during non-breeding periods (Igl and Ballard 1999)--habitat that they do not generally use for breeding (Vickery et al. 1996). Flexible habitat use during migration may be an adaptive strategy for Grasshopper Sparrows, because they typically travel only short distances (< 100 km per night) during spring migration over a ~ 35 -day period (Hill and Renfrew 2019). Extensive grasslands, suitable as breeding habitat, may not be available at an adequate spatial frequency throughout their migration corridor.

Grasshopper Sparrows have declined dramatically throughout their breeding range ($\sim 71\%$ decline) and within Pennsylvania ($\sim 95\%$ decline) from 1996 through 2015 (Sauer et al. 2017). These

declines are likely driven by the conversion of grasslands via the intensification of agricultural practices (e.g., converting pastures to row crops; Hill et al. 2014). Habitat preservation programs (e.g., Conservation Reserve Enhancement [CRP]) are an important tool for Grasshopper Sparrow management in the U.S. and Pennsylvania (Wilson and Brittingham 2012; Hill et al. 2014). However, management practices such as burning, mowing, and discing are also commonly used in spring to improve habitat for Grasshopper Sparrows. To avoid disturbing breeding populations, these activities are frequently timed to occur in the two week window prior to the presumed arrival of Grasshopper Sparrows (Dechant et al. 2002). Our findings, and those of Hill and Renfrew (2019), suggest that these management activities may actually be occurring after some Grasshopper Sparrows have already returned to the breeding grounds. Further research and nocturnal flight call monitoring is needed to determine if the timing of these practices have unintended consequences on the settlement patterns and population dynamics of Grasshopper Sparrows and other grassland obligate bird species.



Grasshopper Sparrow in farm fields near Belleville, Mifflin 27 June 2019. (Rob Dickerson)

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Pennsylvania Raptor Migration Summary - Spring 2019

David R. Barber

Hawkwatchers are keenly aware of how weather and winds can affect the flights of migrants. A warmer and wetter than average winter was followed by a drier than average March. Predominantly, W/NW winds in early March may have slowed the northward migration of early migrants, but more southerly winds and warmer temperatures seemed to jump start the migration as watchsites started to see large flights during late March into April. Above average temperatures and favorable winds in April may have fueled the larger than average flights of late migrants.

Migration Summary

Eight Pennsylvania spring watch sites counted an above-average 33,813 total hawks in 1916.5 hours during 311 days of counting between 14 February to 6 April, for a rate of 18.5 hawks per hour (Table 1). Spring count hours were 48% above the average spring effort of 1322 hours. Total spring raptors were 42% above the ten-year average of 23,738, primarily driven by an increase in Turkey Vulture and Broad-winged Hawk flights. Counts of Turkey Vulture were 19,776 compared to the ten-year average of 14,186 and counts of Broad-winged Hawk were 8266 compared to the ten-year average of 4595. However, they were not the only species to enjoy above average counts, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, and Merlin all had counts at least 30% above their ten-year average. Of particular note were the counts of Northern Harrier and American Kestrel, two species that are showing long-term declines at watch sites. Counts of Northern Harrier (213) were 43% above the ten-year average of 149 and counts of American Kestrel (612) 55% above the ten-year average of 394 (Table 1).

Not all species counts were positive, counts of Red-shouldered Hawk and Golden Eagle were 10% below their ten-year average and Rough-legged Hawk was 53% below average. The lower counts of Golden Eagle could be due to migrating along a more westerly track and evading hawk watchers as evidenced by the above average count at Allegheny Front and the below average count at Tussey Mountain. In contrast, the lack of Rough-legged Hawks may reflect the low numbers seen during the fall of 2018; only 10 roughlegs were counted compared to the average of 21 recorded in the Spring (Table 1).

Site Highlights

Allegheny Front (Somerset/Bedford) - Allegheny counters tallied 1348 hawks in 346 hours on 57 days from 2/17 to 5/2, a rate of 3.9 hawks per hour (Table 1). The

overall count was 15% higher than the ten-year average with counts of both Bald Eagle (42) and Golden Eagle (103) well above their respective ten-year averages of 19.8 and 69.5 (Table 1). Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Broad-winged Hawk also had counts above their ten-year averages. Flights were light the first two weeks of March until light southeast winds on 3/14 produced the largest flight of the season with 267 raptors counted, including one-day highs of 93 Turkey Vultures, 18 Cooper's Hawks, 16 Red-shouldered Hawks, 60 Red-tailed Hawks, and a jaw-dropping 53 Golden Eagles, including a kettle of 8 Golden Eagles (Table 2). Counts of Broad-winged Hawk began building during the second week of April peaking on 4/17 when 204 were counted along with 18 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 11 Red-tailed Hawks, and 8 Golden Eagles. The day's total of 261 was the second highest count of the season.

Delaware Nature Society Kite Watch at Bucktoe Preserve (Chester) - The third year for this late spring watch for kites and shorebirds. Counters tallied 32 hawks in 159 hours on 21 days from 5/17 to 6/6, a rate of 0.2 hawks per hour (Table 1). A high of 6 hawks were tallied on 5/19 and 5/20; 4 Ospreys and 2 Mississippi Kites were seen on 5/19 and an Osprey, 2 Bald Eagles, and 3 Mississippi Kites were seen on 5/20. Overall, a record number of 9 Mississippi Kites were tallied this year and this was the only watch-site in Pennsylvania to record this species.

Hawk Mountain (Berks/Schuylkill) - Hawk Mountain counters tallied 832 hawks in 232 hours on 43 days from 3/18 to 5/15, a rate of 3.6 hawks per hour. Total raptors were 10% below the ten-year average with most species other than vultures and falcons below average (Table 1). Moderate southwest winds produced the biggest flight of the spring on 4/19 with 176 raptors of 9 species counted by Hawk Mountain trainees. Highlights from the day's count included season highs of 9 Ospreys, 16 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 132 Broad-winged Hawks, and 6 Red-tailed Hawks. On 3/30, light southeast and southwest winds produced the second highest count of the season with 30 Turkey Vultures, 5 Northern Harriers, 10 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 4 Cooper's Hawks, 8 American Kestrels, and 3 Merlins among the 74 raptors counted.

Jack's Mountain (Mifflin) - Traditionally a fall watch site, counters tallied 11 birds in 7 hours on 1 day (3/27), a rate of 1.6 birds per hour (Table 1). The count included 3 Bald Eagles, one Cooper's Hawk, one Red-

shouldered Hawk, 5 Red-tailed Hawks, and one Merlin.

Presque Isle (Erie) - Presque Isle counters tallied 27,157 hawks in 211 hours in 48 days from 2/24 to 5/25, a rate of 128.7 hawks per hour (Table 1). Total raptors were 40% above the ten-year average. Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, and Merlin all had counts above the ten-year average whereas Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Rough-legged Hawk had below average counts (Table 1). Presque Isle is known for large flights of Turkey Vultures, and this year did not disappoint. Flights of vultures started building mid-March peaking on 4/2 with a flight of 2893 Turkey Vultures. Strong southerly winds on 4/18 produced the kind of day hawk watchers live for - a season high 4204 raptors of 14 species were counted that included 1132 Turkey Vultures, 23 Bald Eagles, 22 Northern Harriers, 335 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Northern Goshawks, 2516 Broad-winged Hawks, 2 Rough-legged Hawks, one Golden Eagle, and 39 American Kestrels. On 3/28 counters spotted a Short-eared Owl, the only owl recorded migrating at a Pennsylvania watchsite.

Summit Mountain (Fayette) - Summit Mountain counters tallied 358 hawks in 152 hours on 27 days from 2/14 to 5/9, a rate of 2.4 hawks per hour (Table 1). The highest one-day count occurred on 4/11 with 93 birds tallied including 10 Ospreys, 6 Northern Harriers, 27 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 16 Red-tailed Hawks, 3 American Kestrels, and 2 Merlins. Good flights continued over the next two days with 46 and 42 hawks counted, the second and third highest one-days counts of the season, respectively.

The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County's Hawk Watch at Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Chester) - Bucktoe Preserve counters tallied 1005 hawks in 415 hours on 61 days from 3/1 to 4/30, a rate of 2.4 hawks per hour (Table 1). A high of 250 raptors were counted on 4/24 that included season highs of 16 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 214 Broad-winged Hawks, and 4 Red-tailed Hawks. The Preserve's third most abundant migrant is Turkey Vultures, tallying 140 for the season. Similar to watchsites in western Pennsylvania, Turkey Vultures have a protracted migration, moving past watchsites March through April. The high count for Turkey Vulture occurred on 3/24 with 17, followed by 16 on 4/8. TLCs Hawk Watch counts in 2019 have the potential to

Table 2. Peak One-day count dates for Spring 2019

Site	Golden Eagle		Broad-winged Hawk	
	Peak Count	Date	Peak Count	Date
Allegheny Front	53	3/14	204	4/17
Hawk Mountain*	-	-	132	4/19
Presque Isle	1	4/2,4/18	2516	4/18
Summit	-	-	214	4/24
TLC at Stateline Woods Preserve	2	4/12	24	4/18
Tussey Mountain	22	3/11	475	4/18

*Site begins count in April shed some light on spring migration though Pennsylvania's Piedmont.

Tussey Mountain (Centre) - Tussey Mountain counters tallied 3072 hawks in 430 hours on 59 days from 2/21 to 4/25, a rate of 7.1 hawks per hour (Table 1). Total raptors were 56% above the ten-year average with counts of Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and American Kestrel all above their ten-year averages and Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, and Golden Eagles below their ten-year averages (Table 1). Southeasterly winds on 4/18 fueled the highest count of the season with 569 raptors, which included 475 Broad-winged Hawks, the third highest single day total, and 49 Sharp-shinned Hawks, the fifth highest single day total

(Table 2). The season total of 1860 Broad-winged Hawks was the second highest season total and the 59 American Kestrels tallied was the most in eight years. This was the fourth consecutive season with later than average Golden Eagle flights and below average counts were recorded three of the past four years. This year's total of 147 was 33% below the ten-year average of 218.

Conclusions

In Spring 2019, hawkwatchers expanded their efforts at eastern and western sites, accounting for above average hours and days when hawk-watchers counted across Pennsylvania. These expanded efforts however do not account for the above average counts of most

species. Especially encouraging are the above average counts of declining species such as Northern Harrier and American Kestrel and the continued increase in numbers of Bald Eagles.

Acknowledgements

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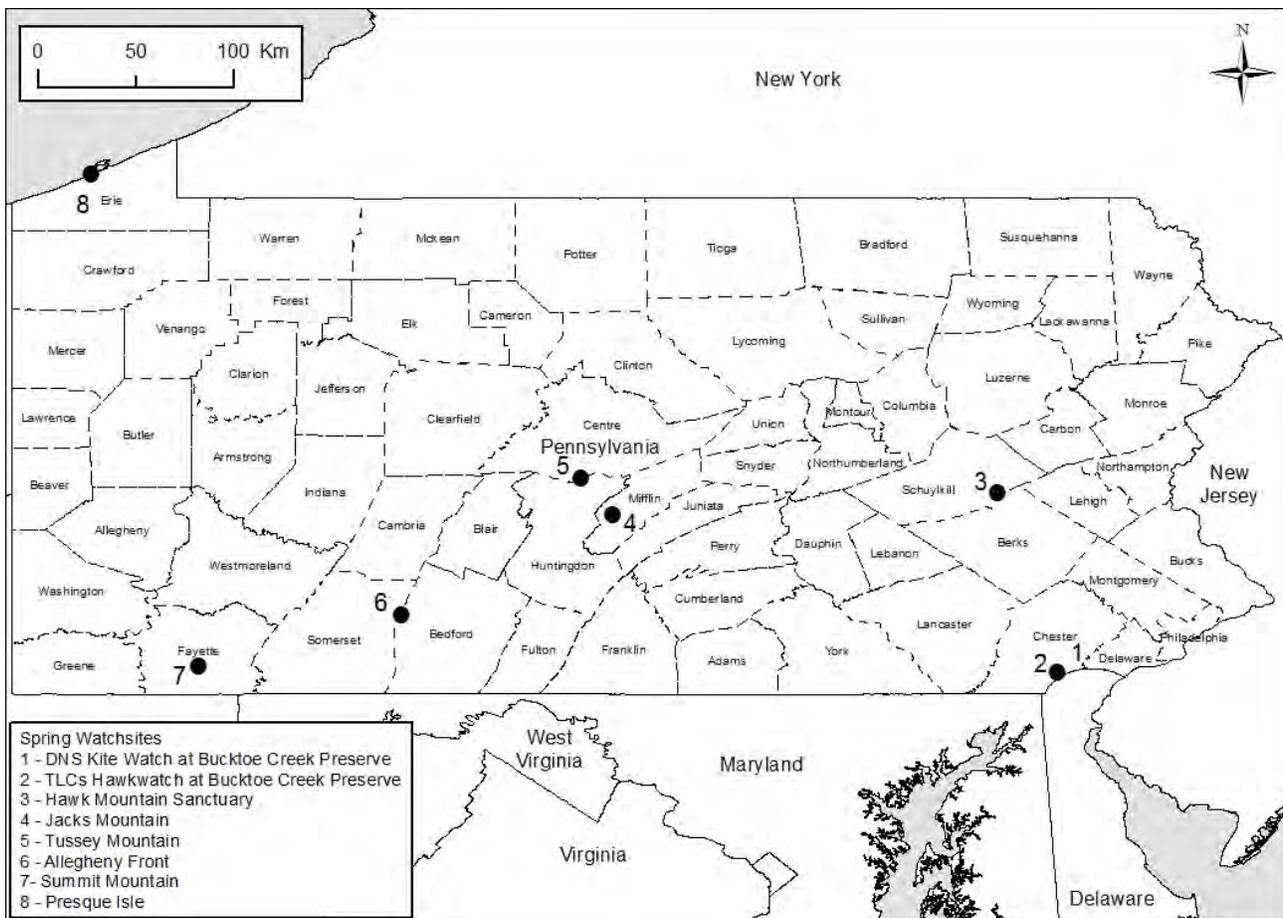


Table 1. Spring 2019 count results for Pennsylvania watchsites.

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	6	23.5	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	7	1	9	0	0	0	0	1	26
March	25	152.3	7	165	5	11	6	22	24	1	43	0	147	0	74	6	1	2	0	28	542
April	25	163.5	6	20	57	30	10	66	26	2	6	375	121	0	20	6	1	3	0	27	776
May	1	6.5	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Total	57	345.8	13	189	64	42	17	88	50	3	52	375	275	1	103	12	2	5	0	57	1348
Total per hr			0.04	0.55	0.19	0.12	0.05	0.25	0.14	0.01	0.15	1.08	0.80	0.00	0.30	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.16	3.90
% of flight			1.0	14.0	4.7	3.1	1.3	6.5	3.7	0.2	3.9	27.8	20.4	0.1	7.6	0.9	0.1	0.4	0.0	4.2	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	55.7	352.3	12.2	184.0	66.1	19.8	14.3	103.9	50.5	4.1	33.1	288.8	262.4	0.7	69.5	16.0	4.0	2.6	0.0	44.5	1173.0

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	123	0	0	10	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	30
June	6	36	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	21	159	0	0	10	12	0	1	0	9	0	32										
Total per hr			0.00	0.00	0.06	0.08	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	0.06	0.00	0.20
% of flight			0.0	0.0	31.3	37.5	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.1	0.0	100.0
Average last 10 yrs																						

HAWK MOUNTAIN (Berks/Schuylkill) - Lansothung Lotha and David Barber, compilers

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
March	4	16	3	33	1	1	6	10	5	0	2	0	6	0	0	8	4	0	0	2	81
April	28	164.4	30	12	36	24	7	59	26	0	6	364	34	0	0	17	10	5	0	77	707
May	11	52.1	1	4	9	3	1	3	1	0	0	9	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	44
Total	43	232.5	34	49	46	28	14	72	32	0	8	373	45	0	0	26	14	5	0	86	832
Total per hr			0.15	0.21	0.20	0.12	0.06	0.31	0.14	0.00	0.03	1.60	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.06	0.02	0.00	0.37	3.58
% of flight			4.1	5.9	5.5	3.4	1.7	8.7	3.8	0.0	1.0	44.8	5.4	0.0	0.0	3.1	1.7	0.6	0.0	10.3	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	42.1	243.3	41.7	40.5	81.5	38.3	22.5	90.7	41.2	0.5	8.2	358.3	88.5	0.3	2.1	21.4	5.3	2.1	0.0	84.1	929.4

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	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
March	20	80.5	4	7765	3	13	16	24	19	0	133	0	151	3	0	74	1	0	0	8	8214
April	18	83.3	0	9321	50	63	78	760	29	5	32	3233	178	2	2	370	11	2	0	17	14153
May	9	46.5	3	2117	59	174	33	276	9	0	1	2013	72	0	0	17	6	2	0	5	4787
Total	48	211	7	19204	112	251	127	1060	57	5	166	5246	402	5	2	461	18	4	0	30	27157
Total per hr			0.03	91.01	0.53	1.19	0.60	5.02	0.27	0.02	0.79	24.86	1.91	0.02	0.01	2.18	0.09	0.02	0.00	0.14	128.71
% of flight			0.0	70.7	0.4	0.9	0.5	3.9	0.2	0.0	0.6	19.3	1.5	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	60.0	202.3	1.3	13707	84.8	142.0	80.7	924.9	74.7	1.5	221.2	3137	587.3	17.0	1.4	313.1	13.3	7.6	0.0	39.4	19366

JACKS MOUNTAIN (Mifflin) - Darrell Smith, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
March	1	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	11
Total	1	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	11
Total per hr			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.57
% of flight																					
Average last 10 yrs																					

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
February	5	32.3	0	23	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	34
March	10	52.3	0	52	1	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	6	74
April	8	50.5	5	15	27	5	9	35	6	1	0	61	23	0	6	7	2	1	0	16	219
May	4	17	0	0	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	31
Total	27	152	5	90	36	13	9	35	8	1	5	78	35	0	9	7	2	1	0	24	358
Total per hr			0.03	0.59	0.24	0.09	0.06	0.23	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.51	0.23	0.00	0.06	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.16	2.36
% of flight			1.4	25.1	10.1	3.6	2.5	9.8	2.2	0.3	1.4	21.8	9.8	0.0	2.5	2.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	6.7	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
March	31	205	0	84	16	32	4	29	16	0	5	0	24	0	0	13	2	0	0	0	225
April	30	210	0	56	80	33	20	116	67	0	4	334	33	0	0	34	3	0	0	0	780
Total	61	415	0	140	96	65	24	145	83	0	9	334	57	0	0	47	5	0	0	0	1005
Total per hr			0.00	0.34	0.23	0.16	0.06	0.35	0.20	0.00	0.02	0.80	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.42
% of flight			0.0	13.9	9.6	6.5	2.4	14.4	8.3	0.0	0.9	33.2	5.7	0.0	0.0	4.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
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	7	46.5	0	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	26
March	30	212.5	8	89	5	31	6	23	17	1	34	0	191	3	117	27	2	3	0	9	566
April	22	171	8	13	99	32	16	153	10	0	7	1860	215	1	16	32	6	1	0	11	2480
Total	59	430	16	104	104	69	22	176	27	1	41	1860	410	4	147	59	8	4	0	20	3072
Total per hr			0.04	0.24	0.24	0.16	0.05	0.41	0.06	0.00	0.10	4.33	0.95	0.01	0.34	0.14	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.05	7.14
% of flight			0.5	3.4	3.4	2.2	0.7	5.7	0.9	0.0	1.3	60.5	13.3	0.1	4.8	1.9	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.7	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	55.1	394.7	20.0	191.9	88.0	50.7	24.9	181.8	40.8	1.3	46.6	723.7	340.2	3.2	218.3	34.8	5.5	3.9	0.0	25.4	1972.7

2019 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	19	103.1	0	30	0	10	0	0	1	0	5	0	16	1	24	0	0	0	0	2	89
March	121	725.6	22	8188	31	93	38	108	83	2	221	0	531	6	193	128	11	5	0	53	9713
April	131	842.7	49	9437	349	187	140	1189	164	8	55	6227	604	3	44	466	33	12	0	148	19115
May	40	245.1	4	2121	88	191	35	280	10	0	1	2039	78	0	0	18	6	2	9	14	4896
June	6	36	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	317	1953	75	19776	468	483	213	1577	258	10	282	8266	1229	10	261	612	50	19	9	217	33815
Total per hr.			0.0	10.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.1	4.3	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	17.6
% of flight			0.2	58.5	1.4	1.4	0.6	4.7	0.8	0.0	0.8	24.4	3.6	0.0	0.8	1.8	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.6	100.0
Average last 10 yrs.	232.9	1322.3	75.9	14187	344.2	268.7	148.7	1331	219.4	7.5	312.2	4595	1299	21.2	289.4	393.6	29.2	14.6	1.4	200.6	23739

LISTENING TO A CONTINENT SING: Birdsong by Bicycle from the Atlantic to the Pacific by Donald Kroodsma, 101 black and white drawings by Nancy Haver. Contents include how to listen to birds using QR codes, acknowledgments, prologue, 31 chapters, epilogue, references, and index, 5 3/4 x 9 in., 311 pp., published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2016, \$21.95, soft cover.

What an uncanny, unique, and tremendously pleasant surprise of a bird book. Donald Kroodsma, bird voice expert, graciously invites readers to join his son, David, and him on a ten-week, ten-state bicycle journey from the Atlantic to the Pacific, lingering and listening to birds across the country as no one has before. As the author states: "We are pioneers, embarking on a transcontinental journey unlike any before us. Others have traversed the continent, to be sure, including birders who have listed all of the species they've identified. Not us. We will reach more deeply, more intimately, far beyond such lists as we listen in on the personal lives of individual birds, using their songs and calls as a window into their minds. For 35 years as a scientist I have relentlessly studied birdsong, and here is the grand payoff, listening my way across the continent. No one before has experienced the continent as we will, because no one before has listened as I know how" (p. xiii). Not just bird song, I might add, but also avian call notes and other perplexing bird sounds.

Kroodsma entices his readership how to listen to the 381 recordings referenced by numbers in the text. He uses on page 2 of the text a recording of an American Robin and provides a brief description of what can be heard in that recording. Above the description is a QR code and in parentheses the number and duration of the recording (1, 2:00), indicating that this recording is #1 of 381 and it is exactly two minutes in duration.

Further, using a QR code reader (such as an app on a smart phone), allows birders to play this robin recording by accessing the page on ListeningToAContinentSing.com.

Scan the QR code for the Wood Thrush on page 2 and you can listen to this Virginia maestro time and time again. In fact, you can use your QR code reader throughout the book for all 381 sounds. At this website, detailed notes supplement the book's text so that you learn how to listen to more than 200 different species. This upgrade technological tool certainly beats the old system of my own learning bird sounds by endless reputation over decades of field training. It's also true that each birder has different ears unique to self so that even learning with your eyes gives your ears a big boost.

Take a superlative case of spring migrating warblers during an energized Kentucky dawn (aggressive) song, each

species singing in its own special way. Suddenly, as the sun rises above the eastern hills, nearly a score of warbler species change their songs, each species now singing their one special song they have saved for non-dawn, non-aggressive situations, such as courting/mating a female. Only two warblers, the Ovenbird and Common Yellowthroat, continue as before because they have no special dawn songs. (Refer to Appalachia pp. 63-64 for warbler QR codes 73-81).

Kroodsma is an excellent writer as well as an ornithologist and flushes out the ancient geology, human history, and many current events as parcels of useful stopovers as clearly illustrated by his Prologue. "Birdsong coast to coast, from seaside sparrows and laughing gulls on the Atlantic to wrentits and western gulls on the Pacific! I'm surfing the wave of first light and dawn song across the continent, sweeping the Appalachians, hurdling the mighty Mississippi, roller-coasting the Ozarks, bursting out of the eastern forests and into the Great Plains; halfway now, I hit the Rocky Mountain wall and charge north up its very backbone, into the Tetons and through Yellowstone, joining Lewis and Clark, dipping into Hells Canyon and climbing out into the geological wonderland that is now Oregon, listening to birds and all else that "sings" along the way, from the best seat imaginable, all from the seat of a bicycle" (p. xiii). Specific stops and layovers represent the 31 chapters from east to west for the reasons that the sun sweeps east to west as does the dawn chorus of birdsongs, the morning sun will be at our backs, not in our eyes, and a difference in safety as motorists approaching us from behind will not be blinded by the sun. But the most important reason was *birdsong*. To navigate the western mountain passes, one must wait until June to start biking from the Pacific. That would put them in hot and humid Kentucky and Virginia in July, August or even September. Thus it was better to begin on the Atlantic in May and experience Virginia and Kentucky in springtime for the greatest avian show on Earth.

In short, the author is translating and understanding what the bird is communicating and that fact isn't easy. For example, take bird dialects or avian oral traditions. A young male House Wren and a young Northern Cardinal copy the songs of adult neighbors and as a result their songs occur in dialects, thus males often duel with identical songs. But male American

Robins and Wood Thrushes are more creative, with each male improvising many unique songs on his own, so no dialects exist. The wren and cardinal typically repeat a particular song many times before switching to another, whereas the robin and thrush

always race from one song to the next with successive songs always different. So, how many different songs does the Northern Mockingbird know? The author followed a singing male mockingbird for 16 minutes and calculated that the bird sang about 80 different songs in 16 minutes representing 5 species: Eastern Phoebe, Wood Thrush, Northern Flicker, Killdeer, and Belted Kingfisher. Yet there are major differences when comparing the mockingbird with the other two mimic-thrushes: the Gray Catbird and the Brown Thrasher. The catbird sings in ones, each squeak uttered only once; the thrasher in twos; the mockingbird in five or more. In round numbers, a catbird sings about an average of 300 different songs, a thrasher 2,000, and a mockingbird only 100. The thrasher generates the largest known song repertoire among USA birds by simply making them up or by improvising on the basics of thrasher themes that are held in their genes (p. 27).

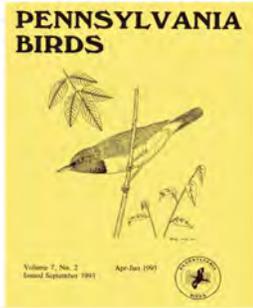
This reviewer resonates with the author when it comes to nocturnal avian spring migration. During their night flights, migrants utter sharp and often melodious *peep, chirp, tweet, pip, and zee* calls that differ in most species from their daytime calls. Some sounds seem to be short renditions of breeding songs, others not. Such calls are reputed to keep individuals in touch with each other while traveling. The author says focus on one family of birds, thrushes for example, to better comprehend given migrants. Kroodsma worked on the thrushes, knowing some must be up there, as the first week of May is perhaps the prime migration time. Veery, Hermit and Wood Thrushes are identified but Gray-cheeked and Swainson thrushes are not. But as Kroodsma says: "All species combined and weather permitting, the *pips, tseeps*, and *squeaks* overhead no doubt extend from the Tropics to the northern tip of whatever is inhabitable during early May" (p. 29). When inclement weather, like fog, does occur, it forces the birds to descend to the ground rapidly and migration usually stops. If fog lingers for hours, the migrants often remain in a specific locale for most of a day feeding, resting, and waiting to continue their migration the following night.

So much of this book reminds me of my own geographical-ornithological travel experiences in Appalachia (especially the Blue Ridge-Great Smoky Mountains), Missouri-Arkansas Ozarks, Colorado-New Mexico Rockies, Tetons-Yellowstone, Wyoming, and Oregon-Washington (especially the Olympic Peninsula). The birds were new, spectacular, but often similar in birdsong to eastern cousins, such as Western Tanager instead of Scarlet Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak in place of Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting instead of Indigo Bunting.

Of course, I identified each new bird by using my own reliable six field keys: eye, voice, habitat, behavior, field marks, and ecology. Kroodsmas's book, however, would have been the quickest ultimate aid.

In sum, please read the sensitive Epilogue – Where are they now? (p. 281). Hint: Donald Kroodsmas is free, still somewhere listening to birds.

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25 Years Ago in Pennsylvania Birds

Volume 7, No. 2.

The first state records of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks for Pennsylvania were reported from Indiana and Westmoreland Counties.

The first state record of American Oystercatcher was reported from Carbon County

The first confirmed nesting of Common Raven in the Pocono Mountains, Monroe County was reported, indicating the early expansion of their breeding range in the state. They now have been recorded in all but three counties

Theodore "Ted" A. Parker III was memorialized after his untimely death.

In a continuing series on Bird Banding in Pennsylvania, it was reported that a Least Flycatcher recovered in Ontario was banded in Pennsylvania on July 22, 1983 and recovered May 16, 1988.

This issue can be read at pabirds.org.

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Summary of the Season: Spring 2019

Mike Fialkovich

Many compilers noted periods of rain in May. The result was a good fallout of Willets in the western part of the state and some other great shorebird sightings throughout. Passerine migration continues to be restricted to one or two big pushes in the early part of May, then slows and settles with a steady flow for the remainder of the month.

Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were reported in three counties. This species is normally reported in single digit numbers, but this season, flocks of 12 were in *Berks*, 8 in *Lebanon*, and 37 in *Montour*. The count in *Montour* is the highest ever recorded in the state - the previous high was 11 in *Indiana* in 1993.

Greater White-fronted Geese were reported away from regular southeastern locations. An amazing flock of at least 59 were in *Erie* in March, staying for four days; an unusually lengthy stay for this species that is often a single day visitor. This was the third highest count in the state for a single location (see table below). A good count of 10 were at Shawnee State Park in *Bedford* in mid-March.

Greater White-fronted Goose High Counts (>30), July 1992 – May 2019

DATE	COUNTY	COUNT
11/6/1999	Indiana	97
3/19/2006	Bedford	32
2/5-9/2016	Centre	68
2/6-7/2016	Fayette	34
2/14/2016	Armstrong	42
2/27/2016	Crawford	46
11/19/2017	Lawrence	32
3/9-13/2019	Erie	59

Ross's Goose was reported in six counties; *Centre* recorded a third county record. **Cackling Geese** were found in 20 counties. A **Snow X Canada Goose** was in *Montgomery*.

Mute Swan continues to be concentrated in *Bucks* with 8 seen this season. Birds at a resort in *Fayette* are probably semi-domestic and several were in *Washington*. **Trumpeter Swan** reports are increasing as the population builds. Reports were received from 13 counties, including a wing-tagged bird in *Montour*. *Carbon* birders recorded a first county record, the second nesting in the state occurred in *Cumberland*, and 6 were in *Westmoreland*.

There were waterfowl fallouts in *Bedford* and *Carbon* during rain events. The *Bedford* event occurred in early March at Shawnee State Park during a period of cold, rain and snow in this high elevation location. *Carbon* experienced a fallout in early April resulting in a nice count of 14

Long-tailed Ducks at Beltzville State Park.

The **Eurasian Wigeon** first discovered during the winter in *Armstrong* went missing for a week or more but was relocated downriver from the initial discovery location. Single birds were also in *Erie* and *Lancaster*. A **Eurasian X American Wigeon** was reported in *Mercer*. Another interesting hybrid, a **Mallard X Gadwall (Brewer's Duck)** was found at Middle Creek in *Lancaster*.

The immature male **Harlequin Duck** in *Armstrong* continued from the winter. It often fed in turbulent water below the dam on the Allegheny River at Kittanning. **Surf Scoters** were in 13 counties and **White-winged Scoters** in 22, but **Black Scoter** was only found in two counties. **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported in 29 counties. A female **Barrow's Goldeneye** was in *Bucks* in early March. A male **Barrow's X Common Goldeneye** was reported in ebird from *Somerset*; the entry includes numerous photographs and notes.

Red-necked Grebes had a good presence with reports from 28 counties. **Eared Grebes** were only reported in *Butler* and *Erie*.

Eurasian Collared-Doves were in the usual locations in *Berks*, *Cumberland*, and *Franklin*. With the decline of **Common Nighthawks**, I wanted to report the number of counties were found this spring. While not necessarily an indication of breeding, 25 counties had reports. Migrant flocks were noted in *Montgomery*, which is often a fall phenomenon. Other notable nightjar reports include **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** in 21 counties; a nest was a rare find in *Blair*. **Chuck-wills-widows** were in *Erie* and *Cumberland*. The bird in *Erie* was only heard one evening and the call was recorded and entered into ebird. The other was presumed to be the returning bird in *Cumberland* where this species has been reported for the past five years.

A **King Rail** was reported in *Crawford* in mid-May at the expansive Geneva Marsh, where this species has been regularly reported the past few years. **Common Gallinules** were in seven counties. **Sandhill Cranes** were in 23 counties as they continue their successful expansion in the state. A testament to this is the absence of this species in the Birds of Note summary since 2014.

Shorebird reports were varied and interesting, and for the first time I can recall, some were detected by recorders during the night. Perhaps this new technology for gathering data on migrating birds will provide data for shorebirds that would otherwise go undetected. Two **Whimbrels** were recorded in *Adams* during the night of May 17.

An amazing total of 17 **American Avocets** were in *Adams*, and one in *Cumberland* remained for days which is unusual for this species that is often a one-day occurrence. Five avocets were in *Erie* and 6 in *Somerset*. A count of 30 **Semipalmated Plovers** was quite a surprise in *Washington*. **Piping Plovers** returned to Gull Point at Presque Isle State Park this spring with 3 birds present. It's been wonderful to have this species regularly reported in recent years.

Upland Sandpiper continues to decline in the state so any reports are important. Birds returned to breeding sites in *Clarion* and *Crawford*. Other reports came from *Clearfield*, *Cumberland*, and *Lawrence*. In addition to the Whimbrels mentioned above, an amazing total of 340 were observed from Bucktoe Creek Preserve in *Chester* over two days in late May. This site has become known as a good place to view flocks of shorebirds as they exit the Delaware Bay and continue on their migration north. A nice count of 7 were in *Erie*, one was in *Lancaster*, and third county records were established in *Indiana* and *Washington*.

Three species that are reported from the Lake Erie shore or counties in the southeast that are close to the coast were found "inland" in the state this spring. **Ruddy Turnstone** made surprising appearances away from Lake Erie where they are regular. One or 2 were in *Centre*, one was in *Cumberland*, 6 in *Lancaster*, and 2 at two locations in *Lycoming*. **Red Knot** reports include a great total of 50 in flight over *Bucks*, providing the sixth county record, 10 in *Erie*, one in *Lycoming*, and a detection made in *Philadelphia* by a motus receiver. Single **Sanderlings** were in *Cambria*, *Cumberland*, and *Franklin*. Approximately 100 were observed in flight from Bucktoe in *Chester* in late May. A female **Ruff** provided a first county record for *Lebanon*.

Another species that is very rare in spring, **Stilt Sandpiper** was found in *Crawford*, *Juniata*, *Lawrence*, and *Lebanon*. Photographs are entered into ebird checklists documenting this rare spring migrant. **White-rumped Sandpipers** were in ten counties. Very unusual in the state, particularly in spring, **Western Sandpipers** were in *Crawford* and *Lebanon*. The bird in *Lebanon* was photographed. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were found in 16 counties with a great count of 41 in *Indiana*. The only phalarope species was **Wilson's Phalarope**, with one in *Centre* and up to 3 in *Cumberland*.

This was a good spring for **Willetts** due to rainy days during the peak of their passage in late April and early May. With two exceptions, all reports were in the

western part of the state; in the east, they were in *Berks* and *Wayne*. The high count was 33 in *Cambria*, the fifth highest count ever recorded in the state. See the summary table below for high counts of Willets in Pennsylvania.

**Willet High Counts (>10), July
1992 – May 2019**

DATE	COUNTY	COUNT
5/7/2004	Venango	17
5/5/2006	Allegheny	15
5/3/2018	Centre	41
5/2/2008	Clarion	14
4/27/2010	Lancaster	15
7/13/2012	Erie	11
4/29/2014	Indiana	30
4/30/2014	Somerset	65
5/5/2014	Somerset	65
6/30- 7/21/2014	Erie	45
2017	Northampton	66
4/30/2017	Washington	14
5/2/2017	Erie	40
Spring 2019	Cambria	33

Single **Black-headed Gulls** were in *Bucks* and *Dauphin*. There were only three reports of **Little Gulls**. Two were from usual locations on the Susquehanna River in *Dauphin* and *Lancaster* and the third was in *Bucks*. **Laughing Gulls** made their annual appearance in *Bucks*; others were in *Erie*, *Lancaster*, and *Perry*. **Franklin's Gulls** were in *Crawford*, *Cumberland* (third county record), and *Philadelphia* (second county record). **Iceland Gulls** remained into March from the winter in five counties. A Thayer's type was in *Erie*. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were in 11 counties including the expected large numbers in *Bucks*. **Glaucous Gulls** and **Great Black-backed Gulls** were only reported in four counties. *Crawford* had a good presence of both; a rare pair of species for that county. **Black Terns** were found in 12 counties.

A **Pacific Loon** provided a first record for *Carbon* in late April. **Red-throated Loons** were reported from 20 counties. A **Brown Booby** was on the Delaware River in *Delaware* in early May. If accepted by PORC, this will furnish the third state record. Interestingly there was a post to the ABA Blog in August regarding sightings of this species along the east coast (<http://blog.aba.org/2019/08/happening-now-return-of-the-brown-boobies.html>).

Great Cormorants on the Delaware River in *Bucks* lingered as usual into the spring season. **American White Pelicans** were found in *Butler*, *Centre*, and *Erie*.

American Bitterns were in 27 counties. Two were in unusual locations: one was standing on a garage roof in a city neighborhood in Pittsburgh and another was standing in a puddle in the middle of a

field in *Clinton*. **Least Bitterns** are always lower in number compared to American Bitterns and were only found in four counties. **Snowy Egrets** were in five counties, including *Erie*, where this species is extremely rare; and *Huntington*, where one provided the second county record. **Little Blue Herons** were in three southeastern counties where they are rare but regular. A bird in *Crawford* provided a rare northwestern visit by this species. **Cattle Egrets** were reported in eight counties, mostly in the southeast. Single birds were in *Centre* and *Erie*.

A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a rare visitor in *Allegheny*. In a pattern similar to the Little Blue Heron mentioned, **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were in the southeast and one was discovered in the northwest in a yard in *Venango*, providing the second county record. The nesting colony in *Dauphin* continues; see the county report for details. **Glossy Ibis** were in the usual counties in the eastern part of the state including *Bucks*, *Cumberland* (5 reports), *Dauphin*, *Lancaster*, *Lebanon*, and *Northampton*.

Black Vultures made rare appearances in *Beaver* and *Washington*. **Mississippi Kites** were in six counties with most reports from *Chester*, as expected. **Northern Goshawks** were only found in three counties, with all reports from *Erie* at the Erie Hawkwatch. Good numbers of migrating **Broad-winged Hawks** were noted in *Montgomery*. Leucistic **Red-tailed Hawks** were reported in *Montgomery* and *Wyoming*. **Rough-legged Hawks** were in 11 counties. A great total of 53 **Golden Eagles** passed by the Allegheny Front in *Bedford* during a single day in early March.

Barn Owls were in five counties, including one detected by night call recordings in *Adams* and a family at a nest cam in *Mifflin*. Holding over from winter, **Long-eared Owls** were in only three counties and **Short-eared Owls** were in nine counties. **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were detected in 11 counties.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were in 31 counties. The **Gyr Falcon** that wintered in *Northampton* (and nearby New Jersey) continued to early March. A **Western Kingbird** was photographed in *Snyder*. The majority of Western Kingbird sightings have occurred in fall with a few occurrences in early summer, so this was the first spring record of this species.

A **Loggerhead Shrike** was photographed in *Clinton*, providing a first county record. With the exception of a report in 2018, this species has not been reported in the state since 2012. **Northern Shrikes** were in five counties, most holdovers from the winter. A **Blue Jay** migration was noted in *Montgomery* in early May. Typically, migrating Blue Jays are observed along the shores of the great

lakes so this inland observation is particularly notable.

Following a winter with widespread reports, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued in spring with reports from 25 counties. A **Sedge Wren** set up shop in a weedy field in *Crawford* from mid-May through the season. **Marsh Wrens** were in 17 counties.

The **Varied Thrush** that wintered in *Northampton* remained to mid-March.

The much welcomed northern finch invasion the past winter continued into the early spring season with **Evening Grosbeaks** reported from 14 counties and **Pine Siskins** from 34 counties. A few **Common Redpolls** were also present, reported from eight counties with double figure totals in *Lackawanna*, *Monroe*, and *Susquehanna*.

A few **Snow Buntings** and **Lapland Longspurs** that did not depart spilled into the spring report. Snow Buntings were in six counties and Lapland Longspurs in nine counties.

Clay-colored Sparrows were in four counties. Surprisingly there was a lack of reports from *Clarion* where this species was reported in the Birds of Note nearly annually since 1998. Observers reported a decline in this species in recent years from the extensive reclaimed strip mines at Piney Tract and Curlesville, their stronghold in the state. **Henslow's Sparrows** were in nine counties. Notable records include the first reported in *Cumberland* since 2013, the second in *Huntingdon* since the 1980s (first BBA), and a fourth county record for *Lancaster*. A **LeConte's Sparrow** was entered with notes in ebird in late April in *Huntington*; only the fourth spring migrant record in the state.

A probable **Dark-eyed Junco X White-throated Sparrow** was an interesting find in *Carbon*. This combination was documented in Pennsylvania from Montgomery County in 2002.

A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** flew past the Erie Hawkwatch in early May. **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported in 24 counties.

Both expected hybrid warblers were reported as well as an unexpected hybrid. **Brewster's Warblers** were in *Erie*, *Franklin*, *Pike*, and *Westmoreland*. The site in *Pike* has populations of both parents and the bird in *Westmoreland* was banded at Powdermill. A **Lawrence's Warbler** was banded at Presque Isle State Park in *Erie* and another was found in Forbes State Forest in *Westmoreland* at a former stronghold for Golden-winged Warblers. An interesting hybrid **Chestnut-sided X Black-throated Blue Warbler** was in *Carbon*.

Golden-winged Warblers were in 22 counties. Read the *Erie* report for the great count during the season. **Prothonotary Warblers** were in 14 counties. One at

Presque Isle State Park in *Erie* brought back memories of the past when several pairs of the “Golden Swamp Warbler” nested there. Single birds made rare visits to *Forest* and *Union*.

A **Swainson’s Warbler** was banded at Powdermill in *Westmoreland* in early May; the first reported in the state since 2014. **Orange-crowned Warblers** were in eight counties with multiple birds in *Erie* and *Philadelphia*. A singing **Connecticut Warbler** in *Erie* was the only report for the season. **Mourning Warblers** were found in 19 counties.

Summer Tanagers were reported in six counties. *Philadelphia* birders reported perhaps four birds. An orange variant **Scarlet Tanager** was in *Washington*. **Blue Grosbeaks** were in 13 counties. *Allegheny* reported this species for the second spring in a row at the same location. **Dickcissels** appeared in *Cumberland* and *Franklin* where they have been somewhat regular over the years. One visited a feeder in *Clinton* and single birds were in *Berks* and *Juniata*.

Reports were received from 62 counties this spring.

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Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Buchanan State Forest, Franklin 11 May. (Ron George)



Yellow Warbler at a backyard pond in Seneca, Venango 29 April. (Meg Kolodick)

Birds of Note – March through May 2019

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.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck* – *Berks*: 12 at EJ Breneman's Quarry 5/11-27 (Ken Lebo, m.ob., *doc submitted*), third county record; *Lebanon*: 8 along Ft. Zellers Rd. 5/20 (Jonathan Heller, Steve Ferreri, Mike Shull, *doc submitted*), first county record; *Montour*: flock of 37 at Rte. 54 Wetlands near Arrowhead Rd. 5/18 (Franny Dennehy, Paul Dennehy, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Ross's Goose – *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle SP 4/9 (Bill Van den Burg), third county record; *Delaware*: one flying over Wallingford with Snow Geese 3/14 (Rob Fergus); *Jefferson*: one at Fordham Lake 3/16 (Avis Keener, John Keener); *Lehigh*: one at New Tripoli 3/1 (Mark Boyd), one near Alburdis 3/2 (Jason Horn); *Northampton*: one at Nazareth Quarry 3/1 (Jason Horn), one at Seiple's farm pond 3/7-8 (Bill Etter, Rhett Oren); *Northumberland*: one at the Amish Pond 3/1 (Andy Keister).

Snow Goose X Canada Goose – *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 3/11 (Paul Heveran).

Greater White-fronted Goose – *Bedford*: up to 10 at Shawnee SP 3/11-12 (Aimee Benitez, Tina Alianiello, Tom Kuehl, Janet Kuehl); *Erie*: at least 59 west of Albion 3/9-13 (Mike Pyler, *fide* Mary Birdsong); *Lancaster*: one at Speedwell Forge Lake 3/9-12 (Bruce Carl), one at Middle Creek WMA 3/11 (Rudy Keller); *Lehigh*: 2 near Alburdis 3/2 (Jason Horn); *Northampton*: one at Albert Rd. Ponds 3/9 (Scott Angus).

Mute Swan – *Bucks*: 7 at Pine-Warner Tract 5/13 (Jason Horn, Andrew Harrington); *Carbon*: one near Pine Run Boat Launch 3/11-20 (Rich Rehrig, Barbara Rehrig, et al.); *Fayette*: 3 at Nemacolin Woodlands Resort 3/2 (David Burleson); *Lebanon*: one at Balmer Farm Ponds 5/11 through the season (Jonathan Heller).

Eurasian Wigeon – *Armstrong*: one continued from last season, relocated at the Rosston Boat Launch (Theo Rickert); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 3/12 (Jerry McWilliams); *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 4/6 (Mike Epler, Meredith Lombard).

Eurasian X American Wigeon – *Mercer*: one at Millbrook Rd. 3/17 (Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke).

Mallard X Gadwall (Brewer's Duck) – *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 3/20 (Rudy Keller).

Harlequin Duck* – *Armstrong*: immature male continued from last season on Allegheny River at Lock 7 Kittanning (Theo Rickert, m.ob., *doc submitted*).

Black Scoter – *Delaware*: 2 on Delaware River at Fort Mifflin 4/17 (Rob Fergus); *Northumberland*: one at Adam T. Bower Dam 5/5 (Andy Keister, Deuane Hoffman).

Barrow's Goldeneye* – *Bucks*: female at Nockamixon SP 3/9 (Paul Cooper, *doc submitted*), eighth county record.

Barrow's X Common Goldeneye – *Somerset*: one at Quemahoning Reservoir 3/18 (Linda Greble, ph., ebird).

Eared Grebe* – *Butler*: one at Moraine SP 2/28-3/5 (Debbie Darney, *fide* Mark Vass, Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke, *doc submitted*), one at same location 3/30 (Chris Kubiak, *no*

doc); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/10-14 (Jerry McWilliams, et al., *no doc*).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Berks*: present in Shartlesville during the season; *Cumberland*: up to 2 near intersection of Heckman and Mountain Rds. 5/4-11 (Vern Gauthier), one on Rte. 997 on 5/26 (Vern Gauthier) and one on Creekview Rd. 5/21 (Andrew Markel); *Franklin*: reported from usual locations in the southern part of the county.

Chuck-wills-widow* – *Cumberland*: one calling for the fifth consecutive year in Michaux SF 5/8-31 (Vern Gauthier, m.ob., *no doc*); *Erie*: one recorded calling at Presque Isle SP 5/17 (Katie Andersen, *no doc*), fifth county record.

King Rail* – *Crawford*: one at Geneva Marsh 5/17 (Andrew Markel), 5/24 (Jason Horn), and 5/31 (Carl Engstrom, Eric Zawatski, *no doc*).

Common Gallinule – *Allegheny*: one at Chapel Harbor 5/25 through the end of season (Todd Hooe, m.ob.); *Centre*: one at pond in Scotia Barrens 4/15-25 (Joe Verica, et al.), 2 were there 4/25 (Ed Bernot); *Crawford*: present at usual locations and numbers (m.ob.); *Cumberland*: one at SGL 169 on 5/7 (Andrew Markel, Vern Gauthier); *Lawrence*: one at Copper Rd. Marsh 4/13-20 (Mark Vass), one at Black Swamp 5/1 (Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke); *Northampton*: one at East Bangor Dam 4/20-22 (Stephen Kloiber, Jon Mularczyk), one at Christian Spring Rd. pond 5/16-20 (Adam Miller); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz NWR at Tinicum 5/8-14 (Ann Reeves), a pair at Southwest Water Treatment Plant 4/29 (Dan Efrogmson, Navin Sasikumar).

American Avocet – *Adams*: flock of 17 at Lake Heritage 5/4 (Callan Murphy); *Cumberland*: one along Mudlevel Rd. 5/26 through the season (Kent Davis, et al.); *Erie*: 5 at Presque Isle SP 4/26 (Jerry McWilliams); *Somerset*: 6 at Somerset Lake 4/11 (John Coughenour).

Piping Plover* – *Erie*: at least 3 at Presque Isle SP 4/15 through the season (Mary Birdsong, *no doc*).

Upland Sandpiper – *Clarion*: one at Mt. Airy 5/27-28 (Elizabeth Nicholson, Ken Nicholson); *Clearfield*: 2 on Sandy Ridge Rd. 4/30 (Nick Voris) and one 5/19 (Tom Glover), one at SGL 87 on 5/1 (Bill Mendat); *Crawford*: present at Miller Ponds and Wilson Rd. 4/18 through the season (m.ob.); *Cumberland*: one on Mudlevel Rd. 4/26 (Andrew Markel); *Lawrence*: one heard in Plain Grove Twp. 5/18 (Brendyn Baptiste, et al.).

Whimbrel – *Adams*: 2 recorded on nocturnal flight call recorder 5/17; *Chester*: 260 in flight 5/22 (Larry Lewis) and 80 on 5/25 (Larry Lewis), observed from Bucktoe Creek Preserve; *Erie*: 7 at Presque Isle SP 5/23 (Jason Horn); *Indiana*: one near Brush Valley 3/26 (Dennis Lauffer), third county record; *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 5/10 (Jason Horn, Zach Millen); *Washington*: 2 near Bentleyville 5/23 (John Flannigan, Joe Papp), third county record.

Ruddy Turnstone – *Centre*: one to 2 along Tadpole Rd. 5/6-23 (Carl Engstrom, *et al.*); *Cumberland*: one on Mudlevel Rd. 5/14 (Andrew Markel, Bob Koontz, Bill Oyler, Vern Gauthier); *Lancaster*: 6 at Conejohela Flats 5/14 (Chuck Berthoud); *Lawrence*: one on Shaner Rd. 5/16 (Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke); *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 5/13 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown), one at Williamsport Dam 5/26 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown, *et al.*).

Red Knot – *Bucks*: total of 50 flew over Milford Twp. 5/25 (Devich Farbotnik), sixth county record; *Erie*: 10 flew past Gull Point at Presque Isle SP 5/25 (Mary Birdsong); *Lycoming*: one recorded over Montoursville 5/26 (Bobby Brown); *Philadelphia*: recorded by motus receiver at the University of Pennsylvania 5/26-29 and 5/30.

Ruff* – *Lebanon*: female at Balmer Farm Ponds 4/23 (Ted Nichols, *no doc*); first county record.

Stilt Sandpiper – *Crawford*: 2 at Miller Ponds 5/10 (Tomas Nonnenmacher, Michael Williams); *Juniata*: one at Pine Grove Rd. near McAlisterville 5/13-14 (Chad Kauffman, Rob Dickerson, Tiffany Willow); *Lebanon*: one at Balmer Farm Ponds 5/13-14 (Jonathan Heller, Ted Nichols, Steve Schmit, Pat Williams, Richard Williams, Jason Horn); *Lawrence*: one on Shaner Rd. 5/26 (Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke).

Sanderling – *Cambria*: one at Prince Gallitzin SP (observer and date not listed); *Centre*: 5 at Bald Eagle SP 5/10 (Eric Zawatski, Carol Engstrom); *Chester*: approximately 100 flew over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/25 (Larry Lewis); *Cumberland*: one at Mudlevel Rd. 5/24 (Andrew Markel); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 5/14-15 (Andy Markel, Bill Oyler, Bob Carmack, Marion Carmack, m.ob.).

Western Sandpiper – *Crawford*: 2 off Swamp Rd. 5/9 (Steve Hass); *Lebanon*: 2 at Reistville flooded fields 5/2-3 (Jonathan Heller, Ted Nichols, Mike Epler, Pat Williams, Richard Williams).

Wilson's Phalarope – *Centre*: male in flooded field on Tadpole Rd. 5/14-16 (Chelsea Beck, *et al.*); *Cumberland*: up to 3 on Mudlevel and Duncan Rds. 5/3-31 (Dave Kerr, m.ob.).

Willet – *Allegheny*: flock of 11 at Brunots Island 4/25, 13 there 4/30 (Matthew Juskowich) and one 5/16-20 (Matthew Juskowich, m.ob.), nine at Duck Hollow 5/11 (John Flannigan, m.ob.), one at Dashiels Dam 5/10 (Mark Vass); *Berks*: 2 at Blue Marsh 4/30 (Derek Price, ph); *Butler*: 15 at Moraine SP 4/25-26 (Glenn Koppel, Mary Alick Koeneke, m.ob.); *Cambria*: flock of 33 at Prince Gallitzin SP (Eric Zatowski); *Crawford*: 11 flew over Geneva Marsh 5/4 (Chuck Gehringer); *Mercer*: one at Chestnut Run 5/2 (m.ob.); *Pike*: 5 in Dingmans Ferry 4/30 (Hope Abrams, ebird, ph.), second county record; *Westmoreland*: 4 at Beaver Run Reservoir Rte. 380 overlook 4/24 (Patience Fisher, Steve Manns) and 9 there 5/2 (Tom Kuehl, Janet Kuehl, Mark McConaughy).

Black-headed Gull* – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 4/6-7 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*); *Dauphin*: one on Susquehanna River at West Fairview 3/31 (Steve Schmit, *no doc*).

Little Gull* – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 4/7, 4/14, and 4/26 (Devich Farbotnik, *no doc*); *Dauphin*: one on Susquehanna at Front Street 3/30 (Ramsay Koury, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: 2 along the Susquehanna River at Lake Clarke 3/23-25 (Chuck Berthoud, m.ob., *no doc*).

Laughing Gull – *Bucks*: 18 at Bristol 3/31 and 2 at Morrisville Levee 3/31 (Dawn Denner, Mark Gallagher); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/31 (Mary Birdsong); *Lancaster*: 2 along Susquehanna River at Lake Clarke 4/20 and 5/22 (Zach Millen, Meredith Lombard); *Perry*: one at Amity Hall Access on Juniata River 4/13 (Steve Schmit).

Franklin's Gull* – *Crawford*: one at Espyville Marina 5/31 (Mark Vass, m.ob., *doc submitted*); *Cumberland*: one on Mudlevel Rd. 4/28 (Andrew Markel, Bob Koontz, *no doc*), third county record; *Philadelphia*: one at Pennypack on the Delaware River 5/12 (Frank Windfelder, *no doc*), second county record.

Iceland Gull – *Bucks*: up to 2 at Nockamixon SP for most of March, 3 there 3/11 (Jason Horn) and 6 on 3/1 (Jason Horn),

last of season were at Penn-Warner Tract 4/13-14 (Devich Farbotnik); *Crawford*: one near Hartstown Marsh 3/23 (Michael Williams); *Erie*: 2 at Presque Isle SP 3/23 (Shannon Thompson), one Thayer's type there 3/2 (Tim Lenz); *Mercer*: one at Chestnut Run 3/18 (Michael Williams); *Northampton*: 3 at Grand Central Landfill 3/14 (Michael Schall).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – *Berks*, *Bucks*, *Centre*, *Crawford*, *Erie*, *Lancaster*, *Lehigh*, *Mercer*, *Montgomery*, *Northampton*, *Susquehanna*.

Glaucous Gull – *Crawford*: 4 at Pymatuning Causeway 3/2 (Ron Leberman), one at Pymatuning Dam 3/8 (Michael Williams), one there 3/9 (Mary Elsenheimer, Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke, Liz Spence), one at Causeway 3/8 and 3/14 (Michael Williams) and one at Pymatuning Spillway 3/12 (Elizabeth Nicholson, Ken Nicholson); *Erie*: singles at Presque Isle SP 3/23 and 3/31 (Shannon Thompson); *Mercer*: one at Shenango Propagation Area 3/11 and 3/17 (Michael Williams, Bill Winkler); *Northampton*: 2 at Grand Central Landfill 3/14 (Michael Schall).

Great Black-backed Gull – *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning Causeway 3/6 (Michael Williams), one at Pymatuning Dam 3/9-14 (m.ob.), 8 at Pymatuning Causeway 3/13 (Ron Leberman); *Montgomery*: one at Norristown Dam 3/7-9 (Scott Godshall, m.ob.); *Schuylkill*: one at Landingville Dam 3/31 (Thomas Buehl, Jr.); *York*: one at the Riddle Rd. Landfill 3/14 (Dean Newhouse).

Pacific Loon* – *Carbon*: one at Beltzville SP 4/23-5/10 (Billy Weber, m.ob., *doc submitted*), first county record.

Brown Booby* – *Delaware*: one at Ft. Mifflin on Delaware River 5/6 (Rob Fergus, *no doc*), third state record.

Great Cormorant – *Bucks*: present at 4 locations on Delaware River with a high of 5 on Mud Island 3/24 (August Mirabella).

American White Pelican – *Butler*: one at Lake Oneida 4/14 (Robert Martz); *Centre*: 3 at Bald Eagle SP 5/31 (James Hubler); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 4/6-7 (m.ob.).

Least Bittern – *Centre*: one at Scotia Barrens 5/18-30 (Joe Gyekis, *et al.*); *Crawford*: one at The Wells in Geneva Marsh 5/4 (Isaac Field, Steve Rotkovecz), one at Geneva Marsh 5/10 (Thomas Nonnenmacher) and 5/24 (Jason Horn), one at Geneva Marsh, McMichael Rd. 5/27 (Claire Nicolls); *Cumberland*: 2 at SGL 69 Mountain Rd. Marsh 5/7-12 (Andrew Markel, m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz NWR at Tinicum regularly since 4/18 and 3 there 5/18 (Sara Busch).

Snowy Egret – *Carbon*: one at Beltzville SP 4/8 (David Hawk, *et al.*); *Cumberland*: one at Mudlevel Rd. 5/2 (Andrew Markel, Bob Koontz, Bill Oyler, Vern Gauthier); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 4/20 (Bob Grubbs); *Huntingdon*: one at Old Crow Wetlands 5/4 (m.ob.), second county record; *York*: one at Lake Redman 5/24 (Michele Levin Reinhardt).

Little Blue Heron – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 5/15 (Devich Farbotnik); *Chester*: one in Pocopson Twp. 4/29 (Michael Gardner); *Crawford*: one near Cambridge Springs 4/15-21 (m.ob.); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 4/14 (Damon Orsetti); *Lehigh*: one at Haafsville 5/1-8 (Dave Neimeyer, m.ob.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Bucks*: one at Quakertown Swamp 5/1-7, 2 present 5/4 (Devich Farbotnik); *Dauphin*: nesting in Harrisburg, 16 nests counted; *Lancaster*: 2 along Susquehanna River at Lake Clarke (Josh Schulz) and a male at rookery at Ephrata paired with a Black-crowned Night-Heron; *Montgomery*: one to 3 at Norristown Dam 4/18 through the season (Scott Godshall, m.ob.); *Venango*: one visited a yard in the northern part of the county 5/1-14 (Mark Ritke, Mark Vass), second county record; *York*: one on View Rd. 5/14 (Don Weidemann), one at Gifford Pinchot SP 5/2 (Jady Conroy).

Glossy Ibis – *Bucks*: one flew past Bradford Dam 5/15 (Gary Jones); *Chester*: one in Pocopson Twp. 4/28 (Ross Gallardy, m.ob.); *Cumberland*: 5 reports 4/20–5/11, including 7 in Carlisle 4/24 (Tim Johnson, Karena Johnson, Debra Alvarez, Vern Gauthier, Andrew Markel); *Dauphin*: one at Conewago

Trail 4/18 (Daniel Hinnebusch), one in Hershey 4/20 (Adam Stern); *Lancaster*: one at Conewago Trail and Wetlands 4/18 (Daniel Hinnebusch); *Lebanon*: one at Balmer Farm Ponds 4/26-28 (Jonathan Heller, Chuck Berthoud, Tim Becker, Kathy Becker, Daniel Hinnebusch, m.ob.), one at Fox and Prescott Rds. 5/6-8 (Jared Evans, Steve Schmitt, Jonathan Heller, Gary Robson); *Northampton*: 3 at Green Pond 4/6-7 (Patricia Holiday).

Mississippi Kite* – *Bucks*: one photographed at Churchville Park 5/27 (Tim McFadden, *no doc*); *Chester*: seen on 6 days at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/19-29 with 3 there 5/20 (Larry Lewis, *et al.*, *no doc*); *Delaware*: one photographed at Haverford Reserve 5/22 (Liam Hart, *no doc*); *Lancaster*: one photographed at Chickie's Rock County Park 5/20 (Meredith Lombard, *no doc*), 2 in Nottingham 5/21 (Sabrena Boekell, *no doc*); *Montgomery*: 2 at Fort Washington SP 5/19 (Steve Grunwald, *no doc*), one there 5/19 (Jason Horn, *no doc*), one in Cheltenham Twp. 5/27 (Paul Driver, *no doc*); *Philadelphia*: one flew over Philadelphia 5/21 (George Armistead, *no doc*), one at Pennypack on the Delaware 5/22 (Patrick McGill, *no doc*), one at Sedgley Woods 5/24 (Mathew Halley, *no doc*).

Northern Goshawk – *Centre*: one at SGL 100 on 4/24 (John Carter); *Erie*: a season total of 5 at Presque Isle Hawk Watch 4/9-23 (Ken Felix, Jerry McWilliams); *York*: one in Dover Twp. 3/16 (David Taylor).

Barn Owl – *Adams*: one detected by night call monitoring 5/16; *Centre*: one near Milheim 5/4 (Carl Engstrom, *et al.*); *Franklin*: one in Edenville Area 3/10 (Bill Oyler, Bob Koontz, Carl Garner); *Lancaster*: one at Mt. Joy 5/5 (Jonathan Heller); *Mifflin*: a nest was monitored by a live cam from 4/24 through the season at an undisclosed location.

Long-eared Owl – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park up to 3/12 (m.ob.); *Chester*: one at Great Marsh 3/30 (Mike Coulter); *Erie*: one 3/24 and possibly two 3/28-30 at Presque Isle SP (Roger Donn).

Short-eared Owl – *Adams*, *Butler*, *Chester*, *Clarion*, *Erie*, *Lancaster*, *Lawrence*, *Lebanon*, *Perry*.

Gyrfalcon* – *Northampton*: bird that overwintered was last seen 3/8 at Bath (Jason Horn, *no doc*).

Western Kingbird* – *Snyder*: one photographed outside Meiserville 4/29 (Dwight Brubaker, *no doc*).

Loggerhead Shrike* – *Clinton*: one east of Lock Haven 5/1 (Beth Zbegner, Vesta Schach, *no doc*).

Northern Shrike – *Allegheny*: continued from last season at Imperial, last reported 3/17 (Lauren Nagoda); *Crawford*: one near SGL 146 from 3/6-9 (Gary Reimer, Thomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow, Kendall Zook), one at Erie NWR 3/28 (Elizabeth Nicholson, Ken Nicholson); *Elk*: one at Buzzard Swamp 3/27 (Mike Fialkovich, Jim Valimont); *Erie*: one at SGL 109 on 4/7 (Russ States); *Tioga*: one east of Grand Canyon Airport 3/12 (Lisa Doud).

Sedge Wren – *Crawford*: one near Conneautville 5/11 (Adam Erb, Kendall Zook).

Varied Thrush* – *Northampton*: the bird that overwintered in Hanover Twp. was last seen 3/12 (Bill Etter, *doc previously submitted*).

Common Redpoll – *Butler*: 4 at Moraine SP 3/13 (Martin Carlin, Linda Croskey) and 5 there 3/16 (Kate St John); *Lackawanna*: flock of 51 in Scranton 3/8 (Brian Marra); *Lehigh*: one at Burkhardt Preserve near Emmaus 3/4 (Jeff Hopkins); *Monroe*: flock of 30 in Long Pond 3/30 (Nate Fronk); *Montgomery*: one at feeders in Plymouth Meeting 3/21 (Dave Belford); *Susquehanna*: 25 at Lake Chrisann 4/4 (Dave Andre, Evan Mann, Jerry Skinner); *Tioga*: one at Hill Creek Estates 4/5 (Gary Tyson); *Warren*: 3 in Sugar Grove 3/5 (Isaac Reese).

Snow Bunting – *Crawford*: 2 in Pymatuning Area 3/2 (Ron Leberman, Bill Dustin), 8 at Miller Ponds 3/4, and one at Pymatuning Causeway 3/21 (Michael Williams); *Dauphin*: one in Grantville 3/26 (Tim Becker); *Mercer*: 2 at Fredonia during

the season (Michael Williams); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 3/2 and 3/8 (Steve Grunwald); *Susquehanna*: 2 in New Milford Twp. 3/5 (Bruce McNaught); *Tioga*: 20 along Ridge Rd. 3/6 (Lisa Doud); *Warren*: 2 on Wenzel Rd. 3/6-7 (Becky Costello, Travis Suckow).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Centre*: one at Penn State Arboretum 5/1 (Eric Zawatski); *Erie*: at least 5 reported during May at Presque Isle SP; *Forest*: 2 in Hickory Twp. (K. Springer); *Philadelphia*: one at abandoned Island Green Country Club and Golf Course 5/26 (Holger Pflücke).

Dark-eyed Junco X White-throated Sparrow – *Carbon*: one tentatively identified at Pine Run Boat Launch 3/17 (Billy Weber, Judy Weber, William Weber) and 3/20 (Rich Rehrig, Barbara Rehrig).

LeConte's Sparrow* – *Huntingdon*: one at Marklesburg, SGL 420 on 4/28 (Luke Fultz, ebird).

Yellow-headed Blackbird – *Erie*: a male flew past the Presque Isle Hawkwatch 5/6 (Jerry McWilliams).

Brewster's Warbler – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/9 (Dave Pinkerton); *Franklin*: one at SGL 235 Horse Valley 5/25 (Lori Nichols, Bill Oyler); *Pike*: 2 along Snow Hill Rd. in Delaware SF, date not listed (Michael Schall), one off Pit Rd. in Delaware SF 5/17 (Sara Barker, Richard Fritsky); *Westmoreland*: one banded at Powdermill 5/15.

Lawrence's Warbler – *Erie*: one banded at Presque Isle SP 5/2 (*fide* Connor Vara); *Westmoreland*: one at Hunter's Lane during the season (Jeff Larkin).

Swainson's Warbler* – *Westmoreland*: one banded at Powdermill 5/4, *no doc*.

Orange-crowned Warbler – *Bucks*: one at Silver Lake Park 4/4 (Dawn Denner), one visited a feeder in Feasterville 4/12-17 (Kris Koch), one in Kintnersville 4/16 (Jane Barker Hunt); *Delaware*: one at Hildacy Farm Preserve 4/3 (Beth Kurtz); *Erie*: at least 4 at Presque Isle SP 4/23-5/14 (Connor Vara, Jerry McWilliams, Nancy Andersen); *Huntingdon*: one near Petersburg 5/12 (Luke Fultz); *Lancaster*: one at Noel Dorwart Park 4/23-5/1 (Seth McComsey); *Mercer*: 2 at Greenville 5/10 (Michael Williams); *Philadelphia*: one at Cumberland Street on Delaware 3/3 (Holger Pflücke), one at Franklin D. Roosevelt Park 4/21-24 (George Armistead, Holger Pflücke) and 5/4 (George Armistead); *Tioga*: one in Wellsboro 5/5 (Audrey Patterson); *Washington*: one at Buffalo Creek IBA 80 on 4/29 (Roy Ickes).

Connecticut Warbler – *Erie*: one heard singing at Presque Isle SP 5/22-23 (Jason Horn, Don Snyder).

Chestnut-sided X Black-throated Blue Warbler – *Carbon*: one west of Ashfield 5/11 (Billy Weber).

Summer Tanager* – *Chester*: immature male at Marsh Creek SP 5/6 (Evan Coates, *doc submitted*); *Crawford*: a male visited a feeder in Conneautville 5/5 (Emmanuel Erb, Kendall Zook, *no doc*); *Erie*: immature male visited a feeder in Erie 4/23 (Steve Danko, Lisa Danko, *no doc*); *Lycoming*: male visited a feeder in Linden 5/1-2 (Mark Lengel, *et al.*), immature male at Mill Street 5/3 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown, Andy Keister, *doc submitted*); *Philadelphia*: singles at John Heinz NWR at Tinicum 4/25 (Jim McConnell, *no doc*) and 5/18 (Walt Nadolny, *no doc*), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park 5/2 (Robert Karchnyak, *no doc*) and 5/16 (Jim McConnell, *no doc*), Bartram's Garden 5/11 (Eric Lodge, *no doc*), and Pennypack on the Delaware 5/13 (Jason Horn, *no doc*); *York*: female at Rocky Ridge County Park 5/5 (Dan Heathcote, Lori Heathcote, *no doc*).

Dickcissel – *Berks*: one at Rodale Farms 5/23-31 (Ken Lebo, m.ob.); *Clinton*: one visiting a feeder in Eastville 5/27 (Amos Fisher); *Cumberland*: 3 on Fairview Rd. 5/27 (Stefan Karkuff, Jennifer Martin, m.ob.); *Franklin*: one on Wenger Rd. 5/19-20 (Bill Oyler, Bob Keener), one on Fernwood Rd. 5/29 (Bob Koontz); *Juniata*: one near Thompsettown 5/25 (Paul Renno Family).

Photographic Highlights



American Wigeons typically winter at Children's Lake in Boiling Springs, *Cumberland*; this pair was there 14 March. (*Dale Bicksler*)



Pied-billed Grebe at Gifford Pinchot SP, York 17 April. (*Dean Newhouse*)



Less than annual in the county, this **Red-necked Grebe** in non-breeding plumage was at the Hallstead boat launch, *Susquehanna* 6 March. (*Barb Stone*)

Color Photos

*Sponsored by Bob Snyder
of Howard, Centre County*



Wonderful look at a well-hidden **Pied-billed Grebe** on a floating nest in SGL 176, *Centre* 20 May; later observed with four chicks 4 June. (*Bob Snyder*)



Sandhill Cranes that continued from winter at Pine Run Reservoir, *Bucks* stayed in the area until at least 20 (here 7) March. (*William Culp*)



American Avocet was reported in *Erie* (5), *Adams* (where a flock of 17 was photographed), and this bird at Mud Level Road, *Cumberland* 26 (here 29) - 31 May, representing the first county record. (*Dave Kerr*)



These **Pectoral Sandpiper** were taking on calories at Wingfield Pines, *Allegheny* 13 April before continuing north. (*John Flannigan*)



Spotted Sandpiper caught in the act of harassing a Killdeer along Barefoot Road in Big Valley, *Mifflin* 7 May. (*Rob Dickerson*)



Common Loon on the Juniata River at Port Royal, *Juniata* 1 May. (*Chad Kauffman*)



American Bittern polishing off a bull frog in Scotia Barrens (SGL 176), *Centre* 20 May; up to two were seen though the season and well into summer; raising the question of nesting by this rare Pennsylvania breeder. (*Bob Snyder*)



Thanks to the Endangered Species Act passed unanimously in the Senate 50 years ago, the sight of a **Bald Eagle**, like this bird on the Cheat River, *Fayette* 31 May, is now a common occurrence. (*Glenn E. Mucy*)



A **Red-shouldered Hawk** takes flight at Great Marsh, *Chester* 4 April. (Barry Blust)



This leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** present on Dalton Road, *Wyoming* 18 April may have been the same bird found on the Tunkhannock CBC in December. (Carol M. Lizell)



Great Horned Owls nested in a sycamore at John James Audubon Center, *Montgomery* the last two years, producing the owlet seen here 7 April; note what may be a Rock Pigeon feather, a rare appearance for that species in photo highlights. (Randy Richard)



This **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was still in *Bucks* at the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 22 April, a relatively late date for a species that is a rare breeder in the county. (August Mirabella)



Acadian Flycatcher near Belleville, *Mifflin* 17 May. (Rob Dickerson)



Great-crested Flycatcher at Hershey, *Dauphin* 31 May. (Bob Hench)



Not an easy bird to see, let alone get a killer photo of, this **White-eyed Vireo** was at Lake Redman, York 24 April. (*Bob Reiter*)



A species taken somewhat for granted in much of Pennsylvania, this **Tufted Titmouse** in Penn Hills, Allegheny 17 March was a treat for the photographer, a recent transplant from Wisconsin, where this species is far less common. (*Rick Terrien*)



Following a good irruption winter, many **Red-breasted Nuthatch** stayed well into the spring; this bird in a typical nuthatch pose was at Gap, Lancaster 3 May. (*Pamela Fisher*)



An early **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Churchville Nature Center, Bucks 10 April. (*Kerry Loux*)



After a modest winter irruption, **Evening Grosbeaks** lingered into May in northern locations, including these in West Keating Twp., Clinton that stayed until 10 May (here 16 March). (*Wayne Laubscher*)



Purple Finches and **American Goldfinch** arguing about feeder access at Chambersburg, Franklin 8 April; Purple Finch numbers seemed above average for this spring season. (*Ron George*)



Clay-colored Sparrow at the Piney Tract, *Clarion* 22 May, one of the more reliable locations for this rare Pennsylvania nester. (Anthony Bruno)



Dark-eyed Junco amid violets in *Forest* 5 May. (Tom Kuehl)



Eastern Meadowlark in *Armstrong* 16 May. (Dave Brooke)



Baltimore Oriole struggling with fishing line at Warwick County Park, *Chester* 26 May; fortunately, it gave up and escaped fatal entanglement. (Barry Blust)



Rusty Blackbird at Canonsburg Lake, *Washington* 9 March. (John Flannigan)



Brewster's Warbler is the more commonly seen first-generation hybrid of Blue-winged and Golden-Winged Warblers, this bird was Michaux SF, *Cumberland* 4 May. (Susan Guiswhite)



An uncommon nester in *Venango*, this **Worm-eating Warbler** was found along the Allegheny River Bike Trail 9 May. (*Jeffrey Hall*)



Black-and-White Warbler at Churchville Nature Center, *Bucks* 8 May. (*Kerry Loux*)



Mourning Warbler in SGL 35, *Susquehanna* 27 May, the only known regular location in the county. (*Gary Stone*)



Sparse nesters across the southern half of Pennsylvania, this **Kentucky Warbler** was in Tuscarora State Forest, *Perry* 20 May. (*Susan Guiswite*)



This **Cape May Warbler** first reported 24 November in Mount Pleasant, *Lancaster*; stayed through winter, last seen 18 April (here 2 March), feeding on insects and suet that included peanut butter, lard, and mealworms. (*Meredith Lombard*)



Northern Parula in Howard, *Centre* 29 May. (*Bob Snyder*)



Magnolia Warbler in SGL 35, Great Bend Twp., *Susquehanna* 25 May. (Gary Stone)



A very early **Yellow Warbler** in North Park, *Allegheny* 10 April. (Brian Kaldorf)



In Pennsylvania, **Yellow-throated Warblers** are most common (or less rare) in the southwest; this Yellow-throat was near the north limit of their range on the Sandy Creek Bike Trail, *Venango* 9 May. (Jeffrey Hall)



Canada Warbler in *Cambria* 17 May. (Anthony Bruno)



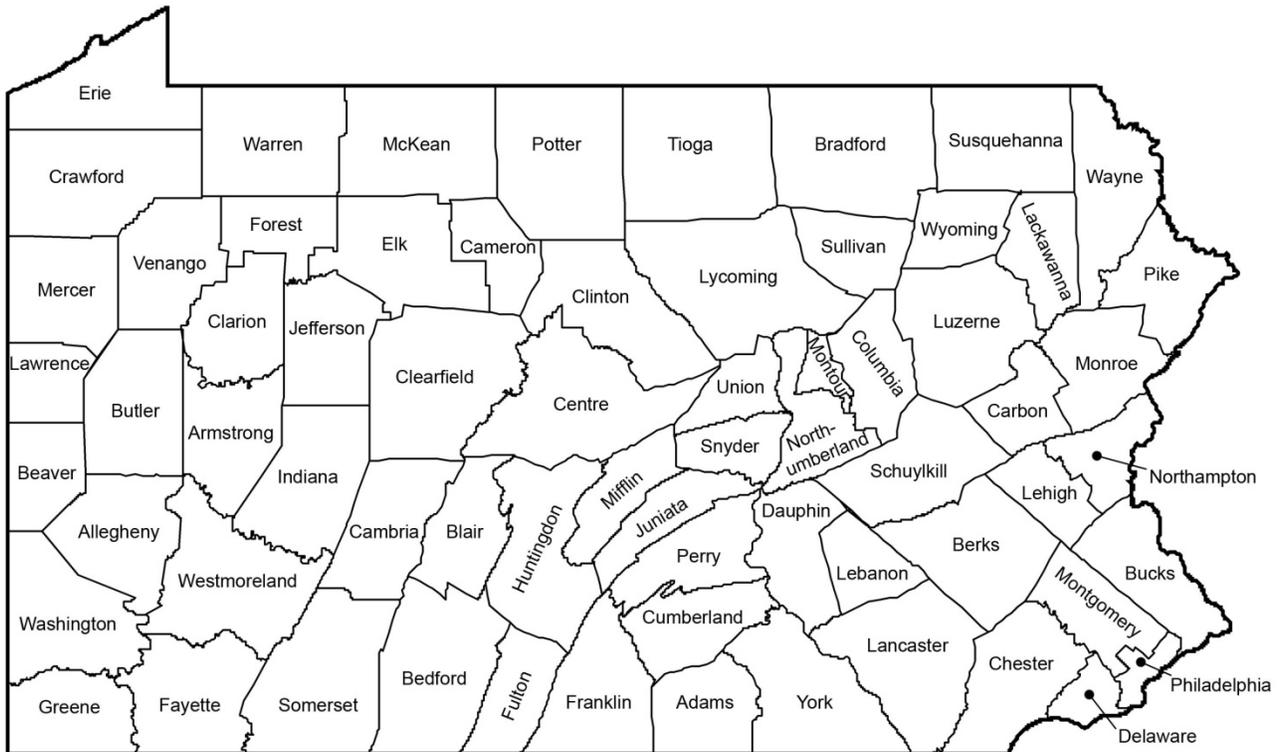
Cumberland is one of the few counties in which **Dickcissel** breeds annually; this bird was at Fairview Road 29 May. (Dave Kerr)

Brewster's Warbler is the more commonly seen first-generation hybrid of Blue-winged Teal and Golden-crowned Kinglet. It was in *Claude*, *SF*, *Cumberland* 4 May. (Susan Gujswite)

Find more photos on the IN FOCUS page – inside back cover

Statement on Photo Plagiarism

If we discover that a submitted photo has been plagiarized, we will print a correction and properly identify the actual photographer. We will no longer accept photos from someone who knowingly takes credit for the efforts of others.



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

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The following counties need a compiler: Bradford, Fulton, Luzerne, McKean.

Adams County

Locations: Freedom Twp Grasslands (FREE), Gettysburg College (GC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Heritage (LH), Lake Kay (LK), Lake Meade (LM) Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Michaux Stae Forest (MICH), Mountain Rd (MTN), Nocturnal Flight Call Monitoring (NFC), Ridge Rd – Cumberland Twp (RRCT), State Game Lands #249 (SGL).

The species count of 194 represents a new Spring period high for the county. Waterfowl and warbler species counts and a 5/16-17 Nocturnal Flight Call exercise were the primary drivers for the strong overall species count. The NFC was conducted at GC by Prof. Andy Wilson with students Precious Ozoh, Lauren Sherman, and McKenzie Somers assisting. Species highlights included **Whimbrel** (a county first) detected during the NFC, a flock of 17 **American Avocets** at LH, and 2 reports of **Prothonotary Warbler** at SGL. The Spring migration count at

the Spangler’s Spring area of GNMP produced 62 species. The region continued to be wet with rainfall for the period being 4.5” above average. March temperatures were slightly below average while April & May were 4F above average.

Up to 2 **Cackling Geese** were at GC 3/4-8 (CM, AW). High count of the 4 **Tundra Swan** reports was 47 at Cumberland Twp 3/8 (CM). A pair of **Blue-winged Teal** at a Chapel Hill Rd pond 4/15 (CM) produced the only report. Small numbers of up to 4 **Northern Shovelers** were found 3/6-18 (m.ob.) at Chapel Hill Rd ponds, LPRR, and the Mason-Dixon farms. **American Wigeon** was reported at nine locales 3/1–4/21 (m.ob.) with a nice county count of 48 at RRCT 3/8 (CM). Pairs of **American Black Duck** were found at Marsh Creek 3/8 (CM) and RRCT 4/4 (CM). County birders enjoyed the outer fringes of the strong *aythya sp.* presence in the lower Susquehanna River basin this spring. Five and six sites reporting **Canvasback** and **Redhead**, respectively, is unprecedented during this compiler’s tenure. High counts were up to 8 Canvasbacks and 14 Redheads at LK 3/10 (EH). High count for **Ring-necked Duck** was 88 at LK 3/7 (AW). Up to 2 **Greater Scaup** were at LK 3/7-10 (GA, AW) and a single was at the Mason Dixon farm 3/6 (AW). Seven **Lesser Scaup** reports (m.ob.) were paced by a very strong county

count of 62 at LK 3/2 (AW).

Up to 3 **Surf Scoters** were at LPRR 3/33–4/21(m.ob.) and one was at LH 5/4 (CM). A quintet of **White-winged Scoters** were at LH 5/4 (CM). LPRR is typically reliable this period for random **Long-tailed Duck** sightings and it retained that reputation with a visiting pair 3/29 (BO). Up to 3 **Common Goldeneyes** were at a Chapel Hill Rd pond 3/4-7 (CM) and 4 were at FREE 3/9 (MS). A trio of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at LK 3/31 (GA) and a pair at LM 4/18 (JV). LPRR held a **Red-necked Grebe** 3/6 (Bko, BO). A pair of **Common Loons** was at LH 5/3-5 (CM), up to 3 birds at LPRR 3/19- 5/31 (m.ob.) and a single bird flyover was witnessed at SGL 5/27 (DJG).

A **Ruffed Grouse** was along Rt 233 in MICH 4/4 (RDS). The 11 **Wild Turkey** reports were led by a 20-count along Boyle Rd 3/28 (AW). Ring-necked Pheasant was a miss. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** enjoyed good reporting and the NFC detected 7 birds 5/17 (AW, et al). A pair of **Black-billed Cuckoos** was found on the migration count. Five reports (NFC, CM, DJG) of **Common Nighthawk** were a positive with a high of 4 at Huntingdon Twp 5/17 (DJG). Single **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were at Shippensburg Rd 4/27 (MB) and Gordon Rd 5/24 (TC).

Remarkable for the county, a flock of 17 **American Avocets** was on the LH surface 5/4 (CM). As if that wasn't noteworthy enough, a Surf Scoter joined the flock! A **Semipalmated Plover** was at GC 5/30 (IC, CM, AW). It has to be a gratifying experience to perform sonogram analysis and discover that you've identified a new species for the county. That was the case with 2 **Whimbrels** during the 5/17 NFC. A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was also detected on the NFC. An **American Woodcock** was at RRCT 3/2-29 (CM) and MTN held a pair 3/23 (RDS). The sole **Wilson's Snipe** report was a pair at GNMP 4/17 (ML). Three reports (CM, SS, AW) of **Bonaparte's Gull** were more than normal and a strong 25-count came from LH 4/8 (CM). Single reports of **Caspian Tern** and **Forster's Tern** came from LH 4/8 (CM) and LM 4/14 (SS), respectively.

The vicinity of a **Great Blue Heron** rookery along Marsh Creek produced a 15-count 3/27 (CM). A trio of **Great Egrets** was at Crooked Creek Wetland 4/13 (RDS) for the only report. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** visited GC 5/17 (IC, CM, AW). Nine reports (m.ob.) of **Broad-winged Hawk** were much more than normal with a small kettle of 7 birds over RRCT 4/18 (CM) being the high count. An immature dark-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** patrolled GNMP and FREE 3/5-8 (CB, BO, AW). The 5/16 NCF detected a **Barn Owl**. **Barred Owl** reports (m.ob.) from 10 sites represented a very nice showing. Only FREE produced a **Short-eared Owl** report, with up to 2 during 3/4-7 (MS).

Good reporting of **Red-headed Woodpecker** was paced by 6 along Gordon Rd 5/26 (TC). A **Merlin** was at RRCT 4/17 (CM) and a **Peregrine Falcon** visited GNMP 5/22 (DPe). Some nice flycatcher counts included 10 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** at GNMP 5/27 (EH), up to 5 **Acadian Flycatchers** at SGL 5/4-30 (m.ob.) and the county hotspot for **Willow Flycatcher**, SGL, produced counts as high as 16 birds 5/28-31 (DJG, AW). However, the highlight of the group was finding a singing **Alder Flycatcher** at SGL 5/29 (AW). Other than a very high 12 reports (m.ob.) of **Yellow-throated Vireo**, the vireo family showed typical reporting for the period. **Horned Lark** were found at 6 locales 3/4-30 (m.ob.) with better counts of 16 along Chapel Hill Rd 3/4 (CM) and 24 along Possum Hollow Rd 3/4 (PK).

Thirteen sites reporting **Purple Martin** were led by a GC colony count of 31 birds 4/26 (AW). **Bank Swallow** reporting included a 5-count at Lake Mae 5/14 (AW) and one at LPRR 5/16 (AW). In a rather glaring miss, there were no reports of Black-capped Chickadee; typically, there are a handful of reports from the higher elevation MICH. Although certainly still holding "common" status, the county experienced the same downward reporting trend as others have reported/questioned for **Carolina Chickadee**, **Tufted Titmouse**, and **White-breasted Nuthatch**. In contrast, 13 reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** 3/3–5/22 (m.ob.) and 6 reports of **Brown Creeper** were on the high side.

The *catharus* group is usually a highlight of any spring migration nocturnal call monitoring and counts for **Veery** (55), **Gray-cheeked Thrush** (5), and **Swainson's Thrush** (158) during the NFC bear that out. Five reports (m.ob.) of **Hermit Thrush** were paced by a 4-count at MICH 4/13 (MG, AM). A pair of **American Pipits** was at GNMP 3/9 (CC) and 40 were along Beaver Run Rd 4/27 (SK). **Purple Finch** reports spanned

3/1–4/28 (m.ob.) with a high of 11 at East Berlin 3/6 (PK). **Pine Siskin** was reported 3/1-4/28 (ANON, CM, BO, RSTG, DJG) paced by 10 at Peach Glen 3/1 (BO).

Sparrow reporting continues to be consistent for this period with the usual suspects present. **Grasshopper Sparrow** was reported 5 times 4/17–5/27 (m.ob.) with a high of 6 at GNMP 5/8 (AW). A nice count of 26 **Field Sparrows** came from SGL 5/31 (AW). The only **American Tree Sparrows** were singles at GNMP 3/9 and 3/18 (RA, CC). Four **Fox Sparrows** were at MICH 3/18 (BO) and MTN held one 3/17 (RDS). Five **Savannah Sparrows** were detected on the 5/17 NFC and up to 3 were at GNMP 3/6–5/17 (PKB, AW). Five reports of **Swamp Sparrow** 3/9–5/18 (CC, CM, SM, SS) were limited to a max of 3.

A nice highlight, there were 4 locales and the NCF reporting **Bobolink** counts of 10–22 birds. Of the 20+ reports for **Eastern Meadowlark** only 3 came from outside the GNMP/FREE areas. Following recent trends, the high count was limited to a very pedestrian 4 birds. Eleven reports of **Orchard Oriole** and 20 of **Baltimore Oriole** were higher than normal. A single **Rusty Blackbird** at FREE 4/7 (CA) produced the only report.

As noted in the intro, warbler provided a positive with 29 species reported. Four reports of single **Blue-winged Warblers** 4/26–5/14 (EC, AM, CM, DS) are in contrast to a usual missed or single spring report frequency. The highlight of the group was a **Prothonotary Warbler** at SGL first sighted 5/14 (DR) and then heard again 5/20 (AW). SGL would not be considered strong breeding habitat for the species but it is not out of the question. A **Tennessee Warbler** was detected on the NFC 5/17 and 2 were at MICH 5/6 (BF). Three locales reporting **Nashville Warbler** 5/2-11 (AM, CM, AW) were a plus. Four reports of **Cape May Warbler** were led by the 5/17 NFC's count of 8 while a visual of 7 was termed "likely conservative" at GNMP 5/6 (AW) and were a treat for the observer. A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at GNMP 5/11 (MB) and the 5/17 NFC picked up 8. **Yellow-throated Warbler** was limited to a single during the 5/17 NFC. Up to 2 **Prairie Warblers** were found at GNMP 5/25-27 (TH, MLY, CM). SGL held a **Canada Warbler** 5/18 (DJG) and the 5/17 NFC detected 8 birds. A pair of **Wilson's Warblers** was in a wooded tract off Hampton-Hunterstown Rds 5/6 (AM). The 5/17 NFC detected 26 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**; one at MTN was a bit early (RDS). Single **Blue Grosbeaks** were found along Line Rd 5/3 (JG) and at GNMP 5/27 (EH).

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Allegheny County

The main migration month of May was very wet with breaks between showers for just a few days. Despite the soggy conditions, the rain did bring in some notable migrants. We had a few rarities and less common species this spring generating excitement among birders.

American Wigeons are uncommon migrants here. Three were at Imperial 3/1-2 (MV, m.ob.), up to 3 were at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 3/2-9 (JH, MV), 2 at Wingfield Pines 3/10 (GG) and one at Duck Hollow 3/12 (TM, NM). Seven **Gadwalls** were at Duck Hollow 3/12 (TM, NM); 3 were at Hamar Twp. 3/10-16 (AH) and one remained through March (m.ob.). Two **Northern Shovelers** were at Imperial 3/15 (MV) and 2 at Duck Hollow 4/9 (JS, SS) and 4/29 (SI, DM). One was at Janoski's Farm

5/12-16 (MV). Two **Northern Pintails** were at Imperial 3/1-2 (MV, et al.). Nine **Redheads** were at Imperial 3/1 (MV) followed by 17 on 3/2 (MF, JHa, LN, LK). A nice count of 8 **Long-tailed Ducks** were on the Allegheny River at Aspinwall 3/30 (OL, JVa). Two were in Findlay Twp. 4/5 (MV). Two **Surf Scoters** were at Dashields Dam 4/5 (MV, et al.). **Ruddy Duck** reports include 8 at Duck Hollow 3/25 (JF, MJ) and 2 at Lawrenceville 4/22 (CB, AB). Rather late birds were at Imperial including 7 on 5/5 (MV, JM) and 2 on 5/16 (MV).

A **Common Loon** was at North Park 3/26 (OM); 3 were at Duck Hollow 3/31 (LN, MK), 4 there 4/15 (AP), and one heard calling there 5/7 (LK). **Red-necked Grebe** is an uncommon migrant and always a nice find. One was on the Allegheny River at Chapel Harbor 3/8 (TH, et al.) and one was on the same river at Tarentum 3/11 (DB).

Allegheny was one of a few counties in the southwest where **Willetts** were grounded by bad weather. A flock of 11 were at Brunots Island on the Ohio River 4/25 (MJ) providing the eighth county record. A flock of 13 were at the same location 4/30 (MJ) providing the ninth county record. Could this have been the same flock? Nine were at Duck Hollow 5/2 (JF, m.ob.) providing the tenth county record. Amazingly one was found at Dashields Dam on the Ohio River 5/10 (MV), the eleventh record and the location of the very first county record in 2004. A single bird was found back at Brunots Island 5/16-20 (MJ, m.ob.)! This invasion was unprecedented. The flock at Brunots Island present for multiple days was very unusual. The only other bird that remained in the county for more than one day was one at Imperial in 2009 that lingered for 5 days.

Seven **Semipalmated Plovers** were down river from Dashields Dam 5/3 (MV). Two were at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 5/12 (MV, JHa), one at Imperial 5/17 (MV), and one at Chapel Harbor 5/25-27 (TH, m.ob.). A nice count of 12 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found at Duck Hollow 5/29 (MJ) following a storm. Two **Least Sandpipers** were at Imperial 5/5 (MV) and again 5/16 (MV). Two were at North Park 5/20 (MJ). Unusual in spring a flock of 10 **Short-billed Dowitchers** was at Imperial 5/12 (JHa, m.ob.). A late **Wilson's Snipe** was at Imperial 5/3-5 (RG, et al.).

Bad weather and more importantly lack of coverage at Dashields Dam resulted in poor numbers of migrant gulls and terns reported. A flock of 10 **Bonaparte's Gulls** was at Duck Hollow 3/25 (JF, JP), which is early for this species to move through the county. Very small numbers were observed at Dashields Dam for most of April. Six **Sterna sp.** terns were at Dashields Dam 5/23. Due to lighting and distance not all could be identified, but there were at least one **Forster's Tern** and one **Common Tern** in the group (JM, MD, MV). Other Forster's Tern reports include 5 at Brunots Island 4/25 (MJ), one at Duck Hollow 4/15 (JHa), 3 there 4/30 (TRa) and 4 on 5/3 (JF, LF, MD). There was only one **Caspian Tern** reported this spring, at Dashields Dam 5/23 (MV).

Two **Virginia Rails** were discovered at a small wetland in Frick Park 4/18 (AP), a first for the park. The birds were heard and seen almost daily and were last reported 4/25 (m.ob.). Another was discovered at a small wetland in Harrison Hills Park 4/22 (DB), a first for this park as well. Eventually, 2 were observed and the pair was observed mating 5/3 (ebird). The birds were present through the season and I hope to report successful breeding at the park in the next report. Two **Soras** were heard at Wingfield Pines 4/27 (MJ) and 4 were heard 4/30 (ST). Observers will keep monitoring the birds to determine if they remain to breed. Virginia Rail bred at this site a few years ago.

A **Common Moorhen** was a great find at a small wetland along the Allegheny River at Chapel Harbor 5/25 (TH), a riverside complex of condominiums and single family homes. This provided the eighth record in the county and first since 2011. This wetland produced a variety of marsh birds over the years and was formed during the remnants of Hurricane Ivan that swelled the stream that empties into the river with such force it deposited a large amount of mud that was the basis for a wetland to form.

Rare in the county, an **American Bittern** was a great find in an unusual place 4/5 (*fide* BMu). Normally found in the small wetlands in the county, this bird was resting atop a garage in the Squirrel Hill Neighborhood of Pittsburgh! It stood on the peak of the roof perfectly still

for nearly an entire day. An early **Great Egret** was at Duck Hollow 3/30 (AP, JC). Single birds were on Moody Road in Findlay Twp. 4/7 (MJ, JHa), Wingfield Pines 5/9 (FK), Brunots Island 5/17 (MJ), and Chapel Harbor 5/26 (DN). Rare here, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a great find at Harmar Twp. 4/7 (ebird) and remained 4/8 (m.ob.).

An **Osprey** nest at Duquesne that has been present for a few years was removed from a tower by the power company that owned it. Fortunately, the birds remained in the area and are using another location for a nest. The **Merlin** reported in Feb at North Park remained into early March (BM). A **Barred Owl** was found at the PennDot wetlands in Upper St. Clair, where they are resident, 3/8 (JP, JF).

There were 2 reports of **Eastern Whip-poor-will**. One was heard in Plum 4/18 (AH) and one at Boyce-Mayview Park 5/1 (ST). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a nice surprise at Frick Park 5/2 (AP). This species is an occasional spring migrant in the county. Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were photographed at North Park 5/11 (ebird) and one was at Frick Park 5/26 (MVV, JS). There were 2 reports of **Alder Flycatcher**: one at Barking Slopes 5/17 (MD) and one at Imperial 5/30 (MF). This species is a very rare migrant in the county. The **Northern Shrike** reported last season at Imperial was last reported 3/17 (LN). **Fish Crows** were present in Verona (a new location) the entire season (SK). They were also present at Sharpsburg during the season (JH). Both locations are along the Allegheny River which was devoid of reports while the Monongahela River Valley had regular reports for years.

The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** report was of one in Pleasant Hills 5/27 (BMu). An **American Pipit** at Wingfield Pines 4/11 (MJ, JF, JP) provided the only report. **Pine Siskins** continued from the winter visiting feeders at North Park (m.ob.), Bethel Park (JP), and Wexford (ebird). The max count was at North Park where 12 were observed. The max count at Bethel Park was 9 on 4/19 (JP). Some other reports include 3 in Forest Hills in March (ebird), 3 at Beechwood Farms 4/3 (JL), one in Frick Park 4/18 (AP) and 2 on 5/2 (SA, AP), 7 in South Park 4/23 (JP), one in Natrona Heights 4/30 (DB), 3 in Brentwood 5/11 (DF), and 2 in Mount Lebanon 5/12 (JM). Five **Rusty Blackbirds** stopped at a feeding station in Pine Twp. 3/13 (PL, SL).

A total of 32 species of warblers were reported. **Worm-eating Warbler** returned to Harrison Hills Park this year, first heard 5/2 (m.ob.). This has been a reliable breeding site for several years. One was found at Frick Park 5/2 (JF, JP) and 5/10 (TF) and one at Barking Slopes 5/16 (MD). A **Northern Waterthrush** was heard at Brunots Island 4/25 (AP) and one was found in Schenley Park 5/8 (FI). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Bethel Park 4/30 (JP) and one at Frick Park 5/2 (AP). **Cape May Warblers** were widespread again this spring with reports from 16 locations in ebird. A **Mourning Warbler** was at North Park 5/4 (SD) and one at South Park 5/10 (JF), the only reports this spring.

Pine Warbler reports include singles at Wingfield Pines 4/10-24 (MJ, m.ob.), Jefferson Borough (JHa) and Boyce-Mayview Park (FK) 4/20, and South Park 4/29 (JF, JP). A **Prairie Warbler** was found in Frick Park 4/21 (AH, PM, TH), one at Boyce-Mayview Park 4/22 (LN), and 2 at Hays Woods 4/21 (SA). This species is rarely found during migration; they seem to just plop into their territories. **Cerulean Warblers** returned to the Sewickley area where they are reliable. One was at Frick Park 5/4-6 (m.ob.), one at Beechwood Farms 5/7 (JCo), 2 at Barking Slopes 5/14 (SM, PF), and one at Schenley Park 4/27-5/4 (JF, LF, JP). **Canada Warbler** reports include singles at Gibsonia 5/12 (KP), North Park 5/19 (SD), and Schenley Park 5/19 (KSJ). There was an ebird report of one at Frick Park 5/7. Two **Wilson's Warblers** were at Deer Lakes Park 4/30 (JCo) and one at Imperial 5/27 (KD, PF, RS, KSJ, DK).

Amazingly there were 3 **Blue Grosbeak** sightings. The first was photographed at a feeder in Gibsonia 4/21 (*fide* BMu) where it remained up to 4/23. For the second spring in a row, one was discovered at Frick Park, found 5/1 (LK). It was visiting the feeders at the Environmental Center in the evening and was not relocated the following day. The third was singing in a neighborhood in Natrona Heights 5/4 (PH). Like the Frick Park bird, this one was not relocated.

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Armstrong County

Locations: Armstrong Trail no. of dam 8 (AT), Brady's Bend (BB), Butler-Freeport Trail at Laneville (BFT), Crooked Creek Lake (CCL), Ford City (FC), Keystone Lake (KL), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Logansport (LP), Long Run Road (LRR), Mahoning Creek Lake (MCL), Manorville (MV), Parks Bend Farm (PBF), Quiggly/Glacial Sand Rds. (QGS), Rosston (RT), SGL 247, Worthington Area (WT)

In addition to the **Harlequin Duck** relocated at Lock 7 in Kittanning 3/2 (TRi), the male **Eurasian Wigeon** was re-found 3/3 after a long absence (TRi), but this time, it was at the Rosston Boat Launch, which is just south of Ford City, several miles south of its last known location above Lock 7 at Kittanning. It is likely both rarities were using a stretch of the Allegheny River between Rosston to the south and up to Lock 8 area in the north end of the county, which would explain why both birds have reappeared after long absences. The Harlequin Duck was observed at the KT L&D 3/2 (LC et al., RHa, OL, SM, RH, TRi), 3/3 (KB, SB, PF, SGU, AH, AK, JK, MHO, SS), 3/4 (RB, JH), 3/6 (KS, NV), 3/8 (DB, AH, AN), and 3/9 (DB, MF, AM et al., MVT), and last date spotted was on the AT north of Dam 8 3/29 (SGU).

Wood Ducks were scattered throughout the county and a female was discovered peeking out of her nest in a tree at CCL's outflow 5/3 (CR); then 4 ducklings were seen swimming with her 5/8 (CR, ph.). **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported from a few spots such as RT 3/9 (MF, MVT), with 4 there 3/25 (SGU); and one was photographed at CCL 4/1 (CR). A **Red-breasted Merganser** had been seen at CCL 3/27 (JLS), 2 were at RT 3/27 (MD), 10 on the AT 3/29 (SGU), 2 were noted fleeing PBF for the Kiski River 4/17 (MVT), and a high count of 43 was reported during a waterfowl bonanza at KL 3/1 (SGU).

Notable in *Armstrong*, a **Red-throated Loon** was photographed 3/2 on Redbank Creek in New Bethlehem, which is the boundary between *Armstrong* and *Clarion* (AK, JK), and further south, one was on the AT north of Dam 8 on 3/17 (TRi). Two were reported from the KT L&D 3/20 (JB, MD, SGU) on the AT north of dam 8 again 3/27 (MD) and 4/3 (RB, TRi), and the last loon seen was at KL 4/5 (SGU). A **Red-necked Grebe** first appeared at Rosston 3/8 (PF, SGU, TRi), again on 3/9 (DB, AM, et al.), and last spotted there 3/25 (SGU). One was reported from the AT 3/27 (MD, ph.).

Another noteworthy find and perhaps only record in the county or at CCL was an **American Bittern** photographed 4/14 at CCL (CR), unfortunately not relocated. Two **Virginia Rails**, a nice find, were reported from LRR 4/27 (TB, ph.) and one was observed later that day (MH, RH). A **Sora** was also at LRR 4/28 (TB, ph.) and one was reported from KL 5/6 (JS).

A lone **Osprey** was the only report for spring, at CCL 5/6 (TRi). **Northern Harriers** were found several in locations as expected (AB, AD, SGU). **Bald Eagle** pairs were reported from quite a few areas including a new nest 3/17 on or near SGL105/ Brady's Bend (*Armstrong* section), with an adult upright in nest as though incubating 3/30; on 4/7 at least one chick was clearly visible (ABra), and on 4/30 and 5/12 eaglets were observed being fed (JS, MVT, ph.). **Red-shoulder Hawks** were courting again and nesting at CCL and **Broad-winged Hawks** were nicely reported in the county 4/15-5/20, including BFT (RN), CCL (DSK), LP (JB), Dime Road, and a cemetery in LB (MVT). **American Kestrels** were

scattered throughout the county but only 2 **Merlins** were reported, one in FC (SGU), and one at CCL (TRi). A lone **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at Manorville 4/11 (AB) so hopes are that the pair nested on the Graff bridge again.

A high count of 40 **Horned Larks** was reported from WT 3/5 (RB). A **Bank Swallow** was a nice find at CCL 4/28 as well as a **Cliff Swallow** (TRi). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found at several locations, including GH/GS (AB, SGU, TRi), SGL247 (TRi), and BB 5/24 (RB). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was noted on the AT north of Dam 8 on 4/28 (SGU). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were observed at CCL 4/27 (CR, ph.) and at CM where they breed 5/27 (MH, RH).

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Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Brady's Run Park (BR), Economy Borough (ECON), Hanover Twp. (HAN), Independence Marsh (IND), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Mouth of the Beaver River at Rochester (RCH), Vanport (VAN).

An early **Blue-winged Teal** appeared at IND 3/1 (MV), and top count of **Gadwall** was just 12 at AR 3/8 (MV). Small numbers of **American Wigeon** were reported from six locations 3/8-4/19 (m.ob.), a good showing for this species here. A late **Canvasback** was at RCH 4/1 (MD). A small fallout of **Redheads** occurred 3/8-10, with up to 28 at RCH and 14 at AR (MV). A low top seasonal count of **Ring-necked Ducks** was the 27 at Big Beaver Wetlands 3/17 (MV), on a day when much larger numbers of this species and others were tallied to the north in *Lawrence*. Up to 15 **Greater Scaup**, 48 **Lesser Scaup**, and 36 **Common Goldeneyes**, as well as one **Long-tailed Duck**, staged at RCH 3/2-10 (MV, et al.). Another Long-tailed was there 4/1 (MD). Small numbers of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were noted variously through 4/13 (m.ob.). Two **Red-necked Grebes** at RCH 3/2 (MV) were a nice find.

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted nearly daily at a residence in HAN in the last half of May (JM), and a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** appeared at the same location a few days early 4/24 (JM).

Shorebirds were more or less absent, with the continuing degradation of IND, the last remaining reliable location in the county for this group. There were just a few reports of the most common species there, such as **Least** and **Solitary Sandpiper** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. Top counts of **Bonaparte's Gulls** at RCH were 22 on 3/29 (MV), 56 on 3/31 (MV), and 25 on 4/1 (MD). A late Boney was at RCH 5/18 (SK). The long-standing early spring waterbird count at Dashields Dam, *Allegheny*, which frequently provided significant *Beaver* records too, being less than a mile from the county line, was terminated this year after the observer (this author) moved out of Pennsylvania late last year. An early-ish **Common Loon** was at RCSP 3/29 (MV) and was joined by a second bird 3/31 (MV). An **American Bittern** photographed at IND 4/30 (*fide* MV), provided a rare record for *Beaver*. A **Great Egret** was at Madden Run 4/13 (MV) and 4 were at IND 5/10 (MV).

The most significant record of the season was the occurrence of 2 **Black Vultures** on private property in Hanover Twp. near RCSP 4/21 (JM). Another, probably one of the same birds, was seen nearby 4/25 (JM). This species has been ever so slightly on the increase in southwest Pennsylvania west of the Laurel Highlands for some time. First returning **Osprey** was in NB 3/15 (MV). A **Merlin** was sighted in VAN 3/3 (MV).

A **Common Raven** was at RCH 3/2 (MV) where they have

attempted to nest in the past (to the consternation of the resident Peregrine pair), but was not reported there again thereafter this year. One was seen a number of times at RCSP 3/29-4/13 (m.ob.). Single **Red-breasted Nuthatches** wintered at HAN to 4/7 (JM) and in NB to 5/6 (NH), and one was at BR 5/11 (TJ). That same outing to BR 5/11 netted several uncommon or typically highly local species for *Beaver*: one **Orchard Oriole**, 2 **Kentucky Warblers**, one **Cerulean Warbler** (very hard to find in the county away from RCSP), and one **Canada Warbler** (all TJ). The season's only reported **Veery** and **Swainson's Thrush** were also at BR that day (TJ).

Two **Evening Grosbeaks** remained from the winter season at a feeder in HAN to 4/9, and one persisted there until 5/6 (JM). A wonderful count of 18 **Purple Finches** (and one **Pine Siskin**) was made at the RCSP park office feeders 4/21 (MV). Sixteen Pine Siskins from the winter season continued at ECON into Mar, and smaller numbers were reported there until 5/1, with those appearing in the last week of Apr probably different birds than those that wintered (KD). The only report of **Fox Sparrow** was one at RCSP 4/8 (P&RW). A **White-crowned Sparrow** wintered in HAN, last seen 4/7 (JM). This species is quite rare in winter in *Beaver*.

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at IND 5/16 (MV) and 5/18 (GR, DR) was the first seen at IND since 2010. Six **Bobolinks** and 2 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at the grasslands at the former Little Blue Lake in Greene Twp. 5/27 (MV). This site, briefly famous as the best shorebirding site in southwest Pennsylvania by a wide margin, is still worth close attention, now for its vast tracts of grasslands and undisturbed successional habitats, even if its shorebirding heydays are lost and gone forever. In addition to the bird at BR already mentioned, **Orchard Oriole** was also noted at IND 5/18 (GR, DR) and RCSP 5/19 (FK). The only **Rusty Blackbird** was one at IND 4/5 (MV).

A long survey of RCSP 5/19 turned up 14 **Ovenbirds** and one **Kentucky Warbler** 5/19 (FK). **Yellow-throated Warbler** at the RCSP wildflower reserve 4/7 (KSJ) was a bit early. One **Wilson's Warbler** was at IND 5/18 (GR, DR).

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Bedford County

Locations: Shawnee State Park (SSP), Jackson Property (Mountain Meadows) near Everett (MM), Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AFHW), Bedford, Bedford Springs (BS), Brent and Jan Chippendale property near Centerville (C), Dutch Corner (DC), Everett (E), Foor Farm (FF), Fossilville (F), Fox Run Road (FRR), L. Gordon (LG), Shaffer Mountain Road (SMR), Sollenberger Farm (SF), Teaberry Road (TR), Union Memorial Church (UMC), West Cypher Road (WCR), Whitetail Wetlands (WW).

A high count of 10 **Greater White-fronted Geese** was recorded at SSP 3/11-12 (AB, TA, TJK). A few days of cold, snowy weather prompted a waterfowl fallout at SSP 3/8, with 340 **Canada Geese**, 298 **Tundra Swans**, 12 **American Wigeons**, 12 **Redheads**, 7 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 5 **Buffleheads**, and 15 **Hooded Mergansers** (MLJ). **Common Mergansers** peaked at 50 at SSP 3/24 (AB) and **Red-breasted Mergansers** reached 45 on 3/31 (SD). **Ruddy Ducks** peaked at 42 at SSP 4/26 (CP, RP).

Common Nighthawks were reported at just 2 locations: one at Mann's Choice (AM) 5/17 and 2 near Hopewell 5/11 (EB). **Eastern Whip-poor-Will** was first reported 4/23 at MM (MLJ) and then on 5/1 at C (JBC). A high of 25 **Chimney Swifts** was reported in Bedford 5/11 (MLJ). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported at MM 4/23 (MLJ), with a high count of 5 at FFR 5/27 (EB). A **Sora** sought refuge at WW 5/4 (LG). **American Coots** were also present in March and April, a high of 17 were seen at SSP 4/9 (CP). A **Sandhill Crane** flying low east to west

over AFHW surprised hawk watchers 4/29 (PL).

Two **American Woodcock** were peenting 3/19 at MM (MLJ) with more sightings at C 5/1, 5/3 (JBC). Four **Wilson's Snipe**, another secretive bird, were reported at DC 4/25 (AB). **Bonaparte's Gulls** peaked 3/31 with 15 at SSP (MLJ). **Ring-billed Gulls** were regular visitors to SSP, with a high of 105 on 3/11 (TJK). A high of 15 **Caspian Terns** was seen at SSP 4/26 (RP, CP), but just single **Forster's Terns** were seen 4/6 and 4/26 (m.ob.). **Common Loons** were at SSP March-mid-May with a high of 18 on 4/3 (LG). **Double-crested Cormorants** peaked at SSP 4/9 with 189 (CP).

Only one **American Bittern** was seen at WW 4/22 (LG), but 9 **Great Blue Herons** were seen at WW 3/30 (TJK). A **Great Egret** visited SSP 5/17 (AB) and the much smaller **Green Heron** was also at SSP 5/17 (AB). An immature **Black-crowned Night Heron** was seen 5/11 at SSP (m.ob.). Vulture sightings in *Bedford* are increasing; a roost in a wooded section of Bedford in March contained both **Turkey Vultures** and **Black Vultures**.

Osprey were seen at SSP, LG, and E; the earliest sighting was of 3 at SSP 3/29 (TJK); 24 migrated over AFHW 4/29 (PL). **Golden Eagles** put on a show 3/14 when 53 passed by AFHW (m. ob.). **Northern Harrier** was found in open fields of SF 4/20 and WCR 5/11 (both EB). Multiple sightings of **Bald Eagles** occurred, but SSP held the high count of 4 on 3/20 and 3/22 (PRW). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** nest containing 4 young was located near FF (EB). A single **Merlin** was a nice find at SSP 4/26 (RP, CP).

Yellow-throated Vireos were seen just 2 places: one at TR 5/27 (AB) and 2 at F 5/25 (PM). First sighting of **Blue-headed Vireo** was one at LG 4/7 (CN). **Warbling Vireos** were common at SSP, but a high of 4 was recorded along the river near Hopewell 5/11 (EB). Two **Fish Crows** were heard in E 4/23 (MLJ). **Common Ravens** were often heard or seen flying over Tussey Mtn. south of E. A confirmed cliff nest was found in B, probably the second year for this nest. Twenty **Horned Larks** were confirmed 3/9 on SMR (TJK). A high of 40 **Cliff Swallows** was reported at SSP 5/17 (AB).

A half-dozen **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen at SSP 3/9 (JLC, MN), but only one **Hermit Thrush** 3/9 (JLC, MN). **Pine Siskins** were frequent visitors at MM. There were 15 on 5/8; the last sighting was of 6 on 5/20 (MLJ). Four locations held **Grasshopper Sparrows**; 2 were at FRR 5/11 and 5/27 (EB). Five **Bobolinks** were found west of Schellsburg 5/1 (KD). Although 16 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found in DC 4/28 (LG), sightings of smaller numbers in late May were encouraging. Four were seen on 5/11, and one 5/26, 27 near UMC (EB). **Rusty Blackbirds** made a few appearances: 5 in DC 3/27 (AB), 2 in WW 3/23 (LG), and 5 near Pleasantville 3/16 (TJK).

Warblers arrived in a flurry: 26 species were found, ranging from common to uncommon. Three **Pine Warblers** were at at SSP 3/30 (TJK). **Louisiana Waterthrush** were the second to arrive when one was reported 4/6 at BS (PRW). A **Blue-winged Warbler** stayed for 3 days, starting 5/15 at MM (MLJ). A single **Blackpoll Warbler** was reported 5/26 at UMC (EB). **Kentucky Warblers** nested at MM; 3 were first reported on 5/11 (MLJ). A **Cerulean Warbler** was seen 5/27 at TR (Anon.). The only **Yellow-throated Warblers** were seen at F: one 5/25 and 4 on 5/26 (PM).

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Berks County

Locations: Berne Township, (BT), Blue Mountain Academy (BMA), Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Blue Marsh Lake State Hill Boat Launch (BMLSH), Christman Lake (CL), EJ Breneman's Quarry (BQ), French Creek State Park (FCSP), Gotwal's Pond (GP), Hamburg Reservoir (HR), Hawk

Mountain Sanctuary (HMS), Hawk Mountain South Lookout (HMSL), Keim Road (KR), Kernsville Dam Recreation Area (KDRA), Kutztown University (KU), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), Lake Ontelaunee Water Street (LOWA), Lake Ontelaunee West Shore Drive (LOWS), Lowland Road Retention Pond (LRRP), Monacacy Hill Recreation Area (MHRC), Mount Penn (MP), Old Topton Road (OTP), Peter's Creek (PC), Pine Swamp Road (PSR), Sacony Trail (ST), Shartlesville Farm Pond (SFP), State Game Lands 52 (SGL52), State Game Lands 106 (SGL106), State Game Lands 110 North Kill Gap (SGL110, Wolfe Mountain (WM).

This spring migration generated a range of emotions as birders missed the usually seen hard-to-find species but then stumbled upon some unexpected species. Three species, believed to breed in *Berks* but yet to be documented, appeared to present strong evidence of breeding which may be confirmed in the next *Berks* report.

A weak rain storm resulted in the third county record for **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**. Twelve of these colorful southern ducks were discovered on the banks of BQ 5/11 (KL) and seen by many birders as the group remained until 5/27. Residents of a gated community whose homes border the quarry toss corn to a mixed flock of **Mallards** and **Canada Geese** and the Black-bellied Whistling Ducks joined them as they gleaned corn from the lawns. The first recorded sighting of this species was a single duck 06/05/2006 at a pond on Kaufman Road in Oley Township (RK). Four years later, another lone duck was discovered with a mixed flock along Wyomissing Creek in Mohnton 08/03/2010 (LK, BM). These twelve ducks appeared to be part of small fall-out of Black-Bellied Whistling Ducks in Pennsylvania.

The large flocks of **Snow Geese** again flew over *Berks* on their way to feeding areas in neighboring counties. On 3/11, an estimated 150,000 by-passed BML on their southeast travels (JS). A smaller flock of 3000 over-nighted on LO 3/2 (MW) and 5000 entertained Shoemakersville residents for a day in the fields and pond along Zweizig Road 3/13 (MW, m.ob.). The 1405 **Snow Geese** that flew over KDRA 3/13 (KG) may have been headed to join the flock on Zweizig Road.

Some expected migrants were found on the 2 usual lakes. Eight **Canvasbacks** were seen at LO 3/7 (JH) and again on the same day at BQ (JH). Fourteen **Redheads** mingled with Canada Geese, **Ruddy Ducks** and others at BQ 3/7 (JH). A period of rain resulted in 30 **Long-tailed Ducks** resting at LO 4/8 (MT). A nice raft of 200 **Buffleheads** was also at LO 4/8 (JH). Three **Common Goldeneyes**, a rare expected species, were at BQ 3/6 (RK) and another 4 at LO 4/13 (RK). Known *Berks* breeders, a pair of **Common Mergansers** was seen near the banks of the Schuylkill River in Berne Township 3/25 (MW). On 5/27, a female Common Merganser was photographed leading her family of 7 at the same spot (MW).

Pied-billed Grebes, usually single birds, were found in several lakes and ponds this period. A large number for the county, 30 **Horned Grebes** dropped in at LO 4/8 (MT, RK). A single **Red-necked Grebe** spent 2 days at LO 4/6-4/7 (KG, DP). **American Bitterns** at KDRA were not as easy to see as usual this season due to extensive landscape modification. A single American Bittern was reported 4/7-18 (KG, m.ob.). Two bitterns dropped in to check out the marshy backyard of an Alburts home 5/5 (PS).

The first **Osprey** sightings were at FCSP 3/25 (DK, JK) and at BML 3/28 (RH). The good news of increased nestings of **Bald Eagles** in Pennsylvania included *Berks* this spring. A pair established a new nest along Pottsville Pike, State Route 61, in Hamburg. This nest is less than 100 feet from the busy highway across from a new Rutter's store, which made it easy for local residents to watch and report the activity around the nest as the pair feed the 2 nestlings. The existing Bald Eagle nest along Interstate 78 near Hamburg was destroyed this past winter but the pair built another in the same wooded area. Two nestlings were seen 3/1 (MW).

A **Virginia Rail** was discovered on the patio of a home along Mountain Road in Hamburg 3/31 (DE, EE, MW). The unusually quiet rail appeared to have hit the sliding glass door and spent the day in the shallow rain puddle on the deck and the grassy back yard. When the bird was approached for possible capture and trip to a local animal hospital, it flew off to a stand of trees. It was not found the following day. One, then

2, Virginia Rails were heard and seen at KDRA 4/30-5/31 (KG, MW). The rails appear to be nesting, which may be documented in subsequent reports. A **Sandhill Crane** was discovered at LOWA 4/12 (JW, MW, PW) during a club birding trip. Less than 3 hours earlier, at PC, a **Sandhill Crane** was heard calling as it flew in the direction of LOWA (KL). Shorebird sightings, in the spring or fall, continue to be mostly of arriving resident species. Exposed muddy areas along the large bodies of water are smaller which leaves rain pools in the fields as the best places for shorebirds to land. Two **Semipalmated Plovers** visited OTP fields 5/10-12 (RK). On 5/11, **Semipalmated Plovers** were reported in Kutztown (AS). Two **Willetts** were photographed at Blue Marsh 4/30 (DP). Two **Dunlins** stopped off at BMLSH 5/1 (AZ). A high count of 6 **American Woodcocks** performed their rituals in fields along River Road in Hamburg 3/25 (MW). A high count of 17 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at LO 4/13 (EK) and 4/15 (RK). Single **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were seen at LO and BML 3/8-12 (m.ob.). Four **Caspian Terns** appeared on schedule at LO 4/12 (KL, JW, PW, MW). Three **Caspian Terns** were at BMLSH 4/11 (RH). A lone **Common Tern** fed at LO 4/6 (DP). SFP was an unusual place for a **Forster's Tern** 5/5 (PB, DS, TU).

Eurasian Collared Doves continue to appear daily in Shartlesville where nesting is suspected but yet to be documented (m.ob.). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was found 4/10 after it struck the science building at KU (TU). It was examined and released the same day. Nesting **Peregrine Falcons** were successful again this season and are raising 3 young at their Penn Street site in Reading (BU). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** appeared at PSR 5/17 (EK). A rare but increasingly seen **Alder Flycatcher** was at LO 5/26 (TU). Single **Least Flycatchers** were found 4/30 at KDRA (KG) and ST (TU).

Common Ravens sightings have become expected away from the ridges and ravens are often seen in residential areas. One or 2 Ravens are being seen on a regular basis at KDRA (KG, m.ob.) and nesting is suspected in the area. The nearby Microtel Hotel roof has been considered to be a nesting site as the ravens adjust to the daily noise of Hamburg. Single **Red-breasted Nuthatches** appeared throughout the area at bird feeders. Two nuthatches came to feeders in BT 4/6-8 (JS). A hard-to-find **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen on MP 5/11 (MWh). Sightings of **Swainson's Thrush** were reported 5/7 at MHRC (RK), 5/8 at MP (KL) and 5/11 at HR (MW).

Thirty-one warbler species were reported. Again, which is becoming the norm, no large waves of migrants were noted from areas once considered to be hot spots. Significant sightings included: **Golden-winged Warbler** in Kempton 5/11 (MP), **Mourning Warbler** at Keim Road 5/29 (RK), **Kentucky Warbler** at SGL110 on 5/17, **Cerulean Warbler** at HR 5/3 (KL, MW) and **Wilson's Warbler** at Neversink Mountain 5/18 (JT). The male **Summer Tanager**, reported from 2015 until 2018, did not return this spring to the woods of Neversink Mountain. Its search for a mate appeared to have been unsuccessful as no female or nesting site was found. A **Blue Grosbeak** was an unusual visitor to the feeders at Hawk Mountain's visitor center 5/5 (MTG). Another Blue Grosbeak was found 5/6 along Mountain Road, Hamburg ((KG) where it is known to nest.

A **Dickcissel** was observed 5/23-31 at Rodale Farms (KL, m.ob.). **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen several times 3/31-5/3 at KDRA (KG). **Purple Finches** continued to be the most common finch this migration as they headed north through the county. Feeder watchers reported numbers as high as 10 on 4/19 BT (JS); 25 spent 2 days emptying the feeders 4/19-20 in Hamburg (MW). **Pine Siskins**, as many as 7, fed on thistle 3/11-4/27 at a home on Wolfe Mountain (JW, PW).

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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), Reese Pond (RP), State Game Lands #278 North (SGLN).

The spring weather had moderate temperatures with above average rain. For the season, 183 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 fourth annual event the week of 4/21.

Twenty-two duck species were documented. Uncommon ducks included 2 **Canvasbacks** at Watts Farm Pond 3/3, and a lone Canvasback on Yellow Springs Pond 3/30 (JC), 4 **White-winged Scoters** spotted at CC 5/5 (JC, LC, MN ph), and 6 **Long-tailed Ducks** at Lake Altoona 3/29 (PI) and a single Long-tail at CC 3/30 (MN). Eight **Northern Shovelers** were noted at RP 3/29 (JC, LC, MN). A pair of **Blue-winged Teals** was on RP 3/27 (MN), a male on SGLN wetland 4/12 (JC, LC), and another pair photographed 4/17 at CC (PI). Two **Northern Pintails** were tucked away at Sabbath Rest Wetland 3/3 (JC). A nice grouping of 10 **Common Goldeneyes** were discovered at CC 3/27 (PI).

There were reports of **Ruffed Grouse** drumming on the LT 5/10 (JC, LC) and one 5/23 (CE). **Wild Turkeys** and **Chimney Swifts** were reported across the county. Four **Common Nighthawks** were at CC 5/16 (PI) and 5 more were flitting above the Tipton Wetlands nabbing insects 5/21 (JC). On 5/16, an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** nest with 2 eggs was documented at SGL 166 (m.ob.). As many as 3 **Virginia Rails** were reported at SGLN (JC, LC, MN), and singles were noted in wetlands near Hollidaysburg 5/4 (PI), and Altoona along with a **Sora** and an **American Bittern** 5/2 (MD). A **Great Egret** was at Monastery Impoundment 4/6 (LP ph).

Shorebirds included 2 uncommon **Pectoral Sandpipers** foraging along the CC spillway with 4 **Spotted Sandpipers** 5/5 (JC, LC, MN). Two **Least Sandpipers** were noted at CC 5/11, and 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** at SGLN 4/30 (JC, LC). Several **American Woodcocks** were reported (m.ob.) and one was photographed at CC 4/2 sitting on a nest (LP).

A **Northern Harrier** was viewed at SGLN 4/29 (MN). **Ospreys** and **Bald Eagles** were consistently observed at CC, and single Ospreys were noted near the Tyrone area, including RP 4/25 (MN). A **Peregrine Falcon** was viewed 3/30 off Old Route 6 near Altoona (VM), and another spotted at the Logan Towne Center 4/20 (JS). A **Merlin** was photographed in the back of a resident's home, perched in a conifer tree 3/6 (LP).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** showed back up at SGLN 4/28 (JC), another single Red-head was noted Duncansville 5/9 (CS), and a pair in FH 5/11 (BB, LB). The only **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at SGLN 4/1 (JC, LC). An uncommon **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at CC 5/31 (LF). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was noted in SGL166 on 5/23 (CE, EZ), and a high count of 5 **Swainson's Thrush** at this same SGL 5/23 (CE). Five Swainson's were reported at CC 5/5, and 3 more in Plummer's Hollow 5/24 (JK). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** found its way back to SGL147N 5/11 (JC, LC).

A single **Henslow's Sparrows** was heard at the SGL 198 along with a **Grasshopper Sparrow**, a **Savannah Sparrow**, and 4 **Bobolinks** 5/11 (JC, LC). A late sighting of 5 **Pine Siskins** were noted at a residence 5/8 (LP). A strong number of warbler species were spread across *Blair*, with 30 species recorded. The most notable uncommon warblers included 2 **Golden-winged Warblers** at FH 5/20 (LB). A **Mourning Warbler** popped up along the railroad on SGLN 5/11 (JC, LC). A high count of 5 **Blackpoll Warblers** were documented 5/23 on SGL166 (CE, EZ).

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Bradford County – no compiler

Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Churchville Park (CP), Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Twp. (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Silver Lake Park (SLP), State Game Lands 157 (SGL 157).

During the month of March, both temperature (-1.2°F) and precipitation (-0.88") were modestly below average. April was warmer than usual (+4.4°F), but not much wetter (+0.51"). May was a bit warmer than usual (+1.8°F), but much wetter than normal (+3.20"). Only 228 bird species were reported, a bit below the 10-year average of 237. There were no large waterfowl fallouts, especially those involving scaup. Decent numbers, but low variety, of returning winter finches provided only a small consolation prize. In general, rarities were poorly represented this spring. In fact, there were no reports of any species seen fewer than five times in *Bucks*! Some of the best birds included **Red Knot**, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, **Little Gull**, **Black-headed Gull**, and **Mississippi Kite**. Five new spring early and three late dates were set in *Bucks*, according to Ken Kitson's exhaustive *Birds of Bucks County* (1998). The annual Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) turned up an average number of species (148) but unusually low numbers for such a nice day.

Snow Goose reports were generally of 100 or fewer birds during this period, except for 1000 individuals over Coopersburg 3/5 (BF). The last report was at PVP 3/25 (AH). The only **Cackling Goose** report came from PVP 3/6 (AMr). The high count of **Mute Swans** was rather low, with 2 reports of 7 from the PWT area 5/13 (JH, AH). Surprisingly, the **Trumpeter Swan** that was seen at Lake Towhee County Park and NSP for the past six years was not reported this year. There were multiple reports of **Tundra Swans** (m.ob.), mostly at NSP, with a high of 10 there 3/9 (MGr, AMn).

Although 23 species of ducks were reported during the period, many numbers were comparatively low. A few remained in the area through at least part of May. A **Northern Pintail** at PWT 5/11 was a first for the *Bucks* PAMC. A **Northern Shoveler** also lingered at PWT until 5/30 (DF). Other PAMC day lingerers at PWT included a **Bufflehead** (third PAMC occurrence) and 2 **Ring-necked Ducks** (fifth PAMC occurrence) (DF). One exception to the pattern of low numbers was a good showing of diving ducks during the first half of March. **Common Goldeneye** reports and numbers were higher than in previous years. Multiple observers reported 20-25 birds 3/8-14 at NSP (m.ob.). Single digit numbers were present at PVP during the first half of March, with a high of 6 on 3/6 (AMr). One of the highlight birds of the previous period and the eighth *Bucks* record, a female **Barrow's Goldeneye**, was reported once at NSP 3/9 (PC, ph.). **Canvasbacks** were seen almost daily at NSP 3/2-18, with a high of 9 on 3/8 (MN, SA). One to two birds were at PVP during the same period (m.ob.), and 3 at Giving Pond 3/8 (GJn). A similar pattern emerged with **Redheads**, with 4 sites hosting at least one individual in March (m.ob.). Not surprisingly, NSP was the hotspot, with birds present 3/2-10 including a high of 12 on 3/2 (PS).

Only one scoter was reported, but in decent numbers. **White-winged Scoter** was at PVP 5/1 (DL ph., BM, AH), 2 at CP 5/8 (RS, KL), and at NSP on 3 dates with a high of 15 adult males 5/10 (DF). Twenty-nine **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported between PVP and NSP (m.ob.), mostly in April, with a high of 10 at NSP 4/8 (AMr). **Common Mergansers** were reported in typically high numbers in early March, with around 2000 at PVP 3/2 and 3/3 (NC, JP) and counts at NSP of 1050 on 3/2 (PC) and 1500 on 3/11 (JH). Reports of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were always of fewer than 10 birds, but a female that lingered to 5/16 at Core Creek park was somewhat notable (KK). Four **Ruddy Ducks** lingered at PWT until 5/13 (DF), though county reports during peak season were shockingly low.

Red-throated Loons were only documented on one day, but at least 10 at NSP on 4/15 were a good number (AMr). **Common Loon** numbers were low, with a high of only 17 at PWT 4/26 (DF). **Horned Grebe** numbers were not outstanding, with a high of 17 at NSP 4/8 (AH). **Red-necked Grebes** were present at 3 sites during the period (m.ob.).

Most observations were at NSP where a high of 4 were seen 3/3 (DF). As is usually the case, PVP was the place for peak **Double-crested Cormorant** numbers. This year's high count was 263 on 4/15 (AMr). **Great Cormorant** reports on the Delaware R. were fairly low (m.ob.), with only 4 sites reporting and a high of just 5 at Mud Island 3/24 (AMr).

The now-annual **American Bittern** count turned up a comparatively small total of 13 individuals on 11 nights 4/8-5/4, with no more than 2 in a single evening (DF). A separate bittern was seen at Dark Hollow Park 4/8 (SS, ph.). The **Great Blue Heron** colony at QTS increased from 44 nests in 2018 to 56 nests this year, most of which were occupied (DF). Some of these may have come from the former colony near the Quakertown Farmers' Market (AMr). The NSP rookery was estimated conservatively at 40 nests on 4/9 (DA), possibly a similar number to the 60 nests there in 2018. **Great Egret** was reported from 10 sites starting a bit early at NSP 3/18 (AH). All sites had one or 2 egrets, except for 5 at Dow Chemical in Bristol on 5/23 (DF) and 4 migrants seen for just a moment at PVP 4/6 (PH). One adult **Little Blue Heron** at PWT on 5/11 represented the fifth occurrence of that species on the *Bucks* PAMC (DF). Two **Cattle Egrets** provided an uncommon county occurrence at PWT 4/13 (DF). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** sightings continue to be few and far between, with a slight increase in detection over the previous 2 years. The traditional site at SLP held 1-2 birds on 3 dates in May (DF, DD). Other reports came from CP 5/4 (VP), PVP at the nature center bird blind 4/21-29 (m.ob.), and 2 at Giving Pond 5/27 (DA). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was reported only at QTS on 4 dates 5/1-7, with 2 present 5/4 (DF). One **Glossy Ibis** flew by BRD 5/15 for the only report (GJh).

A **Mississippi Kite** was described resting at CP 5/27 (TM, ph.). This is about the 17th record of the species. A new **Bald Eagle** nest was discovered in Tinicum Twp., with chicks confirmed 4/20 (DA). This year's PAMC tally of 21 set a new high count over the previous 17. **Broad-winged Hawk** sightings topped out at just 6 at MKF 4/29 (RS) and 5 at BRD 4/17 (AMr). This could be due to lack of observation hours, since nearby *Montgomery* had over 100 birds on at least one occasion. A flurry of migrating **Red-shouldered Hawks** at NSP 3/14 produced 10-12 individuals over a span of 30 minutes or so (PH). Red-shoulders also surpassed the old PAMC high count of 4, with 7 documented this year.

Both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were detected at QTS on multiple days in April and/or May (DF). One and/or both species were present at a few undisclosed locations in early March and multiple days in May (DF, RS). A single **Virginia Rail** was also present at SLP 5/16 (RF). **Sandhill Crane** reports continue to feature here, starting with 2 presumably returning birds that bounced around in the area of Pine Run Dam and PVP 3/1-20 (LG, m.ob.). Additional reports of single cranes came from Giving Pond 4/10 (PC, ph., vr.) and Perkasio 5/12 (AH, ph.).

After 2 consecutive spring seasons with 20 species of shorebirds, 2019 "cooled off" a bit in *Bucks* with a more modest 15 shorebird species. **Red Knots** highlighted the list, with approximately 50 knots over Milford Twp. 5/25 coming in as the sixth county record of this species (DF). Most other shorebird numbers were low, with high counts of only 22 **Least** and 13 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at PWT 5/11 and 5/30, respectively (DF). One **Pectoral Sandpiper** was seen at BRD 5/22 (GJh). **Dunlin** were at PWT on 3 days in May, with 2 on 5/13 (DF). Only one **Short-billed Dowitcher** visited PWT, on 5/13 (DF). Both yellowlegs had very modest high counts, with 11 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at PWT 5/1 and 5/11 (both DF), and 3 **Greater Yellowlegs** at 3 different locations (DF, BM). One Greater Yellowlegs at PWT 5/30 set a new *Bucks* late date (DF). Ironically, **Solitary Sandpiper** had some of the highest numbers of any shorebird in the county this spring, with 32 at BRD 5/4 (AMr). Finally, all plovers not named **Killdeer** had low numbers, with 2 **Black-bellied** at PWT 5/23 and 10 **Semipalmated** there 5/27 (all DF). A single **Semipalmated Plover** in the parking lot of Bolton's Farm Market was a surprise in Perkasio 4/26 (BG).

Ten gull and 4 tern species were recorded during the period. **Bonaparte's Gull** numbers were always lower than 20 except at PWT, with approximately 100 there 4/14 and 111 on 4/26 (DF). Accompanying the Bonaparte's Gulls at PWT were an adult **Black-headed Gull** 4/6 and 4/7 (DF) and possibly the same **Little Gull** 4/7, 4/14, and 4/26 (DF). These represented the 12th and 15th *Bucks* occurrences, respectively. The first **Laughing Gulls** of the season came along the Delaware River

3/31, with 18 at Bristol and 2 at Morrisville Levee (DD, MGa). The high count for this species was about 3000 at PWT 5/11, which greatly boosted PAMC numbers (DF). **Iceland Gulls** were prominent at NSP during most of March, with one or 2 usually reported except for 3 on 3/11 (JH) and 6 on 3/1 (TJ, MR). The last of the season were at PWT 4/13 (3 birds) and 4/14 (DF). The record-breaking **Lesser Black-backed Gull** numbers from Feb translated to a strong March for the species at NSP. Counts of 710 on 3/1 (MR, TJ) and 527 on 3/17 (AB) were the highest in the county. One to 3 birds had Pennsylvania Game Commission transmitters on these dates.

Fourteen **Caspian Terns** were observed at 4 sites, with one to 3 individuals at each site (m.ob.). **Black Terns** put in a good spring showing. Single birds were at L. Towhee C.P. 5/14 (new late date) (PT), PVP 5/5 (DF); and 3 birds were at PWT, 2 on 5/5 and one 5/13 (DF, AH). **Common Terns** were at NSP 5/12 (4 birds) and 5/14 (7 birds), while PWT had 6 on 5/13 and one 5/19 (all DF). Surprisingly, the only site with **Forster's Terns** was PWT, with one 4/26, one or 2 on 5/13, and one approaching the county late date of 5/26 on 5/23 (DF, JH).

The ratio of sites reporting **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** was 14:8, closer than in most years (m.ob.). Sadly, only one **Long-eared Owl** was at PVP during the period, staying until 3/12 (m.ob.). Also at PVP 3/12 was a **Barred Owl**, uncommon in the park (DBI). Not always monitored during nesting season, a family of **Eastern Screech-Owls** was followed in Tinicum Twp. this spring. Eggs were confirmed 4/7, 2 chicks were seen with the female for the PAMC 5/11, and both chicks were getting quite large by 5/28 (DA). A migrant **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at PVP 4/22 was a bit on the late side (AH). Consistent with some recent years, 16 **Common Nighthawks** over Riegelsville 5/24 were the only double-digit numbers for the period (EB).

The Buckingham Twp. (DS), Hilltown Twp. (KB), and SGL 157 sites (m.ob.) again had **Red-headed Woodpeckers** this year. One was also heard 5/21 along the Delaware River near Kintnersville (AMr). **Pileated Woodpecker** set a new PAMC high count, beating last year's tally of 18 with 19 this time. A male **American Kestrel** banded as a juv. in 2017 near Newton, New Jersey, was nesting south of Blooming Glen this year. Another kestrel banded as a juv. in 2015 at Hopewell, New Jersey, was among 14 previously banded birds recovered this year (DF). It was a quiet year for **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, with the only report coming from CP 5/24 (DD, ph.). Three **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were detected, one each at SGL 157 on 5/14, Tyler S.P. 5/23, and PVP 5/25 (AH, DF). Four **Alder Flycatchers** were found in late May, one each at QTS 5/19 (DF), NSP 5/22 (DF), PVP 5/25 (AMr, vr.), and CP 5/24 and 5/26 (DD, ph.). Single **Least Flycatchers** were reported from 7 locations, mostly during May (m.ob.). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** at NSP 4/19 was the earliest county record (JH, MS).

Another new early record was a **Blue-headed Vireo** at BRD 4/12 (GJh, ph.). **Common Ravens** were reported in upwards of 25 locations, with 3 fledged young seen at the Kintnersville nesting site 5/17 (AMr). MKF continues to hold large numbers of wintering **Horned Larks**. Fifty-seven were present 3/1, and while numbers trailed off in late March, one probable breeding pair stayed through at least most of May (RS, AM). Stoneback Farms near Quakertown hosted 18 larks 3/6 (PT). Possible breeders were at Windy Acres Farm 4/27 and Keller's Church Rd 4/28 and 5/4. One was at PWT 5/28 (all DF).

After a small winter invasion, the last report of **Black-capped Chickadee** was of 2 at PVP 3/29 (BM). The PAMC total of 59 **Carolina Chickadees** was alarmingly low when compared to a 10-year average of 119. The story was the same for **Tufted Titmice**, where the total of 55 was far below the 10-year average of 136. Nineteen sites still had **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in May, the last of which was at a feeder in Doylestown 5/15 (KI). The species made it on the *Bucks* PAMC for just the fifth time. Single **Marsh Wrens** were at QTS 5/2 and 5/6 (PC, DF). On par with recent years, 9 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were detected at 8 sites (m.ob.). **Swainson's Thrush** was reported from 21 sites, with the sum of the high counts from each site being 32 (m.ob.). The PAMC tally of 23 **Northern Mockingbirds** was the lowest ever, save for the rainy year of 2017. **American Pipits** were very scarce. Ten were at MKF 5/1 and 10 at nearby Wayside Farm 5/3 (RS); the only other report was of one at PWT 5/1 (DF).

Warbler numbers were low this year, even though 33 species were reported for the third straight year. Almost all PAMC numbers fell below the average. A record early **Northern Waterthrush** in Solebury Twp. 4/20 was one of several early warbler species (DF). One **Golden-winged Warbler** was a good find at L. Towhee C.P. 5/2 (VM). **Prothonotary Warbler** was surprisingly reported at 7 sites this spring (m.ob.), often with photos and/or audio. An early male was at BHWP 4/20 for a new county early date (BHWPS, GB). Birds were reported in May at Riegelsville, Virginia Forrest Area, Tyler S.P., PVP, and SGL 157, though the latter was not likely on territory (m.ob.). All reports were of single birds, and the only female was a migrant 4/21 at SLP that also beat the former early date of 4/23 (DD, ph.).

Another warbler surprise came in the form of no less than 3 **Orange-crowned Warblers** at or before the previous *Bucks* early migrant date of 4/16. One was at SLP 4/4 (DD, ph.), one was at a feeder in Feasterville 4/12-17 (KK, ph.), and one was described with a flock of warblers in Kintnersville 4/16 (JBH). A **Mourning Warbler** at BRD 5/14 provided the only report (VP). Only one **Kentucky Warbler** was reported, at NSP 5/5 (JH), making this the fourth year in a row that the species has not been found breeding in the county. Cerulean Warbler was missing in action for the second consecutive year. Presumably the same **Pine Warbler** spent a remarkable 12th winter in Lower Makefield Twp., last seen 3/7 (CF). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at PVP 4/12 (VM), Milford Twp. Park 4/17 (DBm), Tohickon Valley Park 4/20 (EB), and on one April day at the previous year's site in Riegelsville (DBr *vide* EB). One was heard south of Kintnersville 5/20 (DF), and a migrant delighted the observer at MKF 5/5 (RS). One **Tennessee Warbler** at SGL 157 on 5/26 provided a new spring late date (DF).

Grasshopper Sparrows were at Nockamixon Twp. 4/28, Solebury Twp. 5/2, and PWT 5/13 (DF). The traditional Van Sant Airport location had 3 birds 5/7 (RS). Only one **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported, at BRD on 5/3 (GJh). A single **Yellow-breasted Chat** was well-described at PVP 5/24 for the only period report (SF).

Blue Grosbeaks arrived at their 2 breeding sites in May, with one at MKF 5/7 and 2 there 5/8 (RS), and 3 at PWT 5/11 (DF). The PAMC count of 41 **Bobolinks** was the lowest since 2003, a concerning statistic. **Rusty Blackbird** numbers were also down, with site high counts of about 150 at QTS 5/2 (PC) and 18 on 4/6 at SLP (PJ). **Common Grackle** does not normally warrant mentioning in this space, but the PAMC tally of 186 was an all-time low. Yet another declining blackbird, the **Eastern Meadowlark**, put in a poor showing on the PAMC with a total of 3. Six at Neshaminy S.P. 3/20 were almost certainly migrants (DBI). The annual wintering **Baltimore Oriole** in Middletown Twp. stayed until 4/20 this year (DP). Multiple observers reported **Purple Finches** well into April (m.ob.), with the last report at BRD 5/8 (GJh). Lesser numbers of **Pine Siskins** did the same, with the last one at SGL 157 on 5/7 (DF).

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Butler County

Locations: Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO), North Shore (NS), South Shore (SS), State Game Lands 95 (SGL 95), Wildlife Observation Area (WOA). LA, NS, SS and WOA are all located in Moraine State Park.

Spring seemed to be late arriving with chilly temperatures and nights

well below freezing until the third week of March, with parts of the big lakes remaining frozen. Temperatures remained colder into April, and May saw well above average rainfall which might have affected breeding in certain species. Surprises of the season included 2 **Eared Grebes** at Lake Arthur, a wandering **American White Pelican** at Lake Oneida, **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Thorn Reservoir and **Golden-winged Warbler** at State Game Lands 95.

Only 10 field birders participated in the 5/11 *Butler Co.* Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count (PAMC) this year. The county is large and richly diverse in avian habitats, yet many areas could not be surveyed for their birdlife for lack of census personnel. This negative condition, in turn, prevented the possibility of the county attaining record-breaking avian species and numbers. Nevertheless, many hours of field time were enough to record 162 species and nearly 4500 individuals, including one singing male Pennsylvania endangered **Sedge Wren** in its historic SGL propagation area (GW, JW). PAMC observers in Moraine SP were treated to 31 species of warblers as well as 9 diurnal raptor species (26 **Turkey Vultures**, 8 **Ospreys**, one **Northern Harrier**, 2 **Sharp-shinned** and 4 **Cooper's Hawks**, 6 **Bald Eagles**, 18 **Red-shouldered**, 5 **Broad-winged** and 7 **Red-tailed Hawks**) (GW, JW).

Unusual in *Butler*, a **Snow Goose** was discovered at Lake Oneida 2/17 (KB) and remained until at least 3/6. Numerous reports of **Cackling Goose** from western Pennsylvania included one photographed at South Shore 3/4 (RB) and another at Lake Oneida 3/6 (KB). One editor noted that Cackling Goose was becoming much more frequently seen so they hardly deserve notice. This writer still agrees with other observers that careful inspection of bill size and shape deserve special attention in making a positive ID. Photos should accompany any report, at least here in western Pennsylvania. **Tundra Swan** moved through 3/1-14 mostly in smaller numbers.

Twenty-three species of duck were reported with **Wood Ducks** seen constantly through the season in numerous locations including at least 4 reports of successful breeding. **Northern Shoveler** and **Gadwall** were seen in average small number from 3/1 through the third week of April (m.ob.). Reports of **Blue-winged Teal** were definitely up - perhaps partially explained by increased coverage at Glade Run Lake, a new *Butler* birding hotspot. **American Wigeon** was seen in the usual small numbers with the exception of a nice count of 75 at Lake Arthur 3/1 (AH). **American Black Duck** was scarce with only a few seen, most in early March and only at LA and LO. **Northern Pintail** continues to be scarce and was seen only in March with an unusual high count of 20 at South Shore 3/1 (MC, LC). **Canvasback** moved through in March with a very unusual high count of 250 at LA 3/1 (AH). The high count for **Redhead** was 75 at LA 3/1 (AH). **Ring-necked Duck** was probably the most frequently reported (along with resident Wood Duck and **Mallard**). Ring-neck tallies included many double digit counts led by 70 at Burton Road 3/18 (BB) and flocks of 83 and 55 at 2 SGL 95 locations 4/4 (GK, MAK). As usual, reports of **Lesser Scaup** outnumbered **Greater Scaup** by a 2:1 margin. A nice count of 121 Lesser Scaup was seen at Wildlife Observation Area 3/21 (GK, MAK).

The only **Surf Scoter** report was of 5 at North Shore 4/1 (MV) and **White-winged Scoter** was seen twice: one at Nealey's Point 3/12 (GK, MAK) and 2 at SS 4/17 (DD *vide* MV). **Long-tailed Duck** was frequently seen in small numbers at LA 3/1-4/2 with a very nice flock of 30 photographed at LO 3/31 (KB). Reports and numbers of **Common Goldeneye** were very much above average for spring season with numerous double-digit flights including 50 at LA 3/1 (AH), 25 at North Shore 3/4 (JH), and 20 at WOA 3/14 (GK, MAK). Early March brought nice flights of all three mergansers including high counts of 100 **Hooded Mergansers** at LA 3/1 (AH), an estimated 300 **Common Mergansers** at Nealeys Point 3/6 (GK, MAK), and 2 spectacular rafts of **Red-breasted Merganser** with an estimated 1000 seen from the North Shore Bike Trail 3/2 (GK, MAK) and 786 carefully counted at NS 4/4 (JG, OM). Hooded and Common Mergansers returned to their usual breeding creeks - Slippery Rock and Wolf Creek - with greater numbers than usual: 10 young Hoodies and 24 young Commons with their mothers were recorded 5/1-10 (GW, JW). Question: Where do male Hooded and Common Mergansers go while females raise their many youngsters? Much more numerous in the fall, **Ruddy Duck** made a nice showing

including 10 double-digit counts (m.ob.).

Ring-necked Pheasant, reported from 4 different locations apparently survived the winter and predators; encouraging were reports of **Ruffed Grouse** drumming in 4 different areas (m.ob.). Not often mentioned here, the **Wild Turkey** population continues to thrive. For the second time in three years, an alert male **Chukar** visited ground bird feeders 4/16-17 in Poplar Manor from sunrise to sunset (GW, JW). Not only did the expected **Pied-billed Grebe** and **Horned Grebe** move through the area in March but birders were treated to **Red-necked Grebe** at SS as well as 2 different **Eared Grebes**. High count for **Horned Grebe** was 20 seen at SS 3/24 during a Three Rivers Birding Club outing. Red-necked Grebe, first seen 3/2 at LA (AP) was seen alone at least 10 times until the third week of the month (m.ob.) when 2 were at NS 3/24 (GK MAK). Very rare for *Butler*, the first Eared Grebe discovered 2/28 (DD *fide* MV) was seen and photographed at LA until 3/5 (m.ob.). The second Eared Grebe was discovered during an Audubon Master Birder Outing 3/30 (CK). Unfortunately, it was not photographed but the description was convincing.

Normally outnumbering **Black-billed Cuckoo** by a 2:1 margin, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** just narrowly held the lead. **Common Nighthawk** was reported as singles or twosomes 4 times from various locations in addition to the high count of 7 at SGL 95 on 5/16 (GK MAK). Not often reported, **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at SGL 95 on 5/18 and 4 were heard counter-singing there 5/23 (BB). Sightings of both **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** are on the rise: perhaps habitat is improving or more likely increased reporting from both SGL 95 and Glade Run Lake are causing the increase. **Sandhill Cranes** were both visible and vocal in 5 county breeding spots 3/30-5/31 (GW, JW, m.ob.). High count was 6 photographed at West Liberty 3/6 (KB). Much more numerous in the fall season, **American Coot** was seen in small numbers 3/1-4/28 (m.ob.).

Eight species of shorebirds were seen this season. Following the return of **Killdeer** in Feb and the first **American Woodcock** arriving 3/2, shorebird movement started early with 4 species seen on or before 4/15 including one **Spotted Sandpiper** at GRL 4/9 (Alan Buriak), one **Greater Yellowlegs** at Kohlmeier Road 4/13 (GK MAK), one **Lesser Yellowlegs** at SS 4/15 (MC) and 2 **Wilson's Snipe** at Muddy Creek Wetlands 4/13 (KB). **Solitary Sandpiper** made its usual handful of appearances in 4 locations (m.ob.). A real surprise was a nice flight of 15 **Willetts** that touched down at Lakeview Beach 4/25 (GK MAK). Six remained there until the next day, 2 were located at SS and 6 were seen at Bear Run Boat Launch (m.ob.). Willetts were noted in several surrounding counties so these birds may have been different birds from those seen the previous day.

Bonaparte's Gull was present in double-digit flocks 3/23 until at least 5/7 with a high of 32 at Lakeview Beach 4/26 (MC). Ever-present **Ring-billed Gulls** and less abundant **Herring Gulls** were joined by **Common Terns** stopping at LA 4/14-5/3 (m.ob.). High count for Common Tern was 15 at NS 4/14 (MC). Two **Caspian Terns** stopped at LO 4/15 (KB). Not seen annually, **Red-throated Loon** was discovered at LA 3/2 (AP) and was seen there through 3/12 (m.ob.). **Common Loon** was seen through the season until 5/19. High count was 18 at NS 3/31 (AH). Perhaps the surprise of the season was an **American White Pelican** that stopped at LO 4/14 (RM). It did not stay long and was only seen by a few lucky birders. **Great Egret** was a treat at 4 different locations 4/7-5/26, with 3 seen at GRL 4/7 (DB). Usually found wandering out of range during late summer, a lone **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was photographed at Thorn Reservoir 4/30 (GK MAK).

Northern Harrier was spotted regularly over grasslands at Johnson Road 3/2-4/11 (m.ob.) with a high of 5 on 3/10 (MC) and several displaying. It was hoped that **Short-eared Owl** might breed in *Butler* as 3 were regularly seen over suitable habitat near Johnson Road grasslands 3/2-4/9 with a high of 7 there 3/19 (MC). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported from 3 locations with a pair seen regularly where they have nested in the past. Their presence at 2 historic locations was not noted. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen regularly in a location where they have nested recently (BB). The only **Merlin** reported were 2 at Johnson Road 3/2 (LS, ME) and the only **Peregrine Falcon** was one at Lakeview Beach 4/26 (MC).

All expected flycatchers were seen including the very uncommon (in

Butler) **Olive-sided Flycatcher**. One was at Jennings Environmental Education Center 5/24 (BB) and one was there 5/29 (MC). All expected vireos appeared on cue highlighted by **Philadelphia Vireo** seen in 3 different locations including an amazing tally of 6 on 5/11 for the PAMC (m.ob.). In one grouping, 2 of 5 **Philadelphia Vireos** were singing males, a rare experience in its own right (GW, JW). **Common Raven** continues to be seen in numerous locations but breeding has not been confirmed....yet. An impressive tally of 300 **Tree Swallows** was noted at Burton Road 3/18 (BB) and 2 **Bank Swallow** were seen at NS (MV, GK, MAK).

Following an outstanding movement through *Butler* in the winter season, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** continued to be seen as singles or twosomes in widespread locations until 5/14 (m.ob.). **Common Redpoll** made 2 surprise appearances: 4 were photographed at NS 3/13 (MC, LC) and 5 there 3/16 (KSJ). **Pine Siskin** was noted from 4 locations with a high of 6 at Clay Twp. 3/20 (BB). Amid reports of serious decline in numbers, 18 **American Tree Sparrows** were noted at Todd Nature Reserve 3/24 (TR). In addition to 3 reports of uncommon **Vesper Sparrow** from 3 different locations, **Savannah Sparrow**, **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Henslow's Sparrow** were reported from Barkeyville Grasslands 5/12 (BB). **Fox Sparrow** passed through 3/21-4/10 (m.ob.).

Not often reported, **Yellow-breasted Chat** was detected at SGL 95 on 5/6, 11, 16 (GK, MAK). **Rusty Blackbird** was noted 7 times: 5 times at SGL 95 with high counts of 12 on 3/24 and 4/4 (GK, MAK). It was an outstanding warbler season with 34 species seen. PAMC field birders were treated by numerous mini-fallouts tallying 31 species on one day 5/11 (GW et al.). Warbler highlights included not-often seen **Worm-eating Warbler** (PAMC), **Golden-winged Warbler** (RN), **Prothonotary Warbler** (PAMC), and **Orange-crowned Warbler** (PAMC). Reports of **Kentucky Warbler** are on the rise. Two possible reasons include the fact that as more and more areas reach the mature woodland stage, more habitat is available for Kentucky Warbler. Also, birding and reporting are also on the rise so the population might be steady but more birds are being detected.

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Cambria County

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

Waterfowl migration was a little late as the ice didn't leave the lake at PG until mid March. Small groups of **Tundra Swans** were present but the larger flocks passed through in late Feb. Besides the usual species, there were **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail**, **Surf and White-winged Scoters** and **Long-tailed Duck** seen (TA, TD, DG, RL, EZ). Two **Ruffed Grouse** were at PG 4/6 (TA). Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at STL 5/28 (DG). **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were heard calling at PG 4/11 (TD).

Shorebirds at PG were single **Sanderling**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, plus small groups of **Wilson's Snipe** and **Spotted Sandpiper** (TA, TD, DG, RL). A large flock of 33 **Willetts** was seen on 4/26 (EZ). Single sightings of **Greater Yellowlegs** were recorded on several dates. Parts of the park at PG and the surrounding game lands provide excellent habitat for **American Woodcock**. It is not unusual to hear 10 or more singing males during migration and breeding season. **Caspian**, **Common**, and **Forster's Terns** were present rather frequently at PG during April and May. An **American Bittern** at PG 4/7 (RL) was one of several sightings. A **Great Egret** was at PG 5/11 (TA).

A lone **Red-headed Woodpecker** was first seen at PG in early May and remained throughout the month (TD). A probable early record date for **Blue-headed Vireo** was 4/7 at PG (TD). **Red-breasted Nuthatches**

were present at several locations throughout May. Two **American Pipits** and 3 **Vesper Sparrows** were at PA 4/10 (TD). A nice count of 40 **Rusty Blackbirds** were at PG 4/10 (TD). Migrating warbler numbers were somewhat low, but a few rarities were observed. Single **Golden-winged, Prothonotary**, and **Cerulean Warblers** were seen at PG (TD). The male Prothonotary was only our second county record.

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Cameron County

Locations: Emporium (EM), Golf Course Ponds (GCP), Quehanna Wild Area (QWA), Sinnemahoning (SIN), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP), Sizerville State Park (SZSP), Sterling Run (SR), West Creek (WC).

Twenty-eight **Wood Ducks** and 2 **Northern Pintails** were found at SSP 3/14 (MJ). A **Canvasback** was at GCP 3/14 (MJ). At SSP were 2 **Lesser Scaup** 4/7 (DB), 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** 4/30 (MD), 84 **Common Mergansers** 3/17 (MJ), and 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 4/6 (MJ). Also at at SSP there were 3 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 4/5 (MJ), 2 **Ring-billed Gulls** 4/1 (DB), and 10 **Double-crested Cormorants** 5/4 (MJ). A **Golden Eagle** was at SR 3/7 (MJ).

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at SIN 5/17 (OM) and 7 **Warbling Vireos** at QWA 5/10 (BH). A staging of 315 **Tree Swallows**, 18 **Barn Swallows**, and 35 **Cliff Swallows** were at SSP 4/27 (MJ). A count of 145 **American Robins** was made at SSP 3/21 (MJ). An **American Pipit** was at SSP 4/9 (MJ). Twenty **Pine Siskins** and 30 **American Goldfinches** passed through SZSP 4/28 (LF). Eight **White-crowned Sparrows** were at WC 4/30 (MPB). A single **Rusty Blackbird** was at SSP 4/5 (MJ). Twelve **Northern Parulas** were found at SSP 5/4 (MJ). Three **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were at EMP 5/18 (TG). Three **Canada Warblers** were seen at QWA 5/16 (BH).

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Carbon County

Locations: Beltzville S.P. (BSP), Carbon Co. Environmental Education Center (CCEEC), Mauch Chunk L. (MCL), Penn Forest Res. (PFR), Pine Run Boat Launch (PRBL), Weiser S.F. (WSF), Wild Cr. Res. (WCR).

The spring's most widely-enjoyed avian happening was the prolonged residency of *Carbon's* first **Pacific Loon**, a nonbreeding individual, at BSP 4/23-5/10 (BW, m.ob.). Originally spotted from the swimming beach, the bird developed an affinity for nearby Pine Run Cove and seemed to grow accustomed to traffic at PRBL, permitting photography from mere yards away. In a miniature example of the "Patagonia picnic table effect" (and BSP has no shortage of picnic tables), this apparent fifth Lehigh Valley area record attracted observers who, upon snapping flight shots of what they assumed were **Tundra Swans** over BSP 4/25, inadvertently documented the county's first three **Trumpeters** (AM, EH). The swans were not relocated. Another headline of the period was the appearance of multiple **Sandhill Cranes** in the BSP vicinity. Two high flyovers west of the dam 4/19 (BRd) followed a hypothetical flyby earlier in the season (RR) and were followed in turn by a single crane over a wildlife management field north of the lake 5/4 (DH). A notch down on the rarity scale but no less exciting was a duo of wading visitors to BSP: the park's third-ever **Snowy Egret** at the boat rental cove early on 4/8 (DH et al.) and an adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** visible from the bridge over Pine Run Cove 4/17 (RR, BRg et al.).

Waterbird migration is a time of events: storms, fronts, fallouts, pushes, and the inevitable accompanying birder activity. Happily, for county listers this spring, BSP hosted more events than the perfunctory birthday parties and soccer practices. On 4/8, in addition to the aforementioned **Snowy Egret** and a passing **Greater Yellowlegs**, the

lake produced 3 **White-winged Scoters**, 14 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 149 **Bufflehead**, 20 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, 2 **Pied-billed Grebes**, 8 **Horned Grebes** (including a confusingly Eared-like transitional individual), and 50 **Common Loons**, amid an overwhelming quantity of birds (DH, RR, BW et al.). Also accounted for that day were two **Red-necked Grebes**, one or both of which were present at least 3/24-4/10 (MS, CCS et al.). On 4/13, 30 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 34 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, and a **Common Tern** (tying the Lehigh Valley area early date) were tallied, along with a **Peregrine Falcon** (RR, BRg, BW). On 4/15, the variety was eventful instead of the numbers, as a modest congregation of waterfowl (mostly near the dam) comprised 19 species, including **Blue-winged Teal** (female), **Northern Shoveler**, **Gadwall** (8), **American Wigeon**, **Green-winged Teal**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Long-tailed Duck**, **Common Goldeneye** (female lingering since 4/11), **Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers**, **Ruddy Duck**, and **Horned** (14) and **Red-necked Grebes** (RR, BRg, RWt, BW, JW, WW). The year's first **Great Egret** (RR, BRg et al.) surveyed the scene from a nearby treetop, perhaps meriting observer credit itself (presumably as Greg someone).

BSP "event days" continued into May, with rain on 5/5 accompanying a mixture of late migrants (4 **Gadwall**, 2 **Green-winged Teal**, 4 **Long-tailed Ducks**), stragglers (17 **Bufflehead**, 2 **Horned Grebes**), and arrivals (4 **Least Sandpipers**) and grounding a **Herring Gull** and four **Caspian Terns** on the beach (RR, BRg, BW, JW, WW). Although overdue and appreciated, the terns looked nonplussed, illustrating the ironic principle that birder satisfaction is often inversely proportional to that of the lost, displaced, interrupted, or generally miserable birds. More rain on 5/10 resulted in 2 **American Black Ducks**, 19 **White-winged Scoters**, a **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 6 **Herring Gulls**, 2 **Common Terns**, and 56 **Double-crested Cormorants** (RR, BRg, PH, BW). All but 3 of the scoters were drakes and none had the decency to be a different species.

Of course, many noteworthy occurrences at BSP were isolated and/or unrelated to obvious weather events. A late **Snow Goose** on 4/23 (RR, BRg et al.) was outdone by 3 on 5/28 (RR, BRg). One **Mute Swan** set up shop just east of PRBL 3/11-20 (RR, BRg et al.) and 2 flew over the dam 5/15 (RR, BRg). A single **Northern Pintail** was recognized in flight by independent observers 3/15 (TS, BW). Likely the same 3 **White-winged Scoters** were seen 4/27 and 4/30 (RR, BRg). In an excellent spring for **Long-tailed Ducks**, besides the ones mentioned above, 8 were counted 3/1 (RR), 2 were present 4/30 (RR, BRg), and a male around at least 3/12-31 was joined by a female on its last day (RR, BRg). A drake **Red-breasted Merganser** spent much of its time at PRBL 3/2-26 (RR, PH et al.); up to 4 females ranged between the point and Pine Run from 4/14 (BW) through much of May, typically associating with a small group of **Ring-necked Ducks** (max 4) and **Bufflehead** (max 7) in the boat rental cove, until the "raft" dissipated, leaving a lone merganser at the period's end. One of only 3 **Ruddy Ducks** reported on the lake remained 3/2-15 (RR, PH et al.), while another, relatively late, appeared 4/26 (RR, BRg, BRd, DH). The first **Red-necked Grebe** of the period was a young bird on 3/6 (RR, BRg), foreshadowing the long-staying individuals described earlier.

Shorebirds are characteristically sparse at BSP, with habitat limited to the swimming beach, a few cove edges, puddles in the restricted spillway, and an intermittently flooded field abutting the Twin Flower development east of the lake. However, beyond the expected species (**Killdeer**, **Spotted** and **Solitary Sandpipers**, **Greater Yellowlegs**), observers managed a **Black-bellied Plover** 5/23 (BW), 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/29 (RR, BRg), 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/1 (RR, BRg, BRd), and another **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/7 (BW), in addition to the "event" **Lesser** on 5/10. Two dapper **Semipalmated Plovers** at PRBL 5/20 (RR) flouted the habitat deficiency by loafing on a curb in the parking lot. A third, less enterprising plover kept to the beach (RR).

Whatever BSP lacks in shorebird appeal, it makes up for in tern attraction. All four semiannual species graced the lake this spring. In addition to the Commons and Caspians already addressed, 2 alternate adult **Black Terns** dropped in briefly 5/7 (RR, BRg), and another dallied slightly longer 5/24 (RR, BRg). The only **Forster's Tern** rested on a buoy at PRBL 4/12 (RR, BRg). Rounding out the waterbird highlights were a **Red-throated Loon** diving frenetically off the beach 4/26 (BW) and a flyover **Great Egret** 5/9 (BW), the season's second and final.

Carbon High Counts for Period of Selected Waterbirds (all from BSP)

Species	Number	Date	Observer(s)
Snow Goose	~400	3/13	RR, BRg
Tundra Swan	7	3/12	RR
Wood Duck	~50	3/15	TS
Gadwall	8	4/15	RR, BRg, BW
American Wigeon	5	3/2	RR, PH, EZ
American Black Duck	4	3/20	RR, BRg
Green-winged Teal	13	3/13	BW
Canvasback	18	N/A	BW
Ring-necked Duck	135	N/A	BW
Greater Scaup	12	3/1-2	RR, PH
Lesser Scaup	21	N/A	BW
White-winged Scoter	19	5/10	RR, BRg, PH
Long-tailed Duck	30	4/13	RR, BRg, BW
Bufflehead	149	4/8	BW
Common Goldeneye	28	3/2	RR, PH
Hooded Merganser	28	3/17	RR, BRg
Common Merganser	72	3/6	RR, BRg
Red-breasted Merganser	20	4/8	RR, BW
Horned Grebe	14	4/15	RR, BRg, BW
Bonaparte's Gull	45	4/28	PW, RWs, CK
Common Tern	17	5/13	JW, BW
Common Loon	~50	4/8	RR
Double-crested Cormorant	114	4/26	BW

Carbon Late Dates for Period of Selected Waterbirds (all from BSP)

Species	Date	Number	Observer(s)
Gadwall	5/5	4	RR, BRg
Green-winged Teal	5/5	2	RR, BRg
Ring-necked Duck	5/18	2	RR
Greater Scaup	4/29	2	GD
Lesser Scaup	4/15	4	RR, BRg, BW
White-winged Scoter	5/10	19	RR, BRg, PH
Long-tailed Duck	5/5	4	RR, BRg
Bufflehead	5/24	1	RR, BRg
Common Goldeneye	4/16	1	GD
Red-breasted Merganser	5/31+	1	RR, BRg
Ruddy Duck	4/26	1	RR, BRg, BRd, DH
Horned Grebe	5/5	2	BW, JW, WW
Red-necked Grebe	4/15	1	JW, WW
Bonaparte's Gull	5/13	2	BW, JW

This summary has thus far been heavy on BSP and waterbirds. The BSP bias must continue for a couple more paragraphs, but parts of the park apart from the water attracted birds too. **Ring-necked Pheasant** was conspicuous around PRBL in March and April, possibly following a release. The first **Osprey** appeared promptly 3/15 (RR, BRg et al.). An Osprey carried sticks to the platform at PRBL but did not ultimately attempt to nest (RR). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported along Pohopoco Dr. 3/13 (DH). Participants in a PAMC bird walk at the BSP picnic area 5/11 were treated to a dashing adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** (RR, m.ob.) that ended up tolerating the **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** until 5/16. A pair of **American Kestrels** were often obvious near a box below the power lines on the north shore. At least one **Merlin** continued in the park through March, with another sighting 4/20 (BW).

A **Horned Lark** landed in the field between Station Rd. and Pohopoco Dr. 5/9 (BW). **Winter Wren**, detected less frequently than it perhaps should be, was recorded 3/2-6 (RR, PH et al.). **American Pipit** proved elusive, with just one flyover 4/7 (NF), one at the dam 4/29 (RR,

BRg), and 3 near Twin Flower 5/7 (RR, BRg). The female **Eastern Towhee** that wintered near PRBL remained into April (RR, BRg), when her male compatriots' exhortations to imbibe one's herbal infusion became commonplace. A late **Fox Sparrow** was heard 4/17 (BW, RR, BRg). Finally, a likely **Dark-eyed Junco x White-throated Sparrow** (clearly mostly the former but with a mottled breast, pale lore spots, and the whitish throat/malar and eye arcs, wing bars and tertial edgings, and longer bill of the latter) was tentatively identified at a seed spread near PRBL 3/17 (BW, JW, WW) and relocated 3/20 (RR, BRg, ph.).

Beltzville L., while the most prominent body of water in Carbon, is certainly not the only productive one. Nearby PFR had a male Blue-winged Teal 4/19 (BW); Long-tailed Duck, Red-necked Grebe, and Red-throated Loon showed up other days, but on the *Monroe* side. Raptors on the PFR dam (a predictable perch for **Bald Eagles**) included an imm. **Golden Eagle** 3/29 (RR, BRg) and a **Merlin** 4/30 (RR, BRg). Northeast of Jim Thorpe, private Bear Creek L. (the site of the county's only American White Pelican, in April 2017) is not birded by many, but sheltered a menagerie of waterfowl 3/15 (one American Wigeon, 2 Northern Pintail, 4 Green-winged Teal, 55 Ring-necked Ducks, 6 Bufflehead, 8 Hooded Mergansers, 25 Common Mergansers), along with a **Peregrine Falcon** (DF).

Passerine movement peaked early, with migration seemingly slowing to a trickle before mid-May. Cuckoos were not abundant; the only **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard at SGL 40 east of White Haven 5/10 (BW). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was easy to find at BSP in April, with 4 at the point at one time (BW, JW, WW). **Acadian Flycatcher**, typically back by early May, did not return to its yearly haunts in the hemlocks at WCR until 5/29 (RR, BRg). Informal correspondence with birders elsewhere in the state indicated a similarly delayed appearance in counties directly south, yet a timely arrival in south-central PA. A good spot for **Alder Flycatcher** is Penn Forest Rd. at the east end of BSP, where one sang 5/19-29 (RR). Two more Alders were located on the south side of BSP 5/25 (RR). Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were not reported.

A **White-eyed Vireo** was audible from Old Mill Rd. below the dam at BSP 5/9-10 (BW). White-eyed was reported at BSP 5/3 (PB) and 5/17 (RR, BRg) as well. **Yellow-throated Vireo** was vocal across Hatchery Rd. from the jct. with Hell Hollow Rd. near PFR 5/10 (BW et al.), mingling its overdriven phrases with the deft drumming of a **Ruffed Grouse**. Completing the vireo set was a **Philadelphia**, always a nice spring bird in eastern PA, at Old Mill Rd. 5/10 (RR, BRg, PH). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was either less numerous or less accommodating than usual at WCR and was not recorded after the first third of May. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was coaxed out of a shrubby parking lot edge at BSP 5/14 (BW). A **Hermit Thrush** at the PFR overlook 4/18 (BW) fell between the expected wintering and nesting times. **Cedar Waxwing**, all but invisible prior to 5/10 or so, suddenly proliferated and was hard to miss for the period's remainder.

Purple Finch numbers exploded too, a bit earlier, with 19 in a backyard near BSP 4/19 (BW, JW, WW) and 50+ feasting on catkins in the park proper 5/5 (BW, JW, WW). A few **Pine Siskins** enlivened BSP through early May, but an actual flock "pushed" either into or out of the conifers at WCR 4/29 (AM, BW) was significant. *Carbon's* dearth of breeding **Vesper Sparrows** was offset by a secondhand report of a migrant near BSP (DH). Although the published Lehigh Valley area early date for **Lincoln's Sparrow** is 4/6, one at BSP 3/29 (RR, BRg) was preceded by a report from PRBL (DH). A **Lincoln's** also turned up in the Beltzville Dam spillway 5/3 (RR, BRg). **White-crowned Sparrow** was dependable at PRBL in May; an adult at WCR 5/5 (BW), adjacent to a **Brown Creeper** territory, felt less in its element. The sole **Rusty Blackbird** sighting was on Spring Mt. Rd. south of Beaver Meadows 3/17 (BW, JW, WW).

Away from its Blue Mt. population center, a **Worm-eating Warbler** sang from dense hillside growth on Hollow Rd. near Andreas 5/11 (BW). Golden-winged Warbler, last present at its former Hatchery Rd./WSF stronghold in 2014, went undetected, despite the persistence of appropriate habitat nearby. **Tennessee Warblers** were still passing through WSF 5/27 (AS). In a manifestly great week for **Mourning Warblers**, one observer (or in this case, listener) heard 3 different males,

on Sport Club Rd. in West Bownans 5/18 (seen also), on Old Mill Rd. 5/20, and from the Pine Run bridge 5/24 (RR). **Cape May Warbler** was not difficult to come across, especially in places with spruces (e.g., Yellow Run at WSF).

A pitch-perfect "Cerulean Warbler" below Bake Oven Knob 5/17 revealed itself to be, in fact, a morphologically-perfect **Black-throated Blue** (BW). This is a run-of-the-mill phenomenon in New England, but was disappointing here, given the paucity or absence of Ceruleans in *Carbon*. The most surprising wood-warbler was a presumed **Chestnut-sided x Black-throated Blue** (male) on Sand Quarry Rd. west of Ashfield 5/11 (BW, ph.). This apparently previously-undocumented hybrid was described as follows: "Black face and breast sides and bluish head of BTB, but wing bars, white eye ring, white patch on side of throat (above black), and faint chestnut on sides below back. Song was similar to CS, wavering with 'meet you' ending, clear notes without hint of rasp despite bird's overall appearance closer to BTB.

Miscellanea from the period included 2 late American Black Ducks at the concisely-designated Lehigh Co. Community College Wetland and Experimental Grassland west of Nesquehoning 5/15 (JB). Two Gadwalls and a pair of Ring-necked Ducks lingered at a farm pond on Stagecoach Rd. south of Beltzville L. through 4/6 and 4/13, respectively (BW). Ring-necks were reluctant to depart Tippetts Pond (east of Hometown) as well: 13, plus a Hooded Merganser, remained 4/23 (RR, BW), and one lonely or antisocial male was left 5/18 (BW), the last day for Ring-necked at BSP. Two **American Coots** lurked in emergent vegetation along the railroad tracks at Tippetts 4/14 (WW, JW, BW), and another was on the Lehigh Canal in Jim Thorpe 4/16 (DF). The large wetland on SGL 40, just south of I-80, yielded **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** during the early morning period of 5/9 (BW) but not thereafter. Virginia was, however, heard in its usual cattails at a different pond in the same complex on the evening of 5/18 (RR, BW). Two **American Woodcocks** were seen at SGL 40 that same night (RR, BW) but were not displaying, despite the fact that twitters and peents could be witnessed at PRBL, 14 miles to the south, through at least 5/9 (BW). The 5/9 rail and cock action was experienced during a 121-species *Carbon* big day (BW). While that seems a respectable total, it is challenging to gauge the success of an enterprise that few, if any, additional parties have attempted (or care about). **Wilson's Snipe** mucked around at Strohl Valley 3/19 (RR, BRg), Grist Mill Dr. near Quakake Cr. west of Hudsondale 4/6 (BW), and Smithlane Rd. east of Ashfield 4/7 (WW, JW, BW) and 4/9 (RR, BRg). As of 4/12, the **Great Blue Heron** rookery on Lower Smith Gap Rd. southeast of Little Gap contained 11 nests and at least 13 birds (RR).

An Osprey nest near Albrightsville appeared active (BW), an occupied **Cooper's Hawk** nest was discovered at BSP (RR), and the Bald Eagle nest in Leighton produced one eaglet (RR). Besides the Peregrine Falcons mentioned above, one was at MCL 4/6 (DT), and another, intriguingly, flushed from a ledge on Broad Mt., accessed from the SGL 141 trail system 3/27 (JB). An active **Purple Martin** box was noted near MCL (BW, JW, WW); other known colonies are closer to Leighton. **Cliff Swallows**, either local breeders or dispersers from the Pine Run bridge cluster, showed up at Parryville Dam (JW, WW). Last but by no means least, a winsome **Chukar** was observed ambulating along the entrance path at CCEEC 4/6 (DT et al.), its origin and objective equally uncertain.

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Centre County

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

(SCO).

Information for this report was obtained primarily from eBird and the State College Bird Club listserve with background and status now from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by NiB and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010). The following rare species were observed in five or more locations and will not be discussed further in this report: **Virginia Rail, Sandhill Crane, Great Egret, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, and Pine Siskin**.

At least one **Snow Goose** was reported in 4 locations 3/2-5/6. A dark morph bird was observed 3/2-15 in Pleasant Gap (JC, LC), 3/13 at the Curtin Wetland (JP), and 4/28 at the Pleasant Gap Fish Hatchery (JP), where it was noted as "hanging out along the creek from the pond by the barn". One was also spotted 5/6 at SCO, but its color morph is not known (JV). A **Ross's Goose**, the third on record, was observed "sitting with a small group of **Canada Geese**" at BESP 4/9 (BV). A possible earlier sighting of this bird occurred 4/5 when "a flock of Canadas with one small white goose passed by Tussey" (JG). Historical reports in eBird are from 2011 at COL; the 2017 bird was in a flock of other geese that moved between multiple locations in the county. A group of at least 4, possibly 5, **Cackling Geese** was reported "at the edge" of a flock of Canada Geese at Curtin Wetland 3/10 (JP).

Three birders spotted 2 **Red-necked Grebes** at BESP 4/26 (JC, LC, MN). A **Common Gallinule** was seen numerous times at the pond in SCO 4/15-25 (JV, et al.). The last observation, on 5/25, indicated 2 were present (EB).

A wet field along Tadpole Rd. proved to be a shorebird magnet, with several rare species reported, including one **Black-bellied Plover** 5/14 (JeL, et al.), 1-2 **Ruddy Turnstones** in breeding plumage 5/6-23 (CE, et al.), up to 4 **Dunlins** 5/14 (JV, et al.), a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/16 (JC), as many as 12 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/13-17 (EZ, et al.), and a male **Wilson's Phalarope** 5/14-16 (CB, et al.). Other observations of rare shorebirds included 4-6 Black-bellied Plovers in breeding plumage at BESP 5/10-12 (JV, et al.), and 5 **Sanderlings** feeding along the "wrack line at the edge of the water" at BESP 5/10 (EZ, CE). A Dunlin in breeding plumage was spotted 5/14 on Old Gatesburg Rd. (JC, CE, KE), and another was reported "feeding on the shoreline at the dam" at BESP 5/23 (CE, EZ). A Short-billed Dowitcher was recorded during a Nocturnal Flight Count 5/17 in State College (JG).

A trio of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** was seen 4/28 at BESP (EZ, JV). Three **Black Terns** were spotted at BESP 5/10 (SB) and 2 were observed flying over the lake at COL and "frequently swooping down to grab food off the surface of the water" 5/13 at COL (AS, et al.; CE quote). As many as 4 **Red-throated Loons** were noted 3/31-5/18 at BESP (BS, et al.). Three **American White Pelicans** – an accidental species – were photographed swimming on the lake at BESP 5/31 by an observer in a kayak (JH). This is the second report of this species; the first being in 2001, also at BESP (B&G, 2010; eBird). Photos are available in eBird.

A rare migrating **Least Bittern** that was present 5/18-30 at SCO was admired by many (JG, et al.). An observant birder noticed a **Cattle Egret** in a dead tree along US 322 east of State College 5/25 (EB). He was close enough to observe its plumage coloration and head markings. Two **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were also present. One was seen 5/10 at SCO (RR) and an adult was spotted 5/20 at the Curtin Wetlands (DB). An adult **Northern Goshawk** was spotted "moving from [the] open to a thick patch of pine trees" at SGL 100 (German Settlement Grasslands) 4/24 (JC). On a farm near Milheim, a **Barn Owl** was spotted "perched in top of one of the silos" 5/4 (CE, et al.).

A rare migrating **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was spotted 5/26 in the Bear Meadows Natural Area (JG). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, another rarity, was heard and recorded 5/25 on Greens Valley Rd. (JP). The recording is available through eBird. A few regular but rare **Marsh Wrens** migrated through the area. Singles were noted 5/2 at MMNC (NiB), 5/6 at the JUL (JC), 5/7 at SCO (JV), and 5/9 at Muddy Paws Marsh (SH).

Single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were reported in the Thicket Wild Area of Rothrock SF 5/8 (NiB), SCO 5/18 (SL), and at Laurel Haven 5/25 (MB). Two were recorded during a Nocturnal Flight Count in Bellefonte 5/22 (JP). Three male and 2 female **Evening Grosbeaks** were spotted 3/16 in the Rebersburg area (BoS, WL), while up to 8 were regulars at a

feeder station in the Sinking Cr. area 4/5-4/28 (LR). An alert birder was able to discern the field marks of a **Clay-colored Sparrow** as he walked through ARBOR 5/1 (EZ).

Three rare warbler species were reported. **Mourning Warblers** were noted – one each at SCO 5/4 (SeH), the Songbird Sanctuary in State College 5/19 (JK) and SGL 333-Spring Cr. canyon 5/23 (JC). The last one was heard and recorded 5/25 on Kline Rd. near Millheim (JG). A **Kentucky Warbler** was observed in SGL 333-Spring Cr. canyon over 3 days around 5/21 by a fisherman (JL). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were also reported, with one present in Unionville 4/13-5/4 (SL, et al.). Others were observed on Davidson Rd. near Bellefonte 4/15 and 5/2 in Curtin Wetland (both JP) and in SCO 5/11 (DE).

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Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Great Marsh (GM), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP).

The spring featured a wet-weather pattern that seems to be persistent in the east for the past few years. Seasonal highlights included massive flights of shorebirds heading over Bucktoe Creek Preserve, multiple Mississippi Kites seen from there, Little Blue Heron and Glossy Ibis in Pocopson, and Golden-winged Warbler and Summer Tanager both at Marsh Creek State Park.

A trio of **Trumpeter Swans** discovered feeding in a farm field among throngs of geese in Feb. was last reported 3/10 (MGa, RG). The migration peak for **Tundra Swans** is around the second week of Mar., so the high count of 540 in flight over Nottingham 3/10, was consistent with that timing (DQ). **Long-tailed Ducks** only sporadically appear; this season, singles were reported at MCSP 4/5 (MH) and 4/15 (JH). Always a good location for finding **Red-necked Grebes** due to the deep water and acreage, MCSP hosted up to 3 of these dagger-billed grebes in Mar. and reports continued there through 4/6 (m.ob.).

The scarcer of the 2 cuckoos is the **Black-billed Cuckoo**, which is a good find during migration. The 6 reports this season were each of one bird, which is expected of this typically solitary migrant, and ranged 5/2-25 (m.ob.). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** nest in the county, but are not common. Early May marks their arrival, and reports were widespread, but not as numerous as some years (m.ob.). The peak of **Common Nighthawk** migration through our region begins mid-May, so reports of 25 from Valley Forge's Mt. Misery 5/18 (RK) were not surprising, while on that same day in Spring City 17 were observed moving over the Schuylkill R. (NF, SS). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard in Chester Springs on the evening of 4/18 (PH), and was certainly a singing migrant. Two whips were detected from Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens, the region's stronghold for this declining species (AS).

Early Apr marked the first reports of **Virginia Rail**, and reports trickled off just before mid-May. This rail has been known to nest in the county in some of the larger wetlands. **Sora** are also low-density migrants that birders seek out in spring through detection in ideal wetland habitats. While uncommon, Soras were found at EP, CP, and GM, with occurrences 4/21-5/18 (m.ob.). This species is not known to nest in this location.

Chester proves to be one of the best counties in the Commonwealth for viewing the spectacle of strings of shorebirds winging their way to the Arctic nesting grounds during the second half of May. BCP, host to a watch dedicated to scanning the skies in pursuit of this migratory phenomena, this year witnessed a good diversity and numbers of birds overhead. **Black-bellied Plovers**, expected in these migrant flocks, had

a high-count of 685 on the evening of 5/25 (LL). Four **Semipalmated Plovers** at Chambers Lake 5/16 was a good find (RR). **Whimbrels** are the largest shorebirds we expect to see in flocks as they head northward, and tend to trend on the early side of the window of expectation. This year's sweet spot was 5/22 with 260 counted (LL), but 5/25 featured 80 on the day's roster of migrants overhead (LL). Approximately 100 **Sanderlings** were counted 5/25 (LL). The high count for **Dunlin** was also 5/25 when 270 were noted from BCP that evening (LL). **Short-billed Dowitchers** are rarely seen during their migration, but 5 were discovered in a mixed flock of shorebirds 5/25 (LL).

Six **Bonaparte's Gulls** made a late appearance 5/7 at MCSP (LL). This species typically moves through in the first half of Apr. so May birds are tardy. A record high count for **Forster's Tern** in *Chester* was 23, found over Honey Brook WTP during a rain storm 5/12 (NF, SS). This is an irregular migrant in spring, so any occurrence is noteworthy. Four Forster's were found at Struble Lake 5/13 (LL).

American Bitterns are uncommon migrants through the county in spring, but mid-Apr into the first few days of May is the best time frame to increase your luck in finding one of these secretive marsh birds. One was observed at ChesLen Preserve 4/17 (LL, KP), and another 5/2 at MCSP (DH). A small wetland behind an Ace Hardware Store in Pocopson Twp. turned into a wading bird magnet at the end of Apr. An adult **Little Blue Heron**, irregular in spring, was found there 4/29 (MG), but the previous day the location had hosted a **Glossy Ibis**, which is less common and always nice bird to see in *Chester* (RG, m.ob.).

BCP is widely known to be the spot to go if you want to try your luck at seeing a **Mississippi Kite** in *Pennsylvania*. It is unclear of exactly why this is, but certainly the location in the extreme southeastern part of the state plays a factor, and the open horizons and dedication to daily watches for them, plays another part. This species is a sporadic nesting bird in states to the north of Pennsylvania, including neighboring states of New York and New Jersey. Some New England states have also documented successful nesting of this southern hawk, but no evidence of nesting in Pennsylvania has been detected, yet. These kites made their 2019 debut at BCP 5/19, and were seen a total of 6 days, through 5/29 (LL, m.ob.), with a high of 3 on 5/20.

A **Long-eared Owl** was found roosting at the GM, 3/30 (MC). This species has been infrequently detected in recent years, but this location has been known to be a spot to host them. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard from Octorara Res. 3/15 (MG), which has good roost habitat for this species. A wonderful surprise was of a Saw-whet spending time in the yard of lucky birder 4/10 (MD). Another was reported from Landenberg 4/12 (JE). Remarkable was a **Short-eared Owl**, at BCP 3/24 (LL), a first for the location, seen flying over the meadow there just one time. This declining species is only irregularly found in the county in the last decade. An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a nice visitor to a feeding station in Kimberton, 5/14 (LM). Another surprise was an adult spotted at BCP 5/29 (LL). This species is uncommon in the county at all times of the year, so any observation is noteworthy.

There were 3 reports of **Olive-sided Flycatchers**, all from late May. This is an uncommon, but regular migrant. BCP is a good place to find them, since there are many favorable snags for perching; observations of this large flycatcher were made 5/23 and 5/24 (LL, m.ob.). Another Olive-sided was reported from Crow's Nest Preserve 5/25 (IN, LH). **Alder Flycatchers** move through the county during migration, but are hard to detect unless vocalizing because of their identical appearance to the **Willow Flycatcher**, a locally common nesting bird. This year, a single vocalizing Alder was heard from EP 5/14 (LL) and 5/20 (MB). A **Least Flycatcher** was spotted at EP 4/26 (JD) and 5/14 (LL) and one was banded at Rushton Farm 5/14 (WS, et al.).

It was a good irruptive year for **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in the region, and reports continued widely, mostly from feeding stations, through 5/23 (m.ob.). A **Marsh Wren** was heard singing in the Great Marsh, a location where habitat is supportive for this irregular spring migrant (MC, MH, RG, ZM). **Swainson's Thrushes** moved through 4/29-5/27, readily detected by birders across the county (m.ob.). Less common than Swainson's, **Gray-cheeked Thrushes**, another migratory catharus thrush we expect in spring, were reported 5/9-5/19 from a few locations with wooded habitats (m.ob.).

A late **Purple Finch** was noted in flight over BCP 5/20 (JH, LL). **Pine Siskins** irrupted this past winter, and this presence carried into spring. Most observations were of birds attending feeders. Reports continued through 5/24 (m.ob.), with hopes of nesting evidence to be revealed, but this did not happen during spring. A **Lapland Longspur** was handily picked out of a flock of **Horned Larks** in Honey Brook 3/1 (JM).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was a good find along Wilson Rd in Doe Run 4/23 (LL), the only observation of this former nesting bird. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** discovered at Goat Hill 5/7 (HM, KF) was a surprise, since spring records for Lincoln's are less expected than in fall due to the migratory path these birds typically navigate in spring. A nice total of 21 **Rusty Blackbirds** were counted at GM 4/7 (MC). Double-digit numbers of this blackbird are always welcome, as this species is declining precipitously throughout its range.

A total of 31 warbler species were recorded during spring, which delighted birders seeking them out. There was a single **Golden-winged Warbler** observation, from MCSP 5/2 (LL). This species' population is sharply falling, so all reports are good. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found at the Westtown School 4/10 (m.ob.) during a walk with the West Chester Bird Club. Another was reported from Hibernia Park 4/28 (RR). The boreal nesting warblers, particularly **Tennessee**, **Cape May**, and **Bay-breasted Warblers**, continue to be easier to find in the last several springs, than in previous years. This trend of what seems to be an uptick in numbers of these species is linked to the Spruce Budworm Moth larva, which are still in a boon cycle. That larvae is a reliable and steady food source for feeding the young of those warbler species, and is credited for what appears to be better populations.

A young male **Summer Tanager** was a great find at MCSP 5/6 (EC). This southern tanager has nested previously in the Commonwealth, and from neighboring *Berks*, but no recent nesting of this irregular migrant has been occurred within the county.

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Clarion County

Locations: Curllsville (CV), Kahle Lake (KL), Mt Airy (MA), Mt Zion (SGL 330/Piney Tract)(MZ), New Bethlehem (NB), Rimersburg (RI), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT).

Reports of both teal were noted this season, with 4 **Blue-winged Teal** seen on ponds outside of RI 4/2 (MM) and 2 **Green-winged Teal** remaining in NB on Redbank Creek from winter through 4/14 (MM). The only report of **Long-tailed Duck** was of 5 at KL 3/30 (MD). An excellent breeding record for the southern part of the county was a sighting of **Common Mergansers** on Redbank Creek along the RVT, with a female and 8 young seen near Lawsonham 5/24 (DG, GG, CW).

In a better showing for the season, **Ruffed Grouse** reports were up. Singles was seen near CV 4/1 (CW), at MA 4/20(MM), Strattanville 4/29 (AB), and Leeper 5/2 (SK). **Red-necked Grebe** appears to be an increasingly regular though still unusual migrant, with a 3/30 report of a single bird where they are most often found, at KL (MD). Two nightjars

were noted, the first being just one report of **Common Nighthawk**, a single hunting at dusk near CV, giving it's buzzy call and "boom" 5/23 (CV). Also noted were **Whip-poor-wills**, with one singing at dawn on SGL 74 above Millcreek 4/29 (AB).

Upland Sandpipers were not reported until late in the season at MA, their usual location, with one there 5/27-28 (EN, KN). Three **Least Sandpipers** were found at NB on Redbank Creek 5/5 (MM), and at the same location **Spotted Sandpipers** were also noted, with one there 5/16-18 (J&AK, MM). **American Woodcocks** returned later than last year, with 2 first heard in display near Fisher 3/5 (DK). Winnowing **Wilson's Snipe** was an unusual occurrence, as they are not usually heard in any kind of breeding display. One to 2 were heard making this haunting sound as they displayed in a marshy field near CV 4/6-13 (DD, CW). Normally, **Solitary Sandpiper** is one of the most common shorebirds, but only one was reported this year, from MA 4/29-30 (MM). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at NB on the southern border along Redbank Creek 4/24 (MM). More remarkable at this same location, a **Red-throated Loon** was found and photographed 3/3 and continued through 3/4, utilizing the deeper water behind a small dam at this area (DD, J&AK, TS, CW). While not a county record, it is much more unusual in this location than at the deeper waters of KL on the northern border.

An **Osprey** was reported at KL 5/11 (RMc). Possibly the later date could show promise for breeding activity at this location. **Northern Harriers** showed increased numbers this year, with one or 2 noted in various areas, mostly south of I-80, including Strattanville, Turkey City, MZ, MA, and near CV from 3/30 through the end of season (BC, Mha, ML, MM, EN, et al.). The most promising breeding activity was a pair seen on Rankin Rd near CV 4/20, and a male seen doing courtship flights at another location near CV 4/19 (DD, CW). A pair of **Cooper's Hawks** was present 4/6-22, when an active nest was located (CW). While a rather common species, nest reporting is rare. Two known nesting locations for **Bald Eagles** were again active this year. An area along the Clarion River near Sligo was noted with an adult on the nest, possibly with young, 4/5 (CW). Another location along the Clarion River near Callensburg was successful this year with an adult feeding 2 healthy looking young ones 4/20 (DD, CW) and 4 birds reported there, presumably 2 adults and 2 young, 4/27 (ES).

A **Great Horned Owl** was found nesting in an open stand of hickory trees on a farm near CV 3/10 (DM). It continued there with at least one owlet being fed through 4/11 (DD, DM, MM, CW). By 4/27, the nest was empty, hopefully indicating a successful fledging. A few sightings of **Short-eared Owl** were noted, the first being one at MZ 3/31 (MHa); 2 were found near Turkey City at a new area 4/1 (ML), and one on Rankin Rd near CV 4/7 (CW). Only one report of the least common owl, **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, was submitted, that of a bird found hunting along CV road 3/11 (CW).

The least common woodpecker reported at any season is the **Red-headed Woodpecker**, and so worth noting was a sighting of a bird near Limestone 4/28 (AB). The only falcon family species was a **Merlin** found in CV 4/2 (DD, CW). Only one **Alder Flycatcher** was noted, singing in a marshy alder-filled area along a tributary of Licking Creek near CV during their normal late migration period 5/24 (CW). **Common Ravens** continue to be more commonly reported, and to go along with that finally a positive breeding record is noted with 4 birds including recently fledged young seen along the RVT near Redbank 5/24 (MH, RH). Three were also previously seen in the same area 4/18 (CW), where there is ample habitat with mature forest along Redbank Creek and also exposed rock outcroppings in places.

It was a good winter for some northern birds including **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, and they were found in several areas with one to 2 at feeders through 5/4, including at CV, Limestone, Clarion and RI (AB, MM, ES, TS, CW). **Winter Wrens** are occasionally noted away from breeding areas in migration, but not always common to find them singing, which one was doing actively when found near CV 4/2 (CW).

The **Evening Grosbeaks** that spent the winter continued fairly late into spring, ending up one of the best invasion years for this species in many years. Near Strattanville, where they spent the winter, they were seen at several feeder areas. At their longest standing location, there were still up to 30 birds, 14 being tagged, through at least 4/8 (LT), and

at a nearby location 10 were seen 4/27 (MHa). A short distance away at another feeder location, up to 25 were still seen through 5/2 (RM), and the last report was also in this immediate area with 4 seen 5/4 (AB). The last finch family species of note was **Pine Siskin**, with up to 11 seen at one of the same locations as the grosbeaks through 5/2 (RM). Up to 4 were seen in Clarion 4/7-30 (TS), 3 at RI 3/16-5/2 (MM), and up to 5 near CV 4/24-5/10 (CW).

Henslow's Sparrows generally appear to migrate along a fairly narrow range of dates across their eastern and midwestern range according to eBird data. The midwest birds usually seem to arrive just several days ahead of those in the east. This compiler has attempted to accurately obtain an arrival date for birds in the county over the past 8 years and this year a new early arrival date was recorded, with a single bird singing in one of the regular breeding locations, the CV strips, at dusk 4/11 (CW). These sparrows are rarely if ever recorded away from their typical breeding sites, and early in the season are often best detected singing at dusk. They are predominately found in reclaimed strip mine areas and abandoned fields south of I-80 but this year a new location was found with singing males found north of the boundary near Strattanville 4/20 (MHa). In their other usual locations such as MA and MZ, typical numbers of singing males were reported from arrival through the end of the season (m.ob.).

Worm-eating Warblers continue to be reliable along the southern border at the RVT near Lawsonham and Redbank, with up to 2 found there 5/4-24 (MH, RH, CW). One was also found at a more unusual location, with a bird reported in the MZ area 5/8 (MG). **Golden-winged Warblers** have not often been found in recent years, even in migration, so it was good to have one this year, located near Limestone 4/27 (AB). Unfortunately, it is doubtful that there is habitat in the area to support breeding of this declining species. A singing **Mourning Warbler** was another good species for the season, found in brushy hillside habitat near CV 5/21 (CW). **Kentucky Warblers** continue to be one of the least common breeding warblers but continue a presence in good habitat along the southern border along the RVT. A singing male was located there 5/23-24 (DG, GG, CW). Several miles away in similar habitat another singing male was located 5/20 (CW). In this same location along the RVT, **Cerulean Warblers** remain in encouraging numbers, with up to 6 singing males located along several miles of trail 5/4-24 (MH, RH, CW). **Yellow-throated Warblers** are also found in this location in smaller numbers, and this year a single singing male was noted near Lawsonham, first heard 4/18 and continuing through 5/24 (CW).

Ample pine stands, especially on reclaimed strip mine areas, provide some excellent habitat for **Pine Warblers**, and typical of their early migration, one was seen starting 3/31 at MZ (MHa), and at least one continuing there through 5/24 (JH). A pair was also present at a suet feeder near Strattanville beginning 4/7, with some large pine stands also in vicinity for potential breeding habitat (LT). The reclaimed strip mine habitat that provides pine stands also provides excellent habitat for another prominent breeding warbler for *Clarion*, as it becomes more overgrown each year. This is the **Prairie Warbler**, which is present in good numbers in many areas south of I-80 where mining was prevalent. This year was no exception with an excellent number of singing males found starting 4/20 and scattered across many locations (m.ob.), and this is seen in the cluster of records reflecting the county in eBird. The last warbler of note is one also not reported regularly though likely present in areas not birded often. Two **Canada Warblers** were found in the forested area along the Clarion River where good habitat is located north of Clarion 5/15 (JF).

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Clearfield County

Locations: Beaver Meadow Walkway in DuBois (BMW), Curwensville Lake (CL).

Three **Sandhill Cranes** were photographed near CL 3/9 (anon, *fide* JG). Although rare throughout the state, **Upland Sandpipers** are regularly seen on Sandy Ridge Road with 2 birds observed 4/30 (NV) and one 5/19 (TG). One was also seen at nearby State Game Lands 87 on 5/1 (BM). One **American Bittern** was observed at BMW 5/2 (DR, BM). **Great Egrets** were found at the Platt Road swamp 4/29 (DR) and 5/11 (JS), at BMW 5/22 (BM), and at Sandy Lick Creek in DuBois 5/24 (DR).

Ospreys continue to nest in the *Clearfield* with one observed on a nest at Shaggers Inn Shallow Water Impoundment 4/19 (BM). A **Merlin** was observed in DuBois near a previous year's nesting site 4/7 (TGi). **Red-Headed Woodpeckers** are rare visitors to the high plateau making a 5/4 observation near Dubois noteworthy (MA). **Northern Mockingbird** sightings continue to increase on the high plateaus with one observation near Mahaffey 4/27 (BV, NV) and one near Frenchville 5/17 (PK). A single male **Evening Grosbeak** lingered near Frenchville 5/4-5/6 (PK). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was observed at CL 5/17 (JS).

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Clinton County

Locations: Lock Haven (LH), Loganton (LG).

A lone **Red-necked Grebe** was found on the Susquehanna River at LH 3/12 (WL). **Ospreys** returned to nest again during the period in Mill Hall on a golf course cell tower (m.ob.). An **American Bittern** in a field puddle provided good roadside views at McElhatten 3/30 (BS, WL).

There was local excitement on 5/1 when a first county record **Loggerhead Shrike** was discovered hawking insects along a farm field east of LH (BZ, VS, m.ob.). Much to the disappointment of others, the bird was a one-day wonder. A **Dickcissel** was observed coming to a feeder in Eastville near LG 5/27 (JK). **Evening Grosbeaks** continued coming to feeders at LG until 5/6 (AF) and at West Keating until 5/10 (PG).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, 570-748-7511, wnlaubscher@comcast.net**, Amos Fisher, Polly Graybill, Jesse Kaufman, Vesta Schach, Brian Schmoke, Beth Zbegner.

Columbia County

Locations: Flooded Driving Range in Scott Township (FDR), Fort McClure Boulevard (FMB), Jamison City (JC), Ridge Road (RR), Sands Street Flooded Field (SS)

Spring was another extremely wet season throughout the region. Overall, birder effort was down with fewer eBird submissions than normal. As a result, there were only a few notable sightings.

The season's only report of **Common Nighthawk** was of a group of 5 birds hawking insects during the late afternoon of 5/23 (AK, KP). Normally, Nighthawks are regularly observed during spring migration so the lack of reports is notable. The season's wet conditions produced good shorebird habitat in the usual spots. **Semipalmated Plovers** were reported 3 times, including 3 at the FDR 5/23 (AK), one at SS 5/23 (EH) and one at SS 5/26 (AK, KP). Probably the highlight of the season was a single **Short-billed Dowitcher** observed at SS 5/20-5/21 (AK, KP).

The season's only **Barred Owl** was reported along RR 5/28 (JF). This is notable because the location is very near Bloomsburg, not near the normal big woods areas where they are more often seen and heard. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported just once, from a residential location near JC 5/4 (JL).

Observers: **Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com,** Jacquelynn Formosa, Evan Houston, Judith Lynn, Karol Pasquinnelli.

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Marsh- McMichael Road (CM-MMR), Geneva Marsh (GM), Pymatuning S.P.- Causeway (P S.P.- C), Pymatuning S.P.- Espyville Marina (P S.P.-EM), Pymatuning S.P.- Hartstown Marsh (P S.P.- HM), Pymatuning S.P.-Miller's Ponds (P S.P.-MP), Pymatuning S.P.- Spillway (P S.P.-S)

The only **Snow Goose** was a single at P S.P.- MP 3/2 (RL). **Cackling Goose** is infrequently observed in *Crawford*, so sightings of a single at Conneaut Lake- Marina 3/8 (RN) and a great count of 7 at P S.P.- EM 3/9 (RHo, TN, KP, MW) and 3/12 (IF, SR) are especially notable. Notable observations of **Trumpeter Swan** included 2 at Custards Marsh 4/5 (MHi, RHi) and 5/22 (RK), one at Erie N.W.R. 4/9 (JM), 4/10 (CN), and 5/21 (AS), and 2 at GM 5/24 (JH). High counts of **Tundra Swan** included 500 at Conneaut Lake- Marina 3/1 (KP) and 710 in the Pymatuning area 3/10 (RL). A late Tundra Swan was in the Guys Mills area 5/1 (DS).

A notable count of 160 **Wood Ducks** were seen near P S.P.- HM 4/2 (MW). Late observations of **Northern Shoveler** included 2 at P S.P.- MP 5/4 (JH), up to 3 at CM- MMR 5/3-4 (JH, KP, KR), and one at the same location 5/5 and 5/9 (WDD, GS, TN). A good count of 200 **Gadwalls** were observed at GM 3/27 (RL). A notable late count of 50 Gadwalls were at Pymatuning S.P.- Hartstown Project 5/5 (NA). Other late Gadwall included 2 at P S.P.- S 5/4 (JH) and 25 at P S.P.- MP 5/4 (JH). Two late **American Wigeons** were at P S.P.- S 5/11 (RT). A good count of 100 **American Black Ducks** were observed near P S.P.- HM 3/22 (MW). Great counts of **Northern Pintail** included 260 on Teakettle Road in the P S.P.- MP area 3/17 (MH) and 234 at the same location 3/19 (MF). A very high count of 2410 **Canvasbacks** were observed in the Pymatuning area 3/10 (RL). A great count of 769 **Redheads** were at Conneaut Lake-Marina 3/9 (DK, MAK). A late **Ring-necked Duck** was at Pymatuning S.P.- Fish Hatchery 5/22 (MV) and 5/24 (RK). A good count of 400 Ring-necked Ducks were observed at Custards Marsh 3/17 (KD, DF, DK, KSJ). A notable count of 25 **Greater Scaup** were observed at Conneaut Lake 3/7 (JF) and 3/9 (BW). A high count of 300 **Lesser Scaup** were at Conneaut Lake 3/29 (CN).

White-winged Scoter is infrequently observed in *Crawford*. Sightings included one at Conneaut Lake- Marina 3/1- 3/9 (m.ob.), one at P S.P.- C 3/9 (MK), and 2 at Custards Marsh 4/13 (RL). **Long-tailed Duck** was observed more frequently than normal for the early spring season. Sightings occurred at expected locations 3/1-4/5 (m.ob.). A **Bufflehead** was at Pymatuning S.P.- Fish Hatchery 5/16 (MV), a late date for the species. A good count of 825 **Common Goldeneyes** were at Conneaut Lake 3/10 (RL). A late Goldeneye was at Canadohta Lake 5/11 (DA). A notable count of 300 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were observed at P S.P.- S 4/5 (CN). A good count of 104 **Ruddy Ducks** were at P S.P.- S 4/8 (SK).

A **Northern Bobwhite** was heard in the Custards Marsh- Shafer and Towpath Roads area 5/7 (JM). **Ruffed Grouse** is increasingly scarce in *Crawford*, so an increased number of observations this spring throughout the county is significant (m.ob.). A good count of 42 **Horned Grebes** were at P S.P.- C 3/31 (MW). A **Red-necked Grebe**, notable bird for *Crawford*, was at P S.P.- C 3/31 (MHa, JM, MW, KZ), 4/3 (MW), and 4/5 (CN, TN). Two Red-necks were seen in the same location 4/5 (KZ) and one again there 4/18 (IF, RL).

Common Nighthawks were observed in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). Good counts included 25 at Erie N.W.R. 5/21 (AS) and 19 at GM 5/22 (RK). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard in the Meadville area 5/3 (recording given to IF). Early observations of **Chimney Swift** included one seen and heard on the Clear Lake Bike Trail 4/12 (ES), one on E. Spring Road near Conneautville 4/19 (KZ), 3 at SGL 277 on 4/21 (RS), and 3 on the Route 322 Towpath 4/21 (MW). A good count of 300 birds was made in the Guys Mills area 4/24 (GR).

King Rail is very notable for *Crawford*, so the reports of a bird calling at GM 5/17 (AMa), 5/24 (JH), and 5/31 (CE, EZ) are significant. **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** were observed in their usual locations and numbers, primarily in the Conneaut Marsh area (m.ob.). Good counts of Virginia Rail included 10 at CM- MMR 4/26 (MW) and 20 at GM 5/23 (JH). Good counts of Sora included 10 at GM 5/22 and 5/23 (JH). An early **Common Gallinule** was at GM 4/18 (IF, RL). Common Gallinules were otherwise observed in usual numbers and locations (m.ob.). **Sandhill Cranes**, increasingly observed, were seen in expected numbers and locations throughout the county (m.ob.).

Upland Sandpipers were observed in their expected numbers and locations in the P S.P.- MP and Pymatuning S.P.- Wilson Road areas 4/18 through the end of the season (m.ob.). A good count of 4 were at Pymatuning S.P.- Wilson Road 4/20 (JB, SB). **Stilt Sandpipers** are rarely seen in *Crawford* in the spring, so the observation of 2 at P S.P.- MP 5/10 (TN, MW) is notable. An early **Dunlin** was at P S.P.- MP 4/1 (MW), 4/2 (RN), and 4/6 (JM). Additional early observations at the same location included 12 on 4/12 (MW) and 2 on 4/13 (CN). Early observations of **Least Sandpiper** included 2 at P S.P.- MP 4/11 (MHa) and 11 at the same location 4/12 (MW). A good count of 35 were seen at P S.P.- MP 5/11 (m.ob.). The only observation of **White-rumped Sandpiper** was one at P S.P.- MP 5/10 (TN). Early observations of **Pectoral Sandpiper** included up to 2 at P S.P.- MP 4/1 (CN, MW) and 2 at the same location 4/2 (JM). A late bird was observed at P S.P.- MP 5/24 (RK). **Western Sandpiper** is rare for *Crawford*, so the observation of 2 off of Swamp Road in the Pymatuning area 5/9 (SH) is notable.

A high count of 24 **Wilson's Snipe** were observed at P S.P.- MP 4/5 (TN). There were several early observations of **Solitary Sandpiper**, including one at P S.P.- MP on 4/1 (JM, CN, MW) and 4/2 (RN, MW). An early **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at P S.P.- MP 3/25-3/31 (JF, AM, JM, MW). An excellent observation of 11 **Willetts** were seen flying over GM 5/4 (CG). Early reports of **Greater Yellowlegs** included one at P S.P.- MP 3/12-3/16 (m.ob.) and 4 there 3/17 (MHa). High counts included 125 seen at the same location 4/21 (CW) and 115 on 4/27 (RHo, TN).

A good count of 4188 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were in the Pymatuning area 4/6 (RL). **Franklin's Gull** is rare for *Crawford*, so the sighting of one at P S.P.- EM 5/31 (m.ob.) is notable. An **Iceland Gull**, infrequently observed in *Crawford*, flew overhead near P S.P.- HM 3/23 (MW). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** is increasingly, but still notable, observed during spring. Sightings included up to 5 at Pymatuning S.P.- Dam 3/8-4/1 (m.ob.), up to 2 in the Jamestown area 3/17 and 3/21 (MW), one at P S.P.- EM 3/19 (MH) and 4/14 (JB), and one at P S.P.- C 4/9 (RL). There were several observations of **Glaucous Gull**, unexpected and notable in *Crawford*, including 4 at P S.P.- C 3/2 (RL), one at Pymatuning S.P.- Dam 3/8 (MW) and 3/9 (ME, GK, MAK, LS), one at P S.P.- C 3/8 (MW) and 3/14 (JM, MW), and one at P S.P.- S 3/12 (EN, KN). **Great Black-backed Gull** is rarely observed in *Crawford*, so observations of singles at P S.P.- C 3/6 (MW) and Pymatuning S.P.- Dam 3/9-3/14 (m.ob.) are significant. A good count of 8 were at P S.P.- C 3/13 (RL).

A good count of at least 40 **Caspian Terns** were at P S.P.- EM 4/18 (IF, RL). **Black Tern** is rarely observed in *Crawford* anymore, so the sighting of 4 near Pine Twp. 5/24 (JS) is significant. **Common Tern** is a scarce bird for *Crawford*, so the observation of 2 at Pymatuning S.P.- Wilson Boat Launch 4/11 (KN) and a one at P S.P.- C 5/5 (IF, RL) is significant. A high count of 6 **Forster's Tern** were at the Pymatuning S.P.- Laboratory of Ecology Site 5/8 (DW). Observations of **Red-throated Loon**, rare for *Crawford*, included singles at P S.P.- EM 4/2 (RN) and Conneaut Lake 4/25 (RL). A notable count of 815 **Double-crested Cormorant** were at P S.P.- S 5/11 (RT).

Notable observations of **American Bittern** included one heard at P S.P.- HM 4/10 (PW, RW), 3 flying over GM 5/5 (IF, RL), 3 heard at the same location 5/8 (CL), and one heard at the same location 5/10 (TN), 5/11 (RT), and 5/13 (TN, KP). **Least Bittern** is scarce here, so observations of a singles at Geneva Marsh- The Wells 5/4 (IF, SR), at GM 5/10 (TN) and 5/24 (JH), and at CM- MMR 5/27 (CN) are notable. Early observations of **Great Egret** included one at P S.P.- C 3/31 and 4/3 (MW). Somewhat late observations included singles at Pymatuning S.P.- Hartstown Project 5/22 (MV) and P S.P.- MP 5/24 (RK, MV). **Little Blue Heron** is very rare for *Crawford*, so the sighting of one in adult plumage

at the wetlands off of Kreitz Road near Cambridge Springs 4/15-4/21 (m.ob.) is notable. An early **Green Heron** was at SGL 277 on 4/11 (RS). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** is scarce in *Crawford*, so observations of singles at Pymatuning Goose Management Area 4/6, Pymatuning S.P.- Fish Hatchery 5/4, and GM 5/23 (JH) are notable.

Osprey were seen in their expected number and locations (m.ob.). Notable sightings included a single early bird seen near Church Road in the Pymatuning area 3/17 (KD, DF, DK) and a good count of 6 at Woodcock Lake- Causeway 4/9 (BW). There were several late observations of **Rough-legged Hawk** in the Pymatuning area 4/1-5/5, with the latest date being 2 seen at Pymatuning S.P.- Hartstown Project 5/5 (NA), a very late date for this species. A fledgling **Great Horned Owl** was heard in the Custards area 5/11 (RT).

Red-headed Woodpecker were seen in expected numbers and locations throughout the county (m.ob.). A high of 5 were observed near N. Lake Road in the Pymatuning area 4/8 (JM, MW). Observations of **Merlin**, expected but notable, included singles at Conneaut Lake- Marina 3/12 (IF, SR), P S.P.- MP 3/24 (ME), Pymatuning- Goose Management Area 4/2 and 4/25 (RL), P S.P.- HM 4/10 (MW), Kreitz Road 4/20 (MD), Woodcock Lake- Abandoned Road Trail 5/3 (CP), and the Pymatuning-South Lake Road area 5/14 (SS). There were a higher than average number of **Peregrine Falcon** sightings, including singles at P S.P.- C 3/7 (MW); Pymatuning S.P.- Hartstown Project 3/9 (GK, MAK), 3/12 (EN, KN), and 3/31 (MW); Pymatuning area 3/15 (KP) and 4/18 (ST); P S.P.- MP 3/16 (RN), 3/24 (m.ob.), and 3/28 (JM, MW); Erie N.W.R. 3/27 (GR); and CM- MMR 3/17 (RL) and 4/7 (TN).

Two slightly early **Eastern Kingbirds** were seen near Hartstown Road near Linesville 4/20 (JB, SB). Observations of **Northern Shrike** were down during the winter and the beginning of the spring season, so sightings of a singles near SGL 146 on 3/6-3/9 (GR, TN, KP, KZ) and at Erie N.W.R. 3/28 (EN, KN) are notable. Observations of **White-eyed Vireo**, expected but scarce, included 3 at CM- MMR 5/18 (DK), one at Erie N.W.R. 5/22 (AL), and 2 in the same area 5/23 (SJ). Sightings of **Philadelphia Vireo**, expected but scarce, included one at Custards Marsh- Shafer Road 5/7 (JM, TN, MW), 2 in the Rundletown Road area 5/16 (LE JH, LS, AT, MT), 2 in the Woodcock Lake area 5/16 (RHo, TN), and one at Erie N.W.R. 5/21 (AS).

The number of observations of **Common Raven** has been steadily increasing, and this season there was again a higher number of sightings than expected throughout the county, especially central and eastern *Crawford* (m.ob.). A very high count for *Crawford* of 7 birds were seen at SGL 144 on 5/21 (RHo, TN). A good count of 42 **Horned Larks** were at Bradshaw Road in the Woodcock area 3/7 (TN). Additionally, sightings of Horned Lark are infrequent in May in *Crawford* and many likely represent probable breeding birds. One was seen at P S.P.- MP 5/22 (JH).

A great count of 240 **Purple Martins** are nesting at a private location in the Conneautville area. They first arrived 3/27 (AT). Notable counts of **Tree Swallow** included 150 at CM- MMR 4/5 (TN) and 160 at P S.P.- HM 4/10 (MW). A good count of 20 **Bank Swallows** were at Cussewago Bottom 5/11 (GR). A notable count of 60 **Cliff Swallow** were observed in the Pymatuning area 5/31 (CH). An early **Barn Swallow** was at CM- MMR 3/30 (BD).

Red-breasted Nuthatch, notable but expected, was observed in small numbers in expected locations throughout the county and season (m.ob.). A good count of 6 were off of Seiler Road near Townville 5/6 (AL). Observations of **Winter Wren**, expected but usually scarce, included one in the Greendale Ravine in the Meadville area 3/26 (IF), one heard at the same location 5/7 (IF), one near P S.P.- HM 4/1 (MW), one at SGL 213 on 4/7 (TN), one near Seiler Road 4/17 (AL), and 3 at the same location 4/22 (AL). A **Sedge Wren**, a scarcely observed bird in *Crawford*, was heard singing near Thatcher Road near Conneautville 5/11 (AE, KZ). **Marsh Wren** were seen in expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). A good count of 20 were at GM 5/23 (JH).

Reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, notable for *Crawford*, included a good count of 4 near Erie N.W.R. 5/16 (GR) and 2 at GM (AMa). An early **Hermit Thrush** was observed in the Meadville area 3/23 (SSa). Notable late observation of Hermit Thrush included one singing at a private location in the Conneautville area 5/21 (KZ) and 2 singing in the Rundletown area 5/30 (KZ). An early **Wood Thrush** was at a private

residence in the Meadville area 4/21 (KP). A notable count of 115 **American Robin** were in the Cussewago Bottom area 3/16 (JF). **Northern Mockingbird** is expected but scarce in *Crawford*. Observations included singles at a private residence in the Meadville area 3/17 (RL), near Walters Road in the Venango area 3/21 and 3/26 (JF), near Guys Mills 4/12 (GR), and near East Gelvin Road 5/31 (RN).

Notable observations of **Evening Grosbeak**, an excellent species for *Crawford*, included one in the Guys Mills area 4/2 (GR) and 2 in the Canadohta Lake area 4/28 (MB). There were a higher than expected number of **Purple Finch** observations throughout the county (m.ob.). A high count of 10 were at Seiler Road 5/1 (AL). There were several observations of **Pine Siskin**, expected but notable, throughout the county in expected numbers (m.ob.). Observations of **Snow Bunting** included 2 seen in the Pymatuning area 3/2 (RL), one in the Pymatuning area 3/2 (BD), 8 at P S.P.- MP 3/4, and one at P S.P.- C 3/21 (MW).

Chipping Sparrow observations occurred much earlier than normal this year, including 6 seen in the Hartstown area 3/18 (MW), one at SGL 277 on 3/25 (RS), 2 near Route 285 in the Pymatuning area 3/26 (MW), 2 at Erie N.W.R. 3/27 (GR), one in the Meadville area 3/30 (RR), and one at Pymatuning S.P.- Hartstown Project 3/31 (AM). Early observations of **Field Sparrow** included 3 near P S.P.- HM 3/26 (MW) and one at Erie N.W.R. 3/27 (GR). **Vesper Sparrow** is scarcely reported, so sightings of singles at P S.P.-C 3/17 (RL) and on E. Spring Road near Conneautville 4/19 (KZ) are significant. An early **Savannah Sparrow** was near P S.P.- HM 3/26 (MW). **Fox Sparrow** were seen in expected number and locations throughout the county (m.ob.).

Bobolink, expected but scarce in *Crawford*, were observed primarily in their usual locations in the Pymatuning and Erie N.W.R. areas (m.ob.). Observations of **Rusty Blackbird**, expected but notable, were made throughout the county in expected locations (m.ob.). A high of 90 were near P S.P.- HM 3/22 (MW).

Louisiana Waterthrush and **Northern Waterthrush** were observed primarily in expected locations and numbers throughout the county (m.ob.). A **Golden-winged Warbler**, notable for *Crawford*, was observed at CM- MMR 5/12 (IF). **Prothonotary Warblers** were observed in expected numbers and locations, primarily the Conneaut and Custards Marsh area (m.ob.). There were an increased number of **Mourning Warbler** observations this spring throughout *Crawford* (m.ob.). Significant counts included 6 in the Rundletown Road area 5/16 (LE JH, LS, AT, MT), 6 seen off of Seiler Road 5/16 (AL), and 7 at SGL 144 (RHo, TN). Notable observations of **Cerulean Warbler** included 2 at Custards Marsh- Shafer Road 5/7 (TN, MW) and one there 5/22 (RK), one at Pymatuning S.P.- Fish Hatchery 5/11 (LC), and 2 at Tryon-Weber Woods 5/31 (RN). There were a higher than average number of **Northern Parula** observations throughout *Crawford* (m.ob.). A good count of 5 were at Pymatuning S.P.- Nature Center 5/12 (TN). Early observations of **Palm Warbler** included 2 near Hartstown Road near Linesville 4/10 (MW) and one at P S.P.- HM 4/10 (MW). The only observations of **Wilson's Warbler** were of 2 at GM 5/22 and one at the same location 5/24 (JH).

Summer Tanager is rare for *Crawford*, so the observation of a male coming to a feeder on Thatcher Road in Conneautville 5/5 (EE, KZ) is significant. An early **Scarlet Tanager** visited a suet feeder north of the Meadville area 4/23 (IF, RS). Early observations of **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** included singles at a feeder at a private residence on Pettis Road near Meadville 4/19 (RL) and at a private residence on N. Richmond Road 4/20 (RS).

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Cumberland County

Locations: Big Spring (BS), Michaux Sate Forest (MSF), Mount Holly Marsh Preserve (MHMP), Mudlevel Road (MLR), Opossum Lake (OL), State Game Lands 169 (SGL 169), State Game Lands 230 (SGL 230), South Middleton Township Park (SMTP), Tuscarora State Forest (TSF).

This was a spring to remember in *Cumberland*. The number of vagrants and shorebirds reported this period cannot be matched unless you go back to the spring of 2008. This was due to in part to the wetter than normal conditions, but perhaps becoming the new normal, where agricultural fields now have water laying on them all year through. Please note that 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 County Birds as the county line is the west shoreline of the river.

When it comes to waterfowl there was only one report of a flyover of 75 **Snow Geese** at Middlesex Township Park 3/13 (PY). In a first for *Cumberland* and only the second time for Pennsylvania (See Pennsylvania Birds vol. 32 no. 4) there were 2 untagged **Trumpeter Swans** nesting on private property at the Big Spring Sportsman Club just west of Newville. There was one Trumpeter first reported at the Quarry on Route 533 on 4/14 (VG, BO, BK, SB) and then repeatedly reported in the general area until 2 were discovered together in the presence of a nest (AnM). In speaking with members of the club it seems the pair tried to nest twice unsuccessfully and then they were no longer seen. The reason for the failed nesting is unknown.

A **Long-tailed Duck** made a one-day appearance at OL 4/12 (VG, BK, TJ). There was just one report of a **Common Goldeneye** on Stoughstown Pond 3/1 (VG, BK), which in the unusually wet year has become more of a small lake than a farm pond. **Red-breasted Merganser** made a better than usual showing in locations across the county. In the east, 3 were seen at the Vincent DiFilippo Nature Preserve 4/7 (JG, JD) and up to 4 at OL 4/5-22 (BK, m.ob.). In the western part of the county there was one reported on the BS 4/13 (VG) and then up to 11 on the Route 533 Quarry 4/14-16 (Vg, BK, BO, SB). The only report of **Ruddy Duck** was one individual on OL 4/12-5/12 (VG, m.ob.).

Ruffed Grouse continues its precipitous decline. Once common on both the north and south ridges, the only sure place to find the species now is on the north ridge in the TSF, and then in very low numbers. The only reports were one on Elk Hill Road 3/31 (JJ) and up to 2 at Meadows Road 5/7 and 5/19 (VG, AnM). The small population of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** continues west of Route 233 and from Route 76 north. Up to 2 were reported near the intersection of Heckman and Mountain Roads 5/4-11 (VG), another nearby that location on Route 997 on 5/26 (VG), and one on Creekview Road 5/21 (AnM). They still have not been

confirmed breeding. For a fifth consecutive year, a **Chuck-wills Widow** was located near the intersection of Ridge and Old Ridge Roads in the MSF 5/8-31 (VG, m.ob.). To my knowledge this is only one of 2 Chuck-wills-Widows reported in the state during the spring season, with the other being in Erie.

A **Common Gallinule** was heard and seen at Cabin Road SGL 169 on 5/07 (AnM, VG). This species is mostly annual in *Cumberland* during spring migration but not more than one or 2 individuals are usually reported. A **Sandhill Crane** was seen west of Newville on Creekview Road 5/12-13 (DL, m.ob.). This species is also mostly annual in the western part of the county during the spring but in very low numbers.

When it comes to shorebirds, this spring proved to be a very good season. An **American Avocet** was seen in the flooded fields near the intersection of Duncan and MLR 5/26 through the end of the season (KD, m.ob.), the first spring record in *Cumberland*. There are only 4 other records; 2 summer, and 2 fall. **Black-bellied Plover** made its mostly annual appearance with one reported at MLR 4/28 (AnM) and another at Smith Road just west of the intersection of Routes 233 and 11 on 5/6 (VG).

An **Upland Sandpiper** was seen in a field on MLR near its intersection with Britton Road 4/26 (AnM), the first reported in *Cumberland* since 2012. A **Ruddy Turnstone** seen at MLR 5/14 (AnM, BK, BO, VG), was the first reported in the spring since 2008 and makes 2 consecutive years as 4 were seen in the fall of 2018 at the same location. A **Sanderling** at MLR 5/24 (AnM) was the only of the season and the first since the spring of 2008. One to 4 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were also seen on MLR 5/14-24 (AnM, VG). Annual occurrence of this species is less than 50%. The 5 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/14-18 (AnM, m.ob.) provided the first spring record since 2014. Up to 3 **Wilson's Phalaropes** were present on MLR and Duncan Roads 5/3-31 (DK, m.ob.).

Gulls and terns also had a good spring showing. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were more common than usual with a number of reports, the largest being a flock of 31 on MLR 4/6 (VG, BK). One **Franklin's Gull** was found on MLR 4/28 (AnM, BK). This is only the third record for the species in the county with the last in 2011. There was only one report of **Caspian Terns** - 3 at OL 4/19 (VG, EG). These terns are only occasional in the spring, reported about 50% of the time. One **Black Tern** was at the SGL 169 Mountain Road Marsh 5/7 (AnM). These birds show up most years but in very low numbers. This is the second consecutive spring that this species was reported from this particular location. One **Forster's Tern** was seen at Stoughstown Pond 5/5, which, with the amount of rain, has become a small lake (AnM, VG, TJ). This is the first report of the species away from the Susquehanna River in *Cumberland* since 2011. (With many of the Susquehanna reports no doubt actually *Dauphin* birds over the river).

A **Red-throated Loon** was present at OL 4/12-19 (VG, m.ob.), the first report of this species since 2015, with the previous one before that 2012. **American Bittern** made its annual appearance with a few sightings of singles mostly centered on SGL 169. Two **Least Bitterns** were at SGL 169 Mountain Road Marsh 5/7-12 (AnM, m.ob.). This species, which shows up annually, has been confirmed breeding in this location in the past, one of the few confirmed breeding sites in Pennsylvania. One **Cattle Egret** and one **Snowy Egret** showed up together one evening at MLR 5/2 (AnM, BK, BO, VG), staying just briefly. This was the first report of Snowy Egret in *Cumberland* since 2012, and only the second for Cattle Egret since 2011, though the species was also reported in 2018. There was a relative explosion of **Glossy Ibis** with 5 reports throughout the county 4/20-5/11, including an amazing flock of 7 in a flooded field near the intersection of Locust Lane and Route 174 in Carlisle 4/24 (TJ, KJ, DA, VG, AnM). This species averages showing up in about half of the spring seasons, usually one or 2 reports per season, with the last spring record in 2014.

A **Golden Eagle** at Waggoner's Gap 3/15 (TJ). was a great find as they show up in spring on average only once every ten years. **Merlin** and **Peregrine Falcon** were good finds as well, though both show most springs in low numbers. Single Merlins were reported at Greenspring Road 4/1 (JM), SMTP 4/19 (KJ, TJ), MLR 5/3 (AnM), and SGL 169 Cabin Road (VG, BO, AM). Two Peregrines were at Pine Grove Furnace SP 4/9 (BB), and one in Carlisle 4/28 (DA).

Non-breeding migrant flycatchers included **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Vincent DiFilippo Nature Preserve 5/11, at SGL 169 on 5/31 (AnM), and at Ridge Road MSF 5/31 (VG); single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** at East Creek Road Newburg 5/28-31 (AnM, VG) and Ridge Road MSF 5/31 (VG); an **Alder Flycatcher** at Route 34 north of Carlisle 5/23 (PL) and again nearby at SGL 230 between 5/25-26 (AnM, StB, DB, DK); and single **Least Flycatchers** at 6 different locations 4/28-5/19. These species are all found most years in the spring in very low numbers with Least Flycatcher being the most common as reflected in this season's sightings as well.

A **Philadelphia Vireo** was found at Huntsdale 5/11 (SK, VG). This species is far more common in the fall, when reported annually in small numbers; in the spring it is found about half the time. Among migrant thrushes, **Swainson's Thrush** was reported in good numbers and **Gray-checked Thrushes** were reported in 3 locations: one in Mechanicsburg 5/5 (KA), 2 at MHMP 5/11 (EB) and then 5/15 (DB, StB), and one in Camp Hill 5/12 (RK). There was a first county report of a **European Goldfinch** at a feeding station on Route 34 north of Carlisle 4/14 (PL). Though likely an escaped exotic, it is still worthy of note as this species has established small breeding populations in the Midwest United States from time to time. A **Henslow's Sparrow** was heard singing in a field on Fairview Road just north of MLR 5/27-31 (VG, m.ob.). This is the first time the species has been reported in *Cumberland* since 2013.

Warblers of note included 5 **Prothonotary Warblers** seen 5/11 at 2 separate locations. Two males and one female were at Huntsdale (SK, VG, PB, DK) and 2 males at SGL 169 Bridgewater Road by the propagation ponds (DA, EZ). There were no further reports of the birds at Huntsdale, but the birds at SGL 169 were reported through the end of the period with the addition of a female also reported at that location. A **Mourning Warbler** was at MHMP 5/11 (EB), and one or 2 at SGL 230 on 5/19 and 5/25-26 (RK, AM, DB, StB). A **Kentucky Warbler** was at MHMP 5/11 (EB), a male/female pair at the traditional breeding location of Thompson Hollow 5/7-31 (AnM, VG, BO, DB, StB), and another pair off of Route 34 north of Carlisle 5/14-31 (PL). **Wilson's Warbler** was seen at Pine Grove Furnace SP 5/9 (RTS, GTS), Heckman Road north of Newville 5/11 (VG), on the Appalachian Trail near Bernheisel Bridge Road 5/15 (AW), and SGL 230 on 5/25 (AM).

Up to 3 (2 males and one female) **Dickcissels** were reported from Fairview Road north of MLR 5/27 (ST, JM, m.ob.). The female was seen interacting with one of the males. This species does attempt to breed in *Cumberland* in very small numbers on what has become an annual basis.

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Dauphin County

Locations: Clark's Ferry Bridge (CFB), Camp Hebron-Halifax (CH), Conewago Trail (CT), Elmerton Avenue-Harrisburg (EA), Former Harrisburg State Hospital (HSH), Governor Road-Hershey (GR), Harrisburg Second St-Calder to Seneca St (HS-CS), Ned Smith Center (NSC), Peters Mountain Road-Halifax (PMR), Pine Road-Grantville (PR), Rachel Carson State Office Building (RCSOB), Sheetz Road Farm Pond-Millersburg (SRF), State Game Lands-Ibberson Conservation Area (SGL-ICA), Susquehanna River Front Street (SRFS), Susquehanna River (SR), Susquehanna River West Fairview (SRWF), Swatara Creek-Middletown (SC), Weiser State Forest-Greenland Tract (WSF-GT), Wildwood Lake (WL).

One of the pair of **Trumpeter Swans** seen during the winter at SRF pond was last reported 3/6 (IG). **White-winged Scoters** were still being

seen from SRFS as late as 5/6 (m.ob.). A **Ruffed Grouse** was spotted on PMR 4/19 (S&SB) and at CH 5/4 (DB). The SR produced all 3 grebes during March and April with **Horned Grebe** and **Pied-billed Grebe** being seen in May (m.ob.).

An early **Common Nighthawk** was at a home location in upper *Dauphin* 4/2 (JF). **Eastern Whippoorwills** were first detected in WSF-GT 4/28 (m.ob.). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported at the NSC 4/27 (S&SB). An **American Woodcock** was at the HSH 3/19 (IG) with an additional report of 2 at the SGL-ICA 3/26 (SS) and one at WL 4/8 (AS). Gull and tern migration was in full swing with reports from SRFS and SRWR including **Little Gull** 3/30 (RK), **Black-headed Gull** 3/31(SS), and **Black Tern** 5/5 (IG). A **Red-throated Loon** was spotted at SC 3/13 (DS).

The first **Great Egret** showed up at WL 3/14 (SD, S&GL) and an **American Bittern** was there 3/26 (EB). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** established their nesting sites again in uptown Harrisburg during April and May with 16 nests occupied in the HS-CS area (IG). Single **Glossy Ibises** were spotted in migration in late April at CT 4/18 (DH) and one at GR 4/20 (AS).

This is the second year **Ospreys** attempted to nest on a cell tower along Industrial Road near WL with a pair seen 4/18 (AS) and a third bird flying nearby. Two nests have been worked on along SR 3/18 near Steelton (EC). A **Golden Eagle** was spotted migrating along SR 3/6 (IG). The RCSOB **Peregrine Falcons** in Harrisburg produced 4 young but had not fledged by the end of May (AM). The pair at CFB north of Harrisburg produced 4 young also (EC, S&SB, S&GL) and were ready to fledge as of the end of the reporting period.

Numerous sightings of **Common Ravens** were made at WL during the period (m.ob.) but breeding confirmation has not been made yet. A wintering **Gray Catbird** continued into April at WL (m.ob.). A late **Snow Bunting** was seen along PR 3/26 (TB). Warblers once again were well represented throughout the migration. Thirty-one species were seen including a **Prothonotary Warbler** at WL 5/20 (m.ob.). A **Blue Grosbeak** was along EA 5/1 (DeS).

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Delaware County

Locations: Barrett's Meadow (BM), Bethel Springs Elementary School (BSES), Brinton Lake (BL), Commodore Barry bridge/riverfront (CB), Delaware County Community College (DCCC), Delaware River (DR), Earles Lake (EL), Fort Mifflin (FM), Garnet Valley High School (GVHS), Governor Printz Park (GPP), Haverford College (HC), Haverford Reserve (HR), Hildacy Farm Preserve (HILD), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Lester FedEx Complex Wetlands (FEDEX), Marcus Hook (MH), Newtown Meadow Preserve (NMP), Philadelphia Airport (PHL), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Ridley Township Marina (RTM), Springton Reservoir (SR), Taylor Memorial Arboretum (TMA), Tyler Arboretum (TY).

March was cooler and wetter than normal with nearly 5" of rain but just shy of 6" of snow in two small storms on 3/1 and 3/4. The month ended with temperatures soaring into the mid- to upper-70's on the 3/30. April was warmer and dryer than average, with only 2-3 inches of rain. The first yearly temperature of 80F or higher was reached on 4/8. May continued the warmer trend while rainfall increased beyond average to over 5".

A good movement of migrating **Snow Geese** was witnessed 3/14 with 1000 over Springfield (AB, DB), 400 over Haverford (LH), 70 over Swarthmore (DO), and an estimated 2150 over Wallingford (RF). The latter flocks included one **Ross's Goose** picked out from among them and 26 **Tundra Swans** as well as a couple hundred **Canada Geese** (RF). A notable flock of about 600 Snow Geese was in Glen Mills 3/6 (BB); 60

were reported over the same town 3/5 (SP). Another 60 were over Haverford 3/11 (LH) and 200 over Media 3/16 (AG). One lingering Snow Goose was found among Canadas at FEDEX 5/13 (RF). A **Cackling Goose** showed up at Liseter 3/5 (BB). This little pond in a large development is worth keeping an eye on because it attracts a variety of waterfowl that may be viewed at close range. A distant view of Tundra Swans at CB 3/12 (AG) was good enough to count 42 individuals.

Most *Delaware* duck reports come from JHNWR including one **Blue-winged Teal** 4/22 (JH) and **Northern Shoveler** 3/14 (AG) and 4 Shovelers 3/19 (LH). Surprises were 2 Northern Shovelers flying up creek at treetop level at BT 4/2 (RF) and **Green-winged Teal** at BL 4/7 (Kyle Brun) and at EL 4/11 (BB), although 20 of these were at JHNWR 4/9 (RF). About 26 **Canvasbacks** spent the day on the DR at FM 3/5 (AG, LH, RF). **Ring-necked Ducks** could be found throughout March at their favorite ponds: DCCC, EL, Liseter (m.ob.) where they were sometimes joined by **Lesser Scaup** (7 dates, m.ob.). One Lesser was reported from SR 4/12 (RF) and 2 were at CB 4/13 (LH). From 3/5-15, 4 to 6 **Greater Scaup** could be found DR at FM (m.ob.). Rare finds were one **Surf Scoter** and 2 **Black Scoters** on the DR at FM 4/17 (RF). Two **Common Goldeneyes** were reported 3/15 at GPP (RF). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** were spotted flying up the DR at FM 5/4 (RF). One **Ruddy Duck** was at that location 4/15 (RF).

Pied-billed Grebe was reported from JHNWR 4/9 (RF) and from SR 4/12 (RF), at which time there were also 2 **Horned Grebes** present (RF). Otherwise, a single Horned Grebe was on the DR at FM 4/18 (LH). Two **Wild Turkeys** were reported from TY 4/24 (JE).

Spring **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports were only from HR 5/16 (LH) and the BT 5/21 (BR) and 5/30 (AG). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found at TY 5/8 (JE, SBN). Spring **Common Nighthawk** passage appeared to be 5/8-20 with scattered reports of single individuals (m.ob.). **Chimney Swift** was first sighted 4/13 over RTP (BR) and an early **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** visited a yard in Glen Mills 4/20 (SP). A **Virginia Rail** called from the marsh at JHNWR 4/19 (AG) and **Sora** were reported there 4/22 (JH) and 4/23 (AG) as well as over HC where a night flight-call was heard 4/23 (SJ).

Shorebird finds on sandbars and mudflats of the DR at FM included a **Black-bellied Plover** 5/31 (AG) that considered landing but didn't, possibly due to the presence of an eagle, 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** 5/18 (RF, LH), and 25 **Least Sandpipers** 5/18 (RF). A mixed group of 4 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and 10 Least were observed at JHNWR 5/2 (LH) where 12 Semipalmated were also reported 5/7 (JH). Attempts to observe migrating shorebirds from MH netted 85 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/22 (RF, AG, BQ) and 20 on 5/25 (RF) with an additional 100 shorebirds not identified to species on each of those days (RF). Five displaying **American Woodcocks** were noted at a Tincin Township location 3/12 (AB, DB), a different Tincin location 3/11 (RF) while BM, at the other edge of the county, held one or 2 displaying birds 3/7, 3/13, 3/14 (m.ob.). Singles were reported from TY 3/13 and 3/20 (SBN). A **Wilson's Snipe** was reported from Chadds Ford 4/5 (RF).

Bonaparte's Gulls put in appearances along the DR at FM 4/6 (RF, AG), 4/17 (RF), 4/19 (AG), and 4/21 (AG), with a high count of seven on the 4/19. Two **Caspian Terns** were seen from MH 5/22 (AG, RF), but the species was reported 8 times from the DR at FM 4/10-5/22 (m.ob.) with a high count of 6 on the sandbar 4/10 (LH). Two **Common Terns** showed up at the same location 5/4 (RF). **Forster's Terns** were recorded there on 10 dates 4/20-5/22 (m.ob.) as well as at GPP where there were 11 on 5/13 (RF). One Forster's was at RTM 4/18 (RF), and 2 were in the wetlands at JHNWR 4/20 (BV).

Single **Red-throated Loons** were seen along the DR at FM 3/15, 4/4, 4/10, and 4/11; and one was actively diving off GPP 4/16 (BQ). **Brown Booby** was the best fleeting find of the season as it was scoped flying upriver DR at FM 5/6 (RF) out of *Delaware*! It is worth noting that, during the month of May, a single **Brown Booby** was seen in three places in NJ both before and after this date. An early **Great Egret** was reported from the DR at FM 3/15 (RF). A **Little Blue Heron** was found at JHNWR 4/14 (DO). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reliable at MH 5/22-5/24 (m.ob.) and a fly-by was observed at GVHS 4/29 (SJ).

The first **Osprey** report came from along the river at FEDEX 3/14 (AG). A sub-adult **Mississippi Kite** was photographed over HR 5/22

(LH). Another immature kite that put in an appearance at a field day at BSES 5/31 (BQ) was photographed by a quick-thinking teacher who grabbed a camera from a parent attending the event! The only sizeable group of **Broad-winged Hawks** reported during their April migration were 46 high over HC 4/16 (LH) and another 45 over a nearby residence later that afternoon (LH). Once again, **Great-horned Owl** reports outnumbered those of **Eastern Screech-Owls** with only 3 of the latter documented during the period! Many birders enjoyed the pair of Great-horneds that raised 2 or 3 young while nesting in the heron rookery behind the PHL Jet Stream parking. Two **Barred Owls** were observed in their usual haunt along the BT from April through May (m.ob.). An additional bird was calling at BM in March (m.ob.) and a pair was documented near this location 5/9 (JM).

In the few and far-between category: An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a surprise find at JHNWR 5/3 (RF). A **Least Flycatcher** was heard calling at TMA 5/10. Single **Bank Swallows** were reported from JHNWR 4/22 (JH) and 4/27 (DO), and there was a **Cliff Swallow** report from the Brandywine River Museum 5/11 (RW). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported from the BT 5/19 (LH) and 5/22 (BB).

Eastern Kingbird arrival was 4/19 at JHNWR (AG) with **Great-crested Flycatcher** on the early side 4/23 at the same location (AG). Also early were **Blue-headed Vireo** at BSES 4/9 (BQ) and **White-eyed Vireo** reported from Powder Mill Valley Park along Cobb's Creek in Haverford Twp. 4/18 (EP). Irruptive **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were scattered and few in number with the last report 5/10 from a Swarthmore yard (DE). Ditto for **Purple Finches** through 5/8 at TY (SE). **Pine Siskin** was documented at feeders in Media 3/2 and 5/8 (GF), and 2 visited a Bryn Mawr feeder 4/27 (LN).

A **White-crowned Sparrow** visited that same Bryn Mawr yard 5/4 (LN). There were 7 reports of **Savannah Sparrow**, most from the JHNWR and DR and FM areas (m.ob.). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was photographed at HC 5/8 (KJ). Although occasional **Chipping Sparrows** may be found throughout the year, migrants seemed to arrive on the early side this year with the first report from HILD 3/15 (DB). Three singing male **Bobolinks** were photographed along Hog Island Rd 5/6 (JH), a female was likewise documented at NMP 5/18 (LH), and a flyover was also noted 5/8 at BSES (BQ). **Rusty Blackbird** reports were numerous from JHNWR with up to a dozen 4/9 (RF) and 4/19 (AG) and at least another half-dozen reports from across the county (m.ob.).

Thirty-three warbler species were reported during the count period. Among the more unusual: **Orange-crowned Warbler** at HILD 4/3 (BK); 2 **Worm-eating Warblers** at the BT 5/4 (m.ob.), singletons there 5/7 (RF) and 5/21 (KG), and one at TMA 5/8 (DO); **Prothonotary Warbler** at JHNWR 5/16 (SB); 4 reports of **Tennessee Warbler** (m.ob.); **Mourning Warbler** at TMA 5/16 (RF) and BT 5/26 (MG, RG); **Kentucky Warbler** at BT 5/30 (AG); multiple reports of **Hooded Warbler**, many from the BT (m.ob.); a **Cerulean Warbler** at the BT 5/2 (RF); 4 reports of **Bay-breasted Warbler**; **Yellow-throated Warbler** along Cobb's Creek 4/7 (m.ob.) and at RCSP 5/4, 5/5, and 5/9 (m.ob.); and **Wilson's Warbler** 5/2 at the BT (BR) and 5/16 at TMA (RF). A pair of **Pine Warblers** were feeding young in a large white pine at HC 5/27 (SJ, KJ). A **Blue Grosbeak** was seen in Chadds Ford 5/8 (EW) and at TMA 5/8 and 5/10 (DO).

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Elk County

Locations: Allegheny N.F. - Buzzard Swamp (BS), Bear Creek (BC), Benezette Twp. (BT), Byrnedale (BY), East Branch Dam (EBD), East Branch Lake (EBL), Elk S.F. - Elk Country Visitor Center (ECVC), Fox Twp. (FT), Jay Twp. (JaT), Johnsonburg (JO), Kyllers Corners (KC), Quehanna Wild Area (QWA), Quehanna Wild Area - Beaver Run Impoundment (BRI), Russell City (RC), City of St. Mary's (SM), Tambine

Ridge (TR), SGL 311 – Winslow Hill Viewing Area (WH), Wapiti Woods Cabins (WW).

The predicted irruption of several species from Winter 2018 to Spring 2019 brought **Evening Grosbeaks** to Elk with groups of 15 and 21 found 2/15 in JaT (CB) and on TR (AM), respectively. Several sightings were made before they were last reported on TR 5/5 (AM, m.ob.). The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reported in Jan in SM (MH), was seen once in March and once in April, both times in BT (CL), and not again until 5/27 near RC (SaJ). **Purple Finch** was first seen 2/25 in JaT (CB) and multiple times in May (m.ob.). Four **Pine Siskins** were first seen 2/17 in FT (GS); one was last seen in BT 5/15 (CL).

A total of 126 species were seen during this Spring Migration. Four **American Black Ducks**, 11 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 2 **Buffleheads**, and 3 **Hooded Mergansers** were seen at BS 3/27 (MF, JV). **Ruffed Grouse**, usually seen starting in Feb, was reported first 2/9 at WW (KE), then not again until 3/2 in QWA (SJ), with multiple sightings in March and May (m.ob.); a high count of 4 was at EBL 5/31 (BB). The shorebirds of Elk arrived when 6 **Least Sandpipers** and one **Solitary Sandpiper** were seen 5/18 in KC foraging in agricultural fields off the side of the road (CB). Three **Spotted Sandpipers** were seen on 4 of the last 5 days of May at EBL (BB).

A **Common Loon** called while flying above WH 4/17 (CL), and a **Great Blue Heron** was observed 5/27 at BS (GK, MK). Two **Great Egrets** were heard and seen flying north of BY 5/6 (KH). An **Osprey** was unexpectedly seen 5/3 in SM (CB). Several other Osprey sightings occurred in May: at EBD 5/11 (LC), at EBL 5/25 and 5/26 (BB), and on a nest at BRI 5/27 (BH). Only 3 **Bald Eagle** sightings were reported during this period: on 3/2 and 3/3 at WH (AD), and in JO 5/2 (CC).

Once again a **Northern Shrike** was seen in Elk, in BS 3/27 (MF), the fifth year a Northern Shrike was ever reported for Elk, with the previous sightings all occurring in the last 6 years. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was observed at BC 5/31 (SaJ). Both a **Warbling Vireo** and **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** were reported near BRI 5/18 (BH). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen at ECVC 5/4 (AB) and again at BS 5/27 (GK, MK). One **Winter Wren** was finally reported, as well as 9 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, near RC 5/27 (SaJ). Golden-crowns were also at EBL, with 2 on 3/22 and 4 on 5/31 (BB).

A **Swainson's Thrush** was reported twice at EBL in late May (BB). Two **American Pipits** were at BS 3/27 for the only report (MF, JV). A **Vesper Sparrow** was reported near BRI 5/27 (BH). An **Eastern Meadowlark** was noted in BT 3/21 (CL), and 4 were reported at the airport of SM 5/11 (LC). Warbler sightings included 2 **Hooded Warblers** near BC 5/31 (SaJ), a **Northern Parula** at EBL 5/27 (BB), a **Bay-breasted Warbler** at ECVC 5/4 (AB), a **Prairie Warbler** at KC 5/18 (CB), and 2 **Canada Warblers** at BS 5/27 (GK, MK).

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Erie County

March started off relatively warm, but when April arrived, the weather cooled with plenty of rain. The Presque Isle Hawk Watch broke a few records in its eleventh year as an official hawk watch. Those records include a season total of 7 **Black Vultures**, 19,204 **Turkey Vultures**, 251 **Bald Eagles**, 127 **Northern Harriers**, and the second highest count of **Broad-winged Hawks** at 5246 birds, for a record breaking season total of 27,158 birds of prey (JM). **Piping Plovers** returned to Gull Point at Presque Isle S.P. for the fourth consecutive year, but no evidence of nesting was confirmed as of the end of May. Warbler fallouts in May were significant at Presque Isle S.P. with nearly all species previously recorded in the county represented. However, thrushes were reported in very low numbers. **Pine Siskins** staged a minor invasion, at least locally, where over 100 birds recorded at a feeding station in

Edinboro for most of early spring (JH) were still present by the end of the period. The following birds of note were reported from Presque Isle State Park unless noted otherwise.

An exceptional flock of 59+ **Greater White-fronted Geese** were present at a farm pond west of Albion from 3/9-13 for a new county record (MP, *vide* MB). The only **Snow Goose** reported was one white morph near Edinboro 3/1 (DS). Four **Cackling Geese** were in the marina 3/1 (JM) and one was in Misery Bay 3/15 (DK, BF). A Male **Eurasian Wigeon** was a one-day wonder off Perry Monument 3/12 (JM). Two late male **Surf Scoters** were seen off Beach 11 on 4/26 (JM). The flock of 31 **White-winged Scoters** in the marina was a high count, present 3/1-7 (JM).

The **Red-throated Loon** reported from Edinboro Lake 4/13 was a rare inland record away from Lake Erie (JH). At a more-expected location, one was off Gull Point on the rather late date of 5/11 (JM). The only **Red-necked Grebe** was in the channel 4/27 (KC). Always an exciting find, an **Eared Grebe** in near alternate definitive plumage was off vista 4 from 5/10-14 (JM, et al.). An **American White Pelican** made an unexpected visit 4/6-7 at the head of Presque Isle Bay (m.ob.). A **Snowy Egret** was in the marina 4/20 (BGr). The increasingly rare **Cattle Egret** was nicely photographed in Niagara Pond in late April (*vide* BB).

A season total of 7 **Black Vultures** were counted at the Presque Isle Hawk Watch (PIHW) for a record count (JM, RSt). A **Black Vulture** was also reported on 4/1 flying over Interstate 90 (JF). An immature **Golden Eagle** was over the PIHW 4/2 (RSt, JM) and another passed over the watch 4/18 (RSt, JS, JM). The season total of 5 **Northern Goshawks** observed 4/9-23 was a record total for the PIHW (KF, JM). A very early **Sora** was heard calling at the head of Presque Isle Bay 3/31 (ST). Several **Sandhill Cranes** were reported, mainly along the Lake Erie shore from 3/19 to the end of the period (m.ob.).

At least 3 **Piping Plovers** were present at Gull Point from 4/15 to the end of the period. No confirmed nesting had occurred by the end of the reporting period (MB). Piping Plovers have successfully nested at Gull Point in the past two years. Five **American Avocets** were seen from Beach 11 as they circled Gull Point 4/26 (JM). The only **Whimbrel** report was of 7 at the traditional Gull Point 5/23 (JHo). Ten **Red Knots** passed by Gull Point 5/25 (MB). A very high count of 32 **White-rumped Sandpipers** was exceptional as they flew past Gull Point 5/26 (MB). An adult **Laughing Gull** was at Gull Point 5/31 (MB). The only **Iceland Gulls** reported were 2 at the head of Presque Isle Bay 3/23 (ST). A Thayer's type **Iceland Gull** was a rare find on 3/2 from Beach 11 (TL). One or 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were in the channel 3/31 (JM, ST). An immature **Glaucous Gull** was at the head of Presque Isle Bay 3/23 and another at Gull Point 3/31 (ST).

A **Long-eared Owl** was in the pines 3/24 and one or 2 from 3/28-30 (RD). It's always exciting to spot a **Short-eared Owl** over the PIHW, so one over the watch 3/28 made our day (RS, JM). A **Short-eared Owl** was also spotted on 4/7 at Gull Point (RD). **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were in short supply with just one 3/15, 24, and 30 in the pines and probably a different bird in the pines 4/5 (RD). The **Chuck-will's Widow** heard calling on the evening of 5/17 was only the fifth record for the county (KA). Fortunately, the observer was able to record the calling bird, since it could not be found the following evenings, despite efforts by many birders.

The only **Northern Shrike** was at SGL 109 on 4/7 (RS). The **Blue-headed Vireo** heard calling and recorded in Erie 3/29 was about 2 weeks earlier than any previous Erie record (SW). **Common Ravens** continue to be reported across the county, but singles over the PIHW were the first since the watch was established 11 years ago (JM). A **Marsh Wren** heard calling on Presque Isle S.P. 4/22 was the earliest on record for the county by about a week (DS).

A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Fry's landing 5/9 (KN). A **Brewster's Warbler** was described from Dead Pond Trail 5/9 (DP). A whopping 7 **Golden-winged Warblers** were reported for the season at various sites at the east end of Presque Isle S.P. 5/4-17 (m.ob.). The Erie Bird Observatory banded a **Lawrence's Warbler** at Fry's landing 5/2 (*vide* CV). Always exciting is the discovery of a **Prothonotary Warbler**; one was well observed along the east end Of Sidewalk trail 5/25 (JH). At least 4 **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported, mainly from Fry's landing 4/23-5/14 (CV, JM, NA). A **Connecticut Warbler** was heard singing on Pine Tree Trail 5/22-23 (JHo, DS). **Cerulean Warblers** have become

increasing rare in the county even where they nested in good numbers in past years, so singles on Pine Tree Trail 5/1 (JD) and at Fry's landing 5/3 (NA) were exciting. Not reported every year was a **Yellow-throated Warbler**, photographed on a porch railing in Erie 5/4 (SLD). Single **Prairie Warblers** were reported from Pine Tree Trail and Fry's landing (MP) 4/22 (MP) and 5/19 (KS), respectively.

A **Chipping Sparrow** attending a feeder in Erie through March had successfully wintered at this site, which is unusual (NA). At 5 five **Clay-colored Sparrows** were reported through May at Fry's landing and Dead Pond Trail (JM, et al.). An immature male **Summer Tanager** was photographed coming to a feeder in Erie at a record early date of 4/23 (SLD). Most Summer Tanager records in *Erie* come after about mid-May. The increasingly rare **Evening Grosbeak** was recorded at a feeding station in Edinboro where up to 4 were present through 4/20 (SWi, JFe). A stunning adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** flew past the PIHW on 5/6 (JM). It was a lone bird not associated with other migrating blackbirds seen that day.

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Fayette County

Locations: Greenlick Run Lake (GRL), Heritage Scout Reservation (HSR).

The spring report features waterfowl, as usual when ducks, loons and grebes stop at the county's lakes. Three **Mute Swans** were at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort 3/2 (DB). **Gadwall** reports include 18 at GRL 3/25 (MF) and 8 at HSR 3/27 (DB). **Green-winged Teal** reports include 2 at GRL 3/25 (MF) and 8 at HSR 3/27 (DB). A nice count of 35 **Canvasbacks** were at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort 3/2 (DB). Five were at HSR 3/27 (DB). **Redhead** reports include 13 at Connellsville 3/1 (KB), 29 at GRL 3/15 (MF), and singles there 3/21 (MF) and 3/22 (PW, RW). This species was present at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort 3/2-4/7 with a high count of 35 on 3/10 (DB, DBI). High counts of **Ring-necked Duck** all came from HSR. Twenty-five were there 3/27 and 75 on 3/31 (DB). **Greater Scaup** maxed at HSR 3/31 with 85 tallied (DB). The high count of **Lesser Scaup** came from GRL 3/25 when 150 were counted (MF).

Long-tailed Duck is always a treat to find and usually appears on lakes during stormy weather. Two were at HSR 3/27 (DB) and one there 3/31 (DB). Two were at GRL 4/5 (MF). High counts of **Bufflehead** include 35 at HSR 3/31 (DB) and 36 at GRL 3/25 (MF). Buffleheads were reported from mid-March to mid-April at various locations. A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at HSR 4/10 (ebird) and reports from GRL include 4 on 3/7, 2 on 3/8, 9 on 3/25 and one 4/5 (MF). **Ruddy Duck** reports include 2 at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort 3/10 (DB), 4 at HSR 3/27 (DB), 28 at GRL 3/25 and 5 there 4/26 (MF).

A bit of a fallout of **Horned Grebes** occurred 3/25 with 38 at GRL (MF). Two were at HSR 3/27 and one 3/31 (DB). There were 3 **Red-necked Grebe** reports, a good number for this uncommon migrant in the county. Singles were at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort 3/2 (DB), Dunlap Creek Lake 3/10 (MJ) and HSR 3/17 (MD).

Gulls are never common in the county. Eleven **Ring-billed Gulls** were at Connellsville 3/1 (KB) and 23 at GRL 3/25 (MF). Eight **Common Loons** were at GRL 3/25 (MF) and 2 at HSR 3/27 (DB). A **Golden Eagle** was reported in ebird from SGL 51 on 3/21 (PL). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort 3/2 (DB). Six **Purple Martins** were reported from High Pond Nature Reserve 4/13 (DB). Two male **Purple Finches** were photographed at High Pond Nature Reserve 4/13 (DB).

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Forest County

Locations: Allegheny N.F. - Buzzard Swamp (BS), Green Twp. (GT), Hickory Creek Bridge (HCB), Hickory Twp. (HT), Lighthouse Island (IL), Marienville (MA), Mt. Collins Cemetery (MCC), Tionesta (TI), Tionesta Lake Dam (TD), Tionesta Twp. (TT), West Hickory (WH).

For the season, 158 species were observed. Spring migration began in *Forest* with 70 **Tundra Swans** heard as they flew over TD 3/3 (FM). Of note were 2 first county records - a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Rte. 62's Wildlife Viewing Area in HT 5/22 (KS) and a **Prothonotary Warbler** near WH 5/23 (KS). A first-ever spring observation of a **Common Nighthawk** was at HCB 5/21 (KS).

Providing a second *Forest* record, 2 **Purple Martins** were at LI 4/27 (KS). Two third records were of a **Sandhill Crane** near TI 4/30 (ES) and a **Forster's Tern** at BS 5/4 (KS). A **Wilson's Snipe** near WH 3/23 represents a third spring record (KS).

Evening Grosbeaks continued their biennial arrival, on-going since the 2012-2013 winter months. Three locations had numerous sightings: Tionesta Lake and Dam, next to the Ranger Station office (m.ob.); a private residence in TI from mid-Nov through March (FM, m.ob.); and a private residence in MA from late Oct through mid-May (DYII, m.ob.). At the MA residence, banding and nanotagging were performed twice during the 8 consecutive calendar months as a research collaboration between the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Powdermill Avian Research Center.

Other key reports on eBird included a **Red-headed Woodpecker** in MA 5/5 (DYII), a **Willow Flycatcher** at Rte. 62's Wildlife Viewing Area in HT 5/28 (CW), and a **White-crowned Sparrow** in WH 5/5 (KS). Notable warblers were a **Bay-breasted Warbler** at MCC 5/19 (KS), a **Pine Warbler** heard in conifers in GT (TK, JK), and a **Canada Warbler** in TT 5/27 (FM).

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Franklin County

Locations: Antrim Commons Ponds (ACP), Bender's Farm (BEFA), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Horse Valley Marsh-Private (HVM), Long Lane Pond (LLP), Mountain Book Road Pond (MBRP), Mountain Lake Fannettsburg (MLF), SGL235 Horse Valley (SGL235HV), Thornwood-Clearfield Road Retention Fields (TCRRF), Wilson College and trails (WC).

The above normal waterfowl that occurred in the winter reporting period continued into spring. The recently known birding location, Antrim Commons, and its warehouse retention ponds again attracted waterfowl. Other sites regularly monitored contributed as well. As in winter, there were rather high counts of some species not normally found in high numbers here.

Reports of **Snow Goose** were 6 along Olde Scotland Road 3/10 (JS), and one at LLP 3/12-13 (CG, Bktz, BO). A **Cackling Goose** was reported 3/10 at GRRE (MW). A high count of 60 **Tundra Swans** were along Funk/Keefer Roads 3/10-12 (BO, Bktz). **Canvasback** reports were numerous, continuing from winter through 3/13 with high count of 13 at ACP, with additional reports from GRRE. **Redhead** reports were also numerous continuing from winter through 4/25 with a high of 52 at ACP (CG) and additional reports from other locations. The high count of

Greater Scaup was 14 on 3/6 at ACP (CG). Two **White-winged Scoters** were found at LLP 5/5 (CG, BO, DG, Bktz, BKoc, TK). **Long-tailed Duck** reports were numerous and from various locations with a high count of 6 at MBRP 4/12 (CG). **Common Goldeneye** is difficult to find in the county; reports were 2 on 3/1 at ACP (VB, NM) and up to 4 at Two Turn Road 3/2-4 (DB, SB, Bktz).

Ruffed Grouse was found in SGL235HV 5/4 (BO) and on Upper Strasburg Mountain 5/11 (LN, JW). A breeding plumaged **Red-necked Grebe** was at MLF 5/5 (BO, CG, Bktz). **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continued at their normal locations in southern *Franklin*. **Black-billed Cuckoo** reports were from BEFA 4/28 (BO), WC 5/17 (BO), and SGL235HV 5/25 (LN, BO). **Common Nighthawk** reports were sparse, which seems to be a trend, with one reported in the Caledonia area 5/13 and 5/16 (DP) and one in the north end of Chambersburg 5/24 (RG, TSG). A **Virginia Rail** was found at HVM 4/29 and 5/4 (BO), and also near Roxbury 5/1 (JM). A **Sora** was found at HVM 5/4 (BO). **American Coot** reports were light with the only known reports being singles at BEFA 3/28, 3/30, and 5/2 (BO). An exciting find, and great yard bird for the observers, were 10 **Sandhill Cranes** seen and photo'd flying high over a yard in the north end of Chambersburg 4/14 (RG, TSG).

Good habitat developed at TCRRF for migrating shorebirds due to abundant rain, which led to good numbers of shorebirds there and elsewhere. A **Black-bellied Plover** was at GRRE 4/27-28 (CG, BO, Bktz). Up to 4 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at TCRRF 5/9-30 (BO, Bktz) and 4 were at GRRE 5/26 (KD). A **Sanderling** was at GRRE 5/14-15 (AM, BO, BC, MC, m.ob.). **Short-billed Dowitcher** reports were 3 at TCRRF 5/5-6 (BO, AM, Bktz, CG) and 13 at GRRE during the PAMC 5/11 (CG). There were various reports of **Bonaparte's Gull** with a high of 15 at GRRE 4/6 (DE). A **Herring Gull**, a good bird in *Franklin* (with no rivers or large bodies of water), was found at Eby Road 3/5 (DH) and at BEFA 4/5 (BO). A **Caspian Tern** migrating through was found at GRRE 5/1 (CG).

The high count for **Common Loon** was 7 at MBRP 4/14 (BO). The high for **Double-crested Cormorant** was 57 at BEFA 4/12 (BO). An **American Bittern** circled in flight along Keefer Road 5/9 (BO). **Cattle Egret** reports seem to be increasing in Pennsylvania and in our county as well. Following a report last Nov here, there were 2 reports this spring, with 2 at Keefer Road pond 4/19 (Bktz, BO, CG) and one photo'd near a pond on Benedict Loop Road near Duffield 5/12 (TN). A visible and successful nesting of **Green Herons** was of interest at Luther Ridge Retirement Village (KL, DH). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were again using the Shippensburg heron rookery just inside the *Franklin* line with up to 6 seen 4/14-5/11 (BO, BKnr).

A **Barn Owl** was observed in a barn in the Edenville area 3/10 (BO, Bktz, CG). **Merlin** were reported on Twin Bridges Road 3/25 (Bktz) and in the Greencastle area 4/4 (JD, SD). Continuing from winter, a **Peregrine Falcon** was last reported in downtown Chambersburg 3/13 (BO). A good spring find was an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at SGL235HV 5/27 (Bktz). **Alder Flycatchers** were reported 5/22 at Sandy Mount Road (BO), 5/23 at Tower Road (DY), and 5/25 and 5/27 at SGL235HV (BO, LN, Bktz).

Cliff Swallows continued their annual nesting at the bridge over Wilson Run on Wenger Road (BO). A **Marsh Wren** was heard singing and observed at HVM (BO). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Caledonia SP 5/16 (BO). There were numerous reports of **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin** with an impressive high count of 125 siskins around feeders at Greene Knolls (VB, NM). A **Lapland Longspur** was feeding at road edge on Wenger Road after a snowfall 3/2 (BO). **Bobolinks** returned to Burkett Road 4/26 (BO), and there were sightings at various locations that are consistent with other years.

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was seen singing 5/25 and 5/27 in SGL235HV (LN, BO, Bktz). **Blue-winged Warblers** included 2 on 4/28 at SGL 235 Bricker Road (DC), one near Roxbury 5/1 (JM), 2 at WC 5/1-5/2 (RG, TSG), one at Franklin County Eco Park 5/4 (RG, TSG), one at SGL235HV 5/4 (BO), and 2 at SGL 076 Horse Valley 5/11 (LN, JW, BO). A hybrid **Brewster's Warbler** was at SGL235HV 5/25 (LN, BO). A **Dickcissel** was found at an annually reliable location on Wenger Road 5/19-20 (BO, BKnr) and one was reported from Fernwood Road 5/29 (Bktz).

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Fulton County

Locations: Haines-Seville wetland (HS), Harrisonville (HAR), Needmore (ND), Warfordsburg (WAR).

Fulton needs a compiler – contact the editor if interested.

There were 2 reports of **Peregrine Falcon** and, coincidentally, both were seen from the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76), according to locations provided in eBird. A Peregrine was at the Fort Littleton exit 3/4 (Sandeep Dhagat) and another was observed 5/3 a few miles to the west, where the turnpike passes south of Waterfall (Chris Brown).

An early **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was found near WAR 4/18 (DW). Up to 7 were detected near Fort Loudon 5/23-24 (DY, JT). Two **Barred Owls** were heard at Mountain Ground Lake 3/19 (TK). Two **Swamp Sparrows** were at HS 3/19 (TK). Among 12 species of warblers, a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at Blairs Hill Rd. 4/7 (Charles Fullmar), 3 **Cape May Warblers** at ND 5/11 (AE), and **Pine Warblers** near Fort Loudon 5/23-24 (DY, JT).

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Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Enlow Fork (EF), Franklin Twp. (FT), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Morgan Twp. (MT), Ryerson State Park (RSP), Sycamore (SY), Washington Twp. (WT), Waynesburg Sportsmen's Association (WSA).

At EV in FT **Wood Duck** was first observed 3/10 (MH). In Greene Twp. **Blue-winged Teal** was found 3/18 (MH, KK). In Jefferson Twp. **Gadwall** was observed 3/12 (KK, MH). In Wayne Twp. **Green-winged Teal** was observed 3/12 (MH, KK). FT was the location of 8 **Canvasbacks**, 11 **Lesser Scaup**, 6 **Redheads** 3/10 (MH). Center Twp. had first sighting of **Ring-necked Duck** 3/9 (CW). At WSA **Bufflehead** were found 3/12 (JH). In Center Twp. **Hooded Merganser** was found 3/20 (MH, KK). Creek at EV had first **Common Merganser** sighting 3/20 (JH, MH); however, they were reported several times and on 5/27 in Perry Twp. while conducting the BBS route a female with at least 15 young were sighted (KK, MH).

MT had the first reported **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** 5/18 (m.ob.) and at same location **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard 5/7 (KK). LCR in Perry Twp. had the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** 4/13 (MLP). At RSP **Least Sandpiper**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Greater Yellowlegs** were found 4/28 (MD). In Morgan Twp. **American Woodcock** was heard 3/10 (KK).

During PAMC **Double-crested Cormorant** was found 5/11. In Aleppo Twp. **Great Egret** was reported 5/11 (DC). At WSA **Green Heron** was seen flying over 5/1 (JH). At EF **Osprey** was sighted 4/28 (m.ob.). In Monongahela Twp. **Bald Eagle** was observed sitting on nest 3/18 (MH, KK). In WT **Northern Harrier** was observed 4/11 (AP). In SY **Red-shouldered Hawk** was sighted 3/27 (JC). At EF a pair of **Barred Owls** was sighted 4/28 (MH).

In WT **Belted Kingfisher** was seen 4/7 (RW, PW). At the Bell Farm **Eastern Wood-Pewee** and **Acadian Flycatcher** were first reported 5/18 (m.ob.). In WT **Willow Flycatcher** was found 5/10 (AP). At Bell Farm **Eastern Phoebe** was first observed 3/11 (CDB). In Jackson Twp. **Great-**

crested Flycatcher was found 5/11 (MM). At SY Eastern Kingbird was first reported 5/11 (A&J C). In EV White-eyed Vireo was first heard 4/18 (MH). At EF Yellow-throated Vireo and Warbling Vireo was first heard 4/28 (m. ob.). In Jackson Twp. Blue-headed Vireo was found 5/11 (MH, R&L A). At SY Red-eyed Vireo was found 5/2 (JC).

In WT Purple Martin was first observed 4/11 (AP). At LCR Tree Swallow 3/30 and Barn Swallow 4/11 were reported (MLP). At RSP Northern Rough-winged Swallow was reported 4/28 (MD). In SY House Wren was first heard 4/18 (JC). At EV Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was first located 4/20 (MH). At MT Golden-crowned Kinglet was first reported 3/18 (KK, MH) while in WT Ruby-crowned Kinglet was sighted 4/7 (RW, PW).

In Jackson Twp. Swainson's Thrush was found 5/11 (MM). At EF Wood Thrush and Gray Catbird were found 4/28 (m. ob.). At SY Brown Thrasher was first reported 3/30 (JC). At Bell Farm Cedar Waxwing was first sighted 5/18 (m.ob.). At LCR Purple Finch was last reported 4/11 (MLP). During PAMC Pine Siskin was spotted 5/11 (AH).

At LCR Chipping Sparrow was reported 4/6 (MLP). In MT Field Sparrow was seen 3/18 (KK). In Aleppo Twp. Savannah Sparrow was found 5/11 (MH, R&L A). At EF White-throated Sparrow was last reported 4/28 (m. ob.). At LCR White-crowned Sparrow 5/6 and Dark-eyed Junco were last reported 4/11 (MLP). In MT Yellow-breasted Chat and Bobolink were found 5/11 (KK). LCR was the site for the first Orchard Oriole 4/21 (MLP). Baltimore Oriole was sighted in Franklin Twp. 4/20 (PL).

On PAMC Ovenbird, Kentucky Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Prairie Warbler were found 5/11 (m.ob.) On Greene River Trail in Morgan Twp. Worm-eating Warbler was found 5/19 (JF). In WT Louisiana Waterthrush was first heard 4/11 (AP). At EF Blue-winged Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, and Cerulean Warbler were heard 4/28 (m.ob.). Bell Farm was the site for Black-and-White Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Blackpoll Warbler 5/18 (m.ob.). In WT Tennessee Warbler was found 5/10 (AP). At RSP Northern Parula and Yellow-rumped Warbler were reported 4/28 (MD). At EV Yellow Warbler was found 4/23 (MH). In WT Yellow-throated Warbler was found 4/7 (R&P W). At EF Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting were sighted 4/28 (m.ob.).

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Huntingdon County

Locations: Aitch Access at Raystown Lake (AA), Allison Road fields at Petersburg (AR), Cornpropst Mills (CM), Huntingdon (HU), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Marklesburg waterfowl area-SGL 420 (MAR), Murray Run Rd (MRR), Old Crow wetland (OC), Peace Chapel/Juniata College campus (PCJC), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd (PF), Petersburg (PET), Raystown Lake (RL), Rothrock SF (RSF), Seven Points Rec Area at Raystown Lake (SP), SGL 112/Mill Creek (SGL 112), Stone Mt (SM), Stone Valley (SV), Trough Creek Valley (TCV), Tussey Mt. (TM), Tussey Mt. Hawk Watch (TMHW).

Spring 2019 weather in Huntingdon was fairly normal. Overall temperatures ran just slightly above normal with no extremes of hot or cold. Precipitation for the season was also unremarkable, about 1 inch below normal for the three months combined.

Twenty-one duck species were recorded but numbers of migrating

waterfowl were low. Wood Duck migration peaked sharply in late March; the high count was 50 at MAR 3/25(LF). American Black Duck remains scarce, with no more than 4 reported from any of only 10 eBird entries from 4 locations (m.ob.). High counts for most ducks were in single digits. Exceptions included 23 Ring-necked Ducks at RL dam 3/24 (LF, DO, Brooke Ross), 23 Greater Scaup at Alexandria 3/23 (KT), and 63 and 40 Lesser Scaup at LR 3/15 (TK, DK) and AA 3/31 (LF), respectively.

Three White-winged Scoters were at LP 4/26 (m.ob.). Hooded and Common Mergansers are doing well in the county. An excellent count of 70 Hoodies was made at AA 4/6 (GG, DG). Common Mergs were widely reported (m.ob.), with a high of 133 tallied at LR dam 3/7 (LF, DO). The high count of Red-breasted Merganser was a relatively modest 21, at AA 4/19 (LF).

Ruffed Grouse, at a low ebb, was reported from a half dozen locations, mostly in RSF and forested northern SV; most reports were of singles, with a high of 3 on 4/21 in RSF (NB). A total of 26 grouse were tallied on 20 eBird checklists. Single Red-necked Grebes were at RL 3/7-8 (DK, TK, LF, DO) and 3/29 (AP). There were about 10 reports of Common Nighthawks, mostly in counts of less than 5; however, quite good for recent years were 35 hawking over the JR at HU 5/18 (TK, DK). First Whip-poor-will back was near Warrior's Mark 4/28 (NW). One-two Virginia Rails were at MAR 4/27-5/1 (GG, DG, LF, DO). The only Sora was at OC 5/10 (LF). Single Sandhill Cranes flew over TMHW 4/4 and 4/18 (NB).

It was a poor shorebird season, even by the modest norms of Huntingdon, with only 10 species recorded and no unusual numbers. American Woodcocks, a few of which usually arrive in Feb, were not recorded until mid-Mar, presumably held up by unfavorable weather. Bonaparte's Gull migration peaked sharply during the second week of Apr; the high count among many observations was 120 at AA 4/9 (LF). Caspian Terns were reported 6 times, mostly around RL, where the high was 5 on 4/13 (DK, TK). A Black Tern, not reported annually, was at SP 5/4 (m.ob.). Forster's Terns were found only at SP 5/4-5, with a max of 11 (TK, DK, MD).

Single Red-throated Loons were at locations around RL 3/24 (LF, DO, Brooke Ross, ph.), 3/26 (LF), and 5/11 (DO). Common Loons were reported frequently as usual at RL and LP; they also were spotted on many days over TMHW. Numbers peaked in mid-Apr, when the high of 58 went over TMHW 4/16 (NB). Double-crested Cormorants also peaked in mid-Apr, with a high of 110 passing over TMHW 4/18 (NB); at RL, where they are a constant through spring, the high was 63 at AA 4/28 (LF).

Single American Bitterns were recorded at MAR 5/1-4 (LF, DO, AG, JPo, KS, Matt Toenies), OC 4/17 (LF) and 5/11-12 (TK, DK, LF), and CM 5/8 (GG). A long-established heronry in Big Valley held a min of 28 birds on at least 22 occupied nests 4/11, the highest number ever in over a decade of monitoring in early spring before leaf-out makes counting difficult (GG). Single Great Egrets were at 4 locations during the expected time frame of 4/7-5/9 (LF, KS, AG, DW, MN). More notable was 2 in flight over the dam at RL 3/18, the earliest report ever for the county (LF, DO). Also notable was Huntingdon's second Snowy Egret, found at OC 5/4 (m.ob.); the previous report was at the same location one year earlier, 5/15/2018. Reported annually here, but with no known nesting location, a Black-crowned Night-Heron was at CM 5/3-6 (m.ob.).

In 430 hours of observation, the spring hawk watch at Tussey Mt. produced 3072 raptors, well above average (since 2003). Golden Eagles are the primary reason for running this site. This year's count of 147 was a bit below average. Top days were 39 on 3/28 and 30 on 3/14. Osprey and Red-tailed Hawk were well above average, with 104 and 410, respectively. (Gary Palmer, NB, m.ob.). Elsewhere, a well-described Golden Eagle near MF 4/27 was very late (JK, Alexa Sarussi, Graham Gorgus).

The only Northern Saw-whet Owl was in HU 3/1 (LF). Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from 5 locations (m.ob.). Away from TWHW, a Merlin was at OC 3/29 (LF, AG) and single Peregrine Falcons at the JC Field Station 5/3 (JPo) and LP 5/5 (JK). The only Olive-sided Flycatcher was on SM 5/29 (NB) and on the same date, the only Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was identified by voice at SGL 112 (EZ, CE). Alder Flycatcher is an infrequently reported migrant and probable rare breeder here; one was at OC 5/23 (LF, DK, TK) and one at Mothersbaugh Swamp

5/26 (JK). By contrast, **Willow Flycatcher** is relatively common, reported from at least 11 locations, many known to be sites of summer residents; typical for this late migrant, the earliest date was 5/10 at OC (TK, DK, LF).

Six **Bank Swallows** were counted at the Enterprise quarry 5/24 (GG, DG), a likely nesting location; otherwise just a few scattered singles were reported. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was recorded at 4 locations 5/11-21 (EZ, CB, SP, AG, CE), with a high of 3 at SGL 112 on 5/21 (CE). About 10 reports of **Swainson's Thrush** spanned 5/11-24, which included an excellent count of 12 at SGL 112 on 5/21 (CE, m.ob.). All **American Pipit** reports came from PF 3/25-5/11, with several counts of over 50 birds (m.ob.). **Purple Finches** had a strong spring in comparison with recent years, although few counts reached double-digits; the high was 24 at PCJC 5/1 (AG). After a modest winter irruption, **Pine Siskins** were seen in many locations until late May.

Although never numerous, Lincoln's Sparrows are nevertheless a reliable regular each spring and fall migration; however, this spring, none were reported. After yet another very low winter, **American Tree Sparrows** were scarce, with no report topping 4 birds, the latest of which was 4/4 (Jen Lee, DG, GG). Continuing with the theme of low sparrow numbers, **Fox Sparrow** appeared on only 9 eBird lists, with modest highs of 5 at MRR 3/27 (GG, DG) and at LP 4/5 (Garrett Orcutt). Of 8 **Vesper Sparrow** reports, 5 came from PF; all reports were of 1-2 birds except for 5 at AR 3/19 (LF, m.ob.). The high count from 9 reports of **Savannah Sparrow** was 7 at OC 3/29 (LF, AG).

While expected sparrows seemed mostly below (or well below) average in number, 2 sparrow rarities were found. A **Henslow's Sparrow** sang at Longhorn Rd in TCV 5/4-5 (DK, TK, GG, DG, AP, KS, AG, LF), providing only the second county since the 1980s, when the species was found nesting at the same location during the first BBA. A sparrow that was likely either a Nelson's or LeConte's was seen twice in good habitat at MAR in late Apr (LF). The description, which seems to favor **LeConte's Sparrow**, was submitted to eBird with a date of 4/28 and will be evaluated by PORC.

Very encouraging were reports of **Yellow-breasted Chats** from at least 10 locations; a particular hot spot (literally, in eBird) is the southern section of SGL 112 where there is a large expanse of prime chat habitat on the side of SM. As many as 5 were tallied but with the difficulty of accessing the full area, that number may be conservative (m.ob.). **Bobolinks**, which migrate through in a fairly narrow window in the first half of May, were reported from a half dozen locations, with high of 7 at Nelson's Rd 5/14 (DG, GG); 2 of the 6 locations are the only annual sites for nesting in the county known to this observer, although more locations may exist in the under-birded south of *Huntingdon*.

Rusty Blackbirds had a very poor showing, with only 7 eBird reports spanning 3/19-4/21 (LF, DO, GG, JK, DGr, Brandon Swayser), all of which were of only one individual except for a 4-count at HU 4/3.

Golden-winged Warbler status as a declining and perhaps endangered species means they get a high level of reporting. While it is encouraging to see so many reports for the season, to some degree the number of reports is due to directed PGC surveys. The location mentioned in this report for chats, in SGL 112, also hosts a good number of Golden-wings, with as many as 6 reported from trips 5/20 and 5/23. **Blue-winged Warblers** are the less common of the 2 "winged" warblers here – this spring saw an eBird total of 77 Golden-wings to 23 Blue-wings, the excess due to some degree to the directed Golden-wing surveys, but the total of all Golden-wings ever submitted to eBird in the county is nevertheless approximately double that of Blue-wings.

Thirty-two warbler species, a typical spring number, were reported to eBird. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was found near PET 5/12 (LF). A rare migrant and nester here, single **Kentucky Warblers** were along the JR below the RL dam 5/11 (LF, DO) and in SGL 112 on 5/11 (KT) and 5/23 (DG, GG). **Cerulean Warblers** are fairly common along the JR; a high count of 14 was made as part of an annual survey along the Lower Trail 5/18 (NB). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found at a few usual places along the JR where birders can get access.

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Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Friends of the Parks (FOP), Hemlock Lake, Homer City (HC), Indiana (IN), Lewisville (LV), Margus Lake (ML), Shelocta (SH), West Lebanon (WL), Yellow Creek State Park (YC)

An uncommon visitor to our county, a single **Snow Goose** flew over YC 4/6 (LC, MH, RH, DK, DM, KT, 3RBC) and was spotted later that day on ML (MH, RH); this is the first April record for Snow Goose. Four **Cackling Geese** were a nice surprise at YC 3/2 (MH, RH, GL) amid the top tallies of 600 **Canada Geese** and 536 **Tundra Swans**. This is only the second March record for Cackling Geese.

All waterfowl reports are at YC unless otherwise noted. First 4 **Blue-winged Teal** arrived 3/17 (JaP, JP, DR) and 4 **Northern Shovelers** appeared 3/26 (LC, PF, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL, DL, DM). High **Northern Pintail** counts include 90 on 3/9 (LC, SD, DL, JaP, JP, KT) and 77 on 3/12 (LC, RC, TG, DK, GL); 90 is the highest spring pintail count since 2008 when 228 were tallied on 3/18 (LC, CG, MH, GL). First **Green-winged Teal** arrivals were 2 on 3/9 (LC, SD, DL, JaP, JP, KT); high count of 26 occurred 3/19 (LC, TG, DK, GL). An amazing 855 **Canvasbacks** were noted 3/12 (LC, RC, TG, DK, GL) and "way over 100" **Redheads** were listed 3/1 (PF, SM). The previous high Canvasback record occurred 3/9/2001 (GL) when 265 were tallied at YC. On 3/12 **Ring-necked Ducks** peaked at 823 (LC, RC, TG, DK, GL), the highest count on record with the previous high of 715 on 3/15/2001 (SK). Best tally of **Greater Scaup** was 15 at ML 3/5 (JH) while YC hosted 11 on 3/15 (PF, SM); most years the numbers of this species do not exceed the single digits. The high of 119 **Lesser Scaup** was counted 3/5 (MH, RH, DK, DL). Always fun to observe, single **Long-tailed Ducks** were spotted at YC 3/5 (JH) and 3/26 (LC, PF *et al*); 4 were present 3/30 (MH, RH *et al*) for the 30 people attending the Friends Of Park outing. The following day (AK, JK) 8 appeared at HL. March 26 (LC, PF *et al*) yielded the high **Bufflehead** count of 74. Twelve **Common Goldeneyes** were found 3/3 (SS); this is a species that usually appears in much smaller numbers.

Forty-four was an usually high count for **Common Mergansers** at YC 3/12 (LC, RC, TG, DK, GL); this is the highest count since 2006 when 46 were tallied on 3/27 (BJ). Not reaching their previously high numbers, 74 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 3/30 (MH, RH *et al*) was still a good count. Where are all the **Ruddy Ducks**? Our peak number this year was a mere 8 on 4/23 (CB, LC, SD, PF, DK, JT).

A single **Ruffed Grouse** followed the observer's van near WCA 4/14 (DL); another was heard drumming at YC 5/11 (DK); the only other reported was one flushed from the roadside southeast of Strongstown 5/12 (LCr). A **Red-necked Grebe** was a nice find at YC 3/5 (MH, R/H, DK, DL); this is the first March sighting since 3/31/2009 (LC, MH, MVT).

The PAMC yielded the first 4 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** and 2 **Black-billed Cuckoos** 5/11 (m.ob.). **Common Nighthawk** reports included one in IN (RL) and 2 at Blairsville (DL), both 5/16, and 2 in Josephine the following evening (DL). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, heard calling near WL 5/30 (TB), was a great find for this declining species. **Chimney Swifts** were late in returning with the earliest single bird found 4/18 (JP) in IN; most dates of return were 4/30 or later (m.ob.). First **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** returned 4/18 (DB) at Nolo and 4/19 (MC) near LV; these are the second earliest dates on record with the first being one at Nolo on 4/15/2017 (GL).

American Coots, too, are appearing in very decreased numbers at YC with the maximum count of 30 on 3/30 (SM); prior to 2012 it was not unusual to have coot maxima well over 200 and often in the 500s, occasionally in the 800s. A wet field near WL yielded one **Black-bellied Plover** and a **Semipalmated Plover** 5/10 (TB, MH, RH). Three Semipalmated Plovers were present at that same location 5/23 (PF, SM) while YC yielded 3 on 5/11 (DK, GL) and one 5/20 (JBr).

A **Whimbrel** was a great find (and a lifer for the observer) near Brush Valley 3/26 (DL); this was the third county record. A single **Dunlin** stopped at YC 4/2 (LC, MH, RH, DK, KT). WL produced 5 **Least Sandpipers** 5/10 (TB, MH, RH) and 2 on 5/16 (JaP, JP). One **Pectoral Sandpiper** at YC 5/11 (DK, GL) was the lone report. Forty-one Short-billed Dowitchers were a great surprise at WL 5/10 (TB, MH, RH); one was at YC 5/11 (DK, GL). An **American Woodcock** was still displaying at WL 5/30 (TB). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were spotted in a ditch near YC 4/2 (LC, MH, RH, DK, KT). The first **Spotted Sandpiper** was reported at IUP 4/20 (DJ); this is the earliest date of return since 4/19/2011 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM). Single **Solitary Sandpipers** arrived at BS 4/13 (Dbr) and near WL 4/27 (MH, RH); 2 were at YC, 4/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM). The previous early date on Solitary Sandpiper was 4/14/2018 at YC. First 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** appeared 4/6 (LC, MH, RH *et al*), a little on the early side, at YC which hosted a singleton 5/4 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL, JaP, JP, JT, KT) and the last 2 on 5/11 (DK, GL); singletons were found 5/10 (TB, MH, RH) and 5/23 (PF, SM) at WL which produced the county's only reported **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/16 (JaP, JP).

Bonaparte's Gulls arrived 3/26 (LC, PF *et al*) at YC where numbers peaked at 45 on 4/11 (PW, RiW). BS yielded 14 on 4/8 (MH, RH). A single **Herring Gull** was noted at YC 3/2 (MH, RH, GL) in a flock of 375 **Ring-billed Gulls**; another Herring Gull appeared 3/26 (LC, PF *et al*); Herrings are not commonly seen at YC. A **Caspian Tern** 4/20 (LC, TG, DM, VC, KT), 2 on 5/9 (JBr), and 3 on 5/14 (LC), all at YC, were the only ones noted. First **Forster's Tern** was listed at Two Lick Reservoir 4/8 (DL); one to 3 moved through YC on 5 dates bracketed by 4/9 (LC, RC, TG, MH, RH, DK, GL, DM) and 5/14 (LC, DK, JT).

One **Red-throated Loon** was found on the morning of 3/1 (PF, SM); by late afternoon 6 were present (DK); the following morning (MH, RH, GL) 7 were counted; last noted were 5 on 3/5 (MH, RH, DK, DL); 3/1 is the earliest date on record for this loon. High **Common Loon** count was 22 on 3/30 (TG, DK). A **Great Egret** at YC 4/21 (MH, RH, KT) was the only one noted this spring.

Black Vultures are continuing their inroads into *Indiana*; reports include 6 at Josephine 4/20 (DL), 3 at Hemlock Lake 5/7 (AK, JK), and one near Seward 5/20 (AM). First **Broad-winged Hawk** was sighted at BS 4/13 (SD, TG, MH, RH, DK, JaP, JP, KT, RW); YC and Nolo (GL) produced the next sightings 4/16 (LC, SD, JE, TG, GL, RN). Last **Rough-legged Hawk** was found 3/9 (SD) near YC. **Barred Owls** were regular only at Nolo between 3/11 (AB, DB) and 5/27 (DB); 2 were hooting near SH 3/7 (MH, RH) but singletons were listed only on 3/27, 5/7 (MH, RH); another hooted at YC 4/23 (CB, LC, SD, PF, DK, JT).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers moved through our area 3/31 - 4/18 (SD) with sightings at 5 locales. Two **Merlins** were in IN 4/21 (DL); single Merlins were sighted at IUP 5/11 (JT) and at YC 5/14 (LC, DK, JT).

YC yielded 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** 5/28 (LC, BF, MH, RH, AP, JaP, JP, JT) at the park office; these were the only ones noted this spring. **Eastern Wood-Pewee** arrived 5/9 (JBr) at YC. BS yielded the season's lone **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** 5/18 (RC, TG, MH, RH, DK, DM, JT). Both **Acadian** and **Willow Flycatchers** were first detected on the PAMC 5/11 (m.ob.). An **Alder Flycatcher** was singing near the south shore boat launch at YC 5/21 (RC, TG, MH, RH, DM, JT). **Least Flycatcher** was first spotted at BS 4/27 (MH, RH). First 2 **Great Crested Flycatchers** appeared at BS 5/14 (LC, DK, JT) and first **Eastern Kingbird** was found at IUP 5/2 (DJ).

Only five reports of **White-eyed Vireo** were received while twice as many **Yellow-throated Vireos** were noted; respective dates of return were 5/4 (LC, TG *et al*) at YC and 4/22 (MH, RH) at BS. An early **Blue-headed Vireo** was observed in IN 4/14 (JaP, JP); numbers of this species were down on the PAMC in the northern part of the county. First **Warbling Vireo** arrived at YC 5/4 (SG); amazingly none were found on the PAMC. Unlike the other vireos, **Red-eyed Vireos** seem to be in good numbers with a count of 281 on the PAMC.

Fish Crows continue to be found in IN with most focused around IUP (m.ob.). Top **Horned Lark** count was 125 near Homer City 3/4 (DL). As of 5/29 (RA) the **Purple Martin** colony near Penn Run harbored martins in 34 cavities with an egg count of 72, with more to come. First swallow dates include 4 **Tree Swallows** 3/26 (LC, PF *et al*), one **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** 4/2 (LC, MH, RH, DK, KT); 3 **Bank**

Swallows 4/30 (LC, TG *et al*), 3 **Cliff Swallows** 4/21 (MH, RH), and one **Barn Swallow** 3/30 (TG, DK), all at YC.

One to 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** appeared at 8 locations (m.ob.). **House Wrens** returned 4/20, near LV (MC) and at YC (LC, TG, DM *et al*). **Winter Wrens** were scarce this spring with only 3 reports – one at BS 4/6 (Dbr), one at Josephine 4/11 (DL), and a late bird at YC 5/9 (JBr). Only one **Veery** was reported, a singleton at YC 5/20 (JBr). A single **American Pipit** was observed near HC 4/7 (DL). **Pine Siskins** were found at 5 locations with top count of 10 on 4/18 near IN (SD). A **Lapland Longspur** was present near HC 3/4-8 (DL).

The grassland sparrows are more difficult to find in *Indiana* than in the past as grasslands are maturing. Only 2 **Vesper Sparrows** were listed – one near HC 4/7 (DL) and one near Plumville 5/11 (MM). **Savannah Sparrow** reports included one in IN 4/10 (JaP), one near Jacksonville 5/11 (BM, KM), and 2 photographed at WL 5/16 (JaP, JP). The PAMC 5/11 yielded single **Grasshopper Sparrows** in Canoe Twp. (TG) and near Jacksonville (BM, KM); 2 stopped at YC 5/20 (JBr); and 3 were at WL 5/23 (PF, SM). Two **Henslow's Sparrows** were heard singing at the SGL near Gipsy 5/11 (MH, RH); this now seems to be the only reliable spot in *Indiana* for them. **Fox Sparrows** were noted in the county between 3/17 (MM) and 4/9 (LC, RC *et al*); all reports involved one or 2 birds.

The only **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found on Phillips Road near Clarksburg – one 5/22 (MH, RH) and 2 on 5/17 (JT). Three **Bobolinks** were found at each of 3 locations – in IN 5/5 (RL), south of Heilwood 5/11 (DK, GL), and near Urey 5/11 (MH, RH). Two **Rusty Blackbirds** near IN 4/2 (DL) were first; YC hosted Rustys 4/2 (MH, RH, DK, KT) through 4/9 (LC, RC *et al*) with top count of 9 on 4/6 (LC, MH, RH *et al*).

It was an unremarkable warbler migration in our county this spring with no large fallouts and few reports. First arrival dates include 4/23 (DL) for **Ovenbird** at Josephine; 4/3 (DL) for **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Pine Ridge County Park; and 4/20 (DL) for **Northern Waterthrush** at Josephine. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was reported at YC 5/12 (JL). Other arrival dates included 4/26 (MC) near LV for **Blue-winged Warbler** and 4/29 (DJ) for **Black-and-white** at IUP. **Tennessee Warblers** moved through the county between 5/7 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, TR, JS, JT) and 5/19 (RC, TG, MH, RH, DM, JT) with all reports of only one or 2 individuals. **Nashville Warblers** arrived 4/27 (MC) near LV. **Kentucky Warblers**, which have been more difficult to find in recent years, were reported at 5 locations this spring. **Cape May Warblers** were found between 5/4 (SG) and 5/16 (JaP, JP) but again all reports were of one to 3 birds. **Cerulean Warblers** were noted at only 3 locations (m.ob.). The PAMC 5/11 (PJ, JaP, JP) produced only 3 **Bay-breasted Warblers**, all in IN; the only other one noted was at BS 5/18 (RC, TG *et al*). Only 2 **Palm Warblers** were reported this spring, one at YC 5/4 (JaP, JP) and another near YC 5/11 (DK, GL). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Cloom 5/11 (ED, MS, JT, WT) and a Wilson's Warbler at YC 5/9 (JBr) were the only reports for these species.

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Jefferson County

Locations: Clear Creek State Forest (CF), Clear Creek State Park (CC), Cloe Lake (CL), Fan House Road (FR), Fordham Lake (FL), Kyle Lake (KL), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MS), Miller Road (MR), R & B Lane (RL),

Rattlesnake Road (RR), Redbank Valley Trail (RB), Richardsville (RV), Ringgold (RG), Sandy Ridge Road (SR), Winslow Pond (WP).

Highlights for the period include the first ever recorded and photographed **Ross's Goose** in the county on FL 3/16 (AK, JK). The noted **Trumpeter Swan** family (Z603, Z675, and immature) were back on the beaver pond outside of RV 4/28 (LC). The swans' story was detailed in the April 2019 issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*. Other noted highlights included a trio of second-ever recorded observations: one **Red-headed Woodpecker** at RG 4/25 (AK, JK), one **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at CF 5/24 (RN), and one **Kentucky Warbler** at CC 5/27 (GK, MK).

A fly over of 87 **Tundra Swans** was reported from RG 3/8 (AK, JK). Other water fowl of note included 2 sightings of **Green-winged Teal** - 3 on KL 3/15 (SA) and one on WP 4/15 (JS); 2 **Gadwalls** on FL 3/31 (AK, JK), 5 **Lesser Scaup** on CL 3/23 (AK, JK), one **Hooded Merganser** on CL 3/17 (AK, JK), and one **Red-breasted Merganser** on CL 3/30 (AK, JK). One **Pied-billed Grebe** on FL 4/17 provided the lone observation (AK, JK) and single **Horned Grebes** were on FL 3/31 (AK, JK) and CL also 3/31 (AK, JK).

Shore birds were represented by one **Spotted Sandpiper** on the MS 5/1 (KD), one **Greater Yellowlegs** on WP 4/30 (JS), 10 **Bonaparte's Gulls** on WP 4/24 (JS), and 2 **Caspian Terns** on WP 4/15 (JS).

The only reported **Northern Harrier** was on FR 3/10 (AK, JK). The resident pair of **Bald Eagles** at MS were noted several times over the period in the nest tree. They hatched 2 eaglets that were also noted several times over the period. Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were recorded on FL 3/31 (AK, JK) and on the RB 5/27 (JG, TG). A **Great Horned Owl** was found on the MS 4/18 (AK, JK) and only one **Barred Owl** was noted on SR 4/29 (JSe).

Flycatchers were represented by a **Willow Flycatcher** on SR 5/19 (JG, TG), a **Least Flycatcher** on the MS (AK, JK), and single **Great-crested Flycatchers** on the MS 5/1 (KD), and the RB 5/31 (JG, TG). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was a nice find in the CF 5/24 (RN) and single **Warbling Vireos** were noted on RR 5/8 (JF) and the MS 5/24 (DG, GG). Six **Horned Larks** were a welcome find on MR 3/1 (NV). The only **Veery** report was of 4 in CF 5/24 (RN). **Pine Siskins** were noted 3 times at a feeder in RG - 2 on 4/30, one on 5/4, and 2 on 5/6 (AK and JK). The last **American Tree Sparrow** was in RG 3/16 (AK, JK), and the first **Henslow's Sparrow** was found on SR 4/29 (JSe). The first 2 **Swamp Sparrows** were located on the MS 4/10 (AK, JK).

A total of 22 warbler species were recorded, including the **Kentucky Warbler** noted above. Most warbler observations proved to be the only reports for the period for the species. The first **Ovenbird** was found on the RL 4/30 (KA). The only **Louisiana Waterthrush** was located in CF 5/24 (RN). Two **Black-and-White Warblers** were the first of the season on RL 4/29 (KA). The only **Mourning Warbler** was in the CF 5/24 (RN). First of the period records included one **Common Yellowthroat** on the MS 5/1 (KD), 2 **Hooded Warblers** on the MS 5/1 (KD), and one **American Redstart** also on the MS 5/1 (KD). Only one **Northern Parula** was noted, on the MS 5/24 (DG, GG). Two **Magnolia Warblers** on the MS 5/1 (KD) were the first, and 3 **Blackburnian Warblers** provided the lone observation in the CC 5/27 (GK, MK).

The first **Yellow Warbler** was found on the MS 5/1 (KD) and the first 3 **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were also on the MS 5/1 (KD). The only **Blackpoll Warbler** was in the CF 5/24 (RN), the first **Black-throated Blue Warbler** on the MS 5/11 (AK, JK), and the first **Pine Warblers** in CC 4/10 (NW, GO). The first 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were on the RB 4/9 (AK, JK) and the only **Yellow-throated Warbler** was an excellent find over FL 5/7 (AK, JK). An interesting count of 7 **Prairie Warblers** was a welcome find on RR 5/8 (JF) and 3 **Black-throated Green Warblers** were the first found in CC 4/23 (LM). One **Canada Warbler** was the sole find in the CF 5/24 (RN) and one **Wilson's Warbler** was the only find on the MS 5/11 (AK, JK).

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Nathan Weyandt.

Juniata County

Locations: Casner's Crossing - Juniata River (CC), East Waterford (EW), Juniata River (JR), Licking Creek Valley (LCV), McAlisterville (MA), Mifflintown (MIF), Mifflintown River Access (MRA), Thompsontown (TT), Thompsontown River Access (TRA), Van Wert (VW).

Waterford migration was uneventful. Most notable was a **White-winged Scoter** at Cocolamus Dam 3/6-7 (CK, RD). The only **Ruffed Grouse** report was of one in LCV 5/3 (DB). Four **Sandhill Cranes** were spotted at the Arch Rock exit of Rt. 322 by birders passing through 5/19 (Tim Becker, Kathy Becker).

The highlight of the season was shorebirds at Pine Grove Rd. near MA 5/13-14 (CK, RD, TW). A **Stilt Sandpiper** there was a first record for the county and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** just the second ever (based on eBird records). Other species, with high counts indicated, were **Semi-palmated Plover** (2), **Dunlin** (one), **Least Sandpiper** (15), **Semi-palmated Sandpiper** (2), **Spotted Sandpiper** (4), **Solitary Sandpiper** (12), **Grater Yellowlegs** (one), and **Lesser Yellowlegs** (one). Other shorebirds of note were 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at EW 5/9 and 7 **Solitary Sandpipers** there 5/9 and 5/18 (CK).

Thirty-one **Bonaparte's Gulls** at MRA provided a good count 4/10 and that same date and location saw a high count of 12 **Double-crested Cormorants** (CK). The only **American Bittern** was at CC 5/19 (CK). A **Golden Eagle** was recorded near MIF 3/25 (CK).

Red-headed Woodpeckers included 3 at an established location near MA 3/9 (TW) and 2 there 3/31 (Scott Lewis). Single Red-heads were at CC 4/21 (CK) and recorded on 5 days in LCV 4/23-5/2 (DB). Fairly rare in *Juniata*, a **White-eyed Vireo** was found during scouting for a BBS route along Rt. 235 in the eastern part of the county 5/26 (Julia Plummer) but was a no-show for the actual running of the route.

Up to 6 **American Pipits** were near VW 4/29-30 (CK) for the only report. **Purple Finches** were regulars at a LCV feeder, peaking in mid-Apr at a high of 14 (DB); they went unreported (in eBird) elsewhere in the county. Four **Grasshopper Sparrows** were near TT 5/7 (Steve Schimdt) for the only report. Two **Savannah Sparrows** were at Metz Rd. 5/10 (CK, Chuck Berthoud) and singles at VW 4/30, near MA 5/3, and EW 5/18 (all CK). Four **Yellow-breasted Chats** were near Honey Grove 5/18 and one at EW on the same date (CK). The lone **Rusty Blackbird** was at TT 3/8 (CK).

Nineteen warbler species were reported. Most notable was a **Prothonotary Warbler** that struck (but recovered) a window on Flint Rd. near TT 4/14 (Paul Renno family, CK). Near EW, 3 **Golden-winged Warblers** and 2 **Blue-winged Warblers** were recorded 5/18 (CK). A **Cerulean Warbler** was found in Tuscarora SF 5/27 (Laura Kemmick, Emily Broich). A **Dickcissel** was found 5/25 at a farm near TT where they have occurred previously (Paul Renno family).

Observers: **Greg Grove**, gwg2@psu.edu, **Chad Kauffman**, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, chadkauffman@earthlink.net, cell 717-994-6715. Deb Brackbill, Rob Dickerson, Joe Gyekis, Henry Petersheim, Toby A. Petersheim (TAP), Toby H. Petersheim (THP), Abram Troyer (AbT), Aden Troyer, David Troyer, Marvin Troyer, Steven Troyer, Tiffany Willow.

Lackawanna County

Locations: Chapman Lake (CL), Lackawanna S.P. (LSP).

Although migrant sightings were low, *Lackawanna* experienced a nice diversity of species this period. Two **Northern Shovelers** visited LSP 4/5-4/6 (RA, NF). **Gadwalls** are expected, but are still an uncommon regional visitor; a maximum of 10 were observed at 4 separate locations (m.ob.). A male **Greater Scaup** was seen at CL 4/5 (MM), followed by a second bird at Heart Lake 4/25 (RA).

Heavy rainfall throughout the season created more-than-normal availability of shorebird habitat. A visit to flooded corn fields along Pump House Rd. produced the county's first ebird report of a **Semipalmated**

Plover. Also there were 6 **Solitary Sandpipers**, 2 **Spotted Sandpipers**, and a county high of 13 **Least Sandpipers** 5/19 (RJ). **American Woodcock** numbers were somewhat low with only 12 individuals reported from just 2 locations (m. ob.). A seasonal high of 7 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at CL 4/15 (MM). Providing *Lackawanna's* first ebird report of **Black Tern**, 3 were found at a large pond in West Abington Twp. 5/11 (DT). A single **Golden Eagle** was observed soaring above Scranton 3/15 (JN). This observation marks just the third county sighting of this species in ebird.

Among passerines, a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was an exciting find at a cabin near Fleetville 5/27 (LV). **Swainson's Thrush** sightings were scarce with just 2 reports; one was located within the Spruce Swamp Natural Area 5/26 (PW, RW) and a second at a Fleetville cabin 5/27 (LV). Northern finch sightings were few and far between, but one birder managed to photograph a flock of 51 **Common Redpolls** along the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail in Scranton 3/8 (BM). One **Rusty Blackbird**, another species that often goes unseen, was located along Greenfield Rd. in Scott Twp. 4/28 (RA).

Observers: **Ryan Johnson, 140 Hollisterville Hwy, Moscow, PA 18444, (570) 702-9118, natureguy13@gmail.com**, Ralph Allen, Nate Fronk, M. Mack, Brian Marra, Janice Novotka, Susan Petty, David Trently, Lindsey Vath.

Lancaster County

Locations: Alcoa Marsh (AM), Beechdale Rd Farm Pond (BRFP), Brenner Quarry (BQ), Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Chickie's Rock County Park (CRCP), Conewago Recreation Trail & Wetlands (CRTW), Greenfield Ponds (GP), Lancaster Airport (LA), Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Millport Conservancy (MC), Muddy Run Reservoir (MRR), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Prescott Rd (PR), Riverfront Park (RFP), Rock Springs Nature Preserve (RSNP), Safe Harbor Dam (SHD), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Speedwell Forge Lake (SFL), Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve (SFWP), 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 River Peach Bottom (SRPB), Susquehannock SP (SSP), SGL 52, SGL 156, SGL 220, Susquehanna W.T.P Washington Boro (SWTPWB), Wood's Edge Park (WEP).

Any distribution notes (were more abundant, less common, etc.) are compared to that species' 5-year eBird data trend. 233 species were recorded during the period.

Snow Goose numbers peaked at 150,000 on 3/12 (*vide* LF, m.ob.). Single **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found at SFL 3/9-12 (BC) and MCWMA 3/11 (RK). **Cackling Goose** reports were numerous through 3/24, per usual (m.ob.). A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was briefly seen at SRCF 4/6 (ME, ML). In the hybrid category was the fascinating observation of a "Brewer's Duck" at MCWMA 3/20 (RK), which is the offspring of a Mallard and Gadwall. Several nice counts of **Canvasback** were made in early Mar, including 120 at SRPB 3/3 (BS), 120 at SHD 3/9 (LB), and 140 at SRLC 3/9 (LB). A drake **Lesser Scaup** was at SRCF 5/30 (JH). **White-winged Scoters** were on SRLC 3/30 (ZM, EM) and 4/6 (ME). **Long-tailed Duck** numbered at least 24 birds according to eBird reports (m.ob.). A high count of 134 **Common Goldeneyes** was made on SRLC 3/9 (ME).

An incredible sighting of a **Ruffed Grouse** came from a Peach Bottom home 4/1 (BS), which was certainly the best bird of the season. In fact, it was described as being seen "pecking at the mulch" under an azalea by the observer. In all probability this was indeed a wild bird, but explanations as to its origins are far from certain. **Red-necked Grebe** reports were numerous on SRLC 3/5-4/15, with additional sightings at MCWMA and SFL, totaling at least 8-10 individuals (m.ob.). **Virginia Rails** were confirmed breeding at 2 locations, NDP and WEP (m.ob.). **Sandhill Cranes** were discovered at MCWMA 3/16 (PD) and 4/30 (FG), CGNA 3/19 (LB, ML), and a pair flying over NDP 4/28 (SM).

All shorebirds reports were made at SRCF unless otherwise noted. Six **Black-bellied Plover** were there early morning 5/10 (AS), one that evening (JHor, ZM), and again 5/26 (BC, EWi) and 5/28 (CB, JHor). A **Whimbrel** dropped in late evening 5/10 (JHor, ZM ph.). An excellent group of 6 **Ruddy Turnstones** dropped in late afternoon 5/14 (CB), and another pair showed up 5/26 (BC, EWi). An early **Dunlin** showed up 4/7-8 (ZM, ML, JHor). OR is currently drawn down for dam work, and the exposed mudflats drew in large numbers of peeps. **Least Sandpipers** totaled over 500 on 5/16 (MG, RG). Five **White-rumped Sandpipers** were counted in various reports across the county 5/15-30 (m.ob.). An estimate of 175 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at OR 5/19 (MD, ZM) was an excellent high count.

At least 2 **Little Gulls** were seen along the SRLC 3/23-25 (CB, m.ob.). Adult **Laughing Gulls** were seen on SRLC 4/20 and 5/22 (ZM, ML), along with an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 4/20 (ZM). Six **Black Terns** showed up in poor weather on SRLC 5/5 (ML, JB, m.ob.), and another was sighted 5/10 (CB). The same storm system congregated a large flock of **Common Terns** at SRLC 5/5 (ML, JB, m.ob.), with the highest approximate count being 125. The next day 7 were still around (ML), and 3 were seen again 5/14 (JHor). Multiple reports of one or 2 **Forster's Terns** came 5/1-6 on SRLC (m.ob.). Lone **Red-throated Loons** were along the SRLC and MCWMA 3/10-5/5 (m.ob.), likely comprising 3-4 individuals.

Six **American Bitterns** were found during migration 3/30-4/28 (m.ob.). "Overshoot" **Cattle Egrets** wound up at WEP 5/5 (SS) and MCWMA 5/17-23 (SF, m.ob.), and 2 were reported at a different location there 5/21 (ME). Two adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were seen; one along SRLC 5/23 (JS), and for the 4th consecutive season one adult male was at the Ephrata night-heron rookery. For the second year running this bird created a nest with female Black-crowned, and both were frequently observed sitting on it, but as of this writing it does not appear that they were successful. More information will follow in the next issue. The highest count of breeding **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at the Ephrata rookery was 71 adults and 56 active nests on 5/19 (ZM). A **Glossy Ibis** was photographed at CRTW 4/18 (DH).

The adult **Golden Eagle** sightings persisted at MCWMA 3/1-9 (m.ob.). A subadult **Mississippi Kite** was encountered at CRCP 5/20 (ML, ph.), and 2 the next day at a Nottingham home (SB) as part of a region-wide push of the species. The dark immature **Rough-legged Hawk** was last seen at MCWMA 3/4 (m.ob.). Only one member of a **Barn Owl** pair was again found at a Mount Joy farm 5/5 (JHe). **Short-eared Owl** sightings of 1-3 birds were numerous at MCWMA through 4/11 (m.ob.). A slightly late **Merlin** blew through an Akron yard 5/10 (BC).

The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at RSNP 5/26 (CG, JHou). Five migrating **Alder Flycatchers** were found around the county 5/25-27 (BC, SM, JHou EWA), and at MCWMA 4 were found on territory at various spots on the Lancaster side. An early **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was seen along the Conestoga R near Lancaster city 3/14 (BM). A continuing **Black-capped Chickadee** was again seen at MC 3/2 (DK). The large numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** from this winter's irruption continued through mid-May. A **Marsh Wren** was strangely discovered along a creek in a deciduous woodland at NDP 4/30-5/2 (SM), and a silent bird was seen in suitable habitat near Penryn 5/2 (BC). It was an above average season for both **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin**. **Lapland Longspurs** were quite difficult to find this winter; 2 were photographed near Paradise 3/3 (RF) and another seen near Penryn 3/7 (BC).

Nine **Vesper Sparrows** were observed in various spots around the northern half of the county after 4/2 (m.ob.). The find of the season was a singing **Henslow's Sparrow** discovered in an alfalfa field west of Ephrata on 4/21 (ZM, m.ob.). This was about the 4th county record but the first chaseable since 1975, and gave quite a few Lancaster birders the chance to see one in their home county. It could not be found again that night or the next morning. An early or wintering **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen at SFWP 3/6 (LB). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was well-documented at NDP 4/23-5/1 (SM, m.ob.). Six **Mourning Warblers** were found 5/4-25 (m.ob.). The **Kentucky Warbler** count was 16 in May, with a few migrants but most being found at 6 breeding locations. Single migrant **Cerulean Warblers** were found at 4 spots 5/8-22 (m.ob.).

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Lawrence County

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

Two **Cackling Geese** were at Doradele Lake 3/17-23 (MV). Reports of **Tundra Swan** consisted of 4 at BS 3/2 (ST) and 70 near Portersville 3/7 (MC). Among 7 **Blue-winged Teal** at SR 4/27 was a leucistic female (MV). Two **Northern Shovelers** were lingering at CRM 4/17 (GK, MAK). A fine count of 34 **American Wigeons** was made at CRM 3/20 (DG), and up to 20 remained there to 4/9, a late date for such a number around here. **Canvasback** is rather unusual in the county, so a report of 16 at Mason Road 3/17 (MC) was notable; one was still at SR 3/23 (MV). Large numbers of other bay ducks were tallied 3/10; these included 210 **Redheads** in the VSM area and 247 **Ring-necked Ducks** around the PG area (both MV). Another 125 **Redheads** were at EL 3/17 (MV), and 172 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at CRM 4/6 (MV); 3 individuals of the former lingered at SR to 4/7 (MC) and one of the latter was at WNGM on the late date of 5/16 (MV). **Greater Scaup** is also unusual in *Lawrence*, so reports of a total of 11 across 3 locations in the northeast section of the county 3/17 (MV, AH) were notable. Three somewhat late **Greater**s were at EL 4/6 as well (MV). One **Red-breasted Merganser** was still at PG 5/4 (MV).

A **Red-necked Grebe** at EL 3/17 (MV) was an excellent find for *Lawrence*. A **Common Nighthawk** was over SR 5/16 (MD). **Virginia Rails** included one at BS 4/18 and 3 there 4/24 (both GK, MAK). **Soras** were represented by one at CRM 4/17 (GK, MAK), 4 at BS 4/24 (GK, MAK), and one at VSM 5/18 (MC). A **Common Gallinule** was at CRM 4/13-20 (MV), one at BS 5/1 (GK, MAK), and 8 at WNGM 5/16 (MV), where the species has been a long-standing breeder with multiple pairs summering there for a number of years now. The wintering flock of **Sandhill Cranes** around PG still numbered 45 on 3/2 (ST); as has been the case a pair or 2 remained behind deep into the spring and probably bred locally again.

A heard-only **Upland Sandpiper** was reported with scant details along Miller Road, PG 5/18 (BB, et al.). This species has not been reliably reported in *Lawrence* since the mid-1990s. This report seemed solid, unfortunately a subsequent search for the bird failed to recover it. SR was once again a shorebird hotspot this spring, and all sightings that follow were made there. **Semipalmated Plover** first appeared 5/8 and peaked at 8 bird 5/24 (RS). A **Ruddy Turnstone** was a superb find for the area 5/16 (GK, MAK), as was a **Stilt Sandpiper** 5/26 (GK, MAK). The Turnstone may well have represented the first record for the county, and the Stilt was the second of its kind to appear at SR in the spring (during which time the species is very rare anywhere in Pennsylvania) since 2016. A nice count of 31 **Dunlins** was made 5/24 (RS). Top count of **Least Sandpiper** was 45 on 5/26 (GK, MAK), and of **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, 75 on that same day (MJ, JF, LF, MV, MC). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was present 5/24 and 5/26 (RS, et al.). **Short-billed Dowitchers** included 10 on 5/11 (RT), 2 on 5/16 (GK, MAK), and 5 on 5/20 (MV). Top count of **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** was 13 for each species, on 5/1 and 5/16, respectively (both GK, MAK). Always difficult to track down in the county, 23 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at BS 45 (MW). Two **Caspian Terns** were at SR 5/26 (GK, MAK) and 2 **Forster's Terns** were in PG 5/4 (MV).

A late **Common Loon** was in the SR vicinity 5/16-25 (MV, et al.). Another excellent find at SR was an **American Bittern** on the intriguing date of 5/16 (GK, MAK), late enough to suggest it may have been finished

with its migration and was settling in for the season there instead. A good count of 10 **Bald Eagles** was made at EL 3/17 (MV), and a late **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported in the New Wilmington area 4/6 (KS). Last wintering **Short-eared Owl** was seen around SR 3/10 (MC).

Passerines, as usual, were lightly reported. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at BS 4/24 (GK, MAK), and an **American Pipit** was at Vosler Road 3/2 (ST). Counts of **Bobolink** at VSM reached 32 on 5/17 (MC) and 34 on 5/21 (GK, MAK), nice counts even for this location which may well host the highest density of the species in western Pennsylvania. A **Palm Warbler** was at SR 5/1 (GK, MAK), and 2 apparently wintering **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were at Mason Road 3/9 (MC).

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Lebanon County

Locations: Balmer Farm Ponds (BFP), Cold Springs Rd (CSR), Cornwall Area (CA), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Fox and Prescott Rd (FXP), Kreider's Pond (KP), Krumstown Rd (KR), Lion's Lake (LL), Marquette Lake (ML), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Millardsville Quarry (MVQ), Mt Gretna (MG), Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands (QEW), Pine Rd (PR), Reistville Flooded Fields (RFF), Second Mountain Hawkwatch (2Mtn), SGL 145, SGL 156, SGL 211, Shuey Lake (SL), Snitz Creek Park (SCP), Spring Hill Acres (SHA), Stover's Dam Park (SDP), Swatara State Park (SSP), Weavertown Rd (WR).

The highlight of the period was certainly the eight **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** that were seen along Ft Zellers Rd 5/20 (JH, SF, MSh). These were part of a larger occurrence within the state, and provided a first *Lebanon* record for the species. According to the property owner they first appeared four days prior, on 5/16 (*vide* JH).

Cackling Geese were found in five county locations 3/2-28 (m.ob.). Four were at ML 3/6 (PW, RW) and 3 at BFP 3/23 (JH). A **Mute Swan** was at BFP 5/23 through the period (JH). **Blue-winged Teal** were plentiful, and stayed long this spring. Up to 6 were at BFP 3/30-4/29 (JH, PW, RW, TB, KB, CB, m.ob.) Two continued at BFP 5/2-7 (JH). A single **Blue-winged Teal** remained at BFP 5/14-27 (SW, JHn, JH, CB, TB), which provided a new county late date. Elsewhere up to 3 were at WR 3/31-4/5 (PW, RW), 4 at MLSP 4/8 (JH, IG), and 2 at PR 3/25 (TB). Seven **Blue-winged Teal** were at FXP 4/20 (JH), with 2 there 5/14 (JH). An **American Wigeon** was at State Rd on a new county late date 5/30 (PW, RW). A **Northern Pintail** provided a new county late date at BFP 5/20 (SS). Eighty-three **Green-winged Teal** provided a good count at BFP 4/17 (JH).

Small numbers of **Canvasbacks** lingered into mid-March, following a very good winter for this species. Two were at LL 3/6 (PW, RW) and singles were at BFP 3/13 (TN, ZM, SF), MC 3/13 (JH, MH), and MVQ 3/16 (JH). Up to 16 **Redheads** were at MC 3/27-4/10 (JH). Six **Ring-necked Ducks** provided a new county late date at MC 5/22 (SF). A **Greater Scaup** was at QEW 4/2-4 (TBu) and 6 at MLSP 4/15 (JH). Five **White-winged Scoters** were at MLSP 5/10 (TB, KB, SW). Seven **Long-tailed Ducks** were at ML 4/8 (TB, JH, SW). Single **Common Goldeneyes** were at MLSP 3/13-16 (JH, MC) and 4/19-20 (JH, TB). Six **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at MC 3/10 (JH, MH). Two were at MLSP 3/24-25 (MC, TB, KB, SW), with up to 10 there 4/6-13 (TB, KB, JH, RS). Three **Ruddy Ducks** were at MLSP on a new county late date 5/26 (TB, KB).

Ruffed Grouse were found at several northern *Lebanon* locations, including 2Mtn 5/8 (AS) and SGL 211 on 5/31 (TB). Two were at SSP 5/16 (PW, RW). Up to 4 **Common Nighthawks** were seen at MLSP 5/11-18 (BB, BBr, SB, TB, KB, JH) and 3 were at MC 5/16 (SF). Up to 2 **Virginia Rails** were in the cattails by SL 4/6-5/30 (JH, DK, JD, SW, BW, TB, IG) and another was at FIG 4/19 (JH). Up to two **Soras** were at SL

4/19-5/11 (JH, TB, JD, SW, BW). Soras were also found at QEWS 4/19-5/4 (JH) and FIG 4/19 (JH). A **Sandhill Crane** flew over the Newmans town area 3/18 (JS). One at BFP 5/13-14 (JH, TN, SW, SS) was also seen at nearby Iona 5/14 (JS).

Semipalmated Plovers were plentiful at BFP 5/7-18 (m.ob.), with the highest count provided by 17 on 5/13 (JH). They were also numerous at FXP 5/11-15 (m.ob.), with the highest count provided by 11 on 5/14 (EH). A female **Ruff** was well-described at BFP, providing a first county record 4/23 (TN). Accidental in spring was a **Stilt Sandpiper** at BFP 5/13-14 (JH, TN, SS, PW, RW, JHn). A **Dunlin** was found on a new county early date at FXP 4/12 (TB), with one there again 5/14 (EH, TB, SW, PW, RW). Two Dunlins were at BFP 4/13 (JH, PW, RW) and one at WR 4/13 (JH). Six **Least Sandpipers** provided a new county early date by over a month at WR 3/13 (TN, ZM, PW, RW, SF). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at BFP 5/13-14 (JH, TN, SS, PW, RW, JHn). Two **Western Sandpipers** were found at RFF 5/2-3 (JH, TN, ME, PW, RW). Up to 3 **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at FXP 5/7-9 (JH, CE) and one at BFP 5/13-14 (JHn, PW, RW, TN). Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at BFP 4/5 (PW, RW, TBu) and 4/13 (JH, PW, RW). One was at nearby FXP 4/12 (TB) and on a new county late date 5/12 (PW, RW). A Bonaparte's Gull was at MLSP 4/10-12 (JH, TB). Twelve were at MLSP 4/16 (MCo, TB), with 4 again 4/30 (TN, ME). Two **Caspian Terns** were at MLSP 4/8 (TB, KB), 9 at BFP 4/12-13 (TB, PW, RW, JH), and 4 at LL 4/12 (TB).

Single American Bitterns were at FIG 4/1 (JD) and QEWS 4/13 (JH). A new county early date was provided by a **Great Egret** flying over Annville 3/30 (TB) and 2 along Lingle Ave on the same date (PW, RW). Two **Cattle Egrets** were at BFP 4/22-29 (MF, JH, PW, RW, TN, PH, m.ob.) and one at a farm along Rt 419 on 5/11 (J&BB). Single **Black-crowned Night-herons** were at MLSP 4/8-13 (TB, SW, JH), QEWS 4/13 (JH), SDP 5/3 (TBu), and at E. Kercher Ave 5/25 (KZ). Two were at BFP 5/30 (TN). A **Glossy Ibis** was at BFP 4/26-28 (JH, CB, TB, KB, DH, m.ob.), and then at FXP 5/6-8 (JE, SS, JH, GR).

A **Golden Eagle** was seen over KP 3/16 (JH). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was at MC 3/1-3 (GK, SW, ZM, JE, m.ob.). Two **Barred Owls** were heard at SGL 211 on 3/30 (JH), with a single there 4/22 (NF). Barred Owls were also heard at SSP 4/22 (ME) and Clear Springs Rd 5/3 (JF). Up to 2 **Short-eared Owls** were at MC 3/6-27 (TB, MS, JH), with a fairly late bird there 4/10 (JH). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was at SGL 211 on 3/30 (JH). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were found at locations within FIG, including ML, throughout the period (m.ob.). Outside of FIG, 2 were at BFP 5/13-30 (JH, TN) and one at Krumstown Rd 5/4 (JH). **Merlins** were found south of Annville 4/23 (TB, KB) and at BFP 4/27 (JH). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at SCP 3/25 (PW, RW).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were found at SSP 5/14 (TK) and 5/30 (JDe), and one at SGL 145 on 5/25 (JH, JHo). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at SGL 145 on 5/22 (JH). **Alder Flycatchers** were found at MLSP 5/18 (JH), at SGL 145 on 5/22 (JH), and at MC 5/22-25 (RS, BH, PF, JE, FB, JH). A **Least Flycatcher** was at SDP on a new county early date 4/18 (TBu). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found in numerous county locations through mid-May (m.ob.). Four were at SGL 145 on 3/25 (NF), and 3 at CSR 4/20 (JH). A **Marsh Wren** provided a new county early date at FIG 4/12-19 (JH, TB, SW). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found at SGL 156 on 5/20 (JH). Eighty **American Pipits** provided a good count along Iona Rd 4/6 (JH).

Purple Finches carried over from the fall and winter at numerous locations. Eight were at SGL 145 on 4/11 (JH) and at ML 4/19 (TB, KB). Eighteen were at MG 4/12 (PB), and 10 at SHA 4/14 (JH). Up to 10 **Pine Siskins** visited feeders at CA 3/7-4/25 (PW, RW). One was at SHA 3/19 (JH), with 3 there 4/6-21 (JH). Eight Pine Siskins were at MG 4/12 (PB), and one at FIG 4/22 (IG). Two **Lapland Longspurs** in breeding plumage were a nice find along Iona Rd 4/10 (JH).

A **Baltimore Oriole** visited a feeder in Myerstown on a new county early date 4/6 (SH). A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen at SL 4/13-19 (JH, TB, JF, EF, NF, BB), one was at FIG 4/30 (IG), one sang at BFP 4/25-5/14 (JH, PW, RW, SW, AK, JHn), and up to 2 were at Krumstown Rd 4/14-5/25 (JH). Seven different county locations hosted small numbers of **Rusty Blackbirds** 3/16-4/25 (JH, JHo, TB, IG); the high count was provided by 9 at FIG 4/8 (IG).

Prothonotary Warblers were found at MLSP 5/4 (JH) and 5/17

(JM). One was also heard in the *Lebanon* portion of MC 5/23 (BC). A **Mourning Warbler** was found at SGL 145 on 5/9 (JH). One was at MLSP 5/10 (TB), with 2 there 5/18 (JH). A **Kentucky Warbler** was singing at FIG 5/16 (SW) and one was at SSP 5/17-29 (TB, JH, PW, RW, NF, BR, TJ, m.ob.). Kentucky Warblers were also found at CA 5/22 (MS) and SGL 145 on 5/25 (JH, JHo). A **Cerulean Warbler** was at SGL 211 on 5/4 (JH), with 2 heard there 5/9 (TB). Up to 2 Cerulean Warblers were found at FIG 5/8-15 (JD, SW, TB, BW, IG). One was also found in Grantville 5/10 (TB). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen at MLSP 5/5 (TB). Single **Wilson's Warblers** were found in 5 county locations, including Clear Springs Rd 5/2 (JF), Colebrook 5/2 (PH), Waterworks 5/4 (EF, NF), ML 5/23 (JH), and MLSP 5/6-20 (TB, KB, SW, DK). **Blue Grosbeaks** were found at MC 5/7 (SF) and 5/25 (SS, JH).

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Lehigh County

The total species reported from *Lehigh* was 211. In addition to some personal correspondence, this report benefits greatly from data posted to eBird, so many thanks to all who take the time to use this wonderful tool to share their findings! Information gathered from various listservs and social media platforms has also been considered, particularly the Facebook page of the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society.

Large numbers of Snow Geese were found, especially around the Macungie/Alburtis area. Max counts from this particular area (up to 75,000) were estimated 3/2 (JaH). Ross's Goose was found 3/1 at New Tripoli (MB), and at Alburtis 3/2 (JaH). Two Greater White-fronted Geese and 2 Cackling Geese were also near Alburtis 3/2 (JaH); it was definitely a good day for geese at Alburtis. Up to 6 Tundra Swans were at Leaser Lake 3/1-3 (MB, FD). Two Blue-winged Teal were reported almost daily 3/16-4/6 from Haafsville and Cetronia Road (DN, m.ob.). Two Northern Shovelers were at Haafsville daily 3/15-26 (DN), and a late pair was found nearby at Nestle Way 5/4 (JaH). There were good totals reported for Green-winged Teal with max count of 45 at Haafsville 4/3 and 4/10 (DN), and 32 at Cetronia 3/2 (CH). A Redhead was at Dorney Pond 3/1-9 (m.ob.). Rounding out the duck category, 2 Red-breasted Mergansers stayed at Leaser Lake most of March 3/1-24, (m.ob.).

Up to 6 Horned Grebes were at Leaser Lake 4/13-17. Common Nighthawk was reported a bit more often than in recent years, with 8 eBird records 5/4-29, a nice bit of news. A Virginia Rail was a good find 5/11 at Ontelaunee Park near New Tripoli (FD). There were a few Sandhill Cranes in the county, but all were flyovers. The first report was 3/4 at Catasauqua Lake near Allentown (MC), and another passed over SGL217 on 3/17 (JeH).

The season wasn't great for shorebirds due to wet weather and general lack of habitat. The sole highlight was Dunlin at Cetronia Road 4/13-5/15 (m.ob.). Bonaparte's Gulls were at Leaser Lake 4/6 (4), and 4/22 (FD, KG, EK). Another was found at a less expected spot along the Lehigh River at Cementon 5/7 (MC). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were NOT seen in good numbers, yet again. Despite good numbers in surrounding counties to the east and south, the seasonal max for *Lehigh* was just 3 birds. As in recent years, they were present almost daily. The late date this year was 5/5 at Cetronia Road (JeH). Caspian Terns were at Leaser Lake 4/6 (FD) and 5/5 (3) (JeH).

The first Common Loon of the season showed up at Leaser Lake 3/25 (FD, LB). Loons were present daily at Leaser 4/6-5/14 with max of 15 on 5/10 (JaH). Away from Leaser Lake, passed over the DeSales campus in Upper Saucon 4/18 (PH). An American Bittern was a great "yard bird" at Slatington 4/8 (AP ph). Another was at Leaser Lake for at least 2 days beginning 5/2 (FD, JaH). An adult Little Blue Heron spent a week or so at Haafsville 5/1-8 (DN, m.ob.). This seems to be the ninth county record since 1994 and the third for this spot along Haaf Rd since 2011. This may also be the first known adult for *Lehigh*.

A Golden Eagle passed over Leaser Lake 3/16 (FD), and another over Lehigh Furnace Gap 4/18 (JH). Barred Owl is not expected at Pool Wildlife Sanctuary near Emmaus, but there is a history of the species' occurrence in this area. One was found 5/10 (JF). Breeding seems unlikely, but should be looked for. Red-headed Woodpeckers continued to be seen this season at 2 spots where they have bred recently. The pair at Church Road near Slatington were active through the season, though the landowners continue to be bizarrely hostile toward birders looking at their pasture. Adult birds were also active at Trexler Nature Preserve's North Range area (m.ob.). Adults were photographed at Leaser lake 4/28 (HE), and 3 were reported near Bake Oven Knob 5/25 (AR). Peregrine Falcons were noted round the county. There were 4 eBird records from Fogelsville Quarry 3/3-4/30, providing a clue to a possible breeding territory. Breeding activity was noted at Allentown's Eighth Street Bridge again this year, and will be further detailed in the next issue of this journal.

Three Olive-sided Flycatchers reports all came from various points along Blue Mountain 5/8-11. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Leaser Lake 5/23 (TU) and at New Tripoli 5/29 (JH). Ten White-eyed Vireos records for the county was more than usual, from 4/28 to the end of the period. Common Ravens continue to expand throughout the county and region; there were over 60 records reported to eBird this quarter with a good portion away from Blue Mountain. The Purple Martin colony at Leaser Lake continues to thrive, with over 30 pairs reported...great to see them doing well! Colonies at Slatendale and Slatington were also active.

Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported very sporadically 3/2-4/6, then daily in small numbers for over 3 weeks beginning 4/14 until 5/8. An outlier was at Emmaus 5/16 (BS). Similarly, Purple Finch had just 2 reports in March, followed by daily sightings 4/7-5/11. The max count of 47 was at Leaser Lake 5/3 (JH), and a decent sized flock of up to 35 was at Alburts 4/30-5/6 (JV). A lone Common Redpoll was at Burkhardt Preserve near Emmaus 3/4 (JH). Pine Siskin was found mostly in low numbers 3/8-5/15. Max counts were 20 at Alburts 4/30 (JV), and 30 at Emmaus 5/9 (JL).

It feels strange to write about the warblers *after* the winter finches, but the state of our taxonomy is new. And weird. Thirty-two warbler species were found in *Lehigh* this spring, with a couple highlights. Golden-winged Warbler is not found annually, but was reported this year from Leaser Lake 5/5 (JaH) and Blue Mountain 5/9 (FD). Yellow-throated Warbler continues to be a mystery here, missing from our list of breeding birds. Reports this spring came from New Tripoli 4/29 (FD), and Emmaus 5/11 (LH). Finally, Blue Grosbeak has bred at Leaser Lake in recent years, and was reported there this year 5/4-9 (m.ob.). The max count was 3 on 5/4 (EK). It's surprising that there were no further reports after 5/9, despite decent coverage by local birders.

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Luzerne County – no compiler

Lycoming County

Locations: Canfield Island (CI), Mill Street (MS), Montoursville (MTV), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Williamsport Dam (WD).

Generally, much of the spring was slow, but there were a few huge pushes of migrants, particularly during the beginning of May. There were several good records, especially with shorebirds, and it was a good season for terns. A total of 210 species were reported during the spring.

The **Snow Goose** at Indian Park continued through mid-May, ending its 14-month stay. Several migratory flocks of that species were observed during the spring as well. A **Cackling Goose** was seen at South Williamsport Park 3/2 (BB, DeB), MTV 3/3 (BB, DeB), and MS 3/12 (BB, DeB); given the proximity of those locations, all 3 records may have been the same individual traveling around with a flock of **Canada Geese**. An untagged **Trumpeter Swan** briefly stopped by RVL 4/5 (NF).

A late **Gadwall** was knocked down by a storm at WD 5/12 (BB, DeB). A **Surf Scoter** was at RVL 4/13 (BB, et al.), and a pair was seen at the same location 4/17 (BB, DeB, BoB). Two **White-winged Scoters** were reported at RVL 4/26 and 4/30 (NF). There were a number of **Red-necked Grebe** sightings near WD, including 3/8 (EH, et al.), 2 on 3/9 (BB, DeB, BoB), 3/17 (BB, DeB), 3/31 (JD), and 2 on 4/8 (BB, DeB, BoB).

A flock of approximately 350 low shorebirds flew over MTV at dusk 5/25 (BB), just before a thunderstorm arrived. Based on shape, the flock was likely primarily composed of **Black-bellied Plovers**. That species was also detected by call several times that night at the same location, along with a good variety of other shorebird species that got knocked down by the thunderstorms. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at RVL 5/13 (BB, DeB, BoB, et al.). Surprisingly, the first AND second *Lycoming* records of **Ruddy Turnstone** were both found in May. The first was a flyby at RVL 5/13 that was not re-found (BB, DeB, BoB). The second bird spent a few hours at WD 5/26 (BB, DeB, BoB, et al.). A **Red Knot** was detected by call over MTV in the early morning hours of 5/26 (BB), which is the first record for *Lycoming*. Several **Dunlin** flocks were also heard calling over MTV during the early morning of 5/26 (BB). **Least Sandpipers** were less abundant than most years, with only a single report from Cogan House Twp. 5/11 (DF, RF, WE). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at WD 5/26 (BB, DeB, BoB, AK, et al.). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was heard calling over MTV during the shorebird event 5/26 (BB). An early **Greater Yellowlegs** was found in Nisbet 3/16 (NF).

All **Caspian Tern** reports were from RVL, with 3 on 4/13 (BB, DeB, BoB, NF), 3 on 4/15 (BB, DeB, BoB, EH), 9 on 4/19 (NF), and 2 on 5/10 (BB, DeB, BoB, DanB). **Common Terns** were seen more frequently than in most years, with 5 sightings at RVL, including an impressive count of 17 on 5/13 (BB, DeB, BoB). One was at WD 5/5 (BB, DeB, BoB), and 2 at CI later that day (BB, et al.). A late group of 6 was at WD 5/26 (BB, et al.). Three **Forster's Terns** were at RVL 5/10 (BB, DeB, BoB, DanB), and one was there 5/13 (BB, DeB, BoB).

Red-throated Loon sightings at RVL included one 3/31 (BB, DeB, SP, NF), 4 on 4/5 (NF), one 4/18 (EH), one 4/28 (BB, DeB), and one 5/13 (AK). The only sighting away from the lake was a bird in breeding plumage at CI 5/10 (BB, DeB, BoB). **Common Loons** were widely reported, but a notable number of at least 166 were knocked down by a storm at RVL 4/28 (BB, DeB). An **American Bittern** was at RVL 4/17 (BB, DeB, BoB) and one was seen at a private pond near Williamsport 5/1 (DF). A flyover **Great Egret** was seen at MS 4/11 (BB, DeB), 2 were at RVL 5/10 (BB, DeB, BoB, DanB), and a flyover bird was noted in Ralston 5/17 (NF). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found at RVL 5/1 (NF, SP), which represents the fourth *Lycoming* record of the species, now recorded 3 consecutive years.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SGL 252 on 5/19 (BB, DeB, SP). A **Marsh Wren** was found at MS 5/4 (BB, DeB, BoB, SP), representing the first known spring record of that species in *Lycoming*. **American Pipits** were much less abundant than most years, with only 2 sightings — both of which were of singles, at RVL 3/30 (BB, DeB, BoB) and MS 4/21 (BB, DeB). An **Evening Grosbeak** was found at MS 5/3 (BB, DeB, et al.). **Pine Siskins** were reported through the end of May. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at MS 5/3 (BB).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at MS 5/3 (BB, DeB, BoB, SP). A **Cerulean Warbler** was found at the PGC regional headquarters in Antes Fort 5/10 (DanB, et al.). **Yellow-throated Warblers** returned to their annual nesting area at Trout Run Park again this year, with the first sighting 5/14 (BB, DeB, BoB). The species was also heard singing along Log Run Rd. 5/21 (SP). Two **Summer Tanager** reports during May

provided the fourth and fifth known *Lycoming* records of that species. The first sighting was an adult male visiting a feeder in Linden during the evening of 5/1, which continued through the following day (ML, et al.). The second sighting was an immature male briefly seen at MS 5/3 (BB, DeB, BoB, AK).

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McKean County – no compiler

Mercer County

Locations: Adamsville (AV), Barry Road (BR), Buckwalter Road (BU), Buhl Park (BP), Chestnut Run (CR), Creek Road (CRE), Fredonia (FR), Greenville, (GN), Grove City (GC), Hadley (HD), Hermitage (HE), Jamestown (JA), Ko Road (KR), Lake Wilhelm (LW), Mahaney Recreation Area (MR), Millbrook Road (MB), Maurice Goddard SP (MG), Mercer (ME), New Hamburg (NH), New Wilmington (NW), Otter Creek (OTC), Penny Swamp (PS), Polk (PO), Probst Road (PRO), Shenango Propagation Area (PR), Sandy Lake (SL), SGL 130 (S130), SGL 270 (S270), Sharon (SH), Sharpsville, (SV), Shenango Reservoir (SR), Shenango Trail (ST), Spring Road (SP), Tieline Road (TE), Tower Road (TR), Transfer (TF), Triple Link (TL), Volant (VO), West Middlesex (WM), West Lake Road (WL), West River Road (WRR), West Salem (WS), Woodland Road (WD).

It was a rather interesting spring. Waterfowl came through in good numbers early yet lingered till the end of the period. Warblers put on a good show again, with 28 species found by many observers.

A **Snow Goose** stayed at PR 3/9-30 (m.ob.); another, likely the same bird, was at WL 3/23, (m.ob.). Good numbers of **Cackling Geese** were also at PR, starting with 6 on 3/12 (MW, m.ob.), remaining till 3/30 with a maximum of 7 on 3/19 (MW, JMC). The only **Trumpeter Swan** was found at OC 3/13 (KS). **Tundra Swans** came through in big numbers 3/8-14 with up to 173 at PR 3/13 (BW). **Blue-winged Teal** appeared a bit early with 10 at JA 3/26 (MW). An interesting find was a **Eurasian/American Wigeon** hybrid at MB 3/17 (GK, MAK, ph). **Northern Pintails** came through in good numbers with 160 at PR 3/15 (MW).

Diving ducks also were plentiful, led by 74 **Canvasbacks** and 126 **Redheads** at PR 3/1 (BW). Always a good find, **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported a few times with 4 at PR 3/12 (MW, m.ob.) **Red-breasted Mergansers** were noted throughout the period with the last one seen 5/28 at TF (MHO). **Ruddy Ducks** always seem to come in large flocks; 320 at LW 4/22 (SK) were noteworthy. Only the 2 regular grebes were reported. **Horned Grebes** were recorded 3/1-4/22 with a max of 6 at PR 4/11 (BW). **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen less frequently from 3/20-4/22 with 5 at ME 4/1 (TD).

Cuckoos were hard to find although few tent caterpillars were observed. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported 5/3-30 with 2 at GR 5/27 (BW), and 2 at JA 5/29 (MW). Only a single **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found, from CR on 5/3 (JMC). **Common Nighthawks** started coming through in mid-May with a nice group of 20 at BU 5/16 (MH). The only **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was reported from GC 4/24 (AM). **Chimney Swifts** first appeared 4/19, with one at GN (MW). An always looked for sign of spring is the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. One appeared at GN 4/30 (MW). Reports followed from all over the county during May.

Virginia Rails were found in multiple locations. A disturbing report from *Allegheny* on the excessive use of tapes to call these birds in for photographs is cause for concern here also. A max of 3 were at JA 4/16 (JMC, MW) and also at PS 4/17 (RN). Only 2 reports of **Sora** were received, with 3 at JA 4/23 (MW). No Common Gallinule were reported although they do nest at PS. Scattered reports of **Sandhill Cranes** were noted in March and April, not surprising with the breeding population just south of this county. Up to 4 were at TR 3/16 (MW); no other report noted more than 2 birds.

Shorebirds were not plentiful compared to places like Shaner Rd. Ponds in nearby *Lawrence*. Only 10 species were reported. The first **Killdeer** was seen 3/13 at TE (KS, MHO). **Dunlin** peaked at 2 birds at PR 5/15 (MW). Only one **Pectoral Sandpiper** was noted, 4/23 at TE (RN). Also, only one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was reported, at PR 5/15 (MW). **American Woodcock** were easier and more plentiful to find. They showed up 3/16 with one at GC (SG) and peaked at 6 birds 3/26 at GN (MW). A good find anywhere, a **Willet** was at CR 5/2 (m.ob.) This was an interesting year for Gulls in *Mercer*. Aside from the expected species, an **Iceland Gull** was at CR 3.18 (MW), a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at LW 3/15 (MW), and a **Glaucous Gull** at PR 3/11 and 3/17 (MW, BW). The only tern report was of one **Caspian Tern** at PR 4/23-27 (BW, m.ob.).

No large flight of **Common Loons** was observed; highest number was 23 at LW 4/6 (GK/MAK). Up to 2 **American Bitterns** were reported at KR 5/19 after one was found there 4/29 (KS/MHO). **Great Egrets** were seen 3/26 through the end of the period with up to 6 at SGL 270 (JMC). A **Black-crowned Night Heron** at GN 4/14 (JMC/MW) was a good sighting.

All expected raptors were found. Notable was a somewhat late **Rough-legged Hawk** at NW 4/5 (MW). Somewhat surprising was only one **Eastern Screech Owl**, reported at VO 4/20 (MHO). The other two expected owls were widely reported at BP. *Mercer* continues to be a good location for **Red-headed Woodpeckers**. They were seen throughout the period with BP being a "stronghold" for them (m.ob.). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** reports included 2 at GN 5/5 (MW) and one there 5/15 (MW). All 3 falcons were noted. A **Merlin** was at AV 3/26 (MW). **Peregrine Falcons** were noted several times, all singles. The first one seen 3/7 at PR (BW) and then sporadically around that area until 4/27 (MW, JMC).

Flycatchers arrived at about their normal times. **Eastern Phoebe** was seen at GN 3/25 (MW). **Eastern Kingbirds** arrived in late April at various locations (m.ob.). Only one **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was noted, at PS (RN). All six vireo species were found in good numbers throughout the county. Not always easy to find, a **Philadelphia Vireo** was at GN 5/11 (MW). Most people pay little attention to corvids but notable for *Mercer* was the first ebird record of **Fish Crow**, at SV 4/7 (KS, SS, MHO, SAH). **Common Ravens** continue to be found in small numbers - singles at GN 3/18 (MW) and GC 4/19 (AM) were notable.

Purple Martins are often an early arrival, first was at LW 4/8 (SK). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** also came in early April, with one at PR 4/9. **Bank Swallows** were noted only at PR, from 4/25 with 3 counted and continuing there till the end of the period. **Cliff Swallows** were first seen at SR 4/19 with 5 (MW) but were reliably found at the buildings at PR.

The remains of this past season's influx of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** showed with 14 at SR 3/12 (MW); one remained at SV till 4/4 (SS). Two late birds remained at GN till 5/11 (MW). It will be interesting to see if they remain to breed. Wrens are a favorite spring bird. Seven **House Wrens** appeared at PR 4/22 (MW). **Winter Wrens** remained until 4/13 with just handful reported from various location (MW, GK, MAK). Surprisingly, only one **Marsh Wren** was reported from PS 5/8 (RN). None were reported from TL a known breeding location.

Most thrushes came through in good numbers. The first **Wood Thrush** noted was a single at MR 4/24 (SS). **Hermit Thrushes** were seen 3/31-5/16 at various locations starting at JA with one 3/31 (MW). **Swainson's Thrush** was only reported from 2 locations, GN and JA, with 1 bird seen 5/5-27 (MW). **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** can be difficult to ID but one was found at GN 5/22 (MW). **Purple Finches** were reported all over the county throughout the period. Generally, one to 5 birds were reported but 9 at GR 4/25 (SS/JMC) was notable. Small numbers of **Pine Siskins** were seen in early May, with 6 birds reported from SL (KK). Only 2 **Snow Buntings** remained into this period at FR (MW).

American Tree Sparrows remained until 4/13 with up to 20 reported at PR (m.ob.). A single **Vesper Sparrow** was at PRO 5/19 (MW) and 5/24 (KS, SS, MHO). Considering the amount of grasslands and agricultural lands here, the fact that no Grasshopper or Henslow's Sparrows were reported is interesting. A few **Fox Sparrows** were found, but only as singles starting with one at GN 3/1 (MW); last seen was at JA

4/14 (MW). **White-crowned Sparrows** seemed scarce; only 4 were reported, with 2 at PR 5/15 (MW).

Another surprise considering the grasslands in *Merger*, **Yellow-breasted Chat** was only reported once, a single at GR 5/8 (SS). Scattered reports of **Bobolinks** were received, mostly from southeastern *Merger*. Largest group was 10 on SP 5/31 (SS, MHO), **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found in much the same areas with again 10 at SP 5/31 (SS, MHO). **Orchard Orioles** were found mostly at PR throughout the month of May with up to 3 seen (m.ob.) **Rusty Blackbirds** are always a good find and many were found during the period. The first was seen at WL 3/23 (BM) and 8 were at CRE 3/27 (MW).

As is normal, *Merger* is a good location for spring warblers. Notable sightings include: 7 **Blue-winged Warblers** at ST 5/1 (MW), 2 **Orange-crowned Warblers** at GN 5/10 (MW), one **Cape May Warbler** at FR 5/3 (JMC), 2 **Cerulean Warblers** at BR 5/2 (SS), one **Bay-breasted Warbler** at GN 5.4 (MW), one **Blackpoll Warbler** at GN 5/17 (MW), and 2 **Canada Warblers** at GN 5/13 (MW). Somewhat unusual, no Kentucky or Mourning Warblers were reported, both known breeders. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** appeared at SH 4/21 (BW). **Indigo Buntings** arrived by 5/4 with one at GN (MW).

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Mifflin County

Locations: Bunker Hill Pond (BHP), Cooper's Gap Road (CGR), State Game Lands 107-Woodcock Management Area (SGL 107), Licking Creek Road (LCR), Victory Park (VP).

The spring season ended with 186 species on 393 completed checklists submitted through eBird. The year to date total as of the end of May is 194, three more than 2018.

Twenty-five species of waterfowl were observed. Highlights included a lone **Tundra Swan** on BHP 5/17 (CY) through 6/1 (RD, CE) and one **Red-necked Grebe** at VP 3/10 (CK, RD). Uncommon in the spring, **Common Nighthawks** were reported through the central region, but with only 2 sightings in *Mifflin* - one at a private residence outside Reedsville 5/18 (RD) and one at a private residence outside Burnham 5/20 (RH). A **Virginia Rail** was reported along a small stream at Zook's Orchard 4/29 (JDB).

Ten species of shorebirds were observed; highlights included single **Pectoral Sandpipers** on Thompson Lane 5/10 and Barefoot Road 5/20 (RD) and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on Roy I Road 5/12 (CY). **Killdeer**, **Least Sandpiper**, **American Woodcock**, **Wilson's Snipe**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, and **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were also noted. Following a severe thunder and hailstorm, 2 **American Bitterns** were observed flying over a private residence outside Reedsville 5/3 (RD).

This year marked the first that Shaver's Creek Environmental Center provided a live feed for the public to observe a nesting **Barn Owl** pair at an undisclosed location. The female was observed sitting on 7 eggs through 4/24 (JK) and food deliveries were noted throughout the remaining of the spring season.

An **Alder Flycatcher** was on Back Mountain Road outside Milroy 5/11 (RD). For the fourth consecutive season, **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found within the Tuscarora SF, noted 5/11 (JZ), 5/17 (JZ), and 5/27 (RD). One was observed at a power-line cut near Swarey's Orchard 5/11 (AS). Thirty-one species of warblers were recorded, 4 more than the previous spring. Highlights included **Golden-winged Warbler** at a power-line cut on Jacks Mountain in Brady Twp. 5/9 (DB); **Kentucky Warbler** at NW Railroad Drive 5/11 (HK), 5/13 (JZ), and 5/17 (RD); **Cerulean Warbler** on CGR 5/8 (RD); **Prairie Warbler** at a power-line cut near Swarey's Orchard 5/11 (AS); and a **Yellow-throated**

Warbler at VP 4/11 (RD).

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Monroe County

Locations: Cherry Valley (CVNWR), Cranberry Bog (CB), Delaware River (DR), Long Pond (LP), Marshall's Creek (MC), Mt. Airy Lake (MAL), Mt. Pocono Airport (MPA), Penn Forest Reservoir (PFR), Pocono Summit Lake (PSL), Skytop (SKY), Snydersville (SNY), Summit Lake (SL).

March started off with a lifeless bang, and ended with a lifeless bang. All lakes and open waters in the higher elevations were frozen over until 4/1, with the lower elevations not showing anymore promise. Signs of life started returning on 3/30 with 30 **Common Redpolls** seen in a tamarack forest in Long Pond (NF) and three **Red-necked Grebes** found on PFR by an alert observer (RR).

The storms on 4/8 created the only real fallout conditions. High counts at SKY were 35 **Buffleheads**, 45 **Hooded Mergansers**, 5 **Horned Grebes**, and 4 **Wilson's Snipe** (RK). On PSL, the highs were 39 **Buffleheads** and 24 **Horned Grebes**. Two **Sandhill Cranes** made an appearance in a large field in LP 4/1 and promptly flew into the sunset heading right down I-80.

High end-of-the-season shorebird counts were produced at multiple locations. Eighteen **Semipalmated Plovers** were observed on a drained lakebed 5/21 (SL), with a high of 36 **Least Sandpipers** at the same location 5/26. The MPA water treatment plant produced a high of 25 **Spotted Sandpipers** 5/23 and a high of 19 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** plus 36 **Wood Ducks** 5/26. The month ended with a bang at MAL with a nice showing of 9 **Short-billed Dowitchers** and 9 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/26. A **Common Tern** showed up at the MPA water treatment plant and put on a good show on 5/10. The only **Red-throated Loon** of the period was found on a quarry in SNY 4/7. Three **American Bitterns** were at CB 4/18 (SK). A **Great Egret** was at CVNWR 5/19 (DH).

May brought along a nice variety of birds as usual, with a good participation of birders finding some real highlights. On the MC, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found 5/6 (JA, JC, m.ob.). CV produced a **White-eyed Vireo** along the Kemmerertown Rd 5/10 (SA). with an alert sighting of a **Great Egret** the next day a few miles up the creek (DH).

The documentation of **Evening Grosbeaks** and **Pine Siskins** for the period should be noteworthy and heralded. Grosbeak numbers were meticulously documented multiple times a day over a period of four months, with JC inviting anyone to visit his two dozen or so grosbeaks at anytime, with a high hitting 31 grosbeaks 3/17 (JC). At a feeder in East Stroudsburgs, a high of 73 **Pine Siskins** was present 4/5 (NT). The middle of April picked up with seasonal conditions and birds, with MAL producing a **Vesper Sparrow** 4/13 (BJ). A **Lawrence's Warbler** hybrid was on the DL 4/30 (BJ). A **Blue Grosbeak** was well documented on the CVNWR 5/19 (LB).

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Montgomery County

Locations: Ashbourne Country Club (ACC), Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Fort Washington S.P. (FWSP), Green Lane Park (GLP), Haverford College (HC), Norristown Dam (ND), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

The total species haul for spring 2019 was 211, slightly above a 7-

year-average of 207.9 for the period. Of particular note were a goodly number of high count and early/late date records. Please note that all mention of county records is based on eBird data. While it's not a complete record of all birds that have ever been witnessed by human eyes, we've got a pretty solid dataset in *Montgomery* in eBird, going back a few decades.

The season's largest collection of **Snow Geese**, 2250, was in the northwestern farm area around Palm 3/3 (JF). Two thousand Snow Geese were reported on the water at GLP on the same date (JH, MC). **Cackling Geese** were observed at GLP through 3/13 (m.ob.), including groups of 5 on 3/11 (PH, ph.) and 3/13 (AM, JH). A single Cackling Goose was also spotted grazing among **Canada Geese** at Branchwood Park in Franconia Twp. 3/11 (SG, ph.). A **Snow x Canada Goose hybrid** was at GLP 3/11 (PH, ph.). A good-sized group of 32 **Tundra Swans** stayed at GLP for couple days, 3/13-14 (GF, m.ob.).

A male **Blue-winged Teal** showed up at GLP 3/13, a couple weeks earlier than usual (AM, ph.). On the other side of their spring migration, a late pair of Blue-winged Teal was observed at WWP during the 5/11 PAMC (m.ob., ph.). A pair of **Gadwalls** at GLP 5/11 represented a new county late date, and another nice PAMC surprise (WBH, PH, ph.). A 46-strong pack of **American Wigeons** was at GLP 3/2 (PH), the largest group of the species, by a margin of more than 30, noted this period. A huge collection of 240 **Mallards** at GLP 3/20 (PH) was unusual for the date, and actually represents a new county spring season high count. Four late **American Black Ducks** were noted 5/11 (PH) and likely lingered through the end of the period (m.ob.).

A drake **Canvasback** made unexpected sporadic appearances in a small pond at DMP 3/6-13, and perhaps as late as 3/15 (JS, m.ob., ph.). The species was also spotted at GLP, a more typical location, on 6 days 3/2-13 (m.ob.). This includes a group of 6 on 3/8 (PH, NY). A **Redhead** male was at GLP 3/25 (PH). GLP featured some large gatherings of **Ring-necked Ducks**, including 229 on 3/4 and 203 on 3/7 (both PH). There were scattered reports of 1-2 **Greater Scaup** at GLP 3/4-25 (m.ob.). The season's only scoter was a male **Surf Scoter** at GLP 5/1 (GF). **Long-tailed Ducks** were a little more common, with pairs found at GLP 3/25 (PH, ph.) and 3/30 (GF), and a single hen 4/10 (PH, ph.). Fifteen **Buffleheads** at GLP 5/2 were a week past their normal departure date (PH). Seventy Buffleheads were counted on the river at VFNHP 3/16 (PD). Not only was this number an exceptional count for the season, it tied a previous season high count. The winter's **Common Goldeneye** invasion spilled over into spring, with double-digit counts continuing at ND through 3/9, and then 1-4 to 3/16 (m.ob.). These ND reports included a high count of 20 on 3/8 (SGr). Goldeneyes were also noted, in singles or pairs, at WWP 3/11 (JM), GLP 3/3-24 (m.ob.), and at GLP again 4/5 (WBH, vt.). The final observation is one of only a small handful of Apr sightings since the 1990s. A female **Hooded Merganser** was seen with 9 ducklings in tow at GLP 5/11 (PH, ph.). On top of several other May reports of this species at GLP (m.ob.), breeding range expansion was indicated by a single Hooded Merganser at ND 5/19-26 (MR), 1-3 at VFNHP 5/25-27 (RK, KJe, m.ob.), and one in Franconia Twp. 5/25 (SG). One to 3 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were spied at GLP on 4 occasions 3/13-5/3 (m.ob.). The 5/3 merg became just the third of its kind to be documented in *Montgomery* for the month of May (WBH, ph.).

Higher **Horned Grebe** numbers at GLP included 19 on 4/8 (GF, PH) and 8 on 4/13 (PH, KK). Solo **Red-necked Grebes** were identified at GLP 3/12 (SGr) and 4/11 (DM, PH, ph.).

There were at least 14 reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** 4/28-5/31 (m.ob.). These included a pair found at Pottstown Landfill on the intriguing date of 5/31 (JT, ph.). Astonishingly large numbers of migrating **Common Nighthawks** were tallied this season at several locations, with no obvious explanation for why this happened. Setting a new county spring record by nearly 40, an estimated 60 nighthawks were observed over VFNHP 5/14 (PD). Forty were estimated at ND 5/11 (PB). There were 3 other counts of 15-19 between Bala Cynwyd, Franconia Twp. and VFNHP 5/16-27 (SC, SG, SGr), all topping our previous period high count of 12, set in 2003 and not repeated/exceeded for another 16 years. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** announced their presence near GLP 5/2 (KE, vr.), King of Prussia 5/2 (SGr), and Salford Twp. 5/3-4 (WBH, vr.).

Virginia Rails were located in Lower Moreland Twp. 3/31-5/11 (PD,

vr.), at White's Mill Preserve in the Unami Creek Valley 4/6 (PM, DM, vr.), in Plymouth Meeting 4/22-5/11 (DB, SGr), and at DMP 5/15-18 (DB). Fellow rail, **Sora**, was located in Plymouth Meeting 4/22-24 (DB, PD, vr.), DMP 4/22-24 (DB), Schwenksville 5/2 (DM, ph.), and at SGL 234 on 5/11 (PB, SG), plus a flyover was heard at HC 4/23 (SJ). The only reports of **American Coot** came from the Unami's Skymount Park, where 2 were seen 3/16-23 (SG, m.ob.). Two bugling **Sandhill Cranes** flew low over Salford Twp. 3/28 (WBH). The shocking encounter represented a first county record for Mar.

High water levels put a damper on shorebirds overall, but there were a few worth mentioning. A **Dunlin** was at GLP 4/12 (WBH, CB, ph.). An **American Woodcock** was heard "peenting" at PERT 5/25 (MG), a potential breeder there given the date. Double-digit **Solitary Sandpiper** counts were made at a couple of locations: Windlestrae Park in Montgomery Twp. hosted 11 on 4/30 (KR), and 10 were in flooded farm fields near Palm 5/11 (WBH). GLP hosted 5 **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/9 (PH, ph.).

Eleven **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at GLP 4/5 (PH), the largest count among several reports 3/31-4/25 (m.ob.). A Bonaparte's was photographed on the pond at HC 5/8 (KJ, ph.) - the first time this species had ever been observed on campus. A Bonaparte's Gull at GLP 5/25 represented another record - latest for spring (PH, JH). An estimated 1300 **Ring-billed Gulls** were at GLP 3/9 (GF), a higher than usual number for the date. A dedicated skywatch in Pennsburg 3/11 resulted in a tally of 882 Ring-billed Gulls, flying over in "wave after wave" (PH). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** numbers at GLP peaked at an estimated 90 on 3/8 (GF), a hair above the previous spring season record high count of 88, set in 2017, but tough to compare since one is an estimate and the other is an exact count. An adult (or near-adult) **Great Black-backed Gull** was noted at ND 3/7-9 (SG, m.ob.). Four **Caspian Terns** were at GLP 4/20 (PH), the only report of the species.

Three **Red-throated Loons** were viewed at GLP 4/6 (PD). A heavy morning rain dropped 23 **Common Loons** onto GLP 4/26 (GF). An **American Bittern** was spotted at a wetland in Lower Moreland Twp. 4/3 and 4/8 (both PD). Another flew over Lower Merion 5/4 (JWJe). Single **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were located at HC 4/24 (MW) and Trewellyn Park 5/5 (ML). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** returned to ND in Apr, with many reports of 1-3 adults from 4/18 to end of the period (SG, m.ob., ph.). The species seems to have established a small breeding colony in the area.

Several **Mississippi Kites** were reported in May, part of an apparent large-scale movement through the region. Two adults were noted at FWSP 5/19 (SGr, no doc.) followed by another adult from the same location the following day (JH, no doc.). Another high-flying kite was spied from the defunct ACC in Cheltenham Twp. 5/27 (PD, no doc.). A late **Northern Harrier** was reported from GLP 5/18 (JH). Likely part of its minuscule local breeding population, a **Broad-winged Hawk** was noted at Evansburg S.P. 5/29 (JHu). More remarkable were a couple Broad-wing counts in Apr, both of which topped the previous seasonal high count record for the county. An impressive 109 Broad-wings were observed migrating over Kulpville 4/17 (JW), and 89 were counted over Pennsburg 4/18 (PH). The leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** of Hatfield was seen on a nest 3/17 (SG).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** continued at FWSP through 3/4 (DB). Another was photographed in Bryn Athyn 3/12 (RA, ph.). Bizarrely, a Saw-whet was heard tooting in Merion Station on the exceedingly late dates of 5/21-24 (SBN, vr.), representing a new record late date for *Montgomery*, and among very few late May records for the entire southeastern corner of the state. A late **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at HC 5/4 (EK). Single **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen at the Foulkeways at Gwynedd retirement community 5/2 (EP) and in Lederach 5/8 (MRa, ph.).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was located at FWSP 5/18 (DB, SGr), and another at ACC 5/27 (PD, vt.). **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were seen and heard vocalizing at NFP 5/11 (PB) and Bala Cynwyd 5/25 (KW). An **Alder Flycatcher** made a pit stop at GLP 5/18 (PD, vr.). **Least Flycatchers** were photographed in Salford Twp. 4/26 (WBH), Fischer's Park in Towamencin Twp. 4/28 (AD), and Pottstown Landfill 5/4 (JT). A **White-eyed Vireo**, present in Huntingdon Valley 4/3-8 (CA, SA, ph.) set

a county record early date, besting the old record by 4 days.

The **Blue Jay** irruption was clearly evident this season, with many large groups observed on the move, heading back north. One dedicated counting effort in Franconia Twp. recorded 406 jays 5/4 (SG). Atypically large **Fish Crow** murders included 120 in Huntingdon Valley 3/13 (CA), 80 in Franconia Twp. 3/15 (SG), and 75 in Pennsburg 4/4 (GF). The Huntingdon Valley count actually represents yet another spring season high count for *Montgomery*. **Common Ravens** were reported from at least 18 locations throughout the county, including VFNHP, where the species again nested (m.ob.). Three juveniles were photographed in the VFNHP nest 3/30 (KRu). Three late **Horned Larks** were observed along a farm road in Salford Twp. 5/11 (SG, vr.), a location where they have possibly bred in recent years.

Ruth Rd. in Franconia Twp. hosts what is almost certainly *Montgomery's* largest **Purple Martin** colony. A minimum of 42 martins were counted there near dusk 5/11 (WBH), representing one more county season high count. Five hundred **Tree Swallows** were estimated at ND 4/1 (SG). There were a good number of reports of **Bank Swallow** at GLP (m.ob.), including 17 on 5/13 (PH). Three **Cliff Swallows** were at GLP 5/3 (WBH, ph.), and another was viewed at WWP on the rather late date of 5/28 (PD, ph.). There are no known annual Cliff Swallow colonies in the county at this point.

A **Black-capped Chickadee** in Franconia Twp., part of a meager irruption of the species, remained through 3/17 (SG). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were far more widespread, noted regularly in low single digits through 5/18 (m.ob.). Single **Marsh Wrens** were found at Skymount Lake 5/4 (AG, PG) and Pottstown Landfill 5/4 (JT, ph.). At least 7 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were identified 5/7-26 (m.ob.). Early mimids included a **Gray Catbird** at Lorimer Park 3/19 (JSh, et al.) and a **Brown Thrasher** at VFNHP 3/15 (KA, TM). An **American Pipit**, fairly unusual in spring, was seen at a farm in Plymouth Meeting 3/2 (PB).

Though **Purple Finches** were scarce through most of Mar, the irruptive birds had become more common by the end of the month, and were fairly widely observed through early May (m.ob.). Larger groups observed included 14 at Kulpsville 3/16 (JW), 13 at PERT 4/28 (PD), 12 at Kulpsville 3/4 (JW), and 11 at Green Lane 4/18 (PG). A **Common Redpoll** was reported at Plymouth Meeting feeders 3/21 (DB), the same location where 9 redpolls had been noted in Dec. **Pine Siskin** was noted in counts of 1-4 from 10 locations (m.ob.). Later siskins included 2 at Lederach 5/13 (MRa, ph.) and a calling flyover in Pennsburg 5/19 (PH). A solitary **Snow Bunting** in flight was reported at GLP 3/2 and 3/8 (SGr).

Grasshopper Sparrows had returned to a regular breeding site in East Greenville 5/6, where they remained through the end of the period (GF, m.ob.); 3 were also noted in the fields by Graterford Prison and one at NFP, both 5/11 (both PB). The **Chipping Sparrow** mob at PERT successfully overwintered (m.ob.). Reports of this group included counts as high as 13, recorded on 3/3 (AnM). An early Chipping Sparrow, or maybe another over-winterer, was at a Worcester Twp. open space property 3/3 (EF). Palm area farmland hosted 32-37 **American Tree Sparrows** 3/3 (JF, JH), a large number for the date. None of the other 5 tree sparrow reports broke single digits (m.ob.). Palm farm country also brought the season's high count of **White-crowned Sparrows** on 3/3, when 12 were recorded (JH). The dense winter concentration of **White-throated Sparrows** at a feeding station in Salford Twp. continued through the early days of spring, and included 95 counted from a stationary position 3/6 (WBH). A couple unusually large May White-throat packs were encountered as well: 55 at SGL 234 5/2 (DM) and 50 at McKaig Nature Education Center 5/3 (SGr). **Lincoln's Sparrows**, unusual in spring, were located in Collegeville 5/3-6 (JD, ph.) and PERT 5/4 (WB, ph.). Nineteen **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Bethayres Swamp 3/27 (PD, vt.). Other reports of this species 3/16-4/29, of which there was not a huge number, did not exceed 3 individuals (m.ob.).

It was an unusually good season for **Prothonotary Warbler**, with at least 6 birds seen along the county's watercourses 4/20-5/25 (m.ob.). One Prothonotary at VFNHP lingered in the same area for more than a month, seemingly on territory (VS, m.ob.). At least 7 **Mourning Warblers** were located 5/14-29 between 5 locations (m.ob.). A **Kentucky Warbler** was found at Armentrout Preserve 5/20 (AA, m.ob., vr.). **Hooded Warblers**, not typically common in *Montgomery*, were found at 8

locations 4/22-5/16 (m.ob.). A half dozen **Cape May Warblers** were counted at FWSP 5/11 and 5/16 (both DB), as well as at PERT 5/16 (MG). A **Cerulean Warbler** was seen at HC 5/16 (KJ, SJ), a fairly late date. A new spring **Palm Warbler** high count record was set 4/11 when 68 of these tail-waggers were counted at PERT (PD). Lower Merion Twp.'s Shortridge Memorial Park hosted a singing male **Pine Warbler** 5/25 (JWe, DM, ph.). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was reported at PERT 4/12 (FB, HB) and Yellow-throats were also described at two locations in GLP 5/11 (DR). Male **Blue Grosbeaks** were seen in Woxall 4/27 (LH, ph.), Elkins Park 5/3 (SP), VFNHP 5/9 (SGr), and FWSP 5/11 (DB).

Observers: **W. Brian Henderson, Salford Twp., PA, (610) 505-5571, wbhenderson@gmail.com**, Cindy Ahern, Andrew Albright, Robert Andrews, Scott Ahern, Kate Atkins, Dave Belford, Carrie Bell, Paul Bernhardt, Sarah Boucas-Neto, Frances Brown, Harris Brown, William Buzzard, Susan Campbell, Marcia Clouser, Jeff Dale, Andrew Dolan, Paul Driver, Kim Eble, George Franchois, Eliza Fraser, James Funk, Scott Godshall, Mike Grubb, Steve Grunwald (SGr), Anita Guris, Paul Guris, Paul Heveran, Jason Horn, Joe Hudson (JHu), Lyn Hughes, Kate Jensen (KJe), Kristen Johnson, Sheryl Johnson, Rick Keyser, Kathy Klusman, Eric Kubilus, Michael Lawlor, Tom Magarian, Jack McBrearty, Anna Mindel (AnM), August Mirabella, Dennis Miranda, Pedro Miranda, David Moyer, Edie Parnum, Samuel Perloff, Marc Radell (MRa), Kenneth Rieker, Katie Ruth (KRu), Michael Rosengarten, Diana Rudloff, Vincent Smith, Jenn Sherwood (JSh), Judy Stepenaskie, Jaime Thomas, Ken Walsh, Marshall Walthew, John Ward, Jason Weckstein (JWe), Nelson Yoder.

Montour County

Locations: Montour Preserve (MP), Route 54 Wetlands near Arrowhead Rd (R54W).

This season's most exciting sighting was a flock of 37 **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** at R54W 5/18 (FD, PD, m.ob.); most were gone the next day, but one individual persisted into the summer reporting period. This was not only a county first, but also the highest count recorded in the state to this compiler's knowledge.

In other waterfowl notes, the same small wetlands hosted a **Trumpeter Swan** 4/2-5/19 (LS, m.ob.). This individual was wing-tagged T77, a female hatched in Ontario in 2017. Interestingly, the same bird was seen 6/2 near Jersey Shore, about 30 miles west as the swan flies. A notably large flock of 12 **Surf Scoters** was on the Susquehanna River at the Danville Bridge 5/4 (PD), and a single bird was at the MP 5/1 (AK). The MP also had 3 **White-winged Cooters** 4/8 (AK).

A count of 4 **Black-billed Cuckoos** at the MP 5/16 (EH) was notable, as was a mid-day count of 9 **Common Nighthawks** at the same location and date (EH). Grounded transiently on a rainy day, 105 Bonaparte's Gull at the MP 4/11 was also a high count. Rainy weather produced the only reports of **Common** and **Forster's Terns**: between 2 and 4 of each were at the MP on 5/1 and 5/5 (AK, EH). Two locally uncommon heron species were reported: an **American Bittern** was at the MP 3/31 (AK) and a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** flew over a Danville yard 4/28 (EH). The only report of **Red-shouldered Hawk** was a lone individual migrating over the MP 4/17 (EH).

There were two big passerine highlights. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at the MP 5/16 (EH); the only other record for the county is of one or more birds at the MP in 1974. A **Blue Grosbeak** was at the MP 5/18 (CG); this is apparently not the first record for the county, but it is very rare here.

In other passerine news, single **White-eyed Vireos** were at the MP 5/18 (CG) and Kelly's Dam Rd Marsh 5/22 (AK). **Pine Siskins**, which irrupted statewide in Fall 2018, were on their way back north and reported in several locations 4/27-5/17, with a high of 16 in Danville 4/29 (PD). Early March was productive for **Lapland Longspurs**, with a high of 4 on County Line Rd 3/8 (EH). A **Mourning Warbler** was at the MP 5/16 (EH).

Observers: **Evan Houston, evanhouston@gmail.com**, Franny Dennehy, Paul Dennehy, Chris Grim, Lauri Shaffer.

Northampton County

Locations: East Bangor Dam (EBD), Green Pond (GP).

There were 213 species reported with a modest number of rare or noteworthy birds observed during the period. **Ross's Goose** was seen at Nazareth Quarry 3/1 (JH) and at Seiple's Farm Pond 3/7-8 (BE, RO). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Albert Rd. Ponds 3/9 (SA). Lingering waterfowl included a **Northern Shoveler** at Nazareth Quarry 4/26 (MS), 2 **Gadwalls** at GP 5/18 (AM), 5 **Buffleheads** at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 5/11 (MS), and a **Ruddy Duck** at GP 5/23 (MS, AM). An impressive 350 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at Albert Rd. Ponds 3/14 (AM).

Minsi Lake has been drained 2 years and a marsh habitat has grown in the lakebed. This fairly new habitat has attracted multiple **Virginia Rails** and **Soras** this past spring. High counts of 9 Virginia Rails and 4 Soras were observed 5/16 (JH). A Virginia Rail was at EBD 4/18-20 (JH) and a Sora there 4/18-21 (MS, CCS, AM). **Common Gallinules**, fairly rare in this county, were seen at EBD 4/20-22 (SK, JM) and at Christian Spring Rd. pond 5/16-20 (AM).

A **Dunlin** was found at GP 5/13 (AM) and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at GP 5/16 (JH). March was a good month for gulls with hundreds at Grand Central Landfill, where there were 3 **Iceland Gulls** and 2 **Glaucous Gulls** 3/14 (MS). In addition to gulls scavenging for food at the landfill, large numbers of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found resting and bathing at the flooded field near GP. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** began staging at GP in mid-March and numbers totaled over 300 daily 3/22-28 with a record county high of 442 on 3/27 (BE). An **Iceland Gull** was at GP 3/27 (BE). An adult **Caspian Tern** circled over the water at Nazareth Quarry 4/13 (AM).

The secretive, or should I say hard to find, **American Bittern** was found at 4 different locations. Two were at Minsi Lake 4/17-5/1 (MSa, JH) and they were also observed at EBD 4/20 (SK, JM), Bear Swamp 4/19 (MSa), and flying over Roseto 4/18 (MSa). Three **Glossy Ibis** were at GP 4/6-7 (PH). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was photographed in a cedar tree at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve 3/16 (MS). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** returned for a second year to a small horse pasture on Best Rd. in Moore Twp. 5/25 (MS); nesting occurred at this location in 2018. The **Gyrfalcon** that over-wintered was last seen 3/8 perched on a cell tower near Bath (JH).

Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported at Housenick Memorial Park 5/23 (LF) and at National Park Rd. in the Delaware Water Gap NRA 5/25 (MS). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was observed at Bear Swamp 5/16 (JH) and 5/25 (MS). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at a private residence in Moore Twp. 5/26 (BE). The **Varied Thrush** noted in my winter report was last seen 3/12 (BE).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, 610-737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Scott Angus, Bill Etter, Linda Freedman, Patricia Holiday, Jason Horn, Stephen Kloiber, Adam Miller, Jon Mularczyk, Rhett Oren, Matt Sabatine (MSa), Corinne Campbell Schall.

Northumberland County

Locations: Adam T. Bower Dam (ATBD), Amish Pond (AP), Horseshoe Bend Road (HBR), Old Swamp Road (OSR), Riverside (RIV), Snyder Road (SR), Weiser State Forest (WSF).

Spring was a very wet season across the region. The wet weather created flooded fields in the northern part of the county that produced some uncommon birds.

A **Ross's Goose** was found with a flock of roughly 750 **Snow Geese** at the AP 3/1 (AK), providing the first eBird report for this species in *Northumberland*. A **Trumpeter Swan** was found along SR 4/29 (EH), the same individual regularly seen in an adjacent county for several weeks. A **Black Scoter** was observed at the ATBD 5/5 (AK, DH) and 2 **White-winged Scoters** were also at the ATBD 5/5 (AK). **Surf Scoter** was reported several times, including 12 at RIV 5/4 (PD, KP) and a male that lingered at the ATBD 5/4-5/5 (AK, KP, CK). The season's only **Sora**

report was of one individual at the AP 4/29 (EH).

After having not been reported in the county for a few years, an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at WSF 5/2 (AK). Despite good conditions, the only notable shorebird report was of 2 breeding plumage **Dunlins** at the AP 5/13 (AK, KP). Terns made a good showing, all within the span of one week in early May. **Common Tern** reports from the ATBD included one 5/4 (CK) and up to 5 on 5/5 (DH, KP). **Forster's Terns** were also seen at the ATBD with up to 9 reported 5/4-5/4 (m.ob.) and one 5/10 (JD).

A **White-eyed Vireo** lingered at OSR 5/18-5/20 (IG, ZM, AK). Warbler reports were sparse - the only notable sighting was a **Canada Warbler** seen along HBR 5/16 (LS).

Observers: **Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com**, Jonathan DeBalko, Paul Dennehy, Ian Gardner, Deuane Hoffman, Evan Houston, Chad Kauffman, Zach Millen, Karol Pasquinelli, Lauren Shaffer.

Perry County

Locations: Brig. Gen. Frank E. Tressler Bird and Game Sanctuary (FTBGS), Highway 17 Meadows (H17M), Howe Twp Boat Ramp (HTBR), Juniata River - Amity Hall Access (JRAH), Little Buffalo State Park (LBSP), State Game Lands 170 (SGL170), Tuscarora State Forest - Bryner Rd (TSFB), Tuscarora State Forest - Hemlocks Natural Area (TSFH).

Four species were added to the eBird list for *Perry* in spring 2019. Two **Cackling Geese** were seen flying with a flock of **Canada Geese** at LBSP 3/13 (SS). An adult **Laughing Gull** was photographed at JRAH 4/13 (SS). Two **Soras** were found at FTBGS 5/5 (SS). Three **Short-billed Dowitchers** were present at H17M 5/13 (SS).

Waterfowl passing through the county included **Brant** along the Juniata River south of Millerstown 3/9, 3/17, and 3/24 (BS); **Canvasback** drakes at Cold Storage Rd 3/13 (SS) and at LBSP 3/28 (TW), and **Redhead** drake at LBSP 3/19 (SS, TW). Additionally, 2 **Long-tailed Ducks**, a drake and a hen, were found at LBSP 3/29 (SS) and 4 were there 3/31 (RK); one Long-tail was seen at HTBR 4/2 (SS). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was seen at H17M 5/12 (SS). The **Short-eared Owls** observed by many over the winter were seen at H17M as late as 3/8 (GG, JK, AP, OS, DW).

An early **Eastern Kingbird** was present at LBSP 4/19 (SS). Other uncommon flycatchers included an **Alder Flycatcher** 5/17 at FTBGS (SS), the same place it was recorded in spring 2018, and **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at SGL170 on 5/25 (SS). Several uncommon songbirds were found in the western part of the county. A **Marsh Wren** was photographed at Rt. 274 Marsh Trail 4/17 (SS). Four **Blue Grosbeaks** were recorded on Seagerstown Rd, all males (SS). TSFB hosted **Golden-winged Warblers**, first seen 5/4 (SS), and a **Kentucky Warbler**, first seen 5/14 (AK). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was recorded 5/15 at TSFH (SS) and 5/18 at TSFB (ZM).

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Philadelphia County

Locations: Awbury Arboretum (AA), Bartram's Garden (BG), Cumberland Street on the Delaware (CS), Delaware River (DR), Discovery Center - East Park Reservoir (DCEPR), East Fairmount Park-Sedgley Woods (SW), Fisher Park (FP), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), Glen Foerd Mansion (GF), Houston Meadow (HM), Independence National Historic Park (INHP), Island Green Country Club and Golf Course-abandoned (IGCC), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum (TI), Navy Yard (NY), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Southwest Water Treatment Plant (SWTP), Temple University (TU), University of Pennsylvania (UP), Upper

Roxborough Reservoir (URR), Wissahickon Valley Park (WVP), Woodlands Cemetery (WC).

Several highlights graced our county this spring. However, the initial focus of this summary should be on a more serious subject that is especially prevalent during migration season and in such a densely populated area like *Philadelphia* - window strikes. There are no concerted city-wide efforts to collect data on bird fatalities due to window collisions, but people at UP and TU have been providing information on incidents via the iNaturalist platform (www.inaturalist.org). Since 2014 the Penn Bird Strikes Project has recorded 53 species with **Ovenbirds**, **Common Yellowthroats**, and **Gray Catbirds** being top casualties. This spring, the list included an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** on 4/15 and a **Grasshopper Sparrow** on 5/6 (JD). One researcher at TU has been collected specimens of 12 **American Woodcocks** since fall 2018, with 5 found deceased in March (MP). During the same period, window strikes of 28 different species have been recorded by another TU staff member with **Common Yellowthroats**, **White-throated Sparrows**, **Black-and-white Warblers**, and **American Robins** being top casualties. A male **Summer Tanager** was found dead 5/14. With glass-facade office and apartment buildings being built all over the city, this issue will unfortunately persist.

On a brighter note, the big surprise this spring was a breeding pair of **Pied-billed Grebes** at FDR. This is the first confirmed successful attempt since 2007 when a pair bred at DCEPR. And even though birds were seen throughout March and April, no observation was recorded until mid-May. And then, finally, an adult was discovered feeding 2 young on Meadow Lake at FDR 5/25 (GA). With the recent publication of the new Master Plan for FDR which includes the restoration of wetlands, riparian forests, and a sedge meadow hopes are high that this city park will remain an island of important wildlife habitat in a largely urban environment.

Single **Snow Geese** were a bit late at TI 5/9 (m.ob.) and BG along the Schuylkill River 5/25 (VS). Single **Canvasbacks** stayed at POD, NY, and TI until the second week of April (m.ob.). Small numbers of **Redheads** were seen at TI and DCEPR throughout March (m.ob.). The first record in 7 years and the third overall for this location, a female **Surf Scoter** briefly visited the impoundment at TI 4/12 (FW). A pair of **White-winged Scoters** delighted many during their week-long stay at the mouth of the Schuylkill River at the NY 3/11-17 (AR). Sixteen **Common Loons** were observed migrating in small groups at FDR 4/21 (GA, HP) and 20 flew over TI 5/6 (GV). Single **Red-necked Grebes** were seen along the northeastern section of the DR between Bridesburg and GF 3/6-8 and again 4/6-7 (m.ob.); one was photographed at TI 4/6 (WB).

One amazing **Black-billed Cuckoo** survived the concrete jungle of South Philadelphia in some backyard paper mulberry trees 5/21 (GA). A large flight of 15 **Common Nighthawks** over the Mount Airy neighborhood 5/17 appears to be a new high count for spring (KB). One **Virginia Rail** was at TI 4/16-5/1 (m.ob.) and a migrating bird was detected on 4/18 by the receiver of the Motus Wildlife Tracking System that is installed at UP (www.motus.org). Up to 2 **Soras** were at TI 4/16-23 (m.ob.) and one 5/15 (GA). Single **Soras** were detected by the Motus receiver at UP 5/4 and 5/8. At FDR, one **Sora** stayed 5/4-9 (GA). One **Common Gallinule** was at TI 5/8-14 (AR). A pair was discovered at SWTP during the City Nature Challenge 4/29 (DE, NS). This site hosted several breeding pairs in the 1990s. As it has been inaccessible to the general public for quite some time, the birding community cannot confirm this species' current status. Four **Sandhill Cranes** flew over TI 4/25 (DY).

A rare sight in *Philadelphia* these days, 3 fledgling **Killdeer** were guarded by their parents at IGCC 5/26 (HP). Migrating **Red Knots** were detected by the Motus receiver at UP 5/26 (2), 5/28 (2), 5/29 (1), and 5/30 (6). The second **Franklin's Gull** for *Philadelphia*, 7 months after the first record, was discovered at POD 5/12, a fitting 300th county bird for Frank Windfelder. Twenty-one **Bonaparte's Gulls** were there 4/20 (DE). Spring observations of **Black Terns** are super rare, but one was at TI 5/4 (GV) and 5/14 (AS, GV).

American Bitterns were seen at TI 3/17 (GA), 4/6-18 (m.ob.), and

5/4-15 (m.ob.). One was quite a surprise at IGCC 4/14 (HP). While one **Least Bittern** was regularly seen at TI since 4/18, 3 there 5/18 (SB) raised hopes for another breeding attempt this summer. A pair of **Great Blue Herons** successfully nested at TI for the first time with nest building evident by 4/10 and at least one fledgling visible 5/26 (m.ob.). Multiple sightings of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at BG, DCEPR, FDR, and TI were out of the ordinary (m.ob.).

The strong northward push of **Mississippi Kites** in the Mid-Atlantic this May also led to a few observations in *Philadelphia* with one over the city 5/21 (GA), one at POD 5/22 (PM), and one at SW 5/24 (MH). **Bald Eagles** successfully nested again at POD with one fledgling visible 4/7 (GA, HP). No attempt has been made at TI this year. A deceased adult **Barred Owl** was found at WVP 4/7 in the area where this species has sporadically been recorded over the previous years. No confirmed nesting attempts of **Great Horned Owls** were reported. A new high count of **American Kestrels** was recorded at IGCC 4/14 when 17 were counted resting in dense morning fog (HP).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen at HM 5/14-18 (DE) and at WC 5/31 (DEI, ME). On 5/25, **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were found at FDR (GA, DL) and TI (JAC, BAW). **White-eyed Vireos** were heard singing at HM, SCEE, and TI in appropriate habitat for extended periods of time. One was seen at INHP 5/6 (LV). A male **Purple Martin** was discovered at POD 5/22 (PM), followed by an observation of a pair the day after (JM). Maybe the same pair was observed at TI 5/24 (m.ob.). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen aplenty on their northward journey after irrupting south in fall, with the last 2 birds seen at INHP 5/17 (LV).

The maximum number of nocturnal flight calls of **Swainson's Thrushes** (662) and **Veeries** (169) at a remote recording station in south Philadelphia was reported for the night of 5/16. The same night, **Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush**-type calls were recorded 31 times. **Wood Thrushes** usually peak a week earlier with 124 calls counted 5/7 (HP). Three **American Pipits** flew north over IGCC 3/17 (HP) and one was flushed at POD 4/7 (GA, HP). **Cedar Waxwings** appeared to be more numerous than usual in the last week of May with flocks of dozens of birds reported throughout the county. A new high count was achieved when at least 250 were counted at HM 5/20 (MD). Three **Evening Grosbeaks** were headed due north at SCEE 3/15 (PM). Similar to the other irruption species, **Purple Finches** were reported more frequently than usual including a pair in the company of 2 **Pine Siskins** at AA 4/27 (BR, WE).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was singing at IGCC 5/26 (HP) and a **Vesper Sparrow** was discovered at POD 4/6 (DO). **Lincoln's Sparrows** were only reported from FDR 4/21, 5/8 (RK), and 5/16 (JM). Two male **Bobolinks** in alternate plumage and a female were at CS 5/18. **Eastern Meadowlarks** were only seen at POD 3/31 (PM) and IGCC 4/28 (HP).

There were excellent warbler flights during the nights of 5/1, 5/7, 5/10, and 5/17 when 1200, 1700, 600, and 930 nocturnal flight calls were remotely recorded in south Philadelphia (HP). Once again, **Ovenbirds** outnumbered **House Sparrows** at a small urban plaza in Center City with a max of 16 observed 5/7 (LV) and 5/9 (MG). An approximate count of 26 at TI 5/8 was a new high count for *Philadelphia* (PM). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** nest was discovered at WVP 4/22 and parents were seen carrying food 5/17 (SL). High counts of **Black-and-white Warblers** (36) and **Black-throated Blue Warblers** (22) were reported from FDR 5/4 (GA). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was at TI 5/11-16 (JD). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at CS on 3/3 (HP) and FDR on 4/21-24 (GA, HP) and 5/4 (GA). A male **Mourning Warbler** at FDR 5/16 was a new species for the site (HP). Up to 2 were at TI 5/19 (MO, LZ) and 5/25 (GA, DL). A **Kentucky Warbler** was singing at TI 5/1 (PM). Breeding activity of **American Redstarts** was reported from TI (KH, JW), URR, HM, and WVP (KJ). Eight **Cape May Warblers** were at FP 5/15 (KR). **Palm Warblers** were numerous at TI 4/10, with 42 counted along the loop around the impoundment (JM). Twelve **Pine Warblers** were singing at TI 4/13 (GG).

Individual **Summer Tanagers** were seen at TI 4/25 (JM) and 5/18 (WN), FDR 5/2 (RK) and 5/16 (JM), BG 5/11 (EL), and POD 5/13 (JH). During May, **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported from an astonishing 8 different locations with appropriate habitat, which should be checked during the summer months for breeding activity (m.ob.).

Observers: **Holger Pflücke, Philadelphia, PA 19148, pflucke.holger@gmail.com**, Brian Ahern-Wilson, George Armistead, Jim Austin-Cole, Kevin Berkoff, Sara Busch, Martin Dellwo, Joe Durrance, Dan Efroymsen, William Ellerbe, Dan Ellerbroek (DEI), Matt Ellerbroek, Gregg Gorton, Mike Grubb, Matthew Halley, Kay Hawkelee, Jason Horn, Ken Januski, Robert Karchnyak, Shirley Landis, Daniel Lane, Eric Lodge, Jim McConnell, Patrick McGill, Walt Nadolny, Michael O'Brien, Damon Orsetti, Maria Pacheco, Bill Reaume, Ann Reeves, Keith Russell, Navin Sasikumar, Alan Simon, Victoria Sindlinger, Geoff Veith, Leor Veleanu, Julie Wills, Frank Windfelder, Douglas Yochum, Louise Zemaitis.

Pike County

There were 164 species reported in *Pike* during the period. A **Redhead** was seen on the Delaware River at the Eshbach Access site 3/11 (BW). There was a **Long-tailed Duck** swimming by the docks at Lake Wallenpaupack 5/11 (MS). **Virginia Rail** was reported from the marsh at Sunset Lake 5/4 (BW) and at the marshy fields by the Dingmans campground 5/18 (RJ). Five **Willetts** were seen on the shoreline of the Delaware River at Dingmans Ferry 4/30 (HA). A nice photo of the Willets, the second county record, is in eBird. Another good find was a **Black Tern** at Pecks Pond 5/11 (MS).

Two **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were located along Flat Ridge Rd in Delaware SF 5/26 during a LV Audubon field trip (SB). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was seen on the McDade Trail 5/5 (BW). The county has prime habitat for **Golden-winged Warblers** with many timber harvest areas and swamps. Birders need to be careful because there are hybrids that sing Golden-winged Warbler songs. On 5/11, 2 **Brewster's Warblers** were seen in the William Penn timber harvest along Snow Hill Rd in Delaware SF (MS). Both birds sang a Golden-winged song. Another Brewster's Warbler was seen off of Pit Rd., also in Delaware SF, 5/17 (SB, RF).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 126 N Chestnut St, Bath, 610-737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Hope Abrams, Sara Barker, Scott Burnet, Richard Fritsky, Ryan Johnson, Bradley White.

Potter County

Locations: Big Moores Run Rd (BMRR), Coudersport (CO), Chicago Springs Trail (CST), Cross Fork (CF), East Fork Road (EFR), Hemlock Hollow Rd (HHR), 1st Fork Road (FFR), Galeton Lake (GL), Genesee Mills Road (GMR), Millport (MP), Saulter Preserve (SaP), Shinglehouse (SH), South Hollow (SoH), Sweden Hill Road (SHR), Trout Run Rd (TRR).

Data were obtained from eBird reports submitted for sixteen locations by eleven observers. An **American Wigeon** was seen at CO 3/25 (EM) and a **Canvasback** was on a pond along EFR 3/28 (MJ). Ten **Ring-necked Ducks** were on Lake Lloyd, GMR 4/6 (KeR), and 16 at GL 4/2 (KaR). One **Greater/Lesser Scaup**, 2 **Long-tailed Ducks**, and one **Bufflehead** were reported from GL 4/1 (KaR). A single **Hooded Merganser** was at GL 4/2 (KaR). Three **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Lake Llyod along GMR 4/6 (KeR) and 4 **Horned Grebes** were seen on a small pond along FFR 4/8 (ES).

One **Least Sandpiper** was at the county fairgrounds, MP 5/15 (ES). An **American Woodcock** was reported from SoH 5/24 (MH). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was reported from a residence 3.6 miles northeast of MP 5/12 (MB). Twenty-one **Ring-billed Gulls** were at GL 5/7 (ML).

An **Osprey**, a **Bald Eagle**, and one **Red-tailed Hawk** were seen at the county fairgrounds at MP 5/14 (ES). One **Barred Owl** (ph.) and a single **Tree Swallow** were observed at a cabin along Kettle Creek at CF 5/3 (BB). An **American Kestrel** was observed at GL 4/2 (KaR).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was observed 1.7 miles west of the intersection of Rte. 449 and SHR 5/8 (TK), and 3 **Yellow-throated Vireos** (vr.) were observed along Kettle Creek at CF 5/3 (BB). Two **Purple Finches** were noted at a residence on Eleven Mile Road, 3.6 miles northeast of MP 5/12 (MB). Four **Pine Siskins** seen at a residence along Eleven Mile Road,

3.6 miles north east of MP 5/12 (MB). Five **Fox Sparrows** were reported along the CST 3/28 (MJ). One **Savannah Sparrow** was seen along Kettle Creek at CF 5/3 (BB) and a single **Bobolink** was reported at the SaP 5/28 (KE).

One **Worm-eating Warbler** was heard along HHR 5/17 (KE), and one **Tennessee Warbler** was seen along BMRR 5/12 (KR). One **Nashville Warbler** was at Shinglehouse 5/16 (KE), and a **Bay-breasted Warbler** was reported from BMRR 5/12 (KR). Two **Palm Warblers** were seen in the forest 0.25 mile southwest of TRR 5/4 (BP) and one **Cape May Warbler** at SH 5/16 (KE). Two **Cerulean Warblers** were heard at coordinates from the SaP 5/28 (KE) and one **Northern Parula** (ph./vr.) was seen along Kettle Creek at CF 5/3 (BB).

Observers: **Robert Snyder (814) 753-2629, birdphotoginpa@gmail.com**, Mike Bergin, Bob Boyd, Kathy Ebeling, Mark Hanneman, Mark Johnson, Ted Keen, Michelle Lucas, Betsy Pyle, Ken Reichman (KeR), Kathryn Riley (KaR), Emily Shosh.

Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Landingville Dam and Marsh (LVD), Lebanon Reservoir (LR), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Still Creek Reservoir (SCR), Stony Creek portion of Bartram Trail (SCBT), 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, what waterfowl we do get are low in numbers and range from uncommon to occasional to rare. Kittatinny Ridge along the southern border of the county may also acts as a barrier forcing many ducks to migrate to the west along the Susquehanna River. This year, there was a rather typical assemblage of waterfowl throughout the county with a few notable birds. Up to 3 **Canvasbacks** were at a pond near APWS 2/9-3/6 (JD, JoD). This was the first report of this bird in *Schuylkill* since 2014. Five **Greater Scaup** were found at APWS 4/8 (JoD) and a pair of **White-winged Scoters** was found at SCR 4/26 (JoD, JD). The only other eBird record for this species was in 2011 at the same location.

Most probably a released bird but rare regardless, a **Northern Bobwhite** was videotaped below a feeder 5/9 (SS). A **Semipalmated Plover** was found on the mudflats at LVD 5/27 (TJ, TB). This species has been recorded in the county for the last 4 years but only at this location. Five **Bonaparte's Gulls**, considered occasional in the county, were reported at SCR 4/26 (JoD, JD) and 2 more at this location 4/28 (DK). A small number of **Ring-billed Gulls** were found at LVD 3/3 (TB), at SCR 4/13 (DK) and 4/26 (JD), and at LR 4/26 (DK). Other than a couple of fall migration records from Hawk Mountain, the county's first spring eBird record of **Great Black-backed Gull** was made at LVD 3/31 (TB).

It was a good year for **Red-headed Woodpeckers** with 2 reports. One was found at Swatara Village near Pine Grove 4/25 (DD), and a pair was found in a timbered area in South Manheim Township 5/22-26 exhibiting breeding behavior (DR). Flycatcher species are in the county every year but in very low numbers and can be easily be missing on local birder's year lists. **Acadian Flycatchers** were present at LLSP 5/16-26 (TB, TJ), SGL160 on 5/31 (NF), and SGL286 on 5/27 (TB). **Alder Flycatchers** were found at TSP 5/24 (JoD) and again in nearby Barnesville 5/22 (JoD). **Willow Flycatchers** were a little more abundant, found in St. Clair 5/15 (TJ), LVD 5/17 (TB) and 5/27 (TB, TJ), and on the SCBT 5/4 (DR).

There was a total of 31 warbler species found this spring, 4 more than last year. The overall warbler migration was fairly typical with 3 birds worthy of mention. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was located at Hawk Mountain's Acopian Center 5/6 (MP) and again 5/10 (RC). A **Mourning Warbler** was found at the Bear Creek Road gate along Stony Creek 5/15 (KG). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found at LVD 4/17 (TJ) and TR 5/3 (DB). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** visited a feeder near Hidden Valley for a couple of weeks in late May (AL).

Observers: **Dave Rieger**, 401 Stony Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com. John Becker, Lucas Bobay, Thomas Buehl Jr., Dan Brennan, Sandra Cuadros, Robert Curry, John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko JD), Denise Donmoyer, Nate Felty, Laurie Goodrich, Kerry Grim, Paul Heveran, Daniel Hinnebusch, Tonia Jordan, Ted Keen, Dave Kruel, Ann Marie Liebner, Lansothung Lotha, Mitchell Pruitt, Anne Randall, Ari Rice, Barb Ritzheimer, Scott Robinson, Sandy Schwartz, Marcina Trimmel, Audrey Wells, Patricia and Richard Williams.

Snyder County

Two **Surf Scoters** landed at Faylor Lake 5/4 (AK, m.ob.) and were joined there the next day by a **White-winged Scoter** (AK). Consistent with the rise of **Sandhill Crane** sightings throughout central Pennsylvania, a single bird flew over Faylor Lake 4/16, distracting the observer from a tern (likely Forster's) that was also cruising over the lake at the same time. A matrix of several small man-made cattail marshes at the Snyder County Birding Trail outside Selinsgrove produced a series of wetland birds, including several **Virginia Rails**, first one found 4/9 (DH); a **Sora** (4/14, CK); and a **Marsh Wren** 5/4 (TP).

The most remarkable find of the season was about the third spring record of **Western Kingbird** in Pennsylvania, and the first record for the county as well, found 4/29 (DB). The bird was spotted first by one family member, who reported it to his son Dwight, who took photos of the bird perched on a fence beside the chicken compost where it was catching flies for several hours before departing, not to be seen again. This was at the same spot along Sawmill Road outside Meiserville where a rare phalarope was seen last year.

Two **Lapland Longspurs** associating with some **Horned Larks** were reported as a consolation prize on a chase following up a report of a Snowy Owl that could never be independently confirmed near Richfield 3/6 (DH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** established a territory at the crest of Jack's Mountain along Rt. 235, first noted 4/21, and continuing for at least a few weeks (JG). A **Kentucky Warbler** was reported from SGL 194 on 5/11 (DH).

Observers: **Joe Gyekis**, gyekis9@gmail.com, Dwight Brubaker, Joe Gyekis, Deuene Hoffman, Chad Kauffman, Andy Keister, Toby Petersheim.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA); Bluebird Hill Farm – near Quemahoning Res. – BHF; Buffalo Creek (BC) Confluence Area – CA; Flight 93 National Memorial (Flt 93); Hidden Acres Farm (HAF); High Point Lake (HPL); Laurel Hill State Park (LHSP); Payne Property (on Allegheny Mt.(PP)); Quemahoning Reservoir (QR); Somerset Lake IBA – (SL); Youghiogheny Lake (YL).

Another wet, cool spring. Rainstorms frequently flooded the mudflats at SL chasing away the migrating shorebirds, but still we had a respectable 14 species for spring. A complete drawdown for 2 years is expected to start this summer/fall. Hopefully plans to create shorebird habitat after refilling will be considered at this high elevation area which has attracted 32 shorebird species since 2012.

It was a very good spring for **Cackling Geese** with 4 in large flocks of **Canada Geese** along Stonycreek in BA 3/7 and 3/13 (FJ, CP, RP); 4 at SL 3/12 with a high of 7 a short time later in BA (CP, JP), and a single at QR 3/10 (LG). A resident **Mute Swan** was at Stoughton Lake 2/13 (PL). A **Trumpeter Swan** surviving from the wintering pair at QR was last reported 3/10 (LG). The high count of **Tundra Swans** was 54 at SL 3/12 (JP, CP).

Pretty impressive on a small pond at PP were 19 **Wood Ducks** 3/28 (JP, CaP). It was an average duck migration with no major fallouts partially due to SL being drawn down to less than half pool. Following are high counts reported: 9 **American Black Ducks** in BA 3/12 (CP, JP), 10 **Blue-winged Teal** SL 4/22 (CP), 16 **Northern Shovelers** SL 3/25 (CP), 50 **Northern Pintails** at SL 3/12 (CP, JP), 22 **Green-winged Teal** at SL

4/22 (CP), 78 **Canvasbacks** at QR 3/2 (LG), 28 **Redheads** both at HPL 3/14 (AP) and SL 3/28 (CP), 60 **Ring-necked Ducks** at QR 3/20 (PH), 33 **Greater Scaup** at SL 3/25 (CP), 39 **Lesser Scaup** QR 3/26 (LG), 2 **White-winged Scoters** at YL 5/1 plus one at QR 3/13 (LG), 64 **Hooded Mergansers** at SL 4/8 (CP, JP), 48 **Common Mergansers** at SL 3/3 (JP), 30 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at SL 3/25 (CP), and 81 **Ruddy Ducks** at SL 3/8 (CP, JP). Very interesting was a **Barrow's X Common Goldeneye** reported to eBird from QR 3/18 with photos (LG).

A crowing **Ring-necked Pheasant** in BA 3/13 and 4/18 was fairly far from any release sites and may be a holdout from the "wild" bird stockings 6+ years ago (CP, JP). Very sad were the measly 4 reports of **Ruffed Grouse** from widely scattered areas. **Wild Turkeys** numbers, on the other hand, seem very robust. **Common Loons** were a bit sparse with ones and twos reported and a latish bird 5/31 at QR (EG). An average high count of 13 **Pied-billed Grebes** was at SL 4/8 while same day had a rather miserly high of 8 **Horned Grebes** (CP, JP), The most **Double-crested Cormorants** reported were 14 at SL 4/24 (CP) while a latish bird was still there 5/20 (MD). There were many **Great Blue Herons**; only 3 **Great Egret** sightings. all at SL including 2 on 5/16 (PL); and widely scattered single **Green Herons**.

There were only 3 reports of **Black Vultures**, singles along SR 219 (TM) and at SL and 4 near Stoystown 5/28 (SB). **Osprey** reports were mostly singles migrating and no reports of breeding birds were received. **Bald Eagles** were more frequent with 2 adults hunting SL often (m.ob.) and a nest with eaglets near Confluence 5/2 (BO, TO). A high of 3 **Northern Harriers** at Gallitzin SF Strip Mines 4/27 (CP, RP) and a male and female at Flt 93 on 5/27 (JP) may represent breeders. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Red-shouldered Hawks** were widely reported as singles. Three **Cooper's Hawks** passed PP 3/28 (CP). **Broad-winged Hawks** were widely reported in low numbers but a little push of 13 passed SL 4/24 (CP).

Single **Virginia Rails** were calling at SL 4/15 (CP) and BC 4/28 (CP, JP, RP). A **Sora** vocalized 4/13 at SL (CP). **American Coot** numbers were again disappointing with only 5 for a high count at SL 4/8 (CP, JP). A great one-person only sighting was 6 **American Avocets** at SL 4/11 (JC). **Semipalmated Plovers** were present for a time at SL with a nice high of 43 on 5/23 (JP) and 3 were found at wetlands at Flt 93 on 5/20 (J&JP). **Spotted Sandpiper** high was 17 at SL 5/20 (MD). **Solitary Sandpipers** were widely reported from singles to 3 birds. **Greater Yellowlegs** maxed at 11 at SL 4/24 -27 (CP, JP, RP). **Lesser Yellowlegs** kept increasing until an impressive 53 were tallied 4/27 at SL (CP, RP). A single **Dunlin** appeared at SL 5/14 (JP).

Least Sandpipers were present at SL from 5/14 with 25 counted through and including 5/27 (JP). A single **White-rumped Sandpiper** was in the short grass around SL's diminished pool 5/14 (JP). **Pectoral Sandpipers** topped out at 8 on 4/20 at SL (JP). A large flight of 70 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at SL 5/23 dropped to 20 by 5/27 (JP). **Wilson's Snipe** were in BA from 3/14 but good conditions at SL 4/15 allowed at least 50 to be seen (JP). Four **American Woodcocks** were dancing at HAF 4/18 and 4/20 (SD) with many others widely reported. No unusual gulls this season with 56 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at SL 4/18 (CP, JP) and 27 **Ring-billed Gulls** 4/13 and 4/25 (PL) at SL along with 8 **Herring Gulls** at Stonycreek Lake 3/14 (JP) being high counts. The only tern report was 2 **Caspian Terns** at SL 4/24 (CP) falling to one 4/25 (JP).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports were all singles starting 5/4 at SL (BT) and the only **Black-billed Cuckoo** settled into PP 5/21 and called through end of season (JP). The only 3 **Eastern Screech-Owl** reports were from CA 4/18–5/2 (BO/TO), Bakersville 4/9 (B&SC), and SL 3/24 (AL). Similarly, only 3 **Great Horned Owl** reports were received from CA (BO, TO), above QR (LG) and BC (JP, CP). **Barred Owls** were widely reported. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** reports came from Bakersville 4/8 (B & SC), HAF 4/20 (SD) and Gallitzin SF 4/24 (LG). **Chimney Swifts** are usually not reported in larger numbers in spring so a report of 65 near Rockwood was appreciated (DB). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** report was 4/24 near LHSP (J&MM). Encouraging were 5 different reports of 1-2 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** including at feeders (LG's, J&MM, PP). All other woodpeckers were as expected including breeding **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** on Laurel Mountain.

American Kestrels were thinly reported. Two **Merlin** at Stonycreek

Lake 3/24 (AL) and one at Gallitzin SF 4/27 (LG) were nice. No Peregrine Falcons were reported. An uncommon spring **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at PP 5/23 (JP). An **Alder Flycatcher** was at Laurel Summit 5/18 along with 8 **Least Flycatchers** (RH, SM). All other flycatchers were in expected numbers and places. Several vireo species are uncommon in the county, so the first **White-eyed Vireo** 4/24 at SL (CP) and 3 in CA 5/19 (JP), and 3 **Yellow-throated Vireos** and 5 **Warbling Vireo** reports were appreciated. **Blue-headed Vireos** and **Red-eyed Vireos** were widely found.

A pair of raucous **Common Ravens** nested in a large Norway spruce at PP with the parent and fledgling antics being amusing. A spring high of 15 **Horned Larks** in BA 4/8 is much lower than winter counts (CP, JP). **Purple Martins** were not reported but may be in the Springs area still – all other swallows were in expected numbers. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** numbers were lower than last fall, but 3 were at PP 4/24–28 (CP, RP). **Brown Creepers** were widely reported as ones and twos including at a home in Bakersville (B&SC). Two migrant **Winter Wrens** were at PP 4/9(JP) and one at North Fork Reservoir 4/14 (AM). Four **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** 4/30 at QR was high count (PL).

Thrushes were as expected but only one **Swainson's Thrush** was reported, on 5/18 (RH, SM). No Gray-cheeked reports. **Northern Mockingbirds** are thinly reported except in CA and the east side of Allegheny Mountain, so reports on top of the mountain at HAF 4/16 (SD) and PP 4/8 (JP) are less than annual. **American Pipits** were found on the mud at SL with many reports of a few birds and a high of 25 on 4/5 (JP).

Thirty warbler species plus Chat were reported. Noteworthy sightings include: first **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/9 at LHSP (J&MM), **Northern Waterthrush** in Boswell 5/2 (PL), one **Golden-winged** and 2 **Blue-winged Warblers** in CA 5/19 (JP), 2 **Tennessee Warblers** 5/16 at LHSP (RT); one **Nashville Warbler** in Windber 5/4 (LG); **Kentucky Warbler** in Deeter's Gap Road (JP), **Cape May** and **Bay-breasted Warblers** at Laurel Mountain SP 5/11 and Holsopple 5/15 (PL), **Cerulean Warblers** at 4 locations, 11 **Magnolia Warblers** at LHSP 5/16 (RT), **Blackpoll Warblers** in Boswell 5/23 (NV), 5 **Palm Warbler** reports, **Yellow-Throated Warbler** 5/19 in CA (JP), **Prairie Warbler** on Great Allegheny Passage 5/12 (DB), 7 **Canada Warblers** at Laurel Summit, and **Wilson's Warblers** at SL 5/1 (AJ) and Flt 93 on 5/18 (AW). Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found in CA 5/19 (JP) and a single 5/23 at Boswell (NV).

The last sighting of **American Tree Sparrow** was in CA 4/11 (BO). Five **Vesper Sparrows** were at Gallitzin SP Strip Mines 5/21 (JP) and a couple were in BA and Flt 93. **Savannah Sparrows** were found at Flt 93 and 6 were in a field in BA 4/13 (JP). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were in low numbers mostly at Flt 93 and Gallitzin. **Henslow's Sparrows** were reported multiple times at Flt 93. **Fox Sparrows** were widely reported with high of 5 at PP up to 4/22. **White-crowned Sparrows** were widely reported, but in small numbers.

Eight **Scarlet Tanagers** added some flash to LHSP 5/16 (RT). Flt 93 hosted 19 **Bobolinks** 5/19 (AW). Twenty **Rusty Blackbirds** along shrub scrub swamps in BA 3/19 was a nice sight (CP). **Orchard Orioles** are less numerous than **Baltimore Orioles** so reports from various locales by were encouraging (LG, PL, AH). **Pine Siskins** were at PP with up to 5 during 3/26-5/2 while a bird visited a Callimont area feeder 5/30–31 (PM). Several **Evening Grosbeaks** visited a feeder near LHSP 4/17 after being there also last fall (J&MM).

Observers: **Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike Berlin, PA 15530, 814-267-5718, paynemt@gmail.com**, Scott Bastian; David Burluson; Dwight Blough; Bill & Sandy Cline; John Coughenour; Michael David; Sally Dick; Ed Gowarty; Linda Greble; Rebecca Hart; Pam Hornick; Andrew Johnson; Lucas Kirschman; Tom & Janet Kuehl; Paul Lehman; Andrew Lenhart; Andrew Mack; Steve Mann; Linda Martin—Rust; Tom Miller; Jim & Meg Moses; Lauren Nagoda; Becky Ohler; Tiffany Ohler; Carolyn Payne(CaP); Chris Payne (CP); Rebecca Perucci; Kelley Pritt; Joseph & James Pumford; Shannon Thompson; Ryan Tomazin; Bill Townsend; Nick Varis; Patricia & Richard Williams; Andrew Wolfgang.

Sullivan County

Locations: Airport Road (AR), Cherry Township (CT), Dry Run Rd (DR), Dutch Mtn (DM), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), High Knob (HK), Hillsgrove Covered Bridge (HCB), Hunter's Lake (HL), Jamison City Road (JCR), Kinsley's Corner (KC), Lake Jean (LJ), Loyalsock State Forest (LSF), Ogdonia Road (OR), Ricketts Glen SP Hayfields (RGH), Rosenberry Hill (RH), SGL 13 Splashdam Pond (SDP), SGL 66 Shady Nook (SN), Shanersburg Bog (SB), Sonestown Covered Bridge (SCB).

It seemed to be another wet and cold spring season. There were no late snow storms or otherwise extraordinary weather events but there were lots of cold and damp days. Ponds and lakes were mostly thawed prior to April. This observer was present for Global Big Day and the PA Migration Count and performed another all day count on Saturday May 18th. All observations are by the compiler except where noted.

Notable waterfowl sightings include a **Long-tailed Duck** at HL 4/6. A **Lesser Scaup** was a good find at HL 4/27. Four **American Black Duck** were present at SDP 5/4. A single **Horned Grebe** was on HL 4/7 as well as 2 **Common Loons** (WE). Common Loon was found into June on LJ including 5/22 (RS).

Black-billed Cuckoo was heard on DM 5/11 and found at HK 5/19 (GM). **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was found repeatedly in the SDP area. The species was first reported from that location 5/4 and was still calling on territory 5/31 (JM). **Sandhill Crane** was first observed at the well-established breeding location in CT 4/6. Water in SDP was again low providing shorebird habitat. Two **Semipalmated Plover**, 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and a **Solitary Sandpiper** were present there 5/11. **Spotted Sandpiper** was found there 5/18.

Double-crested Cormorant was found on EML 4/27 and LJ 5/8 (DG). A **Green Heron** was observed near KC 5/18; this is a regular but uncommon species for *Sullivan*. **Osprey** seemed numerous; the compiler first observed 4/6 and saw multiple birds every weekend thereafter through 5/12 including a high of 10 over 5/4 and 5/5. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard on DM 5/11 and found again in the same location 5/18. Two **Barred Owl** called back and forth on DM 5/18.

There are a few species that are far less common here than at more southern locations in the state and, not surprisingly, are found mostly at lower elevations in *Sullivan*. This season, these included: **Red-bellied Woodpecker** near HCB 5/4, **Acadian Flycatcher** at DR 5/27, **Willow Flycatcher** at SDP 5/23 (SMu), **Warbling Vireo** at RH 5/18 and LSF 5/23 (SMu), and **Tufted Titmouse** at OR 5/4.

Red-breasted Nuthatch was found on DM on multiple occasions. **Winter Wren** was found numerous times in April including 4/25 along JCR (JL). The last reports for **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** are from 5/6 at LJ (DG) and 5/7 along JCR (JL). **Northern Mockingbird** is another species not commonly found in the county so it was a surprise to find 3 on 5/18. One was near SCB and 2 were seen together near KC. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found singing along AR 5/27. **White-crowned Sparrow** was reported twice with 4 at RGH 5/7 (DG) and one at KC 5/11.

Twenty-two warbler species were reported, 19 of which are confirmed or possible breeders. Highlights include a **Worm-eating Warbler** in LSF 5/22 (SM), 2 **Louisiana Waterthrushes** seen together along JCR 5/7 (JL), **Blue-winged Warbler** found on OR 5/4, and **Tennessee** and **Cape May Warblers** both found at SN 5/11 and 5/18. **Mourning Warbler** was observed at HK 5/27 (SMi) where this species is a probable nester. There were multiple reports for **Hooded Warbler** including JCR 5/5, HK 5/19 (GM), and OR 5/11. There were 2 reports of **Wilson's Warbler** - along JCR 5/7 (JL) and RH 5/18. **Northern Waterthrush** and **Canada Warbler** are both known to nest in SB and were observed there 5/27 and 5/18, respectively.

Observers: **Rob Megraw**, Skip Conant, Wes Egli, Doug Gross, Judith Lynn, John Mercer, Gary Metzger, Sean Minnick, Sean Murphy, Rhiannon Summers.

Susquehanna County

March 14th with its cloudless, cerulean sky seemed to signal that

winter was finally losing its grip on our region. It also was the day migrating waterfowl chose to respond to the restlessness of zugunruhe and head for their breeding territories to the north. **Snow Geese** by the hundreds and **Canada Geese** by the tens of thousands chose this day of promise to fill the air with their V-formations. One report described endless skeins passing across the sky throughout the day. A flock of 150 Snow Geese were reported over Montrose (BM) and another 200 over New Milford (NV). Four **Tundra Swans** joined the aerial parade over Dimock (JS). Spring season was here. Game on.

Northern Shovelers are infrequent spring visitors with only a handful reported over the last decade. So when 4 were discovered napping on a fairway adjacent to Lake Montrose they drew quite a crowd of onlookers carrying binoculars rather than golf clubs 4/20 (m.ob.). A pair of **American Wigeons** was present on Hollister's Pond 3/20-25 (m.ob.) for the season's only sighting. **American Black Ducks** were seen at 2 locations, a pair at Stearns Lake 3/30 (EB) and a pair at Lord Pond 4/9 (KJ). A single **Canvasback** spent a week on Hollister's Pond 3/17-23 (m.ob.). Considering this shallow body of water is best for waders and shorebirds, this out-of-place member of the genus *Aythya* was a pleasant surprise. Migrating scaup seemed to pass *Susquehanna* by this year. One **Greater Scaup** was on Bel-Air Lake 4/11 (JSt) and one **Lesser Scaup** was present on the Susquehanna River 3/11-14 (SB, BS).

Continuing the theme of few waterfowl, 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** on Quaker Lake 4/3 and 8 (EM, JS) were the only ones reported. In contrast, **Bufflehead** was present in good numbers and reported on 9 different bodies of water, with a high count of 42 on Lake Montrose 4/8 (TN). Two merganser species are doing extremely well in the county and were present in above average numbers. **Hooded Mergansers** as reported to eBird for the 12 weeks totaled 137 individuals (11/wk). **Common Merganser** reports totaled 528 birds (44/wk). **Red-breasted Mergansers** completed the picture with 3 sightings - 4 on Quaker Lake 3/31 (EM), 3 on Elk Lake 3/29 and again 5/6 (JS). A beautiful **Red-necked Grebe** in non-breeding plumage was photographed on the Susquehanna River 3/6 (BS).

Common Nighthawks were first discovered in the county last fall. They were back in late May along the Susquehanna River 5/27-31 (BS, GS), and 5 were foraging over Page Lake 5/24 (DB). **Virginia Rail** numbers continue to grow with reports of their presence on 4 different county wetlands (m.ob.). Three of those same wetlands held **Sora** as well (m.ob.). Above average rainfall resulted in a below average amount of mud edges and a paucity of shorebirds. Only a handful of expected species were present, including 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** 5/25 (JS), 3 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/25 (JS), and one **Wilson's Snipe** 4/21 (JS). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** stopped by 4/15 for a round of golf on the Lake Montrose course (TN, BS, NV). A one-day wonder **Great Egret** was photographed on the East Great Bend wetland 5/21 (EM, BS, GS). Among a plethora of spring reports for **Green Heron** was the discovery of a female on her nest 5/19 (GS).

On 4/27 a single **Black Vulture** was perched in the window of an abandoned building in Montrose made locally famous last year by the presence for much of the summer of a possible nesting pair (EM, LN, TN, BS, GS, NV). While the number in the window did not double over the next few weeks, additional birds were seen at 4 other locations around the county. A **Northern Harrier** cruised a field in New Milford Township 3/14 (BM) and another was seen near Kingsley 4/12 (DS). A **Peregrine Falcon** scattered a flock of blackbirds and grackles near Springville 5/4 (NB). The sighting is especially interesting in that peregrines have recently been discovered nesting on natural cliffs in *Wyoming* only 14 miles from this spot.

When you live on the northern edge of a breeding range and you find one reliable spot for a species, visiting it becomes an annual pilgrimage. For at least 10 years, **Acadian Flycatchers** have been heard and occasionally seen at the same location in SGL35. On an organized bird walk the flycatcher did not disappoint and was added to many year lists 5/25 (m.ob.). Rarely seen in the county, a **Marsh Wren** was heard and photographed on a private wetland 5/18 (NV). A pair of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were busy building a nest near the river in Great Bend Township (BS, GS). A handful of **Swainson's Thrushes** joined the *Catharus chorus* with reports of singles at Salt Springs SP 5/10 (EM),

Florence Shelley Preserve 5/9 (EM, BS), and Troy Road 5/25 (NB).

Northern Mockingbirds are hard to find in *Susquehanna*. Typically, a single bird found somewhere in the county has to suffice for annual lists. This spring 3 were located: one in Rush Township 5/6 (RB), one on Peterson Road 5/7 (JS), and one in Great Bend Township 5/23 (BS). There was an interesting surge of **Purple Finches** 4/15-5/8 with 288 individuals reported visiting feeders around the county (m.ob.). A late flock of 25 **Common Redpolls** surprised birders who were checking for waterfowl on Lake Chrisann 4/4 (DA, EM, JS). Also surprising was the presence of 2 late **Snow Buntings** in New Milford Township 3/5 (BM). Two **Savannah Sparrows** returned to the fields surrounding a private residence just east of Montrose 5/30 (BM). A pair of singing **Eastern Meadowlarks** first announced the "spring-of-the-year" at the same location 3/27 (BM). Troy Road continues to be the hotspot for **Orchard Orioles** with a high count of 4 on 5/27 (NB).

Twenty-six species of wood warblers graced the trees of *Susquehanna* this spring. The less commonly seen species that were reported were **Northern Waterthrush**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, **Cape May Warbler**, and **Wilson's Warbler**. On the other end of the abundance scale, the following species were tallied on a 3-mile survey in SGL35 on 5/4: 42 **Ovenbirds**, 19 **Black and White Warblers**, 16 **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, 29 **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, and 13 **Black-throated Green Warblers** (JM). Spring 2019 will be remembered as the year of the **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**. They seemed to be present at every feeder and in unusually large numbers. The total count of birds reported to eBird for May was 310 individuals.

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Tioga County

Locations: Arnot (ARN), Arsonia (ARS), Asaph (ASA), Butler Fields at Rte. 287 (BF), Burg Road (BURD), Colton Point State Park (CPSP), Cowanesque Lake Recreation Area (CLRA), Dean Hill Road (DHRD), Grand Canyon Airport (GCA), Hill Creek Estates (HCE), Hill Creek Lake Road (HCLR), Hill Creek State Park (HCSP), Kingsley Road (KIRD), Little Fall Creek (LFC), Middle Ridge Swamp at SR 660 (MRS), Mine Hole Road (MHRD), Nessmuck Lake (NL), Niles Valley (NIV), Owassee Road (OWRD), Rattler Mine Road (RMRD), Ridge Road (RRD), Roseville (ROS), Stony Fork (STF), The Muck in Niles Valley; 41.811054, -77.286940 (M-IBA), Tioga-Hammond Lakes--Ives Run Rec. Area (THL), Wellsboro (WEL).

Data were obtained from eBird reports for twenty-five locations submitted by twenty-four observers. Twenty-two species of waterfowl were reported to eBird during the period; mostly one or two individuals per species. Most sightings were in the vicinity of Tioga-Hammond, Cowanesque, Hills Creek, Nessmuck lakes, and Marsh Creek.

Noteworthy waterfowl include one **Snow Goose** seen in a pasture off Button Rd, immediately north of CLRA 4/13 (KyC). Four **Tundra Swans** were observed at HCSP 3/29 (GT). A single **Trumpeter Swan** was seen on a pond at a hunting camp approximately 2 miles north of Rte. 414 at LFC 4/13 (BN). Two **Surf Scoters** and one **White-winged Scoter** were seen from Pine Camp, THL 5/1 (LD). Twenty **Long-tailed Ducks** were on NL 4/8 (DB). One **Horned Grebe** was at NL 5/10 (LD) and 2 **Red-necked Grebes** at Pine Camp, THL5/1 (LD).

One **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and one **Black-billed Cuckoo** were observed along HCLR 5/29 (LD). Two **Common Nighthawks** were noted in HCSP 5/27 (CT). A single **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard calling from the forest (41.6063817, -77.4336147) along MHRD 5/22 (CCD). An **American Coot** was seen at a marsh along Marsh Creek at the M-IBA 4/3 (DKP).

Two **Semipalmated Plovers** were observed at MRS 5/27 (KeC), and one **Least Sandpiper** was at MRS 5/25 (DK). Two **Semipalmated**

Sandpipers were seen at BF 5/14 (KeC). An **American Woodcock** was heard 'peenting' from the vicinity of the Ives Railroad Trail at THL 5/26 (LD). A **Wilson's Snipe** was observed during a flight display (winnowing) at HCSP 5/16 (JC). One **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Marsh Creek at the M-IBA 5/21 (KR). One **Greater Yellowlegs** was seen at the MRS 5/26 (DK) and 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at the BF 5/19 (LD). Ten **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen at NL 5/10 (LD) and 2 **Herring Gulls** were at a pond near 320 Callahan Rd, WEL 5/8 (SM). Two **Caspian Terns** were observed at HCSP 5/20 (GT) and one **Black Tern** was at a large pond near RIRD 5/1 (LD). A **Common Tern** was reported from a marsh pond at M-IBA 5/24 (TJ) and a **Forrester's Tern** was at HCSP 5/13 (LD). A **Red-throated Loon** was observed at NL 4/26 (RH ph). An **American Bittern** was heard calling from the marsh pond at the M-IBA 5/24 (TJ). A **Great Egret** was at the marsh and ponds at ARN 4/29 (KeC).

Three **Ospreys** were at HCSP 5/27 (CT) and one bird was observed on a nest, near the dam spillway. A **Northern Harrier** was observed near a residence at Shady Lane and KIRD 5/15 (EB). A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was at the Pine Creek Rail Trail access at Marsh Creek ARS 5/12 (CH) and a **Cooper's Hawk** was at HCE 5/16 (GT). Two **Bald Eagles** were observed at HCSP 5/27 (CT) and a **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen 2.2 miles south of Wellsboro at DHRD 3/22 (LD). Two **Great-Horned Owls** were reported at a residence 1.0 mile northeast of ASA 3/31 (JC). Two **Merlins** were observed at the city cemetery in WEL 4/25 (KeC).

A single **Purple Martin** was seen at Tauscher Pond, HCSP 4/19 (LD). A **Northern Shrike** was photographed from Callahan Rd., approximately 0.3 miles south of Pine Creek Road, east of the GCA 3/12 (LD). Two **Horned Larks** were in a field on Stowell Rd. 0.85 miles south of GCA 3/19 (LD). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was seen at M-IBA 5/14 (AS).

One **American Pipit** was observed in the vicinity of West Branch of Stony Fork and BURD 3/19 (LD). A **Common Redpoll** was at HCE 4/5 (GT). Twenty **Snow Buntings** were seen along RIRD 3/6 (LD). A migrating **Lincoln Sparrow** was observed near Pine Creek from OWRD 5/4 (LD) and one **Rusty Blackbird** was at the M-IBA 5/1 (RH).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was seen on HCLR 5/4 (LD). One **Tennessee Warbler** was observed at a residence on Tears Road, one mile south of ROS 5/23 (BS). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen at a residence in WEL 5/5 (AP). A **Nashville Warbler** was seen in a reclaimed surface mine area (41.614689, -77.308968) from RMRD 5/16 (RH). One **Cape May Warbler** was at a residence along Marsh Creek, one-mile northeast of ASA 5/4 (JC). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at HCSP 5/18 (LD) and 2 **Blackpoll Warblers** at CPSP 5/25 (TJ). One **Palm Warbler** was found at the Ives Run Campground, THL 5/15 (MBB) and a **Wilson's Warbler** was seen at a residence in upper NIV 5/25 (RH).

Observers: **Robert Snyder, (814) 753-2629- cell, birdphotoginpa@gmail.com, Mary/Bill Burkhouse (MBB), David Bauman, Ellen Blais, Kyle Clark (KyC), Ken Cooper (KeC), John Corcoran, Lisa Doud, Carolyn/Carl Drasher (CCD), Rich Hanlon, C. Harbach, Tom Johnson, Dave Krueel, Sean Minnick, Beth Norman, Audrey Patterson, Dale and Karen Plumley (DKP), Kathryn Riley, Barbara Silverstein, Andy Stepniowski, Cole Tiemann, and Gary Tyson.**

Union County

Large flocks of **Snow Geese** were seen around the Lewisburg area in early March, including a big group bedding down for the night along Fairchild Road near Lewisburg 3/5 (MK) and flying over town 3/7 (MH). A fairly late **Rough-legged Hawk** was found at SGL 252 on 4/7 (SH, BS). A stunning warbler outing at The Hook Natural Area was had on 5/11 when a male **Prothonotary Warbler** and 2 **Kentucky Warblers** were photographed (MM)

Observers: **Joe Gyekis, gyekis9@gmail.com, Matthew Heintzelman, Sean Herrmann, Misha Kryzysky, Michael McGuire, Brian Schmoke**

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).

The species total for the period was 186, six fewer than last year and probably due one of the wettest springs ever. Waterfowl of note were: **Snow Goose** 3/2, **Tundra Swan**, 3/26, a late **Gadwall** hung around KL until 5/10, **Northern Shoveler** 3/18-4/11 (GE, JS), **Green-winged Teal**, 3/20-4/11 (JS), **Surf Scoter** at KL 3/25-4/17; **White-winged Scoter** on KL, 4/30 (GE, JS); **Red throated Loon** at KL, 3/3 (GE), and a **Red-necked Grebe** at KL 3/3-30 (GE, JS).

Double-crested Cormorant began moving through 4/2 (JS), The **Great Blue Heron** rookery off new Route 8 is successful again this year. **Green Heron** is nesting at TMRP (MK, NK). A second county record **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was an evening visitor to a yard in the northern part of the county 5/1-14 (MR, MV). A rare **Black Vulture** was reported near Polk 4/2 (MW). **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported 4/2 (NB), our earliest record by 5 days.

A **Semipalmated Plover** was at TMRP 5/24 (RS). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** lingered at TMRP 5/10-28 (GE, MK, NK). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was recorded at TMRP 5/10 (GE). **Wilson's Snipe** was first reported 3/25 at BA (JH) and then at various locations until 4/13. **American Woodcock** returned 3/15 (JS), **Spotted Sandpiper** 4/19 (GE), and **Solitary Sandpiper** 4/20 (MK, NK). **Greater Yellowlegs** moved through 4/25-5/9 (GE, JS) but **Lesser Yellowlegs** was only reported 5/8-10 (GE). Only **Caspian Tern** was 4/15-26 (JS, GE) and **Forster's Terns** were reported at KL 4/26-30 (GE).

Chimney Swift was first seen in Franklin 4/17 (JH). **Black-billed Cuckoo** returned 5/17 (JS, KG); Yellow-billed Cuckoo was not reported. The first **Common Nighthawk** was reported in Franklin 5/11 (JH), 3 days later than last year. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at SGL 45 on 5/2 (GE). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at BHNS 5/2 (KG, JS). An uncommon **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at BHNS 5/11-18 (KG, JS). The first **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** report was 4/6 (NB).

The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** report was 5/25 at BHNS (KG, JS). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Philadelphia Vireo were conspicuous by their absence. **Alder Flycatcher** was at BHNS 5/26 (JS) and OCSP 5/27 (RS). The only **Willow Flycatcher** was recorded at OCSP 5/28 (RS). The first **Least Flycatcher** was at TMRP 5/5 (GE) and **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at BHNS 5/7 (KG, JS). **Eastern Kingbird** was first reported from TMRP 4/27 (MK, NK). Early vireo reports were **White-eyed Vireo** 4/19 (JS), **Yellow-throated Vireo** 4/30 (GE), **Blue-headed Vireo** 4/17 (NB), **Warbling Vireo** 4/26 (JS), and **Red-eyed Vireo**, 5/3 (KG, JS).

Horned Lark was reported at KL 3/20-24 (JS). A third active **Purple Martin** colony was at an Amish farm along North Kahle Lake Road. The **Bank Swallow** colony at CSGC was doing well 5/5 (GE). **Winter Wren** was reported 4/1-5/15 (KG, JS). The last report of **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was 4/17 (JS) and the first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at BHNS 4/13 (JS) with sightings thru 5/16.

Veery returned 5/18 (KG, JS) and **Swainson's Thrush** moved thru 5/17-24. **Hermit Thrush** made its first appearance 4/9 (JS). There were no Gray-cheeked Thrush reports. **Wood Thrush** returned 5/1 (MK, NK). **Northern Mockingbird**, still not common here, was seen 4 times between 4/4 (JS) and 5/11 (NB). **Lapland Longspur** was recorded at KL 4/25-26 (JS), 2 weeks later than our previous late date.

Twenty-seven warbler species were recorded. Highlights were: **Worm-eating Warbler** at KY, 5/19 (MK, NK), **Tennessee Warbler** 5/3 (JS) thru 5/22 (MK, NK), **Nashville Warbler** photographed at OCSP 4/28 (DM) and last seen at KY 5/12 (GE, MK, NK), and **Cape May Warbler** at KY 5/1 (MK, NK) thru 5/6 at OCSP (RS). **Bay-breasted Warbler** moved thru 5/4 (GE) to 5/22 (NB). **Blackpoll Warbler**, always a late arrival, was reported at KY 5/21-27 (MK, NK). **Pine Warbler** was reported from BHNS 4/11 (KG, JS) and LR 4/18 (NB). **Canada Warbler** was at OCSP, 5/12 (GE) and **Wilson's Warbler** at BHNS and OCSP 5/25-28 (KG, JS).

Fox Sparrow moved through the area 3/14-4/17 (NB, MK, NK). The last **White-throated Sparrow** was reported at KY 5/17 (MK, NK) while **White-crowned Sparrow** moved thru 4/18 (JS)-5/16 (NB). **Rusty Blackbird** was reported 4/2-5 (KG, JS). An uncommon **Orchard Oriole**

was seen 5/2 (JS). A **Pine Siskin** was present at LR until 5/10 (NB).

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Warren County

Locations: Akeley Swamp (AS), Betts Field, Warren (BF), Big Four Road (B4), Clarendon (CL), Allegheny N.F. Deer Lick drainage (DL), Forestry Sciences Lab (FSL), Game Lands 86 (GL), Longhouse Drive (LH), Moore's Gravel Pit (MP), Morrison Run (MR), Newbold Estate (NE), Novitski Farm (NF), Pittsfield (PT), Sandstone Springs (SS), Sugar Grove (SG), Swede Hill (SH), Tidioute (TI), Tidioute Trail (TT), Wenzel Road (WR).

This spring was unusual in being perfectly average in most ways. There was but a single report of a single **Tundra Swan** from AS 3/20 (TS). Of note at AS were 6 **Blue-winged Teal** 3/27 (BC, TS), five **Green-winged Teal** 4/13 (BC, TS), and 3 **Northern Shovelers** seen 4/2-17 (IR). **Long-tailed Ducks** seemed unusually common, with 8 seen at CD 4/8 (BC, TS) and 22 along the Allegheny River at TT 4/8 (KN). A high count of 18 **Greater Scaup** were at BF 3/19 (NP). A whopping 33 **Buffleheads** were at CP 4/18 and 41 at AS 4/13 (BC, TS). As many as 10 **Common Mergansers** were spotted along RR 3/8 (SS), 10 **Hooded Mergansers** at AS 3/20 (IR), and 7 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at AS 3/20 (TS).

Ruffed Grouse were spotted frequently across the county, but only as singles or pairs (m.ob.). Similarly, many **Wild Turkeys** were seen, with a maximum of 15 reported in PT 4/3 (IR). The sole **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen at CP 4/11 (BC, TS). Three **Horned Grebes** were spotted at AS 4/4 (IR). A high count of 6 **Common Nighthawks** were seen over B4 on 5/24. AS continues to be "the" rail spot for *Warren*: 6 **Virginia Rails** and 5 **Soras** were heard and/or seen 4/30 (EN, KN). The breeding pair of **Sandhill Cranes** returned again to the Conewango Valley near AS, though the exact nesting location remains unknown; various sightings of one or both occurred throughout the spring (m.ob.). Of note was an observation of copulation by the pair 5/15 at NF (WN). *Warren* has little habitat for shorebirds, so a sighting of 6 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at CD 5/24 is noteworthy (SJ).

No eagle cams were deployed this year, but single **Golden Eagles** were spotted soaring overhead at FSL 4/19 (SS) and SG 4/20 (SS). Two **Northern Harriers** passed through 4/11 at CL (TS). The first **Broad-winged Hawks** seen were at CL 4/17 (TS); satellite-tagged female 'Patty', monitored by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary for the past 3 years, slipped back into her territory near SS unseen 4/19. **Bald Eagles** have become so common in *Warren* as to no longer warrant mentioning, but sightings of 4 together at TT on both 3/9 and 5/2 are noteworthy (CW, EN). **Northern Saw-whet Owls** tend to be very secretive during the breeding season, so a report of one 4/17 at SH is of note (KN).

A single (early!) **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was reported from GL 5/16 (EN, KN). **Yellow-throated Vireos** seemed more common than usual, with numerous sightings of single birds (m.ob.); multiple pairs were seen 5/3 at GL and 5/25 at LH (SS). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was spotted at NE during the PA Migration Count 5/11 (m.ob.). **Red-eyed Vireos** arrived early for here, with 2 seen 5/3 at GL (SS). A total of 12 **Horned Larks** were spotted on SH 3/28 (KN). **Purple Martins**, rare in *Warren*, appear to thrive on Amish farms with gourd colonies: 8 were counted along SR 4/24 (BC, TS). Single **Marsh Wrens** were seen at AS 4/30 (EN, KN) and 5/26 (MM). A high count of 8 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** was reported from TT 4/2 (KN), and up to 5 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** seen at AS 4/30 (EN, KN).

A few lingering **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen after an invasion winter; 12 were at SH 4/25 (KN). Also hanging around were 3 **Common Redpolls** in SG 3/5 (IR), and 2 **Snow Buntings** 3/6 and 3/7 on WR (BC, TS). **Bobolinks** seemed to be doing well this year, with 12 seen at MP 5/13 (EN, KN) and 11 at WR 5/21 (BC, TS). Unusual were 2 **Orchard Orioles** seen 4/30 in TI (EN, KN). AS served as a great attraction for

Rusty Blackbirds, with 100 seen 3/21 (IR), and 60 on 4/13 (BC, TS).

Louisiana Waterthrushes arrived on territory early, with the first 3 reported 4/12 at MR (BC, TS). Three **Northern Waterthrushes** were first seen at AS 4/30 (EN, KN). An early **Tennessee Warbler** was spotted in CL 4/29 (TS). In contrast, **Mourning Warblers** arrived in their breeding thickets late, with the first 4 heard on 5/24 near CL (SJ). A high count of 23 **American Redstarts** was recorded at GL 5/11 (SS). **Cape May Warblers** seemed particularly sparse, with 3 singles reported for the entire county (m.ob.). **Cerulean Warblers** were first spotted 5/6, their average arrival date in *Warren* for the past 16 years, with as many as 12 singing at LH 5/24 (SS). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were spotted at various locations, with up to 5 at one time at GL 5/17 (SS). Like Cape Mays, **Blackpoll Warblers** seemed exceptionally sparse, with only a handful of singles reported, and a max of 3 on 5/27 at GL (SS); perhaps this suggests a poor 2018 spruce budworm season up north. **Yellow-throated Warblers** are at the extreme north end of their breeding range in *Warren*; 2 seen at NB 5/7 is a good sighting here (EN, KN).

Scarlet Tanagers arrived starting 5/1, high counts of 7 at a site were seen at GL 5/10 (SS) and DL 5/22 (SJ). A high count of 8 **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** was reported on the PAMC for GL 5/11 (SS).

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Washington County

Locations: Bentleyville (BENT), Buffalo Creek IBA 80 (BC), Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Ginger Hill area ponds (GHP), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Hillman State Park (HSP), Mingo Creek County Park (MC), Peters Lake (PL), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

It was quite a good season in *Washington* for waterfowl. Two **Cackling Geese** were at Timber Lake 3/5-8 (MJ). **Mute Swans** were, unfortunately, reported from an increasing number of locations across the county. The only reports of **Tundra Swan** were 7 at BENT on both 3/9 and 3/25 (RI). An early **Blue-winged Teal** was at Canonsburg on Chartiers Creek 3/6 (MJ) and a late bird was at CL 5/12 (JF, LF, JP). Given the good season, surprisingly few **Gadwalls** and **American Wigeons** were noted, however 5 of the former at BENT 4/28 (MJ) and one of the latter at CL 4/19 (RG) were both a bit late. **American Black Ducks** were limited to one at R4 on 3/2 (LC) and up to 4 at BENT 3/2-17 (RI).

The location now dubbed GHP in this report, a series of 3 ponds in the Ginger Hill area near Rte. 43, was formerly referred to simply as ponds "near Eighty Four" in previous installments, but with both the spot's growing popularity among birders and its increasingly frequent production of notable sightings, it deserves a formal name nowadays. This season was perhaps GHP's most significant, at least for the remarkable totals of bay ducks present in Mar. **Canvasback** is rare in *Washington*, but a remarkable 40 were at GHP 3/6 (JF) and 50 on 3/15 (JF, LF). The count of **Redhead** at GHP rose from 70 on 3/9 (JP, JF, MJ, MM) to 100 on 3/15 (JF, LF). Not to be outdone, **Ring-necked Ducks** increased from 100 there 3/6-9 (JP, JF, MJ, MM) to 120 on 3/15 (JF, LF). All of these totals are superb for *Washington* away from the BENT area. Twenty **Greater Scaup** at GHP 3/6 (JF) was also excellent for the county, and up to 50 **Lesser Scaup** were also present at GHP during this part of Mar (m.ob.). Elsewhere, a **Canvasback** at Timber Lake 3/25 (JF) was out of place on this suburban pond, and a late bird (along with the season's last **Redhead**) was at BENT 4/7 (JF, LF). **Greater Scaup** was also noted at BENT 3/9 (JP, JF, MJ, MM) and one was at Bebout Road 3/13 (JP). The season's top count of **Lesser Scaup** ended up being the 62 at PL 3/25 (JF), the only bay duck that didn't max out at GHP earlier in Mar.

A **Long-tailed Duck** at PL 3/1-2 (JM) was another great find for the county. Also generally rare is **Common Goldeneye**; one was on the Mon River at Millsboro (mouth of South Fork Tenmile Creek) 3/9 (JP, JF, MJ, MM) and one was at BENT 3/17 (RI). **Hooded Mergansers** were plentiful at BENT in early Mar, with 25 on 3/2 (RI) and 32 on 3/9 (JP, JF, MJ, MM).

Common Mergansers in BENT on those dates totaled 65 and 56, respectively (same observers). A Common Merganser was at BC 5/15 (LC), perhaps setting up for another breeding attempt, and one was at CL 5/20 (MJ). Top count of **Red-breasted Merganser** was 26 at BENT 4/7 (JF, LF).

Black-billed Cuckoo was noted at 4 locations in May, another depressing showing but better than recent springs, at least. Five **Common Nighthawks** were over HSP 5/24 (RT, JP) and there were sightings of singles at 3 other locations. Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were near BURG 5/4 (RG), but HSP was the real center of action for Whips this season, where as many as 9 were counted after sunset 5/24 (RT, JP). The observers described amazingly close interactions with these nightjars, with the birds flying all around them and displaying to each other from the ground just feet away. Two **Virginia Rails** were at GCW 4/6 (JM) and 4/22 (RI), and 2 **Soras** were there 4/29-5/6 as well (RI). Another Sora was at BENT 4/28 (MJ).

Shorebirds were fairly well reported, but without any real headliners save one: 2 **Whimbrels** near BENT 5/23 (JF, JP), which represented the third record for *Washington* and first since 2008. An amazing count of 30 **Semipalmated Plovers** was made at CL 5/20 (MJ). Also at BENT 5/23 were 16 **Dunlins** (JF, JP), an uncommon species for *Washington*. The top counts of **Least** and **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were both made at CL, with 25 on 5/12 (JP, JF, LF, MJ) and 12 on 5/28 (JF), respectively. The only **Pectoral Sandpiper** reported was one at Timber Lake 4/28 (MJ). Twenty **Lesser Yellowlegs** at R4 on 4/28 (MD) was their high water mark, but the max of **Greater Yellowlegs** was just 2 at a few locations (m.ob.).

Two lingering **Common Loons** were at CC 5/15 (FK). **Great Egrets** are normally fixtures at CL in the spring, and they were indeed again throughout much of Apr this year, but curiously none were seen after 4/25. Adding yet another record to the growing list of southwest Pennsylvania sightings recently, 2 **Black Vultures** were well described near CC 3/1 (JE). A **Northern Harrier** was still around Daisytown 4/21 (RT). Five **Bald Eagles** gathered at GHP 3/7 (GG) and one adult and an immature lingered there into Apr. The pair of eagles at CL nested again this year, and they were feeding 2 healthy eaglets at the nest as of 5/24 (LC). A **Barred Owl** at R4 on 4/1 (LC) was an unusual report, though certainly this species is probably somewhat more common in wooded areas of *Washington* than the relative paucity of reports over the years would indicate. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was photographed near Muse 5/6 (FK). Rare for *Washington* still, a **Peregrine Falcon** was seen from I-70 near Washington 3/5 (GGr).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was noted at BC 5/24 (RI). A survey of woodlands near BURG 5/11 turned up a remarkable count of 30 **Red-eyed Vireos** (RG). **Common Raven** was noted from at least 12 locations (m.ob.), which isn't much newsworthy these days. A **Purple Martin** was at R4 on 4/17 (RI) and 4/28 (MD), and 5 were near Bealsville 4/21 and 5/16 (RT). Both **Bank** and **Cliff Swallow** are a bit difficult to find in the county, but both were among a flock of swallows at R4 on 4/24 (RI). A few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued here and there from the winter; May records included one near BURG 5/4 (RG), one at PL 5/5 (JF, LF), and the usual resident population at HSP (RT, et al.). A **Marsh Wren** was near BENT 4/28 (MJ) and another was at the Washington Park School pond 5/10 (SG *fide* RI). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Cecil Twp. 5/17 (FK) was a nice non-nocturnal flight call record. A few **Swainson's Thrush** and **Veery** were noted in a handful of locations, too (m.ob.).

Ten **Pine Siskins** were near BURG 5/4 (RG). **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Henslow's Sparrow** were noted in 6 and 4 locations, respectively, primarily in the usual grassland areas of the former strip mines in the northwest section of the county. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at BC 5/15 (LC) was a nice record for spring. One **White-crowned Sparrow** wintered at Houston to at least 4/22 (FK). **Yellow-breasted Chat** had an outstanding spring, with reports from 9 locations (m.ob.). Eighteen **Bobolinks** were near Muse 4/30 (FK) and 14 were along the Panhandle Trail near Midway 5/2 (FK). **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported from 4 locations 3/2-4/11, with top count of 13 at CL on 3/2 (RT).

Among warblers, the locally breeding species and common passage migrants were all well reported, but there were few of the "mid-level" rarities reported. Best of all was an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at BC 4/29

(RI), rare at any time in *Washington* but especially in spring. **Northern Waterthrushes** included singles at the Washington Park School pond 5/10 (SG *fide* RI) and one at BC 5/19 (LC). **Wilson's Warblers** were at the Washington Park School pond 5/18 (LC) and at Mingo Creek County Park 5/22 (RI). Great counts from the BURG area included 30 **Ovenbirds** 5/3 (RG) and 20 **Tennessee Warblers** 5/11 (RG). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Mingo Creek 3/26 (LGK) was early even for this early arriver. An orange-variant **Scarlet Tanager** was seen at BC 5/24 (LC, RI). Early **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were noted at feeders in Bealsville 4/11 (*fide* RT) and in Peters Twp. 4/12 (GG).

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Wayne County

Locations: Lake Wallenpaupack (LW).

Two waterfowl species not often seen in *Wayne* were sighted. A **Gadwall** was reported near Lake Henry 5/26 (JH) and the second county eBird record of **Horned Grebe** was one at LW 4/5 (RJ). Three additional county rarities were recorded. Two **Sandhill Cranes** were spotted in a cornfield along Avoy Rd 3/21 (RA). A **Golden Eagle** was reported soaring over I-380 near Gouldsboro 3/15 (LK). Near Honesdale, 2 adult **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen 5/18 (LS).

Twenty-three warbler species were counted, matching the 2 previous years' spring totals. Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were tallied near Honesdale 5/18 (LS). A **Northern Waterthrush** was heard singing in the wetlands along S. Preston Rd at the Lakewood Cemetery 5/25 (TG).

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Westmoreland County

Locations: Beaver Run Reservoir (BRR-380), Cedar Creek County Park (CCCP), Chestnut Ridge outside of Derry (CR-D), Conemaugh River Lake /Livermore-West Penn Trail (CRL), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Springs Reservoir (ESR, also more commonly known as Derry Lake), Hunters Lane, 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), Mammoth Park (MP), Morosini Reserve (MR), Murrysville Community Park (MCP), New Stanton (NS), Northmoreland Park (NP), Powdermill Nature Reserve (PNR), St. Vincent Lake/Wetland (SVW), Tubmill Reservoir (TR), Twin Lakes Park (TLP), Westmoreland Heritage Trail locations: MAWC Beaver Run property (WHT - BRR), Delmont (WHT-D) and Sarah Steel Trailhead to Saltsburg (WHT-SST), Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve (WPNR).

Extensive field work at the *Westmoreland* reservoirs and wetland areas accounted for significant reporting of waterfowl, shorebirds, terns/gulls and for Bald Eagles for the Spring Migration Season. The intense effort on 5/11 generated by the Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) was also beneficial to the reporting – thanks to Dick Byers for organizing the field assignments (and his long-time compilation work) and to Steve Manns for taking on the task of entering field data into eBird to comply with the statewide compilation directives.

The only report **Snow Goose** was of 4 blue phase (dark, a rare occurrence in *Westmoreland*) at ESL 3/4 (JLK, MM, TK). A result of his regular hikes of the bike trail, a good find at WHT was 6 **Trumpeter Swans** 3/14 (KB). Unusual, however, the only report for **Tundra Swan** was of a KP flyover 3/1 (TK). An often-productive location for this species,

the season-high count for **Wood Duck** of 10 at WHT-BR 3/16 (KB). All other (expected) puddle ducks - **Blue-winged Teal**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Gadwall**, **American Widgeon**, **Mallard**, **American Black Duck**, **Northern Pintail**, and **Green-winged Teal** were reported, but well scattered and other than for Mallards (125 at Twin Valley Cemetery 3/8 (KB)), none in significant numbers. Reflecting the low numbers was that notable reports for the season were observations on 3/9 of 8 **Northern Shovelers** and 12 **Northern Pintails** at CRL (KB).

Higher counts were observed for many of the expected diving ducks: 192 **Canvasbacks** at ESL 3/1 (RL), 17 **Redheads** at ESL 3/1 (RL), 38 **Ring-necked Ducks** at Mannitto Lake 3/9 (PF, SM), 32 **Greater Scaup** at LR 3/10 (MM), and 16 **Lesser Scaup** at both SVW (RC) and at WHT-BR 3/11 (KB). The only report for **Long-tailed Duck** was of 9 at TR 3/29 (AM). **Buffleheads** were widely reported but only in modest numbers. **Common Golden-eyes** were seen only at LR, 3 on 3/4 (JLK, TK, MM) and 10 on 3/10 (MM). **Hooded Mergansers** were widely reported in modest numbers. **Common Mergansers** were also widely reported, including a count of 47 at BRR-380 3/11 (SM). Not always the case, **Red-breasted Merganser** was found at scattered locations, most often at BRR-380 where the high-count of the season was 9 on 4/19 (MM). **Ruddy Duck** was lightly reported, with no more than the 3 at BRR-380 5/5 (MM).

Just 2 reports for our struggling (largely due to West Nile Virus) State Bird - **Ruffed Grouse**; one in the Laurel Highlands on a hike of Roaring Run Natural Area 5/18 (NV) and a rare lower elevation report of one at WHT-SST 5/26 (KB). Many scattered reports for the common **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebes**, and just one of the rare **Red-necked Grebe** that was first reported at BRR-380 on 3/20 (KB), and likely the same bird continued at that location through 3/29 (SM, CK). Sighting of this species always special, one **Common Nighthawk** was reported at BRR-380 on 5/15 (RH, ST); and Emily Clark and Marky Mutchler, 2015 ABA Young Birder of the Year who was visiting PNR, submitted an eBird Checklist including 5 **Common Nighthawks** in the farm area on Rt. 381 near PNR 5/18. One **Sora** in the PNR Pond provided the only report for this difficult-to-find species 5/8 (JT).

Peeps more often go unreported; however **Least Sandpipers** were recorded at 2 locations: 2 at MP 5/4 (MM), and at DL 3 on 5/5 (MD) and 2 on 5/18 (RH/SM). Often reported much earlier in the season, however, with the cold and wet March weather, the first-heard display flight at the KP for **American Woodcock** was not until 3/25 (TK). Not usually the case, however, several reports for **Wilson's Snipe**; 3 at Acme Dam 3/21 (P&RW), and the high of several reports at these locations; 3 at DL 3/30 (AM) and 4 at PNR 4/4 (JT). Representative of shorebird species recorded at several location was an eBird Checklist reporting one **Spotted Sandpiper**, 2 **Solitary Sandpipers**, and 4 **Greater Yellowlegs** at DL 4/30 (AM). One **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at DL 4/27 (AM) and one at the Hamilton Road Ponds 5/4 (MM). The most significant shorebird species reported was **Willet** at BRR-380, with 4 first reported 4/24 (PF, SM) and then a high of 9 on 5/2 (JLK, TK, MM), probably a record high for *Westmoreland*.

With better-than-normal reporting of gulls, April provided several sightings of migrating **Bonaparte's Gulls** - 2 at LR 4/6 (AM), and later 2 at BRR-380 on 4/15 (KB) and 9 on 4/24 (MD). **Ring-billed Gulls** were widely reported, and in good numbers. The only reliable report of **Herring Gull** was one at BRR-380 on 5/25 (PF, SM). Migrating terns were only seen at BRR-380; and only **Forster's Tern** - 3 on 4/18 (JK), one 4/19 (MM), and 2 on 4/30 (MM). Just 2 reports for the season, 2 **Common Loons** were at BRR-380 4/15 (KB) and a late one at NP 5/21 (MVT). Unusual for the season excepting at BRR-380, **Double-crested Cormorants** were first reported there 3/30 (RH/SM) and continued to 5/15 (RH, SM); by far the high count was 27 on 4/15 (KB). A lone report of one **Great Egret** at NP 5/21 was about average (MVT).

While still being reported in the Ligonier Valley, such as a report of 6 **Black Vultures** on Rt. 711 south of Ligonier 3/19 (JK), it is interesting to see reports west of Chestnut Ridge including 3 at SVW 3/11 (RC) and one on LFR 5/11 (RH, SM). There were many scattered reports for **Osprey**, and in the first report of the season at the long-time DL nest site 2 Ospreys 3/30 (AM). A **Northern Harrier** was seen on a WB&NC outing on the WHT-D 5/1. An eBird report including one Northern Harrier on LFR

5/6 (JK) is interesting as the appropriate area habitat could provide for a nesting sight. **Bald Eagle** was widely reported, including reports at known nesting sites - BRR-380, IP and CRL. The 5/1 WB&NC outing on the WHT-D also provided for a sighting of 2 **Broad-winged Hawks**, a species that otherwise was only reported in the Laurel Highlands for this season. Representing the only report for this rare Tundra-breeding species, a **Rough-legged Hawk** was at Turner's Pond 3/1 (KB).

Five **Eastern Screech Owls** were included in the tally for the 5/11 PAMC. Given the negative impact of West Nile virus on this species, good to note reports for 2 **Great Horned Owls**, on Bonita Road in the Fort Allen area 3/3 (JK) and a daytime photo of one included in an eBird Checklist for CR-D 5/11 (RH, SM). **Barred Owls** were widely reported, including ones first heard at the KP 3/2, and then many times during the season to 5/31 - and most often heard as they responded to daytime fires sirens. One **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported at PNR 5/3 (JT), and one again 5/15 (MM, m.ob.). An incidental eBird Checklist was submitted that included a **Merlin** near BSA Camp Twin Echo 4/13 (AM).

A reliable location for the species, 3 **Alder Flycatchers** were reported on an eBird checklist for HL (m.ob.). **Willow Flycatchers** were widely reported including one heard in NS 5/14 (MF). Unusual at lower elevations, a **Least Flycatcher** singing at the KP 5/3 was likely a migrant. Five May **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** and **Philadelphia Vireos**, both rare migrants, were observed or captured at PNR, but otherwise not reported. **Common Ravens** were widely reported in both high and low elevations. Field effort in the farm areas around Crabtree for the 5/11 PAMC provided for just one report of a single **Horned Lark** (M-M). **Purple Martins** continue at 2 colony locations; high counts were 20 at MCP 5/11 (PAMC Data) and 26 at BRR-380 5/26 (RH, SM). There were 2 **Bank Swallows** at BRR-380 on 5/18 (RH) and 4 at TLP 5/19 (PC). Two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at SPF made the PAMC tally 5/11 (JLK, TK). LRSP remains reliable for **Winter Wren** with 2 reported there for the 5/11 PAMC (JLK, TK). One 5/19 capture at PNR provided for the only report of **Marsh Wren**.

Ten **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** and 82 **Swainson's Thrushes** were captured at PNR in May. Two Swainson's Thrushes were found in the field for the 5/11 PAMC at MP (GS, SM). **Hermit Thrush** continue as reliable at SFB - the first of many May reports of the season coming 5/11 for the PAMC (JLK, TK). Five **Purple Finches** visited the feeders at the Byers home in Stahlstown 4/16 (DB), as did one **Fox Sparrow** 4/5. **Pine Siskins** were feeder visitors at PNR 4/2 -5/9, with a high count being of the 4 banded 5/9 (MD, JT).

Grasshopper Sparrows were tallied at appropriate habitat locations for the 5/11 PAMC; 4 on LFR (RH, SM) and one at the Sarver Farm (DB, GS, MS). The first report of the season, one **Field Sparrow** was first heard from the stripped area around the KP 3/22 (TK). One late-migrating Fox Sparrow was seen in the farm area around Crabtree 5/11 PAMC (MM). Often not reported, however, for this season reports for **Savannah Sparrow** included one at DL 4/20 (AM) and one at the farm land near PNR 5/18 (EC, M-M). In addition to captures at PNR 5/18 and 5/19, one **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at LH 5/17 (AM). A winter-season hold-over, a female **Eastern Towhee** visited the KP feeders 3/3; and was again there 3/6 with a female **Purple Finch** (JLK, TK). Likely an early migrant was a male **Eastern Towhee** at the KP feeders 3/15 (JLK, TK).

Two reports for this now hard-to-find species; one **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at MP 5/11 for PAMC (MS, GS) and one was captured at PNR 5/16. At the long-time reliable location, 3 **Bobolinks** were recorded at the farm land on Rt. 381 near PNR for PAMC 5/11 (JLK/TK) and 6 were at that location 5/18 (EC, M-M). Also a reliable PAMC location, 7 Bobolinks were tallied for the 5/11 PAMC at Brinker's Farm (KB Party). Two eBird checklists with photos were submitted for this vulnerable species - 3 **Rusty Blackbirds** at CRL (MH/RH) and one at WPNR 4/20 (CK).

There were 29 warbler species captured at PNR for the season and 23 tallied in the field for the 5/11 PAMC - the warbler species count for the season was 34. Notable reports for the less common species and to report on critical locations follows: One **Worm-eating Warbler** was reported at LRSP 5/11 PAMC (JLK, TK) and one at PNR 5/18 (RH/SM). Waterthrush were reported at reliable locations - **Louisiana Waterthrush** at CCCP included a first report of 2 on 4/6 (RN) and the high count for that location was of 5 on 4/9 (JLK/TK), and there were numerous reports

of **Louisiana Waterthrush** at PNR and LRSP. **Northern Waterthrush** were again found this season at CLR with 2 reported there 5/6 (JLK, TK), and the species was observed or captured at PNR on many of the days from 4/28–5/19.

The earliest report of the season for this species, a **Golden-winged Warbler** was at HL (a long-time reliable location for this species) 5/19 (AM), and the eBird checklist for this submission also included 2 **Blue-winged Warblers** (which were widely reported). One **Brewster's Warbler** was captured at PNR on 5/15. A 5/27 eBird Checklist submitted for HL included one **Golden-winged Warbler**, 3 **Blue-winged Warblers**, provided an excellent photo of a one **Brewster's Warbler** (noting it had a transmitter and colors bands and indicated it was known as "Art" by local researchers) and included detailed notes for one **Lawrence's Warbler** (Alejandra Lewandowski and KM Anderson (part of the Professor Jeff Larkin lead research team for the PA Golden-winged Warbler Habitat Improvement Initiative)).

Exciting to report in Pennsylvania, a **Swainson's Warbler** was captured and banded at PNR 5/4. **Tennessee Warblers** were widely reported; of note is 10 at MR 5/16 (SM). Two **Nashville Warblers** were singing at the KP 5/3 (TK). There were 11 captures of **Mourning Warbler** at PNR for the season and one field report – in the New Florence area 5/20 (NV). Two **Kentucky Warblers** were tallied for the 5/11 PAMC CR-D (RH, SM). One **Cape May Warbler** was reported at LH each day 5/9–11 (AM). A **Cerulean Warbler** was at CLR 5/6 (JLK, TK) and again one 5/11 (RH/SM); and at reliable locations on 5/11: 2 at LRSP (JLK, TK) and 3 CR-D (RH, SM). There were just 4 PNC captures for the season, however there were quite a few scattered reports of migrating **Bay-breasted Warblers** including 2 at TR 5/11 (AM). And the same for **Blackpoll Warbler** with just 2 PNR captures and several scattered reports including one at CLR 5/19 (MM) and 2 at SFB 5/19 (AM). There were 2 **Palm Warblers** captured at PNR and 2 field reports; one at CLR 4/7 (KB) and one on the Five-Star Trail in Greenburg 5/4 (AM). An early **Pine Warbler** was at the MR 3/26 (CK, SM). A reliable location, 2 **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at CLR 5/6 (JLK, TK) and then 3 on 5/11 (RH, SM). Good to know that **Canada Warblers** remain prolific breeders in the Laurel Ridge to LRSP area – many eBird checklists were submitted, with a total of 24 reported for the 5/11 PAMC (JLK, TK). There were no field reports; however, 11 **Wilson Warblers** were captured at PNR.

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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 *Wyoming* effort for the annual Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count netted 111 species, well above the 90 recorded in 2018 and right on the average for the last 22 years.

Sixty **Snow Geese** were recorded at SF 3/13 (EZ), the only report for the period. A single **Gadwall** was sighted 5/21 at DC (JD), hanging out with a small group of Mallards that largely ignored it. **American Wigeon** was recorded on 3 separate dates at 3 locations: 2 at SF 4/15 (EZ), one at LC 4/22 (MC), and 4 at PS 3/28 (JF). **Green-winged Teal**, in numbers from one to 6, was reported across 3 separate locations 3/25–29: OL, LC, and SF (m.ob.). At least 15 birders were in a group that

reported 2 **Canvasbacks** at OL 3/25. These same folks were among the group that reported teal from SF that same day. A rare record of **Redhead**, either 1 or 2 birds was reported from SF 3/10–21 (EZ), the first record in 3 years, so far as I know. **Ring-necked Duck** is a regular visitor to *Wyoming* during migration, and this year did not disappoint. From 3/21 through 4/22, 14 birders made reports of Ring-necks across 4 separate locations: SF, LC, SCP, and OL. One of the uncommonly reported waterfowl for *Wyoming* is **Lesser Scaup**, which we occasionally see in migration and normally in small numbers. This spring, they were recorded at 2 locations: one to 8 birds 3/13–4/13 at SF and 2 at LC 3/27 (both EZ). Last spring's flock of 54 on LC was truly unusual.

Two birds at LC 3/26 provided the only report of **Long-tailed Duck** (JS). **Bufflehead**, on the other hand, is a regular visitor in small numbers. From 3/25 through 4/22, they were recorded at 4 locations (SL, OL SCP, LC), in numbers from one to 9. Two **Common Goldeneyes** were recorded 5/11, during the PAMC, at the Fish Commission access near Tunkhannock (JT), he first to appear on the local count since 2007. A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at LC 3/26–29 (EM, JS, EZ), 2 were at LC 4/5 (MC), and 4 at OL 4/7 (MC). Two were reported from Falls 4/9 (AG, PF). **Ruddy Duck** made an appearance at LC 4/5–29, with a low of one to a high of 14. (JD, MC).

Horned Grebe was reported on a number of occasions 3/26–4/16 at LC and OL, from a low of one to a high of 4 at LC (JD, JS) and a high of 3 at OL (MC). **Solitary Sandpiper** passed through the region and was recorded 4 times: one at LC 5/7 (MC); one at DC 5/9 (MC); one at SGL 5/11 (JD); and 3 at DC during the PAMC (MC). Six **Bonaparte's Gull**, uncommon for *Wyoming*, were observed on the Susquehanna River at Riverside Park in Tunkhannock (4/10), apparently feeding on something at the surface. (JD); staying only that day.

Common Loon is a usual visitor to *Wyoming*, generally on LC and OL. This year was no different. Loons were at LC on and off 3/29–5/8, often singles. However, 5 were recorded 3/29 (JS), 8 on 4/15 (MC), and 18 on 4/28 (AT), the latter probably forced down by the weather. Only one was reported 5/4 at OL (JD). A lone **Double-crested Cormorant** was recorded 4/13 at SF (EZ). The species was observed at LC 4/5–5/26, with a high of 40 on 4/15 (JD). They were also recorded, numbering one to 3, at OL, as early as 4/8 (MC) and as late as 5/8 (MC).

Although not of a transient, one record deserves special mention, and that is of a 4/18 record of a leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** at DC (CL). This bird had been a possible sighting last year but was never confirmed. Interestingly, we had a record of a leucistic RTHA during the Tunkhannock Christmas Bird Count. A lone **Rough-legged Hawk** was recorded 3/1 at SF (RK). Then on 3/25, single birds were observed at both SF (six birders led by RK) and OL (CB, JG).

A very special narrative was begun at Skinners Eddy near Laceyville 5/7 when an adult **Peregrine Falcon** was observed perched in the vicinity of a possible nesting site. On 5/17, 2 falcons were observed chasing a Bald Eagle. Are they nesting? This story continues into the summer period, and I will have more to share in my next narrative.

The 5/11 PAMC included one **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, a winter resident that, so far as I know, does not breed here; recorded at EMNC (RL). Two species of sparrow that do not breed here, but either winter here or pass through during migration are **Fox Sparrow** and **White-crowned Sparrow**. A single Fox was recorded 4/9 at EMNC (JD) and 2 White-crowns 5/11, also at EMNC during the PAMC RL). Nineteen species of warbler were recorded, all but one a Probable or Confirmed breeder in *Wyoming*. That one is **Cape May Warbler**, the only report of which was 5/11 during the PAMC just west of Tunkhannock (RL).

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York County

Locations: Codorus State Park (CSP), Fairview Twp (FVTP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Twp Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Nixon County Park (NIX), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP).

The 207 species reported represents a new high for the Spring period. In general, the period was marked by some strong counts across a number of families. High water levels continued to limit shorebird habitat but uncommon waders were detected - **Snowy Egret**, **Cattle Egret**, and **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**. Other highlights were a likely **Northern Goshawk** and a female **Summer Tanager**.

Strong **Snow Goose** and **Tundra Swan** movement was noted 3/13 (CH, DN) when 2 flocks totaling 350 Snow Geese passed over Ski Roundtop and a flock of 500 Tundras passed over FVTP. A pair of **Cackling Geese** were at LAR 3/2 (CB) and singles were at an Associates Dr pond 3/3 (CM, BR) and LR 3/26 (AM, RS). **Blue-winged Teal** and **Northern Shoveler** sightings were down from prior spring with only 2 reports each, none exceeding 3 birds. High count of the 6 sites producing **American Wigeon** was up to 25 birds at GPSP 3/2-29 (m.ob.). Although five locales held **American Black Duck** 3/5-5/20 (m.ob.) none exceeded a 3-count. Nice **Northern Pintail** counts included 40 at CSP 3/10 (CB) and 36 at GPSP 3/11 (DN).

As mentioned in the *Adams* report, it was a strong year for *Aythya sp* in the lower Susquehanna River Basin. Six and 5 locales held **Canvasback** and **Redhead**, respectively. High counts were 18 Canvasbacks at LAR 3/12 (EH) and an impressive 94 Redheads at CSP 3/13 (AM, RS). Seventeen water bodies hosting **Ring-necked Duck** attest to this species' willingness to use any small pond as a stopover in migration. High count was 117 at Ski Roundtop 3/17 (CH). **Greater Scaup** were found at LAR 3/3 (MSH) and 3/25 (HM) and at CSP 3/12 (DK). The 3/3 (MSH) visit to LAR produced a nice 25 count. Eleven sites reporting **Lesser Scaup** is likely a record showing with 26 at Spring Grove 3/10 (CB) the high. Four locales reporting **Long-tailed Duck** 3/25-4/14 (m.ob.) are more than normal; the high was 3 at LR 4/6 (CE, AWg). **Common Goldeneyes**, numbering one to 5 birds, were reported at LAR, CSP, & GPSP 3/2-4/17 (m.ob.).

A 500-count of **Common Merganser** at GPSP 3/13 (DN) was one of the highest in recent years. **Red-breasted Mergansers** were found at 4 sites 3/2-4/17 (m.ob.) with a max of 8. A dozen **Horned Grebes** at GPSP 3/25 (DN) paced the 3 sites reporting them. Three sites, CSP, GPSP, & LAR, also held **Red-necked Grebe** 3/2-4/1 (m.ob.) with no count exceeding 2. A good find, a **Red-throated Loon** was at CSP 3/10 (CB) and 5 locales reported **Common Loon** 3/13-5/28 (m.ob.) with a max of 7.

Only 6 sites producing **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was definitely on the low side while 3 reports (GB, JD, AWg) for **Black-billed Cuckoo** were typical. **Common Nighthawk** reporting was stronger than normal with reports of up to 4 at both Green Lane Farms and Goldsboro 5/3-26 (RK, BS), 6 at Saginaw 5/19 (DWe), and one along the Northern Rail Trail 5/4 (AWg). Always a positive to report, an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was at Ski Roundtop 5/12 (CH). A 5/1 (AWg, et al) sighting of a pair of **Virginia Rails** at NIX offered some potential as a nesting pair.

Best of the 9 shorebird species reported were up to 8 **Semipalmated Plovers** at LR 5/20-31 (DNN, BR, RS, AWg) and 7 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** at LR 5/6 and 23 (DN, BR). A nice county count of up to 56 **Bonaparte's Gulls** came from LR 4/6-10 (CE, BR). The Riddle Rd landfill held some 3000 **Ring-billed Gulls**, 5 **Herring Gulls**, a **Greater Black-backed Gull** and about 500 **American Crows** 3/14 (DN). Three **Caspian Terns** were at LR 4/8 (AWg) and a **Forster's Tern** was over Wrightsville 5/4 (AWg).

A nesting census at the Kiwanis Lake rookery for the PGC 4/24 found 36 **Great Egrets** and 18 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** (PK, AP). A pair of **Snowy Egrets** flew over LR 5/24 (MRe) and a **Cattle Egret** was along Zion View Rd 5/14 (DWe). An immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** visited GPSP 5/2 (JC). The highlight among raptors was a **Northern Goshawk** in Dover Twp 3/16 (DT). Identification comments were limited in the e-bird report but seemingly eliminated any other

possibility. **Eastern Screech Owl**, **Great Horned Owl**, and **Barred Owl** reporting returned to normal levels after a down year in 2018. Sixteen sites reporting **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a positive but the high was limited to 4 at HTP 3/24 (DF). Single **Merlins** were along Eagle Scout Rd 3/8 (CB), at GPSP 3/22 (DNN), and at HTP 3/24 (DK). Up to 2 **Peregrine Falcons** were at Goldsboro 3/2-5/15 (BS) and one was at RRCP 4/4 (CE).

Highlight of the flycatcher group was a **Least Flycatcher** at RRCP 5/15 (AWg). The same visit produced the vireo highlight, a **Philadelphia Vireo**. Another positive with the vireos was an abundance of **Warbling Vireos**, reported at 15 sites (m.ob.). Seven locales reported **Horned Lark** 3/1-5/4 (m.ob.) with a high of 14 at Stewartstown 3/5 (MC). Although **Purple Martin** was reported at 9 sites, no colony count exceeded 20 birds. Possibly impacting nesting success was a wet May with 21 of 31 days having some rain. Up to 6 **Bank Swallows** were found along the Northern Rail Trail 5/6-29 (CK, DN, JW, AWg). **Cliff Swallow** remain loyal to CSP bridge nesting sites with up to 12 there 5/2-30 (m.ob.). A single was at LR 5/14 (AWg) and a pair at Sheppard Myers Reservoir 5/28 (HM).

York reporting reflected the current spotty regional downtrend for **Carolina Chickadee**, **Tufted Titmouse**, and **White-breasted Nuthatch**. Credible **Black-capped Chickadee** reports came from FVTP 3/11 (DN) and GPSP 3/7-4/13 (DG, DN). **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was reported until 5/20 (m.ob.), **Brown Creeper** until 4/20 (m.ob.), and **Winter Wren** until 4/12 (m.ob.). A nice 17-count of **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** came from GPSP 4/21 (RK). High count from 10 sites reporting **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was 6. Sixteen locales reporting **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** were paced by a strong 16-count at GPSP 4/13 (RK). *Catharus sp* reporting was at pretty typical levels with the exception being only one **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, that report coming from FVTP 5/16 (MO). A nice 8 count of **Brown Thrashers** came from GPSP 4/13 (DG). Single **American Pipits** were at Eagle Scout Rd 3/5 (DT) and at LR 4/6 (CE, BR).

Purple Finch movement through the county was extremely strong with 20 sites reporting birds. There were a number of double digit counts paced by 19 at FVTP 4/17 (DN). **Pine Siskin** showed similar movement strength with some longer than normal stays. Up to a dozen were at Springettsbury Twp thru 5/11 (DLH), a similar number at Dillsburg 5/6 (JD), and a Carroll Twp feeding station held up to 50 into late May (GK). **American Goldfinch** usually doesn't get a mention but a 50-count at GPSP 5/4 (RK, PL, AMa) deserves a shout-out. Two **Lapland Longspurs** were at Eagle Scout Rd 3/2-5 (CB, DT) and up to 4 at Pinchtown Rd 3/4 (CB, DWe).

Grasshopper Sparrow reports came from HTP 5/6-25 (m.ob.), Highpoint Scenic Vista and Recreation Area 5/14 (AWg), and West Manheim Twp Park 5/11-28 (DNN, AWg). Highest of the counts was 9 at HTP 5/6 (DN). An impressive **Chipping Sparrow** count of 25 came from GPSP 5/2 (EB). Three of the 4 **American Tree Sparrow** reports were in a tight window 3/1-7 (CB, DN) with the last being 4/1-5 (BE) in York. Good **Savannah Sparrow** counts included 10 at HTP 5/4 (DF) and a dozen along Pinchtown Rd 3/7 (DN). Top **Swamp Sparrow** count was 8 at NIX 4/4 (BR). One **Bobolink** was at York Haven 5/2 (DS) and HTP held birds 5/4-25 (m.ob.) with a remarkable 40+ counted 5/6-8 (CB, DC, DF, JWH, DN, DWe). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found at 6 sites with a high of 14 at HTP 5/6 (DN). **Rusty Blackbird** reports came from three locales 3/30-5/1 (KC, RK, DNN, AWg) but no count exceeded 3 birds.

The 32 warbler species reported was typical but the number of sites reporting birds was definitely elevated. GPSP was alive with 38 **Ovenbirds** counted 5/2 (EB). Ten sites reporting **Blue-winged Warbler** 4/22-5/31 (m.ob.) is a likely high for site reporting of that species. Four sites reporting **Prothonotary Warbler** was a definite plus. Traditional river-side spots, the Brunner Island area and Lock 12, held singles 5/2-19 (m.ob.) and 2 inland sites also held singles - GPSP had sightings 4/18 and 20 (JC, RK) and the Northern Rail Trail produced observations 4/21 and 5/10 (both AWg). Seven reports of **Tennessee Warbler** 5/2 -21 (m.ob.) were led by a 7-count at RRCP 5/16 (DN). **Nashville Warbler** was found at RRCP 4/30-5/15 (m.ob.) and GPSP 5/4 (RK, PL, AMa). Always a good find, a **Mourning Warbler** was at Apollo County Park 5/11 (DWe).

Often challenging to locate in spring, Lock 12 held a **Cerulean**

Warbler and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** 5/4 (CBu, BH, DH, JWH, NW) and a **Cerulean** was also at NIX 5/15 (JWH). Up to 3 **Bay-breasted Warblers** and 4 **Blackburnian Warblers** were at RRCP 5/14-15 (CE, AWg) and 5/15 (DH), respectively. Other good county counts included 8 **Palm Warblers** 4/13 (RK), 5 **Pine Warblers** 4/17 (DN), and 118 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** 5/2 (EB), all at GPSP. Apollo County Park produced a count of 24 **Prairie Warblers** 5/18 (DNN) that was deemed conservative by the observers.

The rarest bird of the season was a female **Summer Tanager** in the tree line surrounding the ballfield at RRCP 5/5 (DLH). To this compiler's knowledge, this site has produced the last 3 reports spanning over 20 years. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was present in good numbers again this spring; 4 at Dillsburg 4/21 (JD) were on early. Five **Blue Grosbeak** reports from 5 sites 5/2-25 (CB, DF, DS, KT, AWg) were a positive.

Corrigenda: The report in the Spring 2018 season of 79 Common Goldeneyes at GPSP should have read 79 **Common Mergansers**.

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Mathur, Brian Matlock, Kevin Mock, Mark Mummert, Anne Murren, Dean Newhouse, Dean & Norma Newhouse (DNN), Melody Oligane, Ann Pettigrew, Randy Phillips, James & Joseph Pumford, Michele Levin Reinhardt (MRe), Bob Reiter, Mark Rositol, Brian Shade, Daria Shank, Robin Smith, Andy Stepniewski, Derek Stoner, David Taylor, Kristin Threet, Scott Walker, Don Weidemann (DWe), Jim Wendt, Andrew Wicks (AWi), Nina Wolf, Andy Wolfgang (AWg), Andy Wyatt (AWy), Nathan Zalik.

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 -- Spring 2019 Rarities



Stilt Sandpipers are rare during spring migration, but this year reported in five counties, including first ever for *Juniata*, at Pine Grove Road 13-14 (here 13) May. (*Chad Kauffman*)



Franklin's Gull records cluster in the northwest and southeast; this one-day visitor at the Espyville marina at Pymatuning SP, *Crawford* 31 May was the third county record in eBird. (*Mark Vaas*)



Providing a second county record in eBird, an **American White Pelican** at Lake Oneida, *Butler* stayed only a few hours 14 April; elsewhere one was in *Erie* 6 April and 3 were in *Centre* 31 May. (*Glenn Koppel*)



Increasingly reported in the state, but seldom well-photographed, this **Mississippi Kite** over Columbia, *Lancaster* 20 May was one of several reported that day in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey. (*Meredith Lombard*)



This **Western Kingbird**, spotted catching flies over chicken compost in Liverpool, *Snyder* 29 April, stayed only a few hours; a first county record and only third spring record for Pennsylvania. (*Dwight Brubaker*)



An extirpated breeder in Pennsylvania, this **Loggerhead Shrike** near Lock Haven, *Clinton* 1 May, present just one day and providing a first county record, may have been an overshoot from a remnant breeding population in the Shenandoah Valley. (*Eric Zawatski*)