

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 35, No. 2
Mar - May 2021
Issued October 2021





PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 35 Number 2 March - May 2021

Greg Grove, Editor-in-chief
9524 Stone Creek Ridge Road
Huntingdon, PA 16652
(814) 643 3295 gwg2@psu.edu
<https://pabirds.org>

Seasonal Editors

Daniel Brauning
Michael Fialkovich
Nick Bolgiano
Geoff Malosh

Department Editors

Book Reviews

Gene Wilhelm, Ph.D.
513 Kelly Blvd.
Slippery Rock, PA
16057-1145
(724) 794-2434
GeneWilhelm@aol.com

CBC Report

Nick Bolgiano
711 W. Foster Ave.
State College, PA 16801
(814) 234-2746
nickbolgiano@gmail.com

Hawk Watch Reports

David Barber
410 Summer Valley Rd.
Orwigsburg, PA 17961
(570) 943-3411
barber@hawkmntn.org

Data Technician

Wendy Jo Shemansky
41 Walkertown Hill Rd.
Daisytown, PA 15427
pabirdsrus@zoominternet.net

Publication Manager

Franklin Haas
2469 Hammertown Rd.
Narvon, PA 17555
fchaas@pabirds.org

Photo Editor

Rob Dickerson
44 Oak Ridge Road
Lewistown, PA 17044
radickerson@gmail.com

Assistant Editor

Deb Grove
dsg4@psu.edu

Copy Editors

Sheryl Johnson
Delaware County

Carol Light
Elk County

Contents

- 75 from the Editor
- 76 Pennsylvania Raptor Migration Summary - Spring 2021David Barber
- 80 2021 Big Day for Birds!..... Gene Wilhelm
- 83 Book Review: GULLS SIMPLIFIED: A Comparative Approach to IdentificationGene Wilhelm
- 84 Statement of Ownership
- 85 Summary of the Season: Spring 2021.....Mike Fialkovich
- 87 Twenty-five Years ago in *Pennsylvania Birds*Frank Haas
- 88 Birds of Note – Spring March–May 2021
- 91 Photographic Highlights
- 97 Local Notes
- 144 Suggestions for Contributors – Publication Schedule
- Inside back cover – In Focus – In Marsh and Swamp

Cover: Perhaps overdue, and possibly overlooked before, this **Neotropic Cormorant** at Williamsport Dam, Lycoming 11-13 (here 11) April was Pennsylvania's first (fulfilling the prediction recently in this journal of being the most likely next new species for the state). (*Bobby Brown*)

Articles (short or long) needed for Pennsylvania Birds

Pennsylvania Birds is in its 35th year of publication. The journal is an effort that includes contributions from dozens of Pennsylvania birders as evidenced by the list of county compilers below and the various departmental contributors on the Table of Contents page – absolutely a state journal we can be very proud of. I know of no other that covers seasonal bird reports in as much detail as we do in this journal.

However, there is one way in the journal is inferior to what it once was – **contributed articles**. If you scan issues of the journal from the first decade or so you will find that most issues had several to a half dozen or even more articles, aside from the regular seasonal reports and CBC and hawk watch reports. Most such articles were relatively short, some only half a page, others just a page or two. What kind of articles? Here is a random sampling of topics from Issues 5-8 (1992-1995):

- Rarity discovery stories: PA’s first (or second or third) record of (fill-in species).
- Some issues had as many as six “rare bird reports” – for ex in Vol 5, NO 4: Sandhill Crane (rare then!), Hudsonian Godwit, Pacific Slope Flycatcher, LeConte’s Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow; the rarity need not be a super-accidental species
- First or second etc. county records
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nesting in *Butler*
- Winter of the Long-eared Owls (*Northampton*)
- Update on Great Blue Heronries in *Lawrence*
- Invasion of Varied Thrushes
- First Breeding Herring Gulls in PA
- Ruby-crowned survival during a severe winter
- Neotropical migrants in PA
- How many birds come to your feeder?
- Migrant numbers may not be what they seem
- PA’s species of special concern
- The Cowbird Dilemma
- Summary of occurrence of Ibis’s in PA.
- Dark morph Western Red-tailed Hawk
- New nesting species in a location or county
- Restored wetlands as management Tools for Wetland-dependent Birds

My point in presenting this long but totally non-exhaustive list is to demonstrate that the list of possible topics is just about endless. If you have an idea but are not sure it is appropriate – just ask me (gw2 @ psu.edu). If you are unsure about whether you can write well enough – no problem, that’s what editors are for! If you need help with a figure (a graph or map for example) – there’s plenty of expertise available.

Sponsors for color photos

A major improvement in *Pennsylvania Birds* the last three years is the printing of photos (and certain other figures) in color. Of course, color does not come cheap. Very roughly, it adds around \$1000 per year (for four issues) to the cost of printing. This cost has so far been borne by various sponsors.

If you are interested in sponsoring, we suggest a donation of \$150 for exclusive sponsorship for a given issue, or some fraction of that (probably half) for a partial sponsorship. Sponsors will be acknowledged on the first page of the main photo section. A nice idea is for a bird club to sponsor photos in the name of someone the group wishes to honor, like the Bartramian Audubon Society’s recognition of long-time member Gene Wilhelm. Contact the editor at: gw2 @ psu.edu .

Compiler news

One compiler retirement is effective after this issue of *Pennsylvania Birds*. **Dave Gobert** will step down as *Cambria* compiler, to be succeeded by **Tina Alianiello**. We thank Dave for his long service to the journal; he began writing season summaries in 2003. Billy Weber is stepping down as *Carbon* compiler – Thanks to Billy for his reports, always very interesting and with a nice touch of humor and irony.

The following counties need a compiler: *Bradford, Carbon, Fulton, Luzerne, McKean, Snyder, and Union*. Contact the editor if interested.

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), **Tina Alianiello** (Cambria), **Mark Johnson** (Cameron), **Nan Butkovich** (Centre), **Rick Robinson** (Chester), **Carole Winslow** (Clarion), **Diane Bierly** (Clearfield), **Wayne Laubscher** (Clinton), **Andy Keister** (Columbia, Northumberland), **Rob Hodgson** (Crawford), **Tim Johnson** (Cumberland), **Sandy Lockerman** (Dauphin), **Sheryl Johnson** (Delaware), **Carol Light** (Elk, Forest), **Jerry McWilliams** (Erie), **Bill Oyler** (Franklin), **Marjorie Howard** (Greene), **Greg Grove** (Huntingdon, Juniata, Fulton), **Margaret Higbee** (Indiana), **Dan Richards** (Jefferson), **Chad Kauffman** (Juniata), **Ryan Johnson** (Lackawanna), **Zach Millen** (Lancaster), **Tim Becker** (Lebanon), **Bill Etter** (Lehigh), **Bobby Brown** (Lycoming), **Glenn Koppel** (Mercer), **Rob Dickerson** (Mifflin), **Bruce Johnson** (Monroe), **Brian Henderson** (Montgomery), **Evan Houston** (Montour), **Michael Schall** (Northampton, Pike), **Holger Pflicke** (Philadelphia), **Robert Snyder** (Potter, Tioga), **Dave Rieger** (Schuylkill), **Jeff Payne** (Somerset), **Rob Megrav** (Sullivan), **Evan Mann** (Susquehanna), **Gary Edwards** and **Russ States** (Venango), **Scott Stoleson** (Warren), **Josh Jones** (Wayne), **Tom Kuehl** (Westmoreland), **Joe DeMarco** (Wyoming).



Pennsylvania’s newest nesting species with first success in 2018 in *Jefferson*. This season, a pair of Trumpeter Swans returned for the second year to nest along Creekview Rd, *Cumberland*, producing 3 cygnets, hatched 29-30 May and seen here 31 May. (Last year’s only hatched cygnet at the *Cumberland* site did not survive). (Dave Kerr)

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS (ISSN 0898-8501) is published four times per year by The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. Editorial and business offices are located at 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555. Subscriptions, all in US\$: One year U.S.A \$30, Canada \$48, Foreign \$62. Library rate \$33. Single copies: \$9. Checks and money orders in U.S. dollars only should be made payable to PSO. Copyright © 2021 by the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. **PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT EPHRATA, PA 17522 and additional entry offices.**
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PSO, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon, PA 17555.

Pennsylvania Raptor Migration Summary - Spring 2021

David R. Barber

The 2021 Spring count season started with a colder than average February and a series of storms that produced significant snowfall in the eastern half of the state. Conditions shifted to warmer and drier than average in March. Temperatures moderated in April and May, but dry conditions persisted, particularly in the northwest and southeast parts of the state. Early-season migrants produced average to above average flights, whereas late-season migrants were below average at most watchsites.

Migration Summary

Six Pennsylvania Spring watchsites counted a below-average 21,454 total hawks in 1223 hours during 212 days of counting between 21 February and 31 May for a rate of 17 raptors per hour (Table 1). Spring count hours were 12% below the average spring effort of 1393 hours. Total spring raptors were 16% below the 10-year average of 25,514, due in part to the loss of two counts. The number of raptors counted per hour was only ~5% below the 10-year average of 19. Most species had below average counts with notably low counts of Broad-winged Hawks, 2474, 53% below the 10-year average of 5317; Osprey, 171, 51% the below average of 347; and Sharp-shinned Hawks, 615, 49% below the average of 1202 (Table 1). Spring 2021 also was the first ever with no Northern Goshawks recorded at Pennsylvania watchsites. Black Vulture, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, and Merlin also had counts below their 10-year averages (Table 1).

The total count of Golden Eagles, 292, was 15% above the 10-year average of 254 and was the only species with above average counts (Table 1). Turkey Vulture and Peregrine Falcon had average counts (Table 1).

Site Highlights

Allegheny Front (Somerset/Bedford) - Allegheny counters recorded 795 hawks in 325 hours on 58 days from 2/24 to 5/2, a rate of 2.5 hawks per hour (Table 1). The overall count was 24% below the 10-year average with counts of accipiters notably low. Counts of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were 67% and 47% below average, respectively, and were the lowest since 1998 (Table 1). The Osprey total of 22 and the Broad-winged Hawk total of 109, were 66% and 59% below average, respectively and were record low counts. Counts of 35 Bald Eagles and 101 Golden Eagles were above their 10-year averages of 23.5 and 72.5, respectively (Table 1). Red-

shouldered Hawk counts also were above average.

Moderate SSE winds on 3/10 produced the high count of the season with 69 raptors tallied, including 5 Bald Eagles, 6 Red-shouldered Hawks, 22 Red-tailed Hawks, and 24 Golden Eagles. The high Golden Eagle count occurred a week later 3/17 when 25 goldens were recorded.

Hawk Mountain (Berks/Schuylkill) - Hawk Mountain counters recorded 613 hawks in 261 hours on 47 days from 3/22 to 5/15, a rate of 2.4 hawks per hour. Total raptor count was 36% below the 10-year average of 951. Counts of Sharp-shinned Hawks (49) and Red-tailed Hawks (43) continue to decline at 42% and 50% below the 10-year average, respectively. Counts of Osprey and Broad-winged Hawks also were well below average (Table 1). In contrast, two long-term declining species, Northern Harriers and American Kestrels were 20% and 26% above average, respectively.

The Broad-winged Hawk flight peaked on 4/17 with 46 tallied; other seasonal highs that day were 5 Red-tailed Hawks and 6 American Kestrels (Table 2). Known for its protracted migration, high counts of 5 Northern Harriers occurred on 4/13 and 5/15. The Bald Eagle flight peaked on May 10 when counters tallied 10 eagles headed north.

Jack's Mountain (Mifflin) - Jack's Mountain hawkwatchers counted 260 raptors in 15 hours over 3 days from 3/23 to 4/27, a rate of 17.3 birds per hour (Table 1). The high-count day was 4/27 with 198 raptors, including 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3 Cooper's Hawks, 186 Broad-winged Hawks, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, and 3 American Kestrels.

Presque Isle (Erie) - Presque Isle counters tallied 17,991 hawks in 192 hours in 47 days from 2/21 to 5/31, a rate of 93.6 hawks per hour (Table 1). The total count was 14% below the 10-year average of 20,940 and effort was average. Counts of Turkey Vulture, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon all were similar to their 10-year averages. All other species had counts below their 10-year averages. The most notable drops were Broad-winged Hawks, 61% below average; Osprey, 51% below average; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 48% below average; and American Kestrel, 43% below average (Table 1).

The best early season flight occurred 3/8 with 442 hawks counted including 2 Black Vultures, 335 Turkey Vultures, a season high 68 Red-tailed Hawks, and both a light- and dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk (Table 2). Strong southerly winds on 3/30 produced a steady stream of Turkey Vultures throughout the day. By day's end,

a season high 2816 Turkey Vultures were counted along with 10 Bald Eagles, 9 Northern Harriers, 19 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 28 Red-tailed Hawks, and 27 American Kestrels.

Summit Mountain (Fayette) - Summit Mountain hawkwatchers recorded 124 hawks in 19.3 hours on 4 days from 3/23 to 4/23, a rate of 7.0 hawks per hour (Table 1). An impressive 10 species of raptors were counted on 4/8: Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, and Merlin. The highest one-day count occurred 4/28 with 50 Broad-winged Hawks and one Red-tailed Hawk.

Tussey Mountain (Centre/Huntingdon) - Tussey Mountain counters tallied 1660 hawks in 420 hours on 56 days from 2/23 to 4/27, a rate of 4.0 hawks per hour (Table 1). The total count was 13% below the 10-year average. The Bald Eagle count of 104 was 67% above the average of 62 and was a record high (Table 1). Counts of Coopers Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks were 42% and 26% above average, respectively. The Golden Eagle count of 189 was slightly above the average of 179 and marks a rebound after three years of below average counts (Table 1). Turkey Vultures, Red-shouldered Hawks, Merlins, and Peregrine Falcons also were above average (Table 1). Counts of Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Broad-winged Hawks were 43%, 41%, and 47% below average, respectively.

Golden Eagle flights peaked in March with four consecutive days of 10-plus counts including a high of 42 goldens on 3/10, the fourth highest single-day count. South-southeast winds on 4/8 produced the first Broad-winged Hawks of the season as well as season high counts for Osprey (4), Northern Harrier (3), Sharp-shinned Hawk (10), and Red-tailed Hawk (30) (Table 2).

Conclusions

Counts were below average at all watchsites despite increased efforts at some. It was a tale of two seasons; early-season migrants fared well in the central part of the state, but not so in the northwest and southeast, whereas many species of late-season migrants had below average counts at most watchsites. Whether the below average counts of early-season migrants at Presque Isle and Hawk Mountain coincided with below average precipitation is unclear. The below average counts of several late-season migrants may have been influenced by wind direction. Days with winds with a northerly component far outnumbered days with winds with a southerly component.

The northerly winds may have pushed birds away from watchsites, either off ridge or further inland, making them more difficult to detect.

Species counts didn't necessarily mirror those found in the Fall 2020. Some species such as Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Merlin had below average counts both in fall and spring. Whereas Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, and American Kestrel had above average counts in the fall, but below average in spring. Golden Eagles were the only species below average in the fall but above average in spring.

Weather, timing, migration routes, and the previous fall's count, all influence the number of birds we count each spring. Because there is lots of noise in the data, long-term counts such as these are critical to detecting changes in and tracking the health of raptor populations.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the site compilers for providing insight and access to their data, particularly Nick Bolgiano and Bob Stewart. Data were downloaded from www.hawkcount.org (accessed June 2021) a site managed by Jason Sodergren,

HMANA database manager and the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Regional weather information was gathered from the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University.

This article is Hawk Mountain Conservation Science Contribution number 352.

*Acopian Center for Conservation Learning
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association
410 Summer Valley Road
Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania 17961
barber@hawkmountain.org*

Table 2. Peak count dates for Sharp-shinned Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk at selected Pennsylvania watch sites.

Site	Sharp-shinned Hawk		Red-tailed Hawk	
	Peak Count	Date	Peak Count	Date
Allegheny Front	5	3/20	29	4/8
Hawk Mountain*	8	4/18	5	4/17
Presque Isle	86	4/8	68	3/8
Tussey Mountain	10	4/8	30	4/8

* Site begins count in April

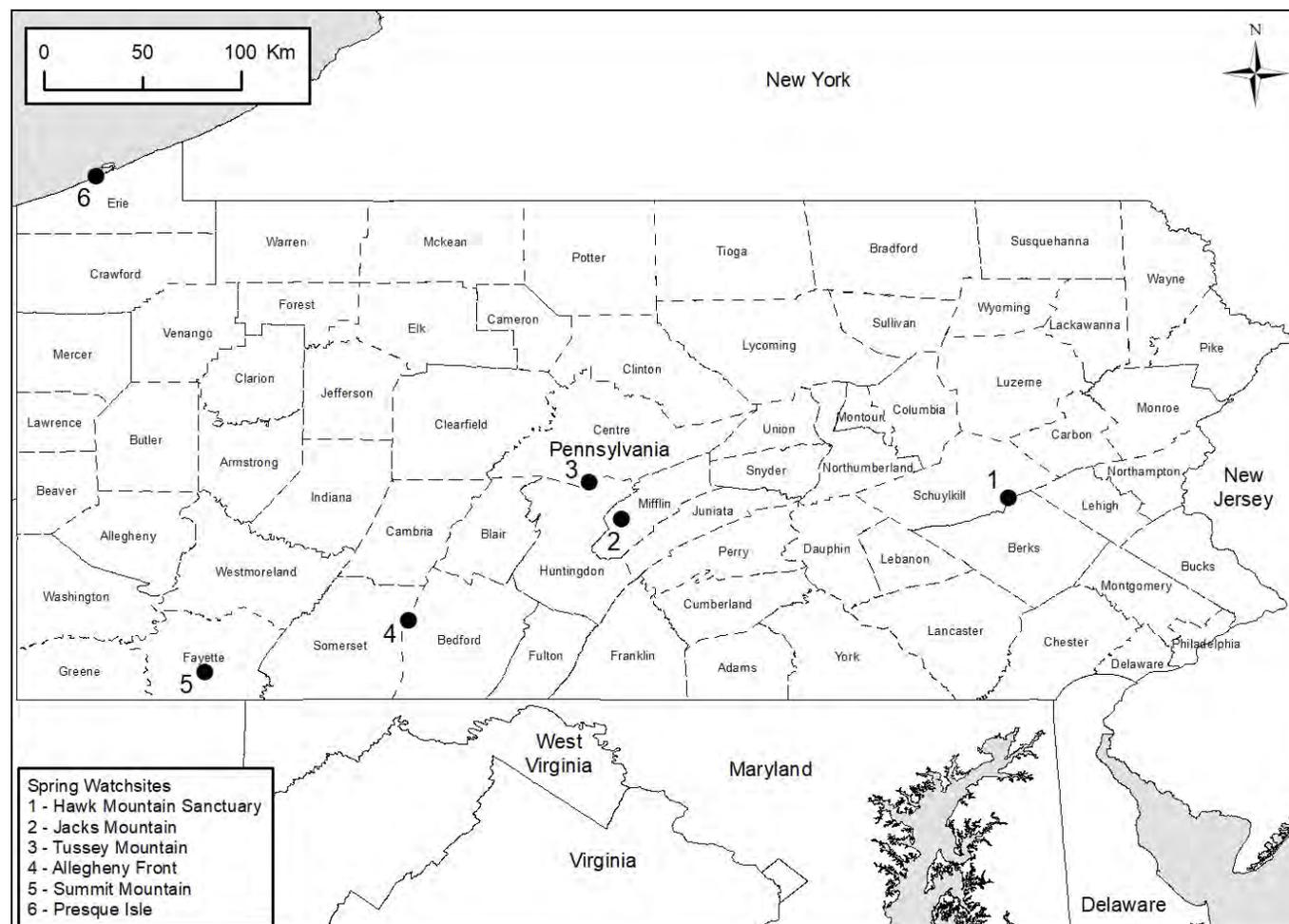


Table 1. Spring 2021 count results for Pennsylvania watchsites.

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	3	9.75	0	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	4	0	10	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
March	27	162.5	2	93	0	21	4	20	15	0	29	0	158	0	92	11	1	0	0	0	26	472
April	26	145.3	0	25	21	9	6	8	6	0	4	109	79	0	5	4	1	0	0	0	20	297
May	2	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	58	324.5	2	119	22	35	11	28	21	0	37	109	247	0	101	15	2	0	0	0	46	795
Total per hr			0.01	0.37	0.07	0.11	0.03	0.09	0.06	0.00	0.11	0.34	0.76	0.00	0.31	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	2.45
% of flight			0.3	15.0	2.8	4.4	1.4	3.5	2.6	0.0	4.7	13.7	31.1	0.0	12.7	1.9	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	56.9	347.3	9.7	164.6	65.3	23.5	12.7	84.5	39.4	2.9	28.2	266.2	219.2	0.4	72.5	12.1	3.8	3.3	0.0	40.6	1047.5	

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	3	8.5	0	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
April	29	168.9	3	48	33	24	20	43	20	0	1	201	35	0	1	29	0	3	0	0	41	502
May	15	83.5	3	7	18	20	9	6	3	0	0	20	7	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	7	104
Total	44.0	252.4	6	59	52	44	29	49	24	0	1	221	43	0	1	31	1	4	0	0	48	613
Total per hr			0.02	0.23	0.21	0.17	0.11	0.19	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.88	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.19	2.43
% of flight			1.0	9.6	8.5	7.2	4.7	8.0	3.9	0.0	0.2	36.1	7.0	0.0	0.2	5.1	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	7.8	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	42.8	256.8	37.7	50.3	71.0	42.2	24.2	85.1	38.4	0.4	7.8	395.0	86.4	0.1	1.9	24.7	5.8	2.5	0.1	88.7	950.6	

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	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
April	2	11	5	8	2	1	0	7	6	0	1	216	7	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	258
Total	3	15	5	8	2	2	0	7	7	0	1	216	7	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	260
Total per hr			0.33	0.53	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.47	0.47	0.00	0.07	14.40	0.47	0.00	0.07	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.33
% of flight			1.9	3.1	0.8	0.8	0.0	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.4	83.1	2.7	0.0	0.4	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Average last 10 yrs																						

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	3	5.5	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
March	17	73	3	8326	2	40	18	52	21	0	124	0	249	4	0	54	3	2	0	14	8912	
April	16	79.75	0	5884	29	54	32	348	24	0	7	995	162	1	0	109	10	3	0	13	7671	
May	11	34	0	819	10	40	0	32	0	0	0	467	23	0	0	7	0	3	0	1	1402	
Total	47	192.3	3	15030	41	136	50	432	45	0	131	1462	437	5	0	170	13	8	0	28	17991	
Total per hr			0.02	78.08	0.21	0.71	0.26	2.24	0.23	0.00	0.68	7.59	2.27	0.03	0.00	0.88	0.07	0.04	0.00	0.15	93.46	
% of flight			0.0	83.5	0.2	0.8	0.3	2.4	0.3	0.0	0.7	8.1	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	100.0	
Average last 10 yrs	57.7	198.4	1.2	14879.0	84.4	183.8	75.9	823.8	61.5	0.9	196.5	3711.5	541.4	11.3	1.1	299.8	13.6	8.4	0.2	34.7	20940.0	

SUMMIT MOUNTAIN (Fayette) - Peter Everett Livengood, compiler

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total	
March	1	6	0	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
April	3	13.25	0	5	6	1	5	3	3	0	3	73	12	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	10	124
Total	4	19.3	0	9	6	1	5	4	4	0	5	73	14	0	0	3	1	0	0	10	135	
Total per hr			0.00	0.47	0.31	0.05	0.26	0.21	0.21	0.00	0.26	3.79	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.52	7.01	
% of flight			0.0	6.7	4.4	0.7	3.7	3.0	3.0	0.0	3.7	54.1	10.4	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	7.4	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	5	32.25	0	44	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	28	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	91
March	27	210	0	165	4	59	5	28	19	0	41	0	224	3	162	19	6	2	0	16	753	
April	24	177.3	0	45	44	40	10	67	20	0	4	393	144	0	16	17	2	3	0	11	816	
Total	56	419.5	0	254	48	104	17	95	39	0	45	393	396	4	189	36	8	5	0	27	1660	
Total per hr			0.00	0.61	0.11	0.25	0.04	0.23	0.09	0.00	0.11	0.94	0.94	0.01	0.45	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.06	3.96	
% of flight			0.0	15.3	2.9	6.3	1.0	5.7	2.3	0.0	2.7	23.7	23.9	0.2	11.4	2.2	0.5	0.3	0.0	1.6	100.0	
Average last 10 yrs	55.7	399.8	11.6	190.5	84.0	62.2	21.8	161.7	27.5	0.9	42.2	738.4	314.8	3.1	179.2	40.3	6.2	2.0	0.0	26.6	1913.1	

2021 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	11	47.5	0	46	0	12	3	0	0	0	4	0	41	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	122
March	73	455.5	5	8592	7	121	27	101	58	0	196	0	634	7	254	85	10	4	0	56	10157
April	100	595.4	8	6015	135	129	73	476	79	0	20	1987	439	1	23	165	14	9	0	95	9668
May	28	124.5	3	826	29	60	9	38	3	0	0	487	30	0	0	9	1	4	0	8	1507
Total	212	1223	16	15479	171	322	112	615	140	0	220	2474	1144	9	292	259	25	17	0	159	21454
Total per hr.			0.0	12.7	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.2	2.0	0.9	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	17.5
% of flight			0.1	72.1	0.8	1.5	0.5	2.9	0.7	0.0	1.0	11.5	5.3	0.0	1.4	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.7	100.0
Average last 10 yrs.	242.6	1392.7	94.1	15479	346.9	339.7	143.4	1202	187.2	5.3	285.3	5317	1206	14.9	253.7	391.4	32.0	16.4	2.4	188.0	25514

2021 BIG DAY FOR BIRDS!

Gene Wilhelm

This coordinator is pleased to report that the Bartramian Audubon Society celebrated its 26th consecutive Big Day for Birds (BDB) Saturday 8 May 2021 under better weather conditions than last year. Citizen scientists started at 0500 hrs and ended at 2000 hrs in 45 field teams (26 last year) with the goal of collecting avian field data that can provide indicators or trends that certain natural and human actions affect bird populations year after year in *Butler*, *Lawrence*, *Mercer*, and *Venango* (BLMV). Five feeder-watchers (11 last year) supplemented data to this annual ornithological event.

The weather at 0500 hrs on May 8 presented 85% overcast sky with a 1000-foot ceiling, 32 degrees F temperature, 99% relative humidity, and a light 5 mph NW wind. Birding started by driving with windows down to Fergus Road one-half mile north of Poplar Forest and a city block from Wolf Creek in Slippery Rock Borough-Township. The first bird heard was a male Song Sparrow, followed instantly by a Northern Cardinal, Eastern Meadowlark, and two Red-winged Blackbirds. Suddenly, a strange bird sound, like a screaming cat, pierced the darkness when simultaneously the car's headlights caught a lone Short-eared Owl fly across the road into the dark oblivion of an abandoned strip-mine field. The owl was the first of its kind in the 26 years of the Big Day for Birds.

Brent Road farther north in *Mercer* harbored a few unexpected vocal wetland species in SGL 151, commonly known for decades as Celery Swamp by birders. The characteristic but unusual old water pump sound of an American Bittern was a pleasant surprise followed by two Sandhill Cranes trumpeting from two different hideaways in the northern backside of the wetland where cranes have nested successfully for years. Perhaps these vibrant repetitious calls stimulated other avian wetland species to join in the early morning exercise, such as loud Canada Geese, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, Hooded Merganser, Pied-billed Grebe, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, Wilson's Snipe, and Belted Kingfisher. The permanent Red-shouldered Hawk breeding pair awakened as light rain intensified.

At 0600 hrs bright overcast allowed a farm pond check known for its spring and autumn shore bird concentrations. Unfortunately, this year almost daily showers allowed the pond to nearly overflow its boundaries, producing only a pair of Canada Geese with ten young, five Blue-winged Teal, and two Wilson's Snipe to occupy the lush green vegetation surroundings. However, a private farm lake five miles west of Grove City furnished the first known Big Day Mute Swan record. At the same time, unknown to me, a second Mute Swan was reported in *Lawrence* by Leslie and Jim Hubenthal.

Species comments

The book *Birds of Venango County* (BVC) by Gary Edwards is used here for discovering insights into avian population trends and responses to human-caused changes, good and bad, broadly applicable to the other three counties and beyond. Comments on the status of particular BDB species below received scrutiny by this coordinator who is fully responsible for its conclusions and not from the book's author who granted permission for its use. Please refer to details of species with asterisks* on pages listed below.

*Mute Swan** Casual. Comments: Most, perhaps all, sightings are believed to be farmyard birds that escaped or were released to area waterways. First Record: CBC: 3/54, BDB: 2 on 5/8/21, pp. 81-82.

Virginia Rail, *Sora*, *Common Gallinule*, *American Coot** Uncommon migrants and summer residents. Comments: Only one confirmed breeding record for Virginia Rail; safe date records for

four years for Sora but no confirmed breeding (BVC pp. 111-112). *Butler* (SGL 95), *Lawrence*, and *Mercer* (SGL 151 and 284) fortunately still harbor extensive cattail marshes and other forms of emergent wetlands that have enticed these species breeding there since before the first Breeding Bird Atlas in 1984-1989. Eleven Virginia Rails, 8 Soras, 4 Common Gallinules, and 2 American Coots are encouraging numbers for probable breeders this spring in the historical sites listed above. BDB 5/8/21.

*Sandhill Crane** Regular. Comments: On December 29, 2011, 29 cranes were observed in a Kahle field just 200 yards into *Clarion*. Sandhills nest in neighboring *Butler*, *Crawford*, *Lawrence*, *Mercer* and *Warren*. BDB: at least 8 nesting pairs (*Butler* 4, *Lawrence* 2, *Mercer* 2) and 29 individuals, 5/8/21. A roaming non-breeding "bachelor" flock of 38 cranes has formed for the summer but was not recorded on BDB. As many as 200+ cranes overwinter in *Butler*, *Lawrence*, and *Mercer*; at least when winters are not lengthy and ice storms do not cover grain fields, making it impossible to dig to leftover food.

*American Bittern** Accidental. Comments: Requires expansive cattail marshes for nesting; no such habitat exists in *Venango*. On the other hand, *Butler*, *Lawrence*, and *Mercer* have such habitat. SGL 95, 151, and 284 have consistently acted as breeding grounds for this rare species going back to the 1970s. BDB: at least one vocal individual heard in SGL 151, 5/8/21.

*Great Blue Heron** Regular. Comments: Great Blues are documented year-round, but open water during winter is necessary for them to remain. The largest colony in the four counties contains at least 50 nests along PA Route 8 south of Franklin at the bridge west over Sandy Creek. BDB 5/8/21.

*Osprey** Regular. Comments: No *Venango* evidence of breeding. Adjacent *Butler*, *Mercer*, and *Crawford* have nesting Ospreys that continue to expand every year. BDB: 29 individuals, 12 active nests in *Butler* and *Mercer*, mostly atop communication towers; checked BDB 5/8/21.

*Bald Eagle** Regular. Comments: At least six active nests are in *Venango* according to the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC). The successful reintroduction of the Bald Eagle and its upgrade from endangered to threatened to protected in 2014 is a remarkable recovery from the three known nests statewide in 1983. At least another five active nests are known in *Butler* (3) and *Mercer* (2). Full adult (5 yrs+) to fledgling eagles seen feeding on carrion year round BDB 5/8/21.

*Short-eared Owl** Casual. Comments: Uncommon migrant, summer resident, and rare winter visitor. Habitat: reclaimed strip-mine fields; 65 records between 1995-2005, 5 records since then (BVC p. 147). This coordinator discovered a calling young Short-eared Owl in a reclaimed strip-mine field May 2010 in *Clarion*; photos confirmed; distinct sounds of owl recalled BDB 5/8/21.

Purple Finch 111 – *Pine Siskin* 11 – *American Goldfinch* 888* All three species are Regular. Comments: Purple Finch uncommon year-round resident; visits feeders in rural areas. Pine Siskin: irruptive, highly variable winter visitor but not 2020-2021 year. American Goldfinch: Common year-round resident; nest building coincides with thistle seed in July (BVC p. 198). The Purple Finch and American Goldfinch represented unusual highest number of irruptive winter species this BDB by forming four mixed flocks that traveled about the four counties, avoiding backyard leftover

bird food such as home-made suit, black-oil sunflower seeds, and other customary menu items. Instead, the flocks chose wild vegetation, flower buds, grass seeds, and insects. Possibly tainted bird seed was the problem as reported by the media. As far as known, Goldfinch BDB numbers are an extraordinary maximum record.

*Warbler Waves** can be defined as an unusual phenomenon caused only occasionally by weather conditions wherein the atmosphere is controlled by quick, cold, northwestern high cells racing south, and encountering just as quickly southwestern warm atmospheric low cells moving north in a daily procedure. Even birds, quite accustomed to atmospheric changes, cannot adjust to this change fast enough so are forced to land, rest, feed, and move on the ground, then get ready to migrate again at night. Late April 2021 weather displayed this quickly back and forth see-saw phenomenon to the hilt. Many birds (mostly nocturnal warbler migrants) advanced slowly, causing avian pile-ups. Such a pause occurred the night of 5/7-8/21 when 33 species of warblers (20 species on 5/8-9/20) were tallied. The day before (5/6) and the day after (5/8-9) were controlled by strong southwestern winds allowing migrants to fly over most of the western part of the four counties. Result: An accidental Golden-winged Warbler (recorded by Corey Bellis in SGL 95) and also an accidental Prothonotary Warbler (tabulated by Gene Wilhelm in SGL 284) were exceptional anywhere. In fact, the BDB missed only the Connecticut Warbler, another accidental species seldom encountered, and the Lawrence's and Brewster's Warbler hybrids that are undergoing biological scrutiny regarding speciation (BVC

pp. 219-222). Other warblers are listed in the numerical abundance code by the Official List of the Birds of Pennsylvania (*Pennsylvania Birds*, Vol. 32, No. 1, p. 23, 2018).

References

Edwards, Gary with Jeffrey Hall. *Birds of Venango County*. Mechling Bookbindery and Bookbinders Workshop, Butler, PA 16001, 264 pp., 2020.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee. *The Official List of the Birds of Pennsylvania*, *Pennsylvania Birds*, Volume 32, Number 1, p. 23 (Dec 2017 – Feb 2018), issued July 2018.

Wilhelm, Gene. *The Great Avifauna Depression*. *Pennsylvania Birds*, Volume 10, No. 2, pp. 61-62, 1996.

_____. *Great Avian Depression II*. *Pennsylvania Birds*, Volume 34, No.2, pp. 72-73, 2020.

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

Total Species: 169
Total Individuals: 11782
Total Hours: 111.7
Total Miles: 197.4
Total Participants: 50
(45 in field teams, 5@feeders)

The field team of Martin Carlin, with the assistance of Mary Elsenheimer, Jim Offhaus, and Clark Trauterman, had the highest number 97 of species & individuals (1162) among all field participants. Mary Alice Koenke and Glenn Koppel came in second with 90 species (248 individuals), and Kim Berry third place for 81 species (632 individuals) who also tabulated 17 warbler species, the maximum number of the 45 field teams. Please consult species with asterisks for special comments.

PARTICIPANTS

Beverly Barnett, Dennis Beaver, Corey Bellis, Kim Berry, Fran Bires, Nancy Bires, Anne Marie Bogdan, Dave Brooke, Martin Carlin, Bonnie Casselberry, George Casselberry, Jr., George Casselberry, Sr., Robert Clouse, Linda Croskey, Barbara Davis, Patti Day, Gary Edwards, Mary Elsenheimer, Kathy Goodblood, Jim Gray, Jim Hubenthal, Leslie Hubenthal, Irene James, Mary Alice Koenke, Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick, Glenn Koppel, Henry Lenz, Linda Lenz, Sonya Lenz, John Lersch, Becky Lubold, Oscar Miller, Joyce Myers, Jim Offhaus, Karen Peterson, Melanie Petridis, Dave Price, Anita Shaw, Dennis Shaw, Jerry Stanley, Stacy Steele, Terry Steele, Clare Torso, Clark Trauterman, Amanda Wilhelm, Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm, Keira Wilhelm, and Kevin Wilhelm.

Bird List

- Canada Goose 377
Mute Swan 2
Blue-winged Teal 11
Northern Shoveler 1
Gadwall 1
Mallard 49
American Black Duck 4
Green-winged Teal 9
Ring-necked Duck 5
Hooded Merganser 30
Common Merganser 89
Red-breasted Merganser 9
Ruddy Duck 5
Ring-necked Pheasant 5
Ruffed Grouse 1
Wild Turkey 55
Pied-billed Grebe 4
Horned Grebe 1
Rock Pigeon 333
Mourning Dove 111
Chimney Swift 33
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 10
Virginia Rail 11
Sora 8
Common Gallinule 4
American Coot 2
Sandhill Crane 29
Killdeer 39
American Woodcock 1
Wilson's Snipe 6
Spotted Sandpiper 8
Solitary Sandpiper 9
Lesser Yellowlegs 5
Greater Yellowlegs 9
Bonaparte's Gull 9
Ring-billed Gull 12
Herring Gull 1
Caspian Tern 2
Black Tern 4
Common Tern 17
Forster's Tern 7
Common Loon 1
Double-crested Cormorant 77
American Bittern 1
Great Blue Heron 129
Green Heron 11
Turkey Vulture 66
Osprey 29
Bald Eagle 11
Northern Harrier 2
Sharp-shinned Hawk 12
Coopers Hawk 8
Red-shouldered Hawk 23
Broad-winged Hawk 8
Red-tailed Hawk 28
Eastern Screech Owl 1
Great Horned Owl 2
Barred Owl 1
Short-eared Owl 1
Belted Kingfisher 10
Red-headed Woodpecker 8
Red-bellied Woodpecker 58
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 7
Downy Woodpecker 3
Hairy Woodpecker 1
Northern Flicker 29
Pileated Woodpecker 18
American Kestrel 10
Merlin 1
Willow Flycatcher 1
Great-crested Flycatcher 2
Eastern Kingbird 19
White-eyed Vireo 9
Yellow-throated Vireo 2
Blue-headed Vireo 18
Warbling Vireo 6
Red-eyed Vireo 8
Blue Jay 109
American Crow 105
Common Raven 7
Purple Martin 55
Tree Swallow 1999
North Rough-winged Swallow 189
Bank swallow 66
Cliff Swallow 222
Barn Swallow 2989
Black-capped Chickadee 109
Tufted Titmouse 111
Red-breasted Nuthatch 11
White-breasted Nuthatch 81
Brown Creeper 13
House Wren 29
Winter Wren 4
Marsh Wren 2
Carolina Wren 49
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 11
Golden-crowned Kinglet 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 19
Eastern Bluebird 55
Veery 9
Swainson's Thrush 5
Wood Thrush 19
American Robin 666
Gray Catbird 29
Brown Thrasher 9
Northern Mockingbird 16
European Starling 389
Cedar Waxwing 55
House Sparrow 222
House Finch 68
Purple Finch 111
Pine Siskin 11
American Goldfinch 888
Eastern Towhee 37
American Tree Sparrow 1
Chipping Sparrow 59
Field Sparrow 10
Savannah Sparrow 9
Song Sparrow 98
Swamp Sparrow 29
White-throated Sparrow 39
White-crowned Sparrow 19
Dark-eyed Junco 6
Yellow-breasted Chat 1
Bobolink 69
Eastern Meadowlark 55
Orchard Oriole 10
Baltimore Oriole 57
Red-winged Blackbird 399
Brown-headed Cowbird 99
Rusty Blackbird 33
Common Grackle 239
Ovenbird 39
Worm-eating Warbler 1
Louisiana Waterthrush 19
Northern Waterthrush 4
Golden-winged Warbler 1
Blue-winged Warbler 8
Black-and-white Warbler 5
Prothonotary Warbler 2
Tennessee Warbler 4
Orange-crowned Warbler 4
Nashville Warbler 6
Mourning Warbler 2
Kentucky Warbler 4
Common Yellowthroat 19
Hooded Warbler 9
American Redstart 8
Cape May Warbler 2
Cerulean Warbler 3
Northern Parula 2
Magnolia Warbler 9
Bay-breasted Warbler 1
Blackburnian Warbler 6
Yellow Warbler 83
Chestnut-sided Warbler 11
Blackpoll Warbler 2
Black-throated Blue Warbler 14
Palm Warbler 21
Pine Warbler 3
Yellow-rumped Warbler 77
Yellow-throated Warbler 8
Prairie Warbler 4
Black-throated Green Warbler 23
Canada Warbler 2
Wilson's Warbler 1
Scarlet Tanager 18
Northern Cardinal 98
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 57
Indigo Bunting 29.

BOOK REVIEW

Gene Wilhelm

GULLS SIMPLIFIED: A Comparative Approach to Identification by Pete Dunne and Kevin T. Karlson; contents include introduction, traditional gull ID problems, species accounts, quiz and review, answer to quiz photos, appendix, bibliography, photographer credits, index, 7 ½ x 9 ½ in., 208 pp., published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ 08540, \$24.95,

Dedication

We dedicate this book to the many gull aficionados who spend countless hours in the field studying these fascinating birds without the usual appreciation given by the general birding community for ID breakthroughs. We hope this book will change that. The Authors

The reader should have no fear that this tome not only carries out that promise but also clearly provides a comparative approach to identification that concentrates on size, structure, and basic plumage features of gulls. Thank goodness, gone are the often confusing array of plumage details found in other guides. In their place, this textbook illustrates the variations of gull plumage for a variety of ages, giving readers strong visual reference points for each species. These visual references are in the form of many spectacular color photos of every one of the 25 recorded gull species in America, including five rare or unlikely species: Slaty-backed, Kelp, Black-tailed, Ivory, and Ross's gulls.

The photographer Kevin T. Karlson is an accomplished birder and tour leader-guide whose books include the *Peterson Reference Guide to Birding by Impression* and *The Shore-bird Guide*. He also was book partner in *Birds of Prey* with Pete Dunne, Birding Ambassador at Large for the New Jersey Audubon Society. The unique title of Birding Ambassador at Large fit Dunne well allowing him to visit many world-wide bird 'hot spots.' This reviewer had the genuine pleasure meeting Dunne at a National Audubon Society annual meeting while filling the executive position of Vice-President of Education in New York headquarters and using the book *Birds of Prey* as text for training 550 hawk-watching volunteers over twelve years at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Alamo, Texas.

Gulls Simplified is an excellent textbook that was sadly needed for decades because so many birders even to this day consider gulls most intimidating, thus put aside, or even forgotten. Yet, no other birds are so adept at foraging on land, in the air, and in aquatic environments. In addition to being pan-global in distribution, gulls are intelligent, inquisitive, socially complex,

and quickly acclimate to a broad array of land habitats, in fact, rarely straying beyond sight of land.

Gulls range in size from the dove-sized Little Gull to the greater than Osprey-sized Great Black-backed Gull. These carnivorous birds feast on a variety of food from tiny insects to "culinary riches of America's fast food culture. . . in short, if there is a meal to be had," Dunne concludes, "there is almost certainly a gull suited to exploit it" (p. 16). Gulls are mostly monogamous, pair for life, and both adults care for the two to three offspring.

So, why this textbook now? Gulls go through a series of plumages en route from their juvenile feather coating to adulthood, compounding the complexity of plumage based identification. This paves the way for a more fundamental size and structure approach which is then augmented with plumage details to reach a more holistic identification conclusion. In other words, Dunne's approach to identification hinges mostly on traits easily noted in the field which are characteristic relating to size, shape, behavior, structural features, habitat, distribution, range, and direct comparative assessment. This approach has been honed by many years of hawk-watching in various spots of the world (p. 16).

Appealing to this reviewer at the very beginning of the textbook are twenty-two named gull species in color on two pages that breed in North America. Some gulls are rare and encountered only in distant locations so fewer than twenty species are regularly seen in North America. The gulls are illustrated as adults, scaled to size, and arranged to allow for direct comparisons of size, shape, structural feature, and plumage (pp. 6-7). Two pages of gull silhouettes follow allowing the reader to assess the differences in size, shape, and structural features more easily.

Gulls Simplified is truly a textbook in my mind so a pop quiz is not only feasible but expected in gull identification comparisons. After all, gulls do present identification advantages. Most species are large enough to note key different traits relating to bill and head shape, eye and leg color, and overall plumage characteristics, for example, the color of the bird's upper back being silver gray vs. charcoal gray. In addition, gulls typically stay in the open where they are easily viewed. Insofar as gulls are often found in places humans frequent, gulls are mostly habituated to us, allow prolonged scrutiny, and close approach. This is much better than trying to identify a little brown job in dense vegetation with the only hope being identification by sound. While gulls do present an array of plumages arranged by

successive molts, they can be combined into three broad manageable age classes: immature, sub-adult, and adult breeding and non-breeding. Refer to pp. 23-27 for further clarification of these basic age groups focusing on the excellent photograph descriptions. The authors likewise helpfully differentiate between gulls and gull-like birds, such as terns, jaegers and skuas, boobies and gannet, shearwaters, fulmars, and osprey by word and vivid color photos (pp. 28-31).

Species Accounts cover the majority of pages in the textbook (pp. 32-191). Each species has a Profile, Status and Distribution: Adult Breeding, Adult Non-breeding, Immature, Sub-adult, and a Map depicting resident or seasonal. Emphasis here is on number of photos and pages plus map interpretation (pp. 32-191).

The first group is divided into Small to Medium Sized and Hooded Gulls consisting of Laughing, Franklin's, Bonaparte's, Black-headed, Little, Sabine's, Black-legged Kittiwake, Red-legged Kittiwake, and Heermann's Gulls. Most of the birds in this group breed in northern or interior regions and winter mainly on the coast except for the Laughing Gull which also breeds in the southern Gulf coast locations, the Caribbean, and the Gulf of California in Mexico, and Heermann's Gull which also breeds in the Gulf of California.

Gray-backed White-headed Gulls is the second group of the textbook: Herring, California, Ring-billed, Mew, Iceland, Glaucous, and Glaucous-winged gulls.

The final group is the Large Dark-backed Gulls consisting of Western, Yellow-footed, Great Black-backed and Lesser Black-backed gulls.

Hybrid Gulls. "Many gull species are closely related, with their evolutionary divergence fairly recent, and their geographic isolation is not always absolute. In fact, the ranges of some genetically similar species overlap, because of this fertile combination of genetic similarity and physical proximity, hybridization between similar species currently considered distinct is both likely and problematic," comments Dunne (p.189). Five groups of hybrid gulls are recognized.

Quiz and Review. Why not challenge yourself by taking this quiz about gull identification? As an added challenge, try to workout the age of these birds as well. Just use immature, sub-adult, or adult since that is a simpler approach, in photos that show two or more gulls, try finding a familiar gull in the scene or use your field guide to identify one, and then use the size and shape of the now familiar bird to help with your identity of the unfamiliar ones. The authors include the date of the photo taken that

provides important information about a bird's typical plumage at that time of the year but not the location. After all, that would give too much information away as to the correct identity of each gull. Try to pinpoint which features, physical structure, bare parts, plumage, or all three, contributed to your responses before looking at the answers. However, the reader cannot flunk this quiz because the authors give general reasons for the identifications in the answers. Good luck!

In this day of rapidly declining number of birds, it was unfortunate that the

frequency terms such as regular, casual, or accidental and relative abundance terms like abundant, common, uncommon, and very rare could not have been identified in the book. What does casual or abundant or very rare mean in conservation terms? In fact, there is little if any words in the textbook about gull conservation. Are any gull species threatened or endangered? If so, what are the numbers of such species? Admittedly, these questions and answers are not the focal points of this textbook but they would have helped readers learn that gull

identification and conservation are interconnected.

A true debt of gratitude goes to Pete Dunne and Kevin T. Karlson for their unique textbook and Princeton University Press for their flawless publishing process at a sensible cost that birders world-wide can afford. It's a winner that should be used in the field for a long time to come.

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

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

1. Publication Title: **Pennsylvania Birds**
2. Publication Number **2905**
3. Filing Date **09/21/2021**
4. Issue Frequency **Quarterly**
5. Number of Issues Published Annually **4**
6. Annual Subscription Price **\$30**
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: **2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730; Contact Person Franklin Haas; Telephone 717-445-9609**
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: **2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730**
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor
 Publisher: **Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730**
 Editor: **Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730**
 Managing Editor: **Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730**
10. Owner: **Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, Lancaster, Pa 17555-9730**
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: **None**
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below **8/10/2021**

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)		383	375
b. Paid Circulation	(1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541.	355	353
	(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541.	16	0
	(3) Sales Through Dealers, etc.	0	0
	(4) Other Classes	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), (4))		371	353
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	(1) Outside-County	0	0
	(2) In-County	0	0
	(3) Other Classes	0	0
	(4) Outside the mail	0	0
e. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		371	353
g. Copies Not Distributed		12	22
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)		383	375
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation		100	100

16. Electronic Copy Circulation		Average No. Copies During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies		111	104
b. Total Paid Print Copies (15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (16a)		482	457
c. Total Print Distribution (15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (16a)		482	457
d. Percent Paid (Print & Electronic) (16b divided by 16c x 100)		100	100

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
Publication required. Will be printed in the Vol 35 No.2 (October 31, 2021 issue of this publication).
 18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Date
Franklin C. Haas, Treasurer, 09/21/2021
- I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or

Summary of the Season: Spring 2021

Mike Fialkovich

This spring lacked major waterfowl fallouts and in general duck migration was lackluster. Warm weather in late April resulted in a promising push of the first migrant warblers, but that was followed by a cold front that put a halt to the migration. Better weather followed, but the good weather for migrants meant observers did not see many birds as the conditions were good for birds to fly over.

Greater White-fronted Goose was reported in 11 counties, up considerably from last spring when they were only reported in three counties. The southeastern counties have the most regular reports but there were quite a few away from that region including *Armstrong*, *Crawford*, *Franklin*, *Lycoming*, and *Westmoreland*. **Cackling Geese** were in 15 counties. **Ross's Goose** was only reported from three counties, the same total as last year. Over the past seven years, Ross's Goose was recorded in three counties in 2016, 2018 and 2020. The high count during that period was in 2015 when this species was recorded in eight counties during the spring season. March is the month this species migrates north so depending upon weather conditions the totals fluctuate from year to year.

A surprising rarity was the state's second **Tundra Bean-Goose** in *Lancaster*. Who would have thought another one would appear in the state a few months after the first, and in early May no less when thoughts of geese are memories of migrants leaving the state in February and March. A **Brant** was photographed in *Bradford* in mid-May, a bit later than expected for this species.

Trumpeter Swan has really made inroads in the state with reports this season from an unprecedented 19 counties, ranging from one day wonders to birds that stayed for days or weeks. They returned to nest for the second consecutive year in *Cumberland*. This species is headed to becoming a regular breeding species in the state as the population continues to increase in the east. **Mute Swans** seem to be concentrated in *Bucks* and *York*, at least for now.

Waterfowl fallouts were only noted in *Blair*, *Carbon*, and *Lebanon*. Some compilers mentioned a poor waterfowl season. **Eurasian Wigeons** were found in *Chester*, *Crawford*, and *Dauphin*. An interesting bird photographed in *Warren* was believed to be a hybrid **American X Eurasian Wigeon**. *Bucks* noted a record number of **Northern Shovelers** for the county.

An immature male **King Eider** was an extraordinary find for late April in *Erie* where it remained to early May. **White-winged Scoter** was the most widespread of the scoters with reports from 16 counties

with an excellent count of 37 in *Pike*. **Black Scoter** was in four counties and **Surf Scoter** in ten. Most of the scoter reports were in April which seems a bit late. **Long-tailed Ducks** were in 20 counties; *Carbon* hosted an impressive 67 birds. An adult male **Barrow's Goldeneye** was in *Bucks* but only seen briefly.

A pair of **Northern Bobwhites** in *Allegheny* visited a feeder in a housing development. There were also ebird reports in *Indiana* and *Wyoming*. They were certainly released but worth noting. Hopefully the restoration efforts in the southeastern part of the state are eventually successful in re-establishing this much missed species. Compilers continue to note sightings of **Ruffed Grouse**. They were reported in 16 counties, just one more than last year.

It was not a good year to find **Red-necked Grebes** with reports from only seven counties. An **Eared Grebe** was in *Erie*, the most reliable location to find this species during migration.

Eurasian Collared-Doves remain restricted to *Berks* and *Franklin* for the most part. They were present at various locations in *Franklin* during the season. A colony in *Berks* appears to be spreading with several birds reported outside the core area in the county. A single bird was present in *Shippensburg* in *Cumberland* all season. A dove observed in flight at dawn in *Erie* was either a **Eurasian Collared** or an **African Collared** but could not be identified for certain.

Nightjars are of special interest to many due to their decline over the years. Unfortunately, the **Chuck-wills-widow** that has been a regular fixture in *Cumberland* for several years did not appear again, for the second consecutive year. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were found in 19 counties with a double figure count in *Fulton*, and *Bucks* and *Potter* recorded their first for many years. **Common Nighthawks** were in 20 counties. A **Rufous Hummingbird** that wintered in *Berks* remained to early April.

A **Yellow Rail** was an accidental find by a farmer working a field in *Bucks*. A **King Rail** in *Centre* was a rare find in an unusual location. The bird was in a backyard feeding on the lawn. In between feeding sessions it would hide in the shrubs. How the bird decided to land in such unlikely habitat is a mystery but there it stayed for nearly a week, helping itself to earthworms. One was heard in *Crawford* several times in mid-May. **Common Gallinules** are local breeders in the state but during migration they turn up in wetlands in various locations. They were reported in 18 counties, about the same as last year and up from the totals of previous years when they were typically found in just a few counties.

Sandhill Crane continues to be widespread with reports from 27 counties. Although this species has been increasing across the state there are still counties recording their first records, which was the case for *Blair*. There was suspicion of nesting in *Susquehanna* but unfortunately not confirmed.

Shorebird passage was excellent and unusual (dare I say weird?), featuring the rare spring occurrence of several species more typical of fall migration including **American Golden Plover**, **Marbled Godwit**, **Stilt Sandpiper**, **Baird's Sandpiper**, and **Long-billed Dowitcher**. While spring records are not unheard of for these species, they are uncommon to rare. For example, Marbled Godwit was recorded in spring only eight times since 1992. In addition, there was a spectacular fallout of shorebirds in the Wellsboro area in *Tioga* that included ten species and featured triple digit totals of **Black-bellied Plover**! Think about that for a moment. With all due respect, *Tioga* isn't at the top of the list for shorebird locations in the state, but this spring it certainly was! Read the special announcement in the *Tioga* report for details. One more thing to consider, **Ruddy Turnstones** and **Sanderlings** that are most likely to occur in *Erie* went unreported from the Lake Erie shore this spring. There was some normalcy to the shorebird passage in the southeast where the typical flocks of migrants leaving the Delaware Bay were observed in great numbers.

The rare **Black-necked Stilt** had an excellent presence this spring with reports in four counties, the highest total recorded thus far. Reports in *Butler* and *Lawrence* provided a pair of first county records. **American Avocet** was only found in *Westmoreland* but in double digit figures. Rare in spring, an **American Golden Plover** was in *Crawford*.

Unfortunately, **Upland Sandpipers** were only reported in two counties. **Whimbrels** were in fantastic numbers this spring with reports from seven counties. Several counties in the southeast including *Chester* and *Montgomery* reported triple digit figures of flocks leaving the Delaware Bay. A **Marbled Godwit** in *Centre* provided the third county record. **Ruddy Turnstones** made unexpected appearances in *Lawrence*, *Lycoming*, and *Tioga*. **Red Knot** was in *Chester* where they are regular in spring and *Tioga* where they are not expected. Rare for spring a **Stilt Sandpiper** was in *Bucks*. **Sanderlings** were in *Franklin*, *Lancaster*, and *Tioga*.

A rare spring **Baird's Sandpiper** was photographed by many in *Northampton* and **White-rumped Sandpipers** were in five counties. **Short-billed Dowitchers** were in eight counties and **Long-billed Dowitchers**

in five counties with multiple birds in *Clinton* providing a first record for that county. *Erie* recorded a record count of **Lesser Yellowlegs** in early May. **Willetts** were in 11 counties. Two of the three phalaropes were reported. **Wilson's Phalaropes** were in five counties including a first for *Butler* and **Red-necked Phalaropes** were in seven counties including a first county record for *Fayette*.

From the lack of reports, it appears most gulls moved north before the start of the season with some expected species absent from the usual locations. *Indiana* experienced a triple digit record count for the county of **Bonaparte's Gull** at Yellow Creek while the passage on the Ohio River in *Allegheny* was less than normal, probably due to weather conditions. **Little Gulls** were in *Carbon*, *Centre*, and *Lancaster*. They went unreported from the usual locations along the Susquehanna River in the Harrisburg area. **Laughing Gulls** made their annual appearance in *Bucks* and were also reported in *Delaware*, *Chester*, *Montgomery*, and *Philadelphia*. An outlier from the counties in close proximity to the coast was a single bird in *Luzerne* in April. **Iceland Gulls** were only reported in *Bucks* and *Erie*. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** reports came from ten counties including *Bucks*, *Butler*, *Centre*, *Chester*, *Crawford*, *Delaware*, *Lancaster*, *Mercer*, *Montgomery*, and *Pike*. **Glaucous Gull** was only reported in *Erie*. **Great Black-backed Gulls** were reported from four counties. **Black-headed Gull** went unreported this spring for the first time since 2016. This is the fifth year this species was not reported in spring since 1999.

A few higher than normal counts of terns provided highlights for this group. **Black Terns** were in 14 counties. **Common Terns** were in 18 counties with double figure counts in *Berks*, *Delaware*, and *Mercer*. A double digit count of **Forster's Terns** in *Butler* were put down by overnight rains.

Red-throated Loons were in 13 counties. A **Pacific Loon** was briefly observed in *Monroe* before it disappeared. A **Brown Booby** was in *Philadelphia* in early May, the third record for that county. This species was first seen in the state in 2015 and has been annual for the past four years. **Great Cormorants** were at the typical locations along the Delaware River in *Bucks*, *Delaware*, and *Philadelphia*.

The first state **Neotropic Cormorant**, featured on the cover, was an exciting find at the Williamsport Dam in *Lycoming*. This was an overdue addition to the state list with records from all neighboring states with the exception of West Virginia.

Both species of pelican were a rare treat this spring. **American White Pelican** was notable with reports from *Bedford*, *Cambria*, *Centre* (providing a third county record), *Erie*, and *Mercer*. One was in *Erie* in early May followed by 14 later in the

month, the fifth highest count ever recorded in the state. A **Brown Pelican** was seen flying along the Delaware River in *Philadelphia* in April.

American Bitterns were in 26 counties and **Least Bitterns** in 13, about average for the state. **Snowy Egrets** were in four counties, all in the southeast. **Little Blue Heron** was only found in *Bucks*. **Cattle Egrets** were in four counties, three in the southeast and one in the northwest.

Black-crowned Night-Heron was reported in 15 counties, most in the southeast and **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** remains limited in its distribution in the state with reports from four counties. An active rookery continues in Harrisburg and a persistent male returned to a colony of Black-crowned in *Lancaster*. **Glossy Ibis** were in seven counties, all in the southeast where they are fairly regular in small numbers during migration. A **White-faced Ibis** provided an exciting first county record in *Lawrence* and only the fifth state record. Unfortunately for birders it did not spend much time at the small pond it decided to stop and visit but it was photographed by a few birders.

Black Vulture continues to expand with reports from 15 counties. They were reported from several southwestern counties and northern counties including *Erie*, *Susquehanna*, *Sullivan*, and *Wyoming*. **Mississippi Kites** were found in four counties. *Chester* remains the location with most sightings as usual. We are still waiting for the first nesting in the state of this expanding raptor. A flyover **Northern Goshawk** in *Carbon* represents the only report for the season. **Rough-legged Hawks** were in nine counties. Typically they are only in one to three as most depart early in spring. **Golden Eagles** were spotted in 14 counties, and surprisingly only one report was from a hawk watch site. It's always wise to keep an eye to the sky during migration.

Two **Barn Owls** were detected by a recorder in *Centre*, one in *Delaware*, and one in *Montgomery*. Two were in *Franklin*. A few **Snowy Owls** continued from the winter in *Centre*, *Crawford*, *Erie*, *Somerset*, and *Tioga*. **Long-eared Owls** were in six counties and **Short-eared Owls** in 13 counties. **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were found in six counties.

Red-headed Woodpecker was reported in 30 counties, a typical total. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were in seven counties; this species is more numerous during fall migration. There were only two county reports of **Northern Shrike**, one from *Crawford* and one from *Erie* continuing from the winter. There was an interesting report of a possible **Bell's Vireo** in *Erie* but unfortunately never confirmed.

Blue Jay migration is typically viewed along the Lake Erie shore but large numbers were counted in *Montgomery* this spring. Read the country report for the impressive

totals. A record number of **Fish Crows** were reported in that county as well. **Fish Crows** continue to expand with a rare report from *Erie*. **Common Ravens** also continue to expand with a first county record for *Beaver*.

Marsh Wren was in 20 counties which is just slightly above the average for this season. The rare **Sedge Wren** was found in *Crawford*, *Elk*, and *Erie*. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were fairly widespread during the winter so it's not surprising they were found in 22 counties.

There were **Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush** reports from nocturnal flight call recorders in *Centre*, *Lehigh*, and *Montgomery*. The calls were not conclusive but showed some characteristics of Bicknell's Thrush. Visual reports came from *Philadelphia*, but none were conclusive. A **Varied Thrush** that wintered in *Lawrence* remained to early March.

As is often the case following a winter of northern finches some remain into the early part of the spring season. **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported in 46 counties, **Common Redpolls** were in 27, **Hoary Redpolls** were in four and **Pine Siskins** were in 39 counties. **Red Crossbill** was reported in 16 counties while **White-winged Crossbills** were only in five counties.

Lapland Longspurs and **Snow Buntings** are occasional in the spring but this year there were reports of Lapland Longspur in six counties and Snow Bunting in three counties.

Clay-colored Sparrows had a great showing with reports from ten counties including a first for *Susquehanna*. One was detected by a flight call recorder in *Centre* and the bird that wintered in *Indiana* remained to mid-March. **Henslow's Sparrows** were found in nine counties, many returning to territories at known breeding sites. A **Harris's Sparrow** visited a feeder in *Dauphin* in mid-May but was only seen that day. The **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** that wintered in *Allegheny* was last seen in early March.

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** that spent nearly two weeks in *Allegheny* provided only the third county record and two birds were seen in separate locations in *Lancaster*. A **Western Meadowlark** was photographed very well in *Mifflin*, a county that has hosted this species twice. A male **Bullock's Oriole** that wintered in *Bucks* remained to mid-April providing the second county record. The amazing seven **Baltimore Orioles** that wintered in *Bucks* remained to May. One is rare enough but seven wintering in one general area is quite notable and this wasn't the first time multiple Baltimore Orioles wintered in the county. One that wintered in *Allegheny* remained to late April. The second state record of **Scott's Oriole** remained in *Lancaster* from the winter to mid-April. This was a welcomed rarity after 14 years

since the first one. Small numbers of **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported in 28 counties.

Despite what many considered as a slow migration there was a good variety of warblers totaling 36 species this spring plus the two expected hybrids. **Golden-winged Warblers** were in 22 counties including a banded bird in *Indiana*. **Brewster's Warbler** was in eight counties and **Lawrence's Warbler** in four. **Prothonotary Warblers** were found in 19 counties, many at regular breeding sites. One was detected by a nocturnal flight call recorder in *Centre*. Several pairs returned for the second year to nest in *Erie*, a welcome site for this species that nested regularly in the past and then went missing for many years. One in *Huntingdon* provided the sixth county record and a migrant in *Indiana* provided the third county record. A pair was on territory in *Lawrence* which is unusual.

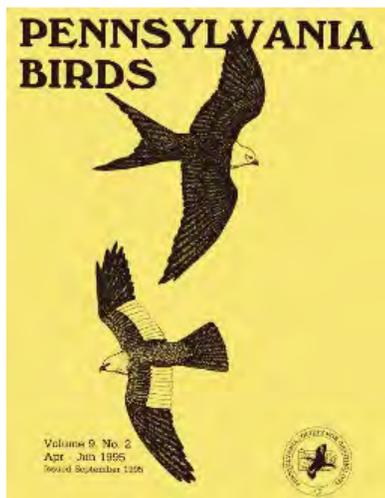
Swainson's Warblers were in five counties, quite an influx for the state. What had to be the same individual returned to the same location as last year in *Indiana*. Unfortunately one was found for the second consecutive year stunned from a window strike in *Allegheny*. *Blair*, *Centre*, and *Fulton* all secured first county records. Birds were also in *Potter* and *Sullivan*, quite north for this southern species. Much less common in spring than fall, **Orange-crowned Warblers** were in nine counties. Another rare spring migrant, the only **Connecticut Warbler** report came from *Centre*. **Cerulean Warblers** were in 15 counties. Unusual for western Pennsylvania, an eastern subspecies **Palm Warbler** was photographed in *Allegheny*.

It was another spring of numerous **Summer Tanagers** with 13 reports from eight counties, with multiple birds in two counties. Three were in *Delaware* and four

in *Philadelphia*. While numerous this year the total counties reporting was exactly half of last year's exceptional total. **Blue Grosbeaks** were in ten counties. One in *Blair* was a first and one in *Centre* was reported as casual in that county. The **Painted Bunting** that wintered in *Lancaster* was last seen in early April. **Dickcissels** started to appear in the state in May which was a prelude for their presence in the summer. Birds were reported in eight counties including a first record for *Beaver*.

Reports were received from 56 counties, three less than last year. Thank you to the county compilers for sorting through mountains of data to generate the reports.

25 Years Ago in *Pennsylvania Birds*



Volume 9, No. 2.

Steven B. Feldstein reported on a fallout of 250+ Horned Grebes near State College.

Jonathan Heller reported on the Swallow-tailed and Mississippi kites seen on the Berks/Lancaster county border.

Jerry McWilliams reported on the three species of gulls that attempted to nest at Presque Isle.

Rare birds reported included American White Pelican, Anhinga, Swallow-tailed and Mississippi kite, Black-necked Stilt, Marbled Godwit, Black Skimmer, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Mountain Bluebird.

This issue can be read at pabirds.org.

Birds of Note – March through May 2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ross's Goose – *Berks*: 2 at Blue Marsh Lake 3/10 (Russell Hoffman);

Lancaster: small numbers during peak Snow Goose migration;

Montgomery: one at Green Lane Park 3/19 (Paul Driver).

Tundra Bean-Goose* – *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 5/2 (Eric Witmer), *doc submitted*, second state record.

Brant – *Bradford*: one in Sayre 5/17 (Dana LaVanture), photo in ebird.

Mute Swan – *Bucks*: reported from 12 locations with a max of 26 at the Penn-Warner Tract (Devich Farbotnik, August Mirabella); *Somerset*: 2 at Seven Springs 3/12 and 5 cygnets with them 5/23 (Andrew Smith); *Venango*: 5 at Two Mile Run Park 5/29 but thought to be released (observer not listed); *York*: up to 9 at Spring Grove 3/17-20 (David Arrow, Bob Reiter).

Eurasian Wigeon – *Chester*: one from winter at Marsh Creek SP and nearby until at least 3/9 (Carol Kuniholm, m.ob.); *Crawford*: one at Hartstown Project 3/9 (Ken Nicholson), one at Custards 3/20-27 (m.ob.); *Dauphin*: one at SGL 290, Haldeman Island 5/8 (Scott Bills, Stephanie Bills, Andy Brought).

American X Eurasian Wigeon – *Warren*: one at Akeley Swamp 3/25-27 (Travis Suckow, m.ob.), photos in ebird.

King Eider* – *Erie*: first year male off Beach 10 at Presque Isle SP 4/23-5/9 (Jason Bojczyk, m.ob.), *doc submitted*.

Black Scoter – *Blair*: one at Canoe Creek SP 4/11 (John Carter); *Butler*: one at Moraine SP 3/10 (Eric Hall); *Carbon*: 2 at Beltzville SP 4/18 (Rich Rehrig, Barbara Rehrig, et al.); *Clinton*: one at Kettle Creek SP 3/22 (Sarah Lindgren); *Erie*: present March to early May at Presque Isle SP (m.ob.).

Barrow's Goldeneye* – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon SP 3/16 (Jane Barker-Hunt), *doc submitted*, ninth county record.

Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser – *Erie*: one off East Pier in Erie 3/5 (Jamie Hill), photos in ebird.

Red-necked Grebe – *Butler*, *Carbon*, *Centre*, *Crawford*, *Susquehanna*, *Tioga*, *York*.

Eared Grebe* – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 3/1-22 (Jerry McWilliams), *no doc*.

Eurasian Collared-Dove – *Berks*: 2 reports of single birds near Hamburg 4/14 (Kerry Grim) and 5/11 (Matthew White); *Cumberland*: one in Shippensburg 4/26 through the season (Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne); *Franklin*: occasional reports from Shady Grove, Clayhill, Greencastle, and Marion.

Eurasian Collared Dove/African Collared-Dove – *Erie*: one flying past the Tom Ridge Environmental Center Tower at dawn 5/14 could not be identified to species (Jason Bojczyk).

Rufous Hummingbird – *Berks*: overwintering bird in Boyertown last seen 4/8 (Ron Wagner).

Yellow Rail* – *Bucks*: one in field in Milford Twp. 5/1 (Kevin Willauer, *fide* Devich Farbotnik), photo in ebird, sixth county record.

King Rail* – *Centre*: one in a back yard in State College 4/13-15 (Kurt Engstrom, Carl Engstrom), fourth county record; *Crawford*:

one at Conneaut Marsh 5/7-15 (Steve Sanford, Michael Williams, Ryan Tomazin), *no doc*.

Black-necked Stilt* – *Bucks*: 2 at Penn-Warner Tract 5/16 (Devich Farbotnik), photos in ebird; *Butler*: one at SGL 95 on Calico Road 5/2 (Corey Bellis, m.ob.), photos in ebird, first county record; *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 5/18 (m. ob.), photos in ebird; *Lawrence*: one at Shaner Road Marsh 4/30 (Ashley Harold, photo in ebird), first county record.

American Avocet – *Westmoreland*: 30 at Bush Recreation Area of Loyalhanna Creek 4/25 (Tom Moser).

American Golden Plover – *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 5/15-18 (Deborah Kalbfleisch, Michael Williams, Claire Nicolls).

Upland Sandpiper – *Clearfield*: one on Sandy Ridge Road 5/7-19 (m.ob.); *Crawford*: seen through the season at usual locations.

Whimbrel – *Butler*: 9 at Lake Arthur 5/27 (Martin Carlin); *Chester*: a flock of 106 flew over Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Larry Lewis, Al Guarente, Jason Horn, Debbie Beer), 31 seen from Downingtown (Zach Baer); *Delaware*: one flying up Delaware River seen from Hog Island Rd. 5/29 (m.ob.); *Erie*: 9 at Presque Isle SP 5/26 (Jerry McWilliams); *Montgomery*: a flock of 100 flew over Green Lane Park 5/24 (Paul Driver, Jason Horn), 150 flew over Valley Forge National Historic Park 5/25 (Steve Grunwald), 19 on the ground at Green Lane Park 5/29 (Paul Driver, m.ob.); *Montour*: one in farm field on Rte 54 on 5/29 (Andrew Keister); *Tioga*: one along Airport Rd. in Wellsboro 5/29 (Tom Johnson, Andy Keister, John Corcoran, Lisa Doud, Sara Busch, Jason Horn, Matthew Schenk, Susan Schenk, Ken Cooper); *York*: one flew over Lake Redman 5/30 (Bob Reiter).

Marbled Godwit – *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle SP 4/28 (Michelle Smithbauer), third county record.

Ruddy Turnstone – *Delaware*: present 5/29-30 along the Delaware River at Hog Island Rd. (Jason Hudnut, Al Guarente, Michael Hartshome); *Lawrence*: one at the Shaner Rd. Marsh 5/10 (Oscar Nigam); *Lycoming*: one at Williamsport Dam 5/20-21 (Maddi Dunlap, Jean Dalton, et al.) and one at Rose Valley Lake 5/28 (Melissa Holland, et al.); *Tioga*: 3 at Muck Rail yard 5/29 (John Corcoran) and a high count of 35 along Airport Rd. in Wellsboro 5/29 (Tom Johnson, John Corcoran, Jason Horn, Matthew Schenk, Susan Schenk, Sara Busch).

Red Knot – *Chester*: 2 at Downingtown 5/25 (Zach Baer); *Tioga*: 4 reports at Wellsboro with high of five 5/29 (Tom Johnson, Andy Keister, Matthew Schenk, Susan Schenk, Sara Busch, Jason Horn)

Ruff* – *Delaware*: 2 at Hog Island Road 5/2 (Al Guarente), *no doc*.

Stilt Sandpiper – *Bucks*: 2 at Penn-Warner Tract 5/8 (Devich Farbotnik).

Sanderling – *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 5/4 (Gavin Anderson); *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats the weekend of 5/29 (observers not listed); *Tioga*: 7 at Airport Rd. in Wellsboro 5/29 (Tom Johnson, Andy Keister).

- Baird's Sandpiper** – *Northampton*: one at Hollo Road Retention Pond 4/24 (Jeff Hopkins, m.ob.), photos in ebird.
- White-rumped Sandpiper** – *Bucks*: 3 at Penn-Warner Tract 5/12 (Mark Gallagher, Dawn Denner); *Clearfield*: 2 at Curwensville Lake 5/10-12 (John Forcey, Dan Richards, Jerod Skebo, Bill Voris, Nick Voris); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/23 (Roger Donn); *Lancaster*: 2 at Conejohela Flats 5/29-31 (observers not listed); *Philadelphia*: 4 at John Heinz NWR 5/13-18 (George Armistead, et al.); *Westmoreland*: one at Mammoth Park 5/19 (Patience Fisher).
- Long-billed Dowitcher** – *Clinton*: 9 at Central Mountain H.S. Wetlands 5/2 (Carol Hildebrand, Charles Hildebrand, m.ob.), first county record; *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 3/21-22 (Jason Bojczyk); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 5/10 (Steve Ferreri); *Lawrence*: 4 at Shaner Road Marsh 5/2 (Tom Pinter); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz NWR 5/4 (Jason Horn, et al.).
- Willet** – *Armstrong, Bucks, Cambria, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Erie, Lancaster, Montgomery, Venango*.
- Wilson's Phalarope** – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 5/17 (Jim Hartley), one at Bradford Dam 5/27 (Kenneth Rieker); *Butler*: one at SGL 95 on 5/23 (Kimberly Berry), first county record; *Clarion*: one at Kahle Lake 5/2 (Richard Nugent); *Crawford*: one at Miller Ponds 5/12 (Eric Schill, David Yeany II), 2 there 5/16-17 (Patience Fisher, Michael Williams); *Franklin*: one at Greencastle Reservoir 5/16 (Carl Garner, Gavin Anderson, Bill Oyler, Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne, Bob Koontz).
- Red-necked Phalarope** – *Berks*: one at Gotwal's Pond 5/24 (Rudy Keller); *Butler*: one at Glade Run Lake 5/19 (Lisa Busa); *Carbon*: 2 at Beltzville SP 5/29 (Rich Rehrig, Barbara Rehrig, Ty Sharrow, Rick Wiltraut); *Fayette*: one at Duck Pond Rd. 5/29-30 (KB, m.ob.), first county record; *Lackawanna*: one at Aylesworth Park 5/18 (Chris Fischer); *Lebanon*: one at Balmer Farm Ponds 5/23 (Jonathan Heller, Rita Stima, Mike Shull, Timothy Becker, Kathy Becker, Jim Fiorentino, Josh Houck), 2 at Middle Creek WMA 5/25 (Jonathan Heller); *Montgomery*: 2 at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve 5/12 (Redmond Brubaker, m.ob.), 7 there 5/21 (Dave Belford, m.ob.) with one remaining 5/22 (m.ob.).
- Little Gull** – *Carbon*: one at Beltzville SP 4/18 (Rich Rehrig); *Centre*: juvenile at Bald Eagle SP 5/5 (Joe Verica, et al.), sixth county record; *Lancaster*: one at Lake Clarke 4/27 (Meredith Lombard, Jeff Musser).
- Laughing Gull** – *Bucks*: reported along Delaware River in late March with a high of 800 at Penn-Warner Tract 4/26 (Andrew Harrington); *Chester*: flock of 30 flew over Struble Lake 5/10 (Rick Robinson); *Delaware*: several reports in ebird; *Luzerne*: one at Beech Mountain Lakes 4/11 (John DeBalko, Jonathan DeBalko), photos in ebird; *Montgomery*: immature at Heuser Park in King of Prussia 5/15 (Dave Belford, Michael Rosengarten); *Philadelphia*: a flock at Navy Yard 4/29 (Holger Pflücke), several other reports in ebird from various locations.
- Iceland Gull** – *Bucks*: one to 3 at Nockamixon SP 3/10-17 (m.ob.), one at Peace Valley Park 3/13 (Richard Smith), 2 at Penn-Warner Tract 3/17 (Bob Cunningham) and one 3/27-5/11 (Andrew Harrington); *Erie*: reported the first half of March at Presque Isle SP (Jerry McWilliams, Jason Bojzyk).
- Glaucous Gull** – *Erie*: present early March and in May (Jerry McWilliams, Justin Berkheimer).
- Great Black-backed Gull** – *Carbon*: one at Beltzville SP 3/30 (Rich Rehrig); *Crawford*: one at Pymatuning Causeway 3/20 (Ron Leberman); *Monroe*: one at Skytop 5/4 (Rick Koval); *Montgomery*: present in Lower Moreland Twp. 3/21 (Cindy Ahern) and Green Lane Park 3/22 (George Franchois).
- Pacific Loon*** – *Monroe*: one at Pocono Summit Lake 5/3 (Bruce Johnson), *doc submitted*.
- Brown Booby*** – *Philadelphia*: adult flew upriver at Navy Yard 5/3 (Liam Hart), *doc submitted*.
- Neotropic Cormorant*** – *Lycoming*: immature at Williamsport Dam 4/11-13 (Brett Matlock, m.ob.), *doc submitted*, first state record.
- Great Cormorant** – *Bucks*: most reports were from Penn-Warner Tract; a high of 5 flew north 3/21 (Andrew Harrington); *Delaware*: 2 at Hog Island Rd. 3/3 (Sara Busch); *Philadelphia*: present at Philadelphia Naval Yard 3/7-30 with a high of 10 on 3/26 (Debbie Beer, Adrian Binns, Liam Hart, Holger Pflücke, Mark Greenberry), present at Philadelphia Army Corps of Engineers Compound 3/21-4/25 with a high of 3 on 3/21 (Holger Pflücke, m.ob.); 2 at John Heinz NWR 3/29 (Tanya Burnett).
- American White Pelican** – *Bedford*: one at Shawnee SP 4/12-18 (Aimee Benitez, Whitney Territo, John Manard); *Cambria*: one at Prince Gallitzin SP 4/12 (Renee Lubert); *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle SP 4/16-18 (Michelle Smithbauer, et al.), third county record; *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/4-5 (Ruth Swaney, Jerry McWilliams) and 14 there 5/26 (Jerry McWilliams); *Mercer*: one at Shenango Propagation Area 5/3 (Michael Williams).
- Brown Pelican*** – *Philadelphia*: one flew upriver at Navy Yard 4/21 (Holger Pflücke), *no doc*.
- Snowy Egret** – *Bucks*: one at Churchville Park 5/20 (Bill Koch, Kris Koch); *Clearfield*: one in Curwensville 4/21 (John Forcey, Jerod Skebo); *Dauphin*: one at Haldeman Island 5/21 (Scott Bills, Stephanie Bills); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 4/12 (John Daniel) and 4/28 (Damon Orsetti); *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 4/28-5/4 (Meredith Lombard, m.ob.).
- Little Blue Heron** – *Bucks*: an immature at Bradford Dam 4/21 (Vinobha Pannerselvam).
- Cattle Egret** – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon SP 4/30 (Devich Farbotnik); *Erie*: one photographed flying past Tom Ridge Environmental Center Tower 5/3 (Jason Bojzyk); *Lancaster*: one at the Conejohela Flats 5/8 (Mike Schall); *Lebanon*: 2 at Fox and Prescott Rd. 4/19 (Pam Holmes, Jonathan Heller, Sara Busch, Pat Williams, Richard Williams).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Bucks*: adult at Peace Valley Park 4/14 (Jean Burch, Daniel Loss), one at Nockamixon SP (Chris Gigger); *Dauphin*: continues to nest at Harrisburg, first reported 4/7 (Ian Gardner); *Lancaster*: retuning male at Black-crowned Night-Heron rookery at Ephrata; *Montgomery*: adult at Dixon Meadow Preserve 4/21-28 (Tanya Burnett, m.ob.).
- Glossy Ibis** – *Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Lebanon, Montgomery, York*.
- White-faced Ibis*** – *Lawrence*: one at farm pond on Vosler Rd. 5/24 (Mark Vass, et al.), *doc submitted*, first county record.
- Mississippi Kite*** – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon SP 5/27 (Jason Horn), *no doc* and 5/31 (Eric Zawatski), *no doc*; *Chester*: two 5/22 and singles 5/25-26 at Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Larry Lewis, m.ob.), *no doc*; *Cumberland*: one in Mechanicsburg 5/31 (Ian Gardner), *no doc*; *Lancaster*: one south of New Holland 5/22 (Zach Millen), *no doc*.
- Northern Goshawk** – *Carbon*: one flew over Palmerton 3/19 (Danny Tyler).
- Barn Owl** – *Centre*: one at Shamrock 3/15 and one in State College 4/14, heard as nocturnal flight calls (Joe Gyekis); *Delaware*: one nocturnal flight call recording at Wallingford 3/12 (Rob Ferguson); *Franklin*: 2 near Edenville 3/5 (obs. not listed); *Montgomery*: recorded over Franconia Twp. 5/6 and 5/14 (Scott Godshall).
- Snowy Owl** – *Centre*: one in Halfmoon Twp. 4/20 (Mark McLaughton); *Crawford*: one in northern part Crawford 3/2 (James Hill, Suzanne Winterberger); *Erie*: one south of Edinboro 3/2 (James Hill), same bird as *Crawford*, and one at Presque Isle SP 3/20 (*fide* Justin Berkheimer); *Somerset*: the bird wintering at Seven Springs Mountain Resort was last seen 3/10 (Andrew Smith); *Tioga*: one near Ogdensburg 4/23 (Christine Allen).
- Long-eared Owl** – *Bucks*: present at Peace Valley Park with a high of five 3/9 (August Mirabella); *Cumberland*: 3 in Plainfield Twp. 3/16 through March (Tim Johnson, Karen Johnson); *Erie*: up to 3 at Presque Isle SP 3/21-28 (Roger Donn); *Lebanon*: one continuing from the winter at Swatara SP 3/20-21 (Joe Wolf, Jonathan Heller); *Montgomery*: 5 in northwestern part of the county through 4/14 (m.ob.); *Sullivan*: one at World's End SP 5/15 (Jeff Vinosky).

Northern Saw-whet Owl – *Chester*: one heard near SGL 43 on 3/3 (Scott Stollery); *Erie*: 3 at Presque Isle SP 3/24-4/11 (Jerry McWilliams, Roger Donn); *Lebanon*: up to 3 at SGL 211 from 3/20-30 (Jonathan Heller, Ted Nichols, Emily Ritter, Goran Stankovic); *Montgomery*: one in Plymouth Twp. 3/8 (Paul Bernhardt); *Potter*: one at Cherry Springs SP 4/26 (Annemarie Sciarra); *Sullivan*: one heard on Dutch Mountain 5/8 (observer not listed).

Northern Shrike – *Crawford*: one at SGL 213 on 3/12 (Issac Field, Steve Rotkovecz); *Erie*: one continued from winter at SGL 109 up to 3/6 (Oscar Nigam).

Sedge Wren – *Crawford*: one at Conneaut Marsh, McMichael Rd. 5/13-24 (Josh Heiser, Andrew Markel, Sara Busch, Jason Horn, Michael Williams); *Elk*: one at Rasselas Marsh 5/8 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/12 (Jerry McWilliams).

Varied Thrush* – *Lawrence*: one at private residence since Feb., last seen 3/5 (*fide* Bobby Rochow).

Hoary Redpoll* – *Centre*: one continued from winter at feeder in State College, last reported 3/7 (Susan Braun), sixth county record, *doc submitted*; *Mercer*: one at Carlisle Road 3/6 (Michael Williams), photo in ebird, one in Transfer 3/16 (Michael Williams), *no doc*; *Luzerne*: one at feeder in Wyoming 3/6 (Stan Galenty), *no doc*; *McKean*: one at feeder in Rew Hill 3/23 (Tessa Rhinehart, Susan Schenck, Matthew Schenck), *doc submitted*.

White-winged Crossbill – *Bucks*: female at feeder in East Rockhill Twp. 5/16 (Rod Smith, *fide* Devich Farbotnik); *Centre*: 2 at Scotia Barrens 3/16 (Ron Crandall, Joe Verica); *Clinton*: one at feeder in Woolrich 4/12-16 (Carol Hildebrand, Charles Hildebrand); *Cumberland*: 9 at Camp Michaux 3/11-23 (Chris Payne, m.ob.); *Susquehanna*: one continued from last season on Page Rd. last seen 3/1 (Eric Zawatski).

Lapland Longspur – *Chester*: one at Homestead Rd. 3/1-3 (Rick Robinson, Judy Ford); *Cumberland*: 2 at Gephart Rd. near Shippensburg 4/9 (Chris Payne); *Erie*: one over Presque Isle SP 4/4 (Jason Bojczyk); *Huntingdon*: one at PA Furnace Rd. 3/28-29 (Roana Fuller, Ryan Hillsley, Susan Braun); *Lebanon*: 2 at Middle Creek WMA3/13 (Jonathan Heller); *Somerset*: one on Meadow Rd. 3/14 (Jeff Payne).

Snow Bunting – *Berks*: 16 on Mertz Rd. 3/21 (Jeff Vinosky); *Bucks*: last at Maple Knoll Farms 3/2 (Richard Smith); *Chester*: 2 at Homestead Rd. 3/1 (Rick Robinson) and one 3/3 (Judy Ford).

Clay-colored Sparrow – *Berks*: one at Blue Marsh Lake 4/28 (obs. not listed); *Centre*: one by flight call at State College 5/3 (Joe Gyekis); *Clarion*: one Mt. Zion 5/22 (Martin Carlin, Mary Elsenheimer); *Clearfield*: one along Yoder Rd. 5/23-24 (Dan Richards, John Forcey); *Erie*: singles at Presque Isle SP 5/13 (Justin Berkheimer, Jerry McWilliams) and 5/22 (Josh Pollock), one at Erie Bluffs SP 5/21 (Charles Damstadt); *Indiana*: wintering bird near Shelocta last seen 3/15 (Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee); *Lebanon*: one at Memorial Lake SP 5/8-10 (Joe Swift, Jonathan Heller, Timothy Becker, Kathy Becker, Mary Coomer, Jason Horn, Jarrod Derr, m.ob.); *Lycoming*: one at Mill Street 5/10 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown), sixth county record; *Mercer*: one at Wolf Creek 5/5 (Lauren Brock); *Susquehanna*: one in yard at Lake Montrose 4/24-28 (Sara Fisher, Evan Mann, Tom Norville, Sharon Norville, Win Shafer, Barb Stone, Gary Stone, Nancy VanKott), first county record.

Henslow's Sparrow – *Allegheny*: reported at Imperial through season (m.ob.); *Blair*: one at SGL 198 on 5/22 (John Carter); *Bulter*: one in Worth Twp. 5/14 (Martin Carlin); *Cambria*: 3 at SGL 108 on 5/17 (John Carter) and one there 5/23 (Tina Alianiello); *Centre*: one near Snowshoe 5/23 (Joe Verica); *Clarion*: 3 near Curllsville 4/14 (Carole Winslow), good numbers in the area for the season, 15 at Mt. Zion 5/26 (Carole Winslow); *Clearfield*: up to 6 on Sandy Ridge Road (m.ob., ebird), 7 on McGees Mills Rd. near Punxsutawney 5/21 (Tom Johnson, Sara Busch), 2 on London Rd., Luthersburg 4/30 (Dan Richards); *Jefferson*: one at Sandy Ridge Rd 5/15 (Kira Smith, Nick Voris, Bill Voris);

Lawrence: up to 2 at Volant Strips (m.ob., ebird); *Washington*: one at SGL 117 on 5/13 (Oscar Nigam) and 2 in Cecil Twp. 5/24 (Fred Kachmarik).

Harris's Sparrow* – *Dauphin*: one visited feeder in Harrisburg 5/13 (Rick Price, Peg Price), *no doc*.

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco* – *Allegheny*: wintering bird in Indiana Twp. was last reported 3/6 (David Yeany II), *doc submitted*.

Yellow-headed Blackbird* – *Allegheny*: first year male at feeder in Elizabeth Twp. 5/3-10 (Scott Furlong, m.ob.), *doc submitted*, third county record; *Lancaster*: male near Quarryville 3/3 (Warren Wolf), *no doc* and female near Penryn 3/4 (Bruce Carl), *no doc*.

Western Meadowlark* – *Mifflin*: one on Back Mountain Road in Big Valley 4/2 (Rob Dickerson), photos in ebird.

Bullock's Oriole* – *Bucks*: one in Northampton Twp. 3/12 (Carla Foy, *fide* August Mirabella).

Scott's Oriole* – *Lancaster*: one in Kirkwood since Jan, present to 4/18 (m.ob.), *doc submitted*, second state record.

Lawrence's Warbler – *Lackawanna*: one at Lackawanna SP 5/9 (Brian Marra); *Monroe*: found along Delaware River in northern part of the county (Jon Mularczyk, Renae Losey); *Montgomery*: one at Fort Washington SP 5/2 (Dave Belford, Jeff Belford); *York*: one at Warrington Twp. Park 5/22-23 (Dean Newhouse, Norma Newhouse, Alice Simmons).

Swainson's Warbler* – *Allegheny*: one found stunned from building strike in Pittsburgh 5/16 (Trinidad Regasi), photo in ebird; *Blair*: one at Mt. Etna 5/12-13 (Deborah Grove, Greg Grove), first county record, photos and recordings in ebird; *Centre*: one at Black Moshannon SP 4/30 (Julia Plummer, et al.), first county record, photos and recordings in ebird; *Fulton*: one at Redbud NA in Buchanan SF 5/14 (Bill Oyler, Vern Gauthier), first county record, *no doc*; *Indiana*: returned for second year at West Penn Trail 5/13 (Dennis Lauffer, m.ob.), photos in ebird.

Connecticut Warbler – *Centre*: one at Scotia Barrens 5/24-27 (Tom Kuehl, Janet Kuehl, et al.).

Summer Tanager* – *Allegheny*: one at Frick Park 5/8 (Mike Fialkovich), *doc submitted*; *Berks*: one in southern part of the county 4/30 (Kevin Dougherty); *Chester*: one 5/22 through the season at Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens (Angela Cote, m.ob.), photos in ebird; *Cumberland*: second year male in Mechanicsburg 5/8 (Vici Snyder), *no doc*; *Delaware*: one at Houston Park 5/9 (Al Guarente), *no doc*, one at John Heinz NWR 5/9 (Zachary Loman), *no doc* and in Chester Park 5/11 (Adrian Binns, Debbie Beer), *no doc*; *Montgomery*: adult male visited feeder in Hatboro (Karen Ericsson), photo in ebird; *Philadelphia*: first year male at Franklin D. Roosevelt Park 4/30-5/1 (Jamie LaMent, et al.), photos in ebird and 5/4-5 (Kevin Brownroehl, Richard Horwitz, et al.), female at Independence National Historic Park 5/11 (Daniel Kalamarides, George Armistead, Tykee James, et al.), photo in ebird, adult male at Lemon Hill 5/14 (Connor Smyth), photo in ebird, and one in backyard in northeast Philadelphia 5/20-21 (Patrick Schmitt), photo and recording in ebird; *Schuylkill*: adult male at the Lavelle Fairgrounds 5/4 (John Slotterback), photos in ebird.

Painted Bunting* – *Lancaster*: the wintering bird was last seen 4/9.

Dickcissel – *Beaver*: one at Raccoon Creek SP 5/30 (Mark Vass, m.ob.), first county record; *Berks*: several at Rodale Farms 5/27-30 (Jeff Vinosky, Jane Wolfe, Peter Wolfe); *Chester*: one along Wilson Rd. 5/30 (Kevin Fox); *Cumberland*: one near Newburg 5/7 (Bob Koontz), one at feeder in the Mechanicsburg area 3/3-19 (Maria Seitz); *Franklin*: one near Pleasant Hall 5/20 (Bill Oyler, Jeanne Verhulst); *Juniata*: one on Flint Rd. 5/8; *Lancaster*: 3 at Peach Bottom 5/25 (Jason Horn); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz NWR 5/26 (Ed Edge, Patrick McGill).

Addendum from the winter season:

Barrow's Goldeneye* – *Carbon*: one photographed at Beltzville SP 2/3 (Paul Nail), report inadvertently omitted by the county compiler in winter season reports.

Photographic Highlights



Now established as a nesting species in the state, most **Trumpeter Swans** reports are of non-nesters; the big birds were in at least 19 counties including a long-staying, unmated bird at Pocono Summit Lake, *Monroe* seen here 22 March. (*Nancy Tully*)



One of at least three (or four or five) for the season in Pennsylvania, this **Eurasian Wigeon** was at Conneaut Marsh, *Custards, Crawford* 20-27 (here 24) March. (*Jeffrey Hall*)



Buffleheads at Quemahoning Reservoir, *Somerset* 11 March. (*Tom Kuehl*)

Color printing

Sponsored by the Bird Screen Company

(More photos inside back cover)



Northern Pintail at Wildwood Park, *Dauphin* 19 March. (*Andrew Hurst*)



Ruby-throated Hummingbird collecting nest material from a cattail at Lake Redman, *York* 14 May. (*Bob Reiter*)



Virginia Rail at SGL 242, York 2 May. (Dean Newhouse)



Willets made a good showing, reported from 11 counties, including these five birds, part of a flock of 17 at Crooked Creek Lake, Armstrong for one day only 5 May; first county record. (Marge Van Tassel)



Lycoming's fifth record of **Ruddy Turnstone**, and second of the 2021 spring season, was at Rose Valley Lake 28 May. (Bobby Brown)



This **Dunlin** at Waynesburg Rd, Mifflin 4 May was the third for the county, and first spring record. (Rob Dickerson)



Bonaparte's Gull at Greenlick Run Lake, Fayette on a snowy day, 21 April. (Mike Fialkovich)



First **Snowy Egret** for Clearfield, seen only 21 April, at Curwensville. (Jerod Skebo)



American White Pelicans were found in five counties, a very strong showing; these 14 at Presque Isle SP, Erie 26 May are thought to comprise the fifth highest number in a single flock ever in Pennsylvania. (Jerry McWilliams)



This **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was an early arrival 30 March at the Kiwanis Lake rookery in York; there were at least five active nests at the location shared with Great Egrets. (Dean Newhouse)



The fifth state record, this **White-faced Ibis** stayed for part of just one day at Vosler Rd., Lawrence 24 May, first county record. (Mark Vass)



Juvenile **Bald Eagle** struggling with a heavy potential meal at Church Rd. Bird Sanctuary, Montgomery 11 May. (Gary Applyby)



Great Horned Owl at Amity Hall, Perry 13 March. (Chad Kauffman)



At least three **Long-eared Owls** wintered at a location in Cumberland, last seen 27 March; this owl took a break from foraging just after sunset on 16 March to strike a pose near the photographer. (Tim Johnson)



Stunning leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** in Smith Valley, *Huntingdon* 24 March. (*Ken Tucker*)



Acadian Flycatcher proclaiming its territory in Rothrock SF, *Centre* 23 May. (*Debra Rittlemann*)



These **Red-eyed Vireos** were well along on nest-building at 10 Acre Pond, *Centre* 21 May. (*Richard Garland*)



Eastern Bluebird captured beautifully in flight at the Allegheny hawk watch, *Bedford* 10 April. (*David Poder*)



Following their fall/winter invasion, many **Evening Grosbeaks** remained into spring or were seen returning from further south, recorded in 46 counties; this female was at Swissdale, *Clinton* 29 April. (*Elaine Barth*)



A rarity for *Susquehanna*, this **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at a home in Bridgewater Twp. 24-28 (here 24) April. (*Thomas and Sharon Norville*)



White-crowned Sparrow at Monaca, Beaver 2 May. (Bart Theriot)



This **Yellow-headed Blackbird** spent a couple weeks in early May (here 11 May) at a feeder at Elizabeth, Allegheny; third county record, the previous two being 1895 and 1928. (Mark Vass)



This **Western Meadowlark** was present only 2 April near Milroy, Mifflin; the second record for the county and these are the only two records in eBird for the state in the past ten years. (Rob Dickerson)



Unknown to birders, a **Scott's Oriole** wintered at an Amish farm at Kirkwood, Lancaster until word got out in April; nearly 500 birders saw this vagrant (seen here 12 April) thanks to the hospitality of the host family; second Pennsylvania record (first was in Cumberland 2007). (Kurt Schwarz)



Ovenbird at Marsh Creek SP, Chester 8 May. (Barry Blust)



The only previous eBird report of **Golden-winged Warbler** in Susquehanna was in 1997, but two were reported this season, including this bird at New Milford 7 May. (Nancy VanCott)



A remarkable spring for **Swainson's Warblers**, found in at least five counties, including this first for *Blair* near the Mt. Etna trailhead for the Lower Trail 12-13 (here 12) May. (*John Carter*)



Providing another first county record, this **Swainson's Warbler** was at Black Moshannon SP, *Centre* 30 April – 1 May (here 1 May). (*Wayne Laubscher*)



How many **Tennessee Warblers** can you find; this gang was at a residence in *Venango* 15 May. (*Meg Kolodick*)



Nashville Warbler with a snack in Great Bend Twp., *Susquehanna* 7 May. (*Barb Stone*)

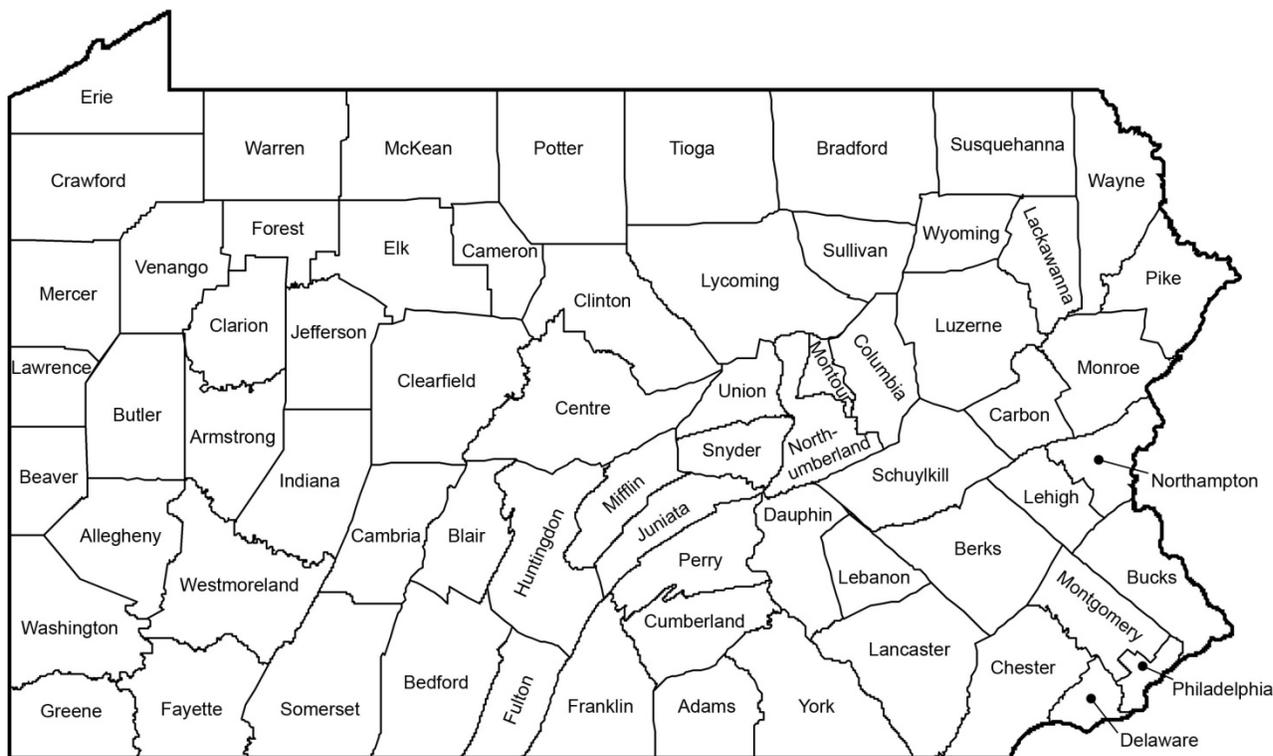


Canada Warbler at SGL 35, *Susquehanna* 19 May. (*Barb Stone*)



Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Summit Station, *Schuylkill* 27 April. (*Rich Rieger*)

Local Notes – March through May 2021



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).	juvenile [plumage]; juvenile(s)	R.	River	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
L.	Lake	RA	Recreational Area	WRS	Winter Raptor Survey

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

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

Adams County

Locations: Gettysburg College (GC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Heritage (LH), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Michaux State Forest (MICH), Mountain Road (MTN), Ridge Road - Cumberland Township (RRCT).

This spring's 181 species was the lowest spring total in the last five years. Mediocre waterfowl presence/reporting was the main contributor to the lower number. The period's average temperature was about 3 degrees F. above normal with rainfall totaling 2.5 inches below normal. Noteworthy was not even a trace of recorded snowfall in March after a snow-covered February.

Rare for Adams, a pair of **Trumpeter Swans** were at a Hampton area pond 5/9 (LM). Good photos enabled identification. The reliable migration stopover for **Tundra Swan** south of Germany Rd held up to 600 birds 3/1 (PK). A pair of **Northern Shovelers** were at Crooked Creek

Rd wetlands 3/22 (SW) and up to 3 were at LH 3/17-18 (CM). Unusual was a single **Gadwall** report of 4 birds at L. Kay 3/2-8 (BK, AW). Continuing in the unusual vein, American Black Duck was a complete miss. Three sites reporting **Northern Pintail** (BK, MS, AW) were led by a count of 6 at Freedom Twp 3/13 (MS). The only **Redhead** report was a pair at GC 3/2-11 (KR, AW, SW). Five **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at LH 4/1 (CM) and LPRR 4/15 (BK). A flyover of 7 **Common Loons** at MTN 4/15 (R&DS) was the high count from three sites reporting. Singles of **Red-necked Pheasant** were at Old Mill Rd 4/2 (SW) and GNMP 5/20 (JM).

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported at 10 sites with a high of 4 at GNMP 5/20 (JM). Three reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** were a positive with one at MTN 5/20 (R&DS), 4 at GNMP 5/20 (JM), and 2 at SGL 249 on 5/23 (SMAS). Single **Common Nighthawks** were found at LH 5/21 (CM), GC 5/15 (CM), and Carroll Valley 5/31 (RM). Nice to report, an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was along Shippensburg Rd 5/20 (MB). The first-of-year **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** report came from RRCT 4/18 (CM). A **Common Gallinule** was at a pond along RRCT 4/25 (CM), likely a short side trip from the Mason Dixon Farm site holding them in recent years. Better shorebird finds were a **Dunlin** at Mason

Dixon Farm 5/4 (AW) and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at GC 4/20 (AW). Five sites reporting **American Woodcock** 3/12-5/16 (MB, A&EK, R&DS, SW) were a nice showing; high count was 4 at MTN 3/26 (R&DS).

Pairs of **Bonaparte Gulls** were at LH 4/6-11 (CM) and LPRR 4/14 (MB, BK, R&DS). The only **Caspian Tern** report was one at Long Arm Res. 4/19 (DE, CG). High count was 29 at the **Great Blue Heron** rookery at Knoxlyn Rd 4/1 (SW). A **Great Egret** was at a Hampton area pond 4/13 (SK) for the only report.

Overall raptor reporting was typical. Also typical, no **Broad-winged Hawk** kettles were reported, only singles. The sole **Eastern Screech-Owl** was at Camp Conewago 5/14 (TP). Four sites reporting **Great Horned Owl** were about normal while eight reporting **Barred Owls** were high. There were no Short-eared Owl reports where, typically, some linger into mid-March in the grasslands on or near GNMP. Twelve sites reporting **Red-headed Woodpeckers** remained consistent with recent spring periods; high count was 5 at Lady Farms campground 4/17 (PF). A **Merlin** was seen at GC 4/11 (AW), and GNMP produced a **Peregrine Falcon** 3/30 (EVn).

The flycatcher family produced expected species and report frequency as did the vireo and thrush groups. **Horned Lark** reports noted 5 birds along White Church Rd 4/13 (ANON), one at Hamiltonban Community Park 5/8 (CM), and 5 at GNMP 5/27 (DT, AW). High count of the nine sites reporting **Purple Martins** was 32 at the GC colony 4/27 (AW). An emerging insect hatch at LPRR 5/19 (R&DS) captured the attention of hundreds of **Tree Swallows** and **Barn Swallows**.

The MICH area produced three reports of **Black-capped Chickadees** 3/5-5/2 (MB, AG, GDM). Eight sites reported **Red-breasted Nuthatches** through 5/14 (m.ob.). Four **Winter Wren** reports spanned 3/25-4/25 (MB, CM, R&DS, JW). A dozen **American Pipits** were along White Church Rd 4/17 (GDM) for the only report. Likely a result of not being detected versus absence, **Cedar Waxwing** was not reported until 5/2. A single **Evening Grosbeak** was at MICH 3/25 (CD) while 13 were at a Gardners homeowner's feeder 3/1-2 (*fide* TM). Nine sites reported **Purple Finch** up to 5/18 (m.ob.) with a high count of 17 at a Gettysburg backyard 4/12 (NL). A quartet of **Pine Siskin** was found at GNMP 4/3 (EV), and MTN held up to 6 birds 5/11-15 (R&DS).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found along Black Horse Tavern Rd 5/21 (SW), and up to 10 were at GNMP 5/15-27 (m.ob.). Single **American Tree Sparrows** were at MTN 3/20 (R&DS) and East Berlin Community Park 3/22 (DTt). **Fox Sparrows** were on the low side with only 3 reports of single birds 3/17-4/13 (PB, R&DS, SW). Nice finds were single **Vesper Sparrows** at GNMP 4/23 (JMi) and Fairfield 5/31 (RM) and one **Lincoln's Sparrow** at SGL 249 on 5/8 (CM, DR). A pair of **Savannah Sparrows** were at LPRR 4/18 (BF), and one was at GNMP 5/20-27 (JM, DT). Up to a trio of **Swamp Sparrows** were along Old Mill Rd 4/18-30 (SW), and singles were at MTN 3/31 & 5/5 (R&DS).

Two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found at GNMP 5/17-20 (JM, JO). Seven sites reported **Bobolinks** 4/29-5/27 (m.ob.), and the high of 32 along Horner Rd 5/2 (CM) was impressive. **Eastern Meadowlarks** were found all period with reports from eight sites; high count was 10 at GNMP 5/20 (JM). A pair of **Rusty Blackbirds** were at RRCT 3/7 (CM) with a nice 14 count from B&F Rd 3/13 (DS).

Warbler variety was reasonable at 29 species. Better finds were a **Blue-winged Warbler** at GNMP 4/27 and 5/1 (SW). As with last spring, a **Prothonotary Warbler** was at GNMP 5/20 (JM). A **Mourning Warbler** stopped at MICH 5/13 (VB). A **Yellow Warbler** showed a bit early at LPRR 4/6 (MB). A strong 8 count of **Black-throated Blue Warblers** came from GNMP 5/10 (SW). Singles of **Yellow-throated Warbler** are the norm so a pair at Gettysburg Campground 5/30 (BOb) were noteworthy. A miss as often as not, a **Wilson's Warbler** was at GNMP 5/15 (ANON). Three sites reported **Blue Grosbeak** singles: Horner Rd 5/2-8 (CM), GNMP 5/2 (SW), and MTN 5/13 (R&DS).

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Anonymous (ANON), Audra Agnelly, Gavin Anderson, Paul Banks Jr, Val Barnes, Mike Bertram, Missy Cutshall, Carol Deardorff, Josh & Sue Donaldson, Dave Ebbitt, Paul Ford, Bill Franz, Carl Garner, Austin Gee, Don Gilbert, Caroline Jones, Stefan Karkuff, Adrian & Emily Kissner, Tj Gnash, Bob Koontz,

Michael Locher, Nancy Locher, Jay Mager, Linette Mansberger, John Missing (JMi), Rob Monaghan, Tracy Moseby, G. Dwight Mueller, Callan Murphy, Brady O'Brien (BOb), Bill Oyler, Jacob Owings, Ted Policastro, David Rice, Kim Reese, Michael S, Jefferson Shank, Ralph & Deb Siefken, Ron & Tracy-George Snyder, South Mountain Audubon Society (SMAS), Danny Stoner, Danielle Tate (DTt), David Taylor, Evan Vaeth, Ezekiel Van (EVn), Andy Wilson, James Winklemann, Jenny Wood (JWo), Scott Wood.

Allegheny County

Locations: Dashiels Dam (DASH), Duck Hollow (DH), Frick Park (FP), Imperial (IMP), North Park (NP), Wingfield Pines (WP).

April began with mild weather, some unseasonably warm. That was followed by a few days of winter returning the third week of the month with rain, some snow and wind. We had very warm days in mid-late April and early May was cool and rainy. Mid-May was unseasonably warm with clear conditions, so migrants were not put down in great numbers this year with most continuing over the area due to favorable conditions.

There was a movement of **Tundra Swans** in early Mar. A flock of 45 flew over Homewood Cemetery 3/7 (MK), and 2 were over West Deer Twp. (LC) that day. The following day a flock of 120 flew over Oakmont 3/8 (RB). Two were at Highland Park 3/20 (JL).

Gadwall were present in small numbers in Mar with 3 at IMP 3/2 (MV), 4 in Harmar Twp. 3/7 (AH, PM), 13 at DH 3/4 (AP, m.ob.) and 6 in Findlay Twp. 3/4 (MV). Five were at DH 4/21 (RC, LCh). **American Wigeon** is an uncommon migrant in the county, so the few reports are typical for the season. One was at NP 3/3 (LS), 8 were at DH 3/8 (m.ob.), and one at DASH 3/24 (AP). **Northern Shoveler** reports included 3 at DH 3/14 (m.ob.), 6 at Leetsdale 3/25 (AZ), 2 at IMP 3/7 (ON) and 8 there 4/14 (MV), and 3 at Verona 4/21 (MD). **Canvasbacks** have been uncommon here yet one was at The Point in Pittsburgh 3/3 (AP), 3 at Brunots Island 3/10 (ON), one at DASH 3/12 (MV), 7 in Harmar Twp. 3/13 (JVa, SV), and 2 there 3/20 (JVa, SV). **Redhead** sightings continued from the winter including 2 at IMP 3/6-9 (AZ, AK, MV, MK) and one at DH 3/8 (JF). A great count of 56 **Greater Scaup** were at DASH 3/26 (AP). This past winter was a good one for this species in the county during a brief cold spell.

Three **Surf Scoters** were on the Allegheny R. at Verona 4/21 (MD). Single **Long-tailed Ducks** were on the Allegheny R. at Harmar Twp. 3/7 (AH, PM) and 3/20 (JVa, SV) and Tarentum 3/16 (DB). A late **Common Goldeneye** was at DH 4/22 (AP). **Red-breasted Mergansers** are regular spring migrants in small numbers. Ten were at DASH 3/26 (AP), one was along the Allegheny R. at Verona and neighboring Oakmont 4/21 (MD), 4 were at Brunots Island along the Ohio R. 5/8 (MV), and one was at DASH 5/14-16 (MV).

A pair of **Northern Bobwhites** were at a feeder at Chapel Harbor in O'Hara Twp. 4/17-21 (eBird, m.ob.). The habitat isn't typical bobwhite habitat (it is a mixed condo, town home and single-family home development), and the presence of this species begs the question about where they were released.

Horned Grebe reports included one at Chapel Harbor 3/6 (OL), one at East Deer Recreational Park 3/7 (AH, PM), 2 at DH 3/12 (LFH), 3 at Pittsburgh 4/5 (ROR) and 5 at NP 4/5 (DBe). A **Virginia Rail** was heard calling at Harrison Hills Park 4/18 (AH, PM). One was at WP 5/5 (DM). Two were there 5/6 (JF, RT, LF, DBe, RB), and one was detected again 5/7 (ON). A **Common Gallinule** was a nice find at NP 4/24 where it remained to 4/30 (DBe, m.ob.).

Shorebird reports were few with most coming from IMP. A **Black-bellied Plover** was a nice surprise at DH 5/14 (MJ). The bird was only seen briefly before flying off. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at IMP 5/31 (MV). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at DASH 4/21 (MV). Up to 2 were at WP 4/25-5/12 (m.ob.). One was at DH 5/4 and up to 6 were at IMP from late Apr through May (m.ob.). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at IMP 4/26-5/1 (m.ob.). Fifteen were there 5/12 (MV, DBe), and 4 were nearby at Janoski's Farm that day (MV). Three were at WP 5/7 (ON); up to 4 continued there to 5/17 (m.ob.). Three were at South Park 5/10 (JF, LF, JP, JB). One was at Brunots Island near Pittsburgh 5/11 (MJ). Two were

at NP 4/21-5/14 (m.ob.), and 2 were at DH 5/14 (TR).

Solitary Sandpipers were widely reporting during the season. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** is uncommon in spring. One was at a mud spit near DASH 5/29 (MV), and 3 were at IMP that day (DBe). Seven were at IMP 5/31 (m.ob.). A **Least Sandpiper** was in Findlay Twp. 4/27 (MV). Two were at Brunots Island 5/8 (MV), followed by 7 there 5/11 (MJ). Two were at WP 5/19 (LF, JF), and 2 were at NP 5/16-22 (m.ob.). One was at Peter's Creek in Jefferson Borough 5/20-27 (JF). A **Dunlin** was at IMP 5/29 (JV, SV). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at IMP 5/11-12 (MV, et al.). Four **Wilson's Snipe** were at IMP 3/11 (MV), 9 were there 4/11 (MV), one was at WP 4/21 (JF), and one was at Harrison Hills Park 4/21 (DB).

Bonaparte's Gulls were scattered along the rivers. Spring is the most reliable time to see this species in the county. Three were at Lawrenceville 3/30 (LFH), 4 at the Highland Park Bridge (ON), 12 at Verona (MD), and 5 at Oakmont (MD), all on 4/21. A flock of 16 was at IMP that day (MV). The migration was not great at DASH this spring with 24 there 3/30 (RB), 16 on 4/4 (MV) and 13 on 4/21 (MV). A flock of 22 was at Tarentum 4/8 (ON). A **Caspian Tern** was at DASH 3/30 (RB). **Forster's Tern** reports included 3 at Verona 4/21 (MD) and one at IMP 4/26 (DBe, m.ob.). A **Black Tern** was a nice find at Chapel Harbor 5/31 (MH).

A **Common Loon** was at DH 3/8 (AP), 2 were at DASH 3/26 (AP), and one at NP 4/21-22 (eBird). An **American Bittern** was photographed perched in a tree in FP 4/27 by a non-birder (*vide* DY). A **Great Egret** was at DASH 3/26 (AP). One was along the Allegheny R. at various locations from the Highland Park Dam up to Oakmont 4/12-27 (SK, RB, AH). One was at NP 4/30 (BP). A breeding colony of **Great Blue Herons** in Harmar Twp. contained 48 nests 4/10 (AH, PM). Six nests were seen a few miles downriver near the Highland Park Dam 4/12 (SK).

Black Vulture reports continued in the county this spring. Two were spotted flying over I-79 near Coraopolis 4/9 (JP), 3 were in Hampton Twp. 4/24 (AW), 3 were in Fox Chapel 5/4 (CH), and one was over I-79 near Emsworth 5/6 (RT). The **Barred Owl** reported last fall at FP was relocated and seen regularly this spring by many birders.

For the second spring in a row there were several **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports including one photographed at a feeder in Wilkins Twp. in early May (*vide* BS), one at a feeder in Jefferson Hills 5/8-10 (JH), and one at a feeder in Baldwin 5/9-14 (LK). One was in FP 5/4 (AP) and again 5/18 (eBird, ph.). One was in Homewood Cemetery 5/10-12 (MB, DM) and one was in Elizabeth Twp. 5/14 (SF). Single **Merlins** were at Homewood Cemetery 3/10 (JC, AP), Sharpsburg Marina 3/12 (MH), and DASH 3/24 (AP).

The only report of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** came from FP 5/22-24 (AF, m.ob.). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was captured and banded in Upper St. Clair 5/16 (NL). Uncommon to rare in the county, an **Alder Flycatcher** was at FP 5/16 (KSJ, MK, CK, et al.). **Fish Crow** max counts included 25 in Squirrel Hill 3/30 and 15 there 4/22 (ON), 14 in Schenley Park 3/30 (MKu), and 33 in Pittsburgh 4/26 (ST). **Bank Swallow** is one of our least common swallows; 3 were at Brunots Island 5/8-17 (MV, et al.).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were widely reported in eBird. A **Marsh Wren** was a good find in FP 4/30-5/1 (AH, PM, m.ob.). The bird was found along a stream rather than in nearby marsh habitat in the park. **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported at six locations 5/1-24 (m.ob.). An early **Wood Thrush** was in Pleasant Hills 4/18 (HF). A leucistic **American Robin** was photographed at a cemetery in Monroeville 3/27 (eBird).

There were numerous reports of **Purple Finch** in eBird this season. Following a number of reports this past winter of northern finches, several spilled into the spring season. There were two reports of **Common Redpoll**. A flock of 13 fed under a birch tree in Wexford 3/6 (TW), and 2 were in Pine Twp. 3/7 (KC). **Pine Siskins** were reported from 16 different locations during, well into May. A female **Evening Grosbeak** was at FP 5/10-11 (MK, DM, KSJ, CK, SLA).

Vesper Sparrow is declining fast in the county with the grasslands at IMP shrinking with development, so reports are few these days. One was at Boyce-Mayview Park 4/9 (LN) and one at IMP 5/15 (MV). There were a few **Savannah Sparrow** reports from unexpected places. Two

were photographed at Bell Harbor Marina in Blawnox 4/8 (DBe, DM), and one was still there 4/14 (RB). One was photographed at the Deer Creek Boat Launch in Harmar Twp. 4/27 (PB), and another at Hilltop Park in Cecil Twp. 5/1-4 (JS). **Lincoln's Sparrow** reports included singles at FP 5/10 (DM), Sewickley Heights Park 5/11 (AZ), Homewood Cemetery 5/12 (DM), Harrison Hills Park 5/16 (AH, PM), and NP 5/16 (ON). Two were in FP 5/16 (ON). The **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** reported during the winter at a feeder in Indiana Twp. was last reported 3/6 (DY).

A first-year male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** visited a feeder in Elizabeth Twp. about a week prior to 5/3 when it was reported in eBird. It remained to 5/10 (SF) providing only the third county record. Two previous records are listed in Todd's *Birds of Western Pennsylvania* from 1895 and 1928. **Rusty Blackbird** reports were good with one at Findlay Twp. 3/4 (MV), 2 at Homewood Cemetery 3/10 (AP), one in Pine Twp. 3/11 (PL, SL), 9 at WP 3/15 (RT, JP), 2 there 3/16 (LFH), 4 at FP 3/24 (CK), one there 3/25 (MK) and 3/30 (JC), one at Schenley Park 3/25 (LFH) and 3/30 (AH), one at NP 4/7 (DBe), 2 at WP 4/10 (MBa), and one at FP 4/28 and 5/4 (AP). The wintering **Baltimore Oriole** in Oakland was present to late Apr (FI, AI).

A total of 35 species of warblers were reported this spring. Up to 3 **Worm-eating Warblers** were at Harrison Hills Park this spring, one of the few regular breeding sites in the county. One was at FP 4/28-29 (AP, et al.) and again 5/12 (ON, MKu). One was at Tom's Run Reserve 5/16 (KS). Up to 2 **Northern Waterthrush** were at FP 4/28-30 (AP, BP, m.ob.), and one at NP 5/8 (SD). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at Homewood Cemetery in Squirrel Hill 5/4 (AP). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was a nice find at DH 4/28 (BP, m.ob.). Another was found for the second spring in a row at WP 5/5-6 (DM, m.ob.). Also for the second spring in a row, a **Swainson's Warbler** was found in downtown Pittsburgh 5/16, the victim of a window strike, unfortunately. It was taken to a wildlife rehab facility and hopefully made a recovery (TR). This furnished the sixth county record. The wintering **Tennessee Warbler** in Morningside was last reported 3/30 (JV, Va).

Rare in spring, an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at FP 4/25 (AP, m.ob.). **Mourning Warblers** were banded in Upper St. Clair 5/16 and 5/23 (NL). One was in Bethel Park 5/18 (JS) and one at FP 5/19 (KSJ, CK). A **"Yellow" Palm Warbler** was photographed at Hartwood Acres 4/24 (MKu). **Canada Warbler** reports included one at FP 5/4 (MS), one there 5/15-17 (m.ob.) and 2 on 5/18-19 (m.ob.), one at Harrison Hills Park 5/15 (DY), one at Bethel Park 5/18 (JS), and one at Chatham University in Squirrel Hill 5/23 (MKu). One was banded in Upper St. Clair 5/16 (NL). **Wilson's Warbler** is an uncommon but regular migrant. There were five reports including Homewood Cemetery 5/4 (MK), Bethel Park 5/13 (JP), FP 5/16(ON), Harrison Hills Park 5/16 (SLa) and NP 5/18 (TC).

A **Summer Tanager** was at FP 5/8 (MF), providing the 18th county record.

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich**, mpfial@verizon.net, James Baker, Michael Barney (MBa), Martin Beal, David Bennett (DBe), Paul Brant, Dave Brooke, Ron Burkert, Rich Carlson, Kraig Cawley, Laurel Chiappetta (LCh), Thomas Connor, Linda Croskey, Michael David, Steve Denninger, Adrian Fenton, Leslie Ferree, John Flannigan, Louis Freeland-Hays (LFH), Holly Ferkett, Scott Furlong, Margaret Haas, Nathan Hall, Cecilia Hard, Jim Hausman (JH), Amy Henrici, Paul Hess, Adrienne Izaguirre, Frank Izaguirre, Matthew Juskowich, Lisa Kauffman, Michelle Keinholtz, Charity Kheshgi, Andrew Kingfisher, Scott Kinzey, Malcolm Kurtz (MKu), Judy Lesso, Nick Liadis, Sam Lawrence (SLa), Oliver Lindhiem, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Jeff McDonald, Pat McShea, Nancy Moeller, Tom Moeller, Daniel Muller, Lauren Nagoda, Oscar Nigam, Ryan O'Rourke, Joe Papp, Brad Peroney, Aidan Place, Trinidad Regaspi, Kate St. John, Kathy Saunders, Jim Saracco, Marty Seltman, Brian Shema, Sam Sinderson, Liz Spence, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Jim Valimont, Mark Vass, John Vassallo (JV, Va), Samuel Vassallo, Ted Weller, Andrew Wood, David Yeany, Anna Zizak.

Armstrong County

Locations: Armstrong Trail at Dam 8 (AT8), Crooked Creek Lake (CCL), Karns City (KC), Keystone Lake (KL), Manorville (MV), Rosston (RT),

Stone House Road (SHR), Templeton (TT), Worthington (WT).

Most noteworthy finds of the season were 2 **Soras** reported at Northpointe 5/4 (JLS, ph.) and a good count of 17 **Willetts** at CCL 5/5 (AB, MD, MVT), both first records for the county.

The **Greater White-fronted Goose** continued at KL 3/3 (MH, RHi) with 3 at WT 3/5 (LC, JJ, ph.). Two **Trumpeter Swans** continued at MV 3/2 (TR) and 3/6 (AB, SG), and one was reported from the Hawthorne Bridge near New Bethlehem 5/30 (AK, JK). Fifty-four **Tundra Swans** were noted from TT 3/3 (PW), 42 at KL 3/4 (RB), and a high count of 80 at KC 3/7 (TA). It was a good season for **Wood Ducks**, but the only report of **Northern Shovelers** was of 2 at AT8 on 3/10 (TR). **American Wigeons** were sparse with 15 at RT 3/6 (AB, SG), later 17 on 3/7 (TR), and another nice count of 17 at upper end of KL 3/9 (JS). A single **Northern Pintail** continued at RT 3/7 (TR) as did **Canvasbacks** and **Redheads**, which also appeared a few times at Parks Bend Farm (MVT, ph.). A high count of 14 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at KL 3/16 (MH, RHi), and the only **Ruddy Ducks** were reported from AT8 and Kittanning Lock & Dam 7 (TR) and RT (BH).

Two **American Woodcocks** were observed at SHR farm 3/10, and one continued through 5/30 (AB); 4 was a nice count in TT 3/21 (PW), and a single was reported 4/9 at CCL (CR, ph.). Five **Wilson's Snipe** were a nice count at CCL 3/13 (RC), and one was noted at SHR farm 5/5 (AB). Sadly, there were only a few reports of **Common Loons**: singles at KC 4/24 (TA), and at AT8 (TR) and KL 5/21 (KB).

Six **Black Vultures** were a nice find over Roaring Run Trail 4/5 (JP, ph.). A lone **Short-eared Owl** visited and hunted 3/8 on SHR farm (AB). **Peregrine Falcons** were nesting again under the Graff Bridge as one was noted 3/6 at MV (AB, SG), 3/14 (KSJ), and 3/16-5/20 (MH, RHi), as are **Common Ravens** at CCL.

A few **Horned Larks** were still around, and one was reported at WT 3/5 (RB, ph.) and 3/13 (RH, SM, TR). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was sighted on Rock Furnace Trail 5/24 (DR). One **Cape May Warbler** was the only report from CCL 5/23 (AB) as were 2 **Palm Warblers** (TR). A fair turnout of **Yellow-throated Warblers**, all at CCL, included first one 4/16 (CR, ph.), one 4/17 (MVT), 2 on 4/28 (TR), and 5/23 (AB).

Observers: **Marjorie Van Tassel, 3102 River Road, Vandergrift, PA 15690, 724-845-1050, marvantassel@gmail.com**, Tammy Arnold, Ron Burkert, Alan Buriak, Ken Byerly, Rich Carlson, Linda Croskey, Sam Gutherie, Brooke Hahn, Rebecca Hart, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee (RHi), Julie Jansen, Avis Keener, John Keener, Steve Manns, Joseph Pumford, Craig Remaley, Dan Richards, Theo Rickert, Joyce L. Shelhammer, Kate St. John, Pam Walaski.

Beaver County

Locations: Ambridge Reservoir (AR), Independence Marsh (IND), Raccoon Creek State Park (RCSP), Rocky Bend Nature Preserve (RBNP), Mouth of the Beaver River at Rochester (RCH).

Bird-wise (though not weather-wise), the spring of 2021 was something of a carbon copy of the spring of 2020 in that neither season was particularly exciting, and 2021 didn't even feature the mildly noteworthy shorebirding that was had at IND in 2020. Reports of waterfowl after the February freeze were very light. Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at RBNP 4/6-7 (DZ). Top count of **Gadwall** was just 14 at a pond near Enon Valley 3/5-14 (MV). That same pond, as well as IND, hosted a brief but significant pulse of both **Mallards** and **American Black Ducks**, with 64 of the former and 6 of the latter in Enon Valley 3/5 (MV), and 80 of the former and 10 of the later at IND 3/6 (MV), high counts for the season for both species. Enon Valley and IND also held the only **American Wigeons** of the season, with one at IND 3/6-11 (MV) and 3 at Enon Valley 3/13 (MV). The only **Northern Pintail** of the season was at IND 3/6 (MV). Numbers of bay ducks at RCH subsided rapidly by the end of Feb. Top count of **Canvasback** there in Mar was just 14 on 3/5 (DZ), and a single **Redhead** at New Brighton 3/5 (MV) was, remarkably, the only individual reported all season. A very nice count of 36 **Greater Scaup** was made at AR 3/19 (DZ), but top count of **Lesser**

Scaup was just 8 at RCH 3/16 (MV).

Common Mergansers are apparently becoming more common both as a passage migrant and as a breeder. Top counts in early Mar included 22 at AR (DZ) and 24 at RCSP (JM), both on 3/9. Later, one or 2 were seen at both the wildflower reserve at RCSP and at RBNP through much of May (m.ob.), and one was at IND 5/29 (DZ). All of these birds were on different sections of Raccoon Cr., and all probably bred this year. Top count of **Red-breasted Merganser** was 10 at RCH 4/23 (DZ), and one female appeared at the beach area of RCSP 5/16 (MV) and remained through the end of the month.

The only report of **Black-billed Cuckoo** was one at Hanover Twp. 5/3 (JM). Reports of **Common Nighthawk** were limited to one at Hanover Twp. 5/19 (JM) and 3 at RBNP 5/20 (DZ). Two **Soras** at the wetlands trail at RCSP 4/26 (FK, AN) were a nice find. Three **Sandhill Cranes** were near Enon Valley 3/13 (MV), where a pair bred last year. Shorebirding was quite poor, with IND not producing much of anything.

Single **Semipalmated Plovers** were at RCSP 5/7 (JM), which was a bit early, and 5/29 (MV). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was also at RCSP 5/26 (JM). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was among a small number of more common species in a flooded field along Park Road outside of RCSP 5/11 (MV). Counts of **Wilson's Snipe** reached 12 birds at the Siebel farm in Independence Twp. (where the species often winters when possible) from 3/22-4/2 (MV). Also notable was a count of 16 **Spotted Sandpipers** at RCSP 5/14 (MV). **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found in very small numbers at IND from early to mid-Apr through late May (m.ob.).

First 2 **Bonaparte's Gulls** passed RCH 3/21 (MV). Top counts for the species at RCH bookended their typical migration window, with 33 counted on 3/29 (MV) and 20 there 5/7 (MV, DZ), a late date for such a total. The only two terns for the season were both at RCH—a single **Caspian Tern** 5/15 (DZ) and a single **Forster's Tern** 5/7 (MV).

The only **Common Loon** was one at RCH 4/17 (DZ). The first of three reports of **Great Egret** for the season was of one at IND 4/13 (RN). Three separate reports of **Northern Harrier** were made in Independence Twp. (the last at IND itself) from 3/30-4/20 (JM, DZ). What was probably the wintering **Merlin** was still around Ambridge 3/19 (MV) after having not been seen since Dec. **Peregrine Falcons** were once again noted frequently at nesting areas in RCH and Aliquippa, and one was seen hunting shorebirds at IND 4/23 (DZ, JM).

Passerine migration was very lackluster, with one exception that also represented a county first. **Common Raven** was mentioned on no less than 50 eBird checklists this season (m.ob.). A **Purple Martin** returned to a colony in Fombell 3/10 (*fide* MV), an extraordinarily early date. Two **Cliff Swallows** at RCH 5/10-11 (DZ) were undoubtedly migrants, but 2 at RCSP 5/29-30 (MV) were tantalizingly late, and suggested a potential breeding attempt might have been underway somewhere in the area.

Red-breasted Nuthatch hung on in Hanover Twp. to 4/30 (JM), and a **Winter Wren** hung around RBNP 4/4-8 (DZ). Up to 8 **Pine Siskins** were at a feeder in Economy 3/1-2, but they were the last of the season anywhere in the county. A **Vesper Sparrow** was a nice find at RBNP 4/20 (DZ). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were noted at RBNP 5/20 (DZ) and at Greene Twp. near Little Blue L. 5/30 (MV). Five **Bobolinks** were in Greene Twp. that same day (MV). There were several reports of **Rusty Blackbird** from various locations 3/10-4/25 (m.ob.), but none exceeded single-digits.

Warblers were sparsely reported, primarily from a general lack of birder effort compared to most years. A **Cerulean Warbler** was reported from RBNP 5/11-25 (DZ). Most notable was a **Worm-eating Warbler** at AR 5/26 (DZ), a location that has irregularly hosted the species in the past. The best bird of the season is also taxonomically last in this report: a **Dickcissel** that hung around the RCSP spillway the afternoon of 5/30 (MV) and provided *Beaver* with its first record of the species.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Karyn Delaney, Fred Kachmarik, Jeff Moore, Alyssa Nees, Richard Nugent, Mark Vass, Dante Zuccaro.

Bedford County

Locations: Aahyndman Road (AR), Allegheny Front Hawk Watch (AW), Bedford (BD), Dutch Corner (DC), Everett (EV), Mountain Meadows (MM), Rural Home Site (HS), Shawnee State Park (SSP), Teaberry (TB), Union Memorial Church (UM), White-tail Wetlands (WW).

Once again spring weather was fickle with warmer days in March than in April. May also had cold weather but, fortunately for nesting birds, the hard freeze experienced last year (which killed a lot of nestlings) was absent this year. The buzz this year was the emergence of Brood X Cicadas, which emerged late in May and produced ample protein supplies for many birds. Unfortunately, a mysterious illness affecting birds seemed to intensify shortly after the cicada emergence. The hardest hit were **European Starlings**, **Blue Jays**, and **Common Grackles**, suffering from crusty eyes followed by lethal neurological damage. As of this writing, the causative agent has not been identified. Birds in many surrounding states were affected, although no casualties were reported from this county.

Three **Cackling Geese** made an appearance at SSP 3/4 (AB). **Blue-winged Teal** were commonly seen at SSP throughout the spring, with a high of 16 on 4/2 (AB). A fallout of 128 **Ring-necked Ducks** occurred at Bedford Sportsman's Lake 3/16 (RB). A high count of 24 **Hooded Mergansers** were at SSP 3/27 (J&SD). Just one **Ruffed Grouse** was seen, crossing Rocklick Hollow Road 4/27 (MS, RT). A high of 9 **Horned Grebes** was reported at SSP 4/17 (MB).

The first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported on Big Run Road 5/1 (EB), while the first **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted at TB 5/3 (anon.). The first **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at MM 4/15 (MLJ) and continued with regular nightly singing. A high count of 17 **Chimney Swifts** was observed over EV 5/8 (MLJ). There were numerous sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, but the earliest was at MM 4/18 (MLJ).

The only **Sora** was reported at WW 5/8 (AB), while 2 **Common Gallinules** were seen 5/2 (EB, PI). **American Coots** descended on SSP throughout the spring, with a high of 42 on 3/19 (MH, RH). Seven **Greater Yellowlegs** were at WW 5/3 (AM) and 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were in DC 5/15 (AB). **Caspian Terns** touched down several times at SSP in Apr, with a high of 8 on 4/17 (MB). **Common Loons** made frequent appearances at SSP, with a count of 22 on 4/22 (AB); the last report was of 2 on 5/23 (JP).

One **American White Pelican** at SSP took birders by surprise. It was first seen 4/12 (AB) and stayed until 4/18 (WT, JM). Another great find was an **American Bittern** at TB 5/2 (anon.) **Great Egrets** stopped by SSP for 3 weeks, starting 4/18 (T&JK). The high count was 4 on 4/18 (JBC).

Six **Golden Eagles** migrated past AW 3/12 (T&JK). **Northern Harriers** were reported at a few locations in the county; one was at AR 3/19-22 (ND). A high count of 3 **Red-shouldered Hawks** was reported at SSP 3/20 (m.ob.). One **Merlin** was reported three times 4/13 (KE) to 4/24 (AB).

Fish Crows were reported from BD to EV, with a high of 3 in BD 4/24 (MLJ). A high of 15 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was reported at SSP 4/17 (MB); the only sighting of **Bank Swallows** was of 2 at SSP 5/15 (JC). A high of 50 **Cliff Swallows** was reported at SSP 5/8 (AB). Four **Winter Wrens** were at UM 4/19 (EB). The only **Veery** sighting was at SSP 5/15 (JC), and a single **Swainson's Thrush** was at White Sulphur Springs 5/24 (PR). A flock of 15 **American Pipits** was seen south of Clearville 3/21 (M&CF).

A flock of 15-20 **Evening Grosbeaks** (about 75-percent females), which spent the winter south of BD, finally departed 3/28 (J&MD). Two **Red Crossbills** were reported at SSP 4/14 (EZ). **Fox Sparrows** were reported from just two sites: one was at MM 3/4-22 (MLJ), and one at Buckeye Road 3/21-22 (T&JK). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were last reported when 2 were seen at SSP 5/8 (AB). **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported in just a few areas of *Bedford*; the last one was at AR 5/12 (ND). The last 2 **White-throated Sparrows** were sighted at UM 5/21 (EB). A high of 6 **Swamp Sparrows** was reported at WW 5/8 (AB). The earliest **Eastern Towhee** was at MM 3/14 (MLJ).

The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** was a single at Evergreen Lane 5/23 (MSi). **Bobolinks** were only seen in DC, with a high of 20 on 5/10 (AB). **Eastern Meadowlark** numbers were highest in DC with a high of 12 on 5/10 (AB). **Orchard Orioles** were reported from scattered locations, with a high of 4 from both DC 5/15 (AB) and SSP 5/23 (JP). **Rusty Blackbirds** were most likely to be found at SSP, with a high count of 14 on 4/14 (BS).

Warbler diversity increased by one from last year, with 29 species reported. **Worm-eating Warblers** were reported from two locations: 3 at AW 5/18 (DP) and 2 at SSP 5/15 (JC). One **Golden-winged Warbler** was reported, 5/3-23 at TB (anon.) and a **Blue-winged Warbler** was at SSP 5/15 (JC). The only **Kentucky Warbler** was reported 5/21 at MM (MLJ). One **Hooded Warbler** was at HS 5/3-4 (JBC), 2 **Cape May Warblers** at SSP 5/7 (AB), and 2 **Cerulean Warblers** at MM 4/28 (MLJ). The only **Blackpoll Warbler** sighting was one at TB 5/22-23 (anon.). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were sighted both at HS 4/30 (B&JC) and Huntingdon & Broad Top Rail Trail 5/13 (CS, GK). Single **Canada Warblers** were at WW 5/2 (EB) and TB 5/15 (anon.).

Observers: **Mike and Laura Jackson**, 8621 Black Valley Road, Everett, PA 15537, (814) 652-9268, jacksonlaura73@gmail.com, Ronda Barnett, Michael Barney, Aimee Benitez, Erika Bowman, John Carter, Brent & Jan Chippendale, DeeDee Clark, Josh & Susan Donaldson, Ned Donaldson, John Manard, John & Mona Dunn, Kurt Engstrom, Mark & Chris Farmer, Pam Illig, Gail Knight, Tom & Janet Kuehl, Alan MacEachren, Jeff Payne, Phin Rouland, Brian Schmoke, Michael Sikora (MSi), C. Slingsby, Mark Sopko, Whitney Territo, Ryan Thompson, Eric Zawatski.

Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Hamburg Commerce Park (HCP), Kernsville Dam Recreation Area (KDRA), Lake Ontelaunee (LO): Bailey's Creek (LOBC), Water Street (LOWA), West Shore Drive (LOWSD).

The avian activity in *Berks* reflected the weak weather patterns this quarter. With the exception of Snow Geese, there were no large waterfowl numbers on local lakes. Passerine activity was also erratic with the absence of the friendly wind patterns that could have brought higher numbers of migrants. Local birders were spread out over the county in search of waves that didn't materialize.

The first two weeks of March were the highlight of the waterfowl migration. Large **Snow Geese** flocks were seen overhead as they bypassed the local lakes with these exceptions: 30,000 were counted at Gotwal's Pond 3/2 with 40,000 at LO 3/6 and 15,000 at Brownsville 3/11 (RK). Snow Geese numbering 3,000 were at Brownsville 3/9 (SG). Four injured Snow Geese lingered at LO (MW) until they died from their wounds or the heavy automobile traffic on Rte. 73. Two **Ross's Geese** were picked out of a Snow Geese flock at BML 3/10 (RH). On two sunny mornings, **Greater White-fronted Geese** were spotted flying with Snow Geese near BML: 10 on 3/9 and one 3/11 (MW). A **Cackling Goose** was found 3/7 at BML (JW, PW). Uncommon during migration and usually appearing in small flocks, it was a surprise to find an exceptional 84 **Tundra Swans** at LOWSD 3/3 (RK). Six **Blue-winged Teal** were on LO 4/18 (LI); a pair spent the day at Shartlesville Farm Pond 3/28 (MW).

Single **Canvasbacks** were at LOWSD 3/4 (RK) and LO 3/26 (AW). **Redhead** numbers were less with a high of 5 at State Hill Boat Launch 3/5 (DP). A common migrant, **Ring-necked Duck**, was found scattered throughout *Berks*; however, the 410 found at LO 3/19 (RK) was unusual.

Rainstorms, even small ones, often bring coastal migrants inland to *Berks* lakes. There were 40 **Greater Scaup** and 40 **Lesser Scaup** at LOWSD 3/9 (DP). **White-winged Scoters** are rare migrants, but 3 were found resting at LO 4/25 after a storm (MW). A similar weather event resulted in 3 **Long-tailed Ducks** landing at BML 3/26 (JW, MW, PW). **Buffleheads** were found in small numbers this migration; the largest flock was 30 at LO 3/7 (MC). Five **Common Goldeneyes** were at LOBC 3/3 (KD). Single Goldeneyes lingered at LOWSD 3/3-6 (KD, RK).

Common Mergansers appear in large numbers at LO (m.ob.); the

largest flock was 800 on 3/4 (RK). An estimated 600 Common Merges were counted at LO 3/20 (MW). The uncommon **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen on two occasions: 4 at LO 3/20 (RK, MW) and 3 at BML 5/10 (RK). The high count for **Ruddy Ducks** was 55 at EJ Breneman's Quarry 3/27 (SB), 51 there 3/11 (RK), and 42 on LO 5/10 (RK). Five **Pied-billed Grebes** were spotted at Kaercher Cr. 4/12 (KG). After an overnight storm, 36 **Horned Grebes** were at LO 3/26 (MW).

The Shartlesville colony of **Eurasian Collared Doves** is slowly expanding its range eastward as single doves were found near Hamburg along Mountain Road 4/14 (KG) and on Pine Road 5/11 (MWh). **Common Nighthawk** migration in Hamburg usually follows the Schuylkill R., and 5 flew that path 5/18 (CF, MTG, SM). Six Nighthawks were at KDRA 5/18 (KG), which is at the base of the ridge. The female **Rufous Hummingbird** that arrived at a private residence in Boyertown 10/17/2020, banded by Sandy Lockerman, was last seen 4/8 (RW).

KDRA continued to be the most reliable site for rail activity although it was limited this quarter. The last day of **Virginia Rail** activity was at KDRA 5/8 (KG). Three **Soras** were active at KDRA 4/16-5/9 (KG). On 3/9, an unknown number of **Sandhill Cranes** called as they flew over Leesport (EB, KH). A lone Sandhill Crane made a one-day appearance at Lowland Road Retention Pond 5/8 (DP).

Shorebird migration was low due to dwindling suitable habitat. **Semipalmated Plovers** were sighted at LOWSD 5/19 (RK) and 5/21 (JW, PW), and AW found a one at HCP 5/28 (AW). Six **Least Sandpipers** were seen twice at HCP, on 5/9 (DP) and on 5/27 (MW). HCP has become a reliable site for shorebirds; 4 **Pectoral Sandpipers** were there 5/27 (MW). Seven **Semi-palmated Sandpipers** waded in Blue Marsh Stilling Basin 5/10 (EB).

Gotwal's Pond has acquired a reputation for attracting rarities and such was the case when a **Red-necked Phalarope** was seen nervously performing its whirling dervish routine on 5/24 (RK). Sadly, it was there only once, which has been the story for other phalarope sightings in *Berks*. Two **Spotted Sandpipers** fed at HCP 5/5 (MW). Although there aren't many exposed mudflats, 7 **Greater Yellowlegs** found enough to feed on 4/24 (RK). Three **Lesser Yellowlegs** were noted at a rain pool on Reigel Road 5/9 (DP).

Ten **Bonaparte Gulls** were early arrivals at BML 3/29 (RH). The nine Bonapartes found at LO 5/10 (RK) arrived at the usual date. The only **Caspian Tern** sighting was 4/29 at LOBC (DB). Two **Black Terns** were at State Hill Boat Launch 5/10 (DP). An unusually high count of 25 **Common Terns** were around BML only 5/10 (RK).

Red-throated Loons were rare; it was fortunate to find 2 at LO 5/8 yet only one on LO 5/10 (RK). There were no large rafts of **Common Loons** to be found this migration; the highest count was 9 at LO (JW, PW).

American Bitterns are usually in singles, and such was the case three times: at KDRA 4/5 (AM), at LOBC 4/27 (KD), and at Brownsville 5/9 (EB). The **Great Blue Heron** rookery in the Kempton Valley was active this year with at least 15 active nests noted 5/31 (MW). **Great Egrets** were at three different locations: one at LO 3/23 (SF), one at Shartlesville Farm Pond 5/8 (MW), and 2 at LOWA 5/21 (JW, PW). The first report of **Black-crowned Night Herons** at LO's spillway was 5/14 (BB, KB).

Bald Eagles established a new nest in Lobachsville 5/31 (RK). On 5/22, an adult Bald Eagle was observed carrying what appeared to be a stick to its nest along Rte. 61 in Hamburg (MW). Suddenly the stick began to wiggle vigorously as the eagle neared its nest; it was a large water snake destined to be a meal for the two eagle fledglings 5/22 (MW). Hawk Mountain's spring migration report will be included in the raptor summary report in this issue. The **Broad-winged Hawk** pair returned to Hamburg Res. 4/24 (MW).

The two **Red-headed Woodpecker** nestlings were both reported to be active: 2 at Bastian Road 4/29 (SF), and 2 at the Allendale Road site 5/15 (MW). Nesting **Acadian Flycatchers** arrived on territory at BML 5/14 (BL) and LOWA 5/19 (RK). **Willow Flycatchers** returned to HCP 5/22 (MW). The **Least Flycatcher** at KDRA 5/9 (KG) was assumed to be a migrant.

Three **Bank Swallows** returned to their nesting site at Hay Cr. 5/8 (RH, LC, JW, PW). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** that arrived over the

winter months lingered through this quarter. There were numerous reports of single Red-breasted Nuthatches throughout *Berks* (MW, m.obs.). A **Marsh Wren** call was heard from the thick cattails at KDRA 5/4 (KG); the earliest one has been reported from this location.

American Pipits were active migrants in *Berks* fields with 15 near Lyons 3/20 (MW) and 23 along Monument Road near Hamburg 4/8 (KG). A lone **Evening Grosbeak** was at Hawk Mountain's feeding station 5/15 (MTG, PH, CF, BR). Single **Purple Finches** were reported throughout *Berks* all quarter, mainly at feeders (m.obs.). Hawk Mountain feeders attracted 13 Purple Finches 3/28 (DP), and 10 were at a feeding station in Bernville 3/31 (JS). Sixteen **Snow Buntings** were lingering in the fields along Mertz Road 3/1 (JV).

The first **Grasshopper Sparrow** arrived along Monument Road 4/24 (MW). A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, rare in winter or migration, was photographed at BML's Union Canal Connector Trail 4/28 (CWh). A **Vesper Sparrow** was at KDRA 3/28 (KG). A lone **Lincoln's Sparrow** was in Kutztown 5/2-9 (TU).

Eight **Bobolinks** returned to Willow Run Farm 5/12 (NW), a day before 12 Bobolinks were found in the fields along Monument Road 5/13 (MW). Twelve **Rusty Blackbirds** called and fed along railroad tracks at Peter's Creek 4/13 (MW).

The warbler waves of yesteryear are gone as the anticipated arrival of the colorful birds fell short again. Birders spread throughout *Berks* made reports of a variety of species but usually in numbers under 5 or 10. Some sightings of note were a **Prothonotary Warbler** at Wyomissing Park 5/4 (LCr), a **Cape May Warbler** at LOBC 5/4-9 (AW, MW), a **Cerulean Warbler** at Buxton Conservancy 5/7 (MSI), a **Bay-breasted Warbler** in Kutztown 5/10 (TU), a **Yellow-throated Warbler** in Kutztown 4/10 (TU), and a **Wilson's Warbler** at a Hamburg residence 5/14 (MW). The Wilson's Warbler sang from a hedge for two hours.

A cooperative **Summer Tanager** was photographed in southern *Berks* 4/30 (KD). A **Blue Grosbeak** arrived at Monument Road, a usual nesting area, 5/16 (KG). **Dickcissels** were seen and heard at Rodale Farms 5/27-30 (JV, JW, PW).

The current **Peregrine Falcon** nesting season has taken a page out of an Agatha Christie murder mystery as territorial battles resulted in the death of two females. The breeding female was found dead near the corner of Fifth Street and Penn Avenue. In an interview with the Reading Eagle, F. Arthur McMorris, PGC's Peregrine Falcon coordinator, stated that it is likely the falcon broke its neck as it flew into a building trying to escape its pursuer. There were eggs in the basket at the time of this falcon's death.

Eight days later, another female Peregrine Falcon was found dead near Fifth Street and Penn Avenue. It was Reading's 10-year-old resident female. Two days later, a mysterious unbanded female Peregrine Falcon was seen at the nest. McMorris suggested this female falcon killed the other two. He said that nesting should continue and be successful. These territorial fights are not uncommon.

Observers: **Matt Wlasniewski, 191 Scenic Drive, Hamburg, PA 19526, 610-463-8845, martind28@comcast.net** Ed Barrell, B Bealer, K Bealer, Dan Brennan, Sarah Busch, Lucy Cairns (LCr), Liz Cates, Michael Cox, Kevin Dougherty, John Driscoll, Cheryl Faust, Caroline Fegley (CFe), Steven Fordyce, Steven Gautier, Laurie Goodrich & Hawk Mountain South Lookout Volunteers/Staff, Mary-Therese Grob, Kerry Grim, Bert Harris, Holly Hartshorne, Paul Heveran, Jason Horn, Russell Hoffman, Kate Houlne, Matt Hunter, Linda Ingram, Rudy Keller, Dave Kozlovsky, Edward Komito, Katrina Knight, Brian Lineaweaver, Andy Matsko, Holly Merker, Dennis Miranda, Sandra Moroney, Derek Price, Barbara Ritzheimer, Troy Sabocheck, Peter Saenger, Joan Silagy, Mike Slater (MSI), Matt Spence, Todd Underwood, Bill Uhrich, Jeff Vinosky, Ron Wagner, Ken Walsh, Nelson Weber, Matthew White (MWh), Chris Whitely (CWh), Claudia Winters, Andy Wlasniewski, Jane Wolfe, Peter Wolfe, Art Zdancewic.

Blair County

Locations: Canoe Creek State Park (CC), Lake Altoona (LA), Lower Trail Mount Etna (LTE), Plummer's Hollow (PH), Tipton Wetlands (TW).

The spring weather was fickle with an average amount of rain during this period. Two hundred two species were reported, nine more than the previous spring report. Information was obtained primarily from eBird data.

Notable highlights included the first county record of a **Swainson's Warbler** along LTE 5/12 (DG, GG), and a second **Swainson's Warbler** was found the following day on the LTE 5/13 with a **Blue Grosbeak** (SB). Another first county record, per eBird, was a flyover **Sandhill Crane** near Bellwood 4/3 (JC).

There were 11 different reports of **Tundra Swans**, the highest flock count of 50 noted anonymously at CC 3/8. Twenty-one duck species were documented. Uncommon ducks included 2 **Black Scoters** which occurred during a fallout at CC 4/11 along with 7 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 4 **Greater Scaup**, 10 **Lesser Scaups**, 80 **Buffleheads**, 16 **Red-breasted Mergansers**, 110 **Ruddy Ducks**, 30 **Horned Grebes**, 2 **Blue-winged Teal**, 3 **Green-winged Teal**, and 4 **Gadwalls** (JC). A group of 4 **Northern Shovelers** was at CC 3/12 and 2 appeared at Bellwood Res. 4/9 (JC). A lone **Northern Pintail** was observed at Henry's Pond 3/7 (LP) and a male **Canvasback** drifted on the lake at CC 3/14 (DG, GG). A group of 3 **Common Goldeneyes** and **Redheads** were discovered at CC 3/12 (JC) and one more at LA 3/19 (MD).

A few reports of single **Ruffed Grouse** drumming were documented. **Chimney Swifts** had a high count of 12 in Bellwood. Reports of **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** included a high count of 4 heard near Kettle Road Res. 4/24 (JG). Single **Virginia Rails** were reported at Sabbath Rest Wetland along with one **Sora** 5/8 (JC), and a Virginia Rail called in the Moorhen Marsh near Pinecroft 4/13 (MN).

Shorebirds included a single uncommon **Least Sandpiper**, 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers** foraging along with 5 **Solitary Sandpipers**, and 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** at Watts Farm Field, which was flooded from a heavy thunderstorm 5/7 (JC). A large group of 7 **Solitary Sandpipers** was at TW 4/28 (MK). A lone **Wilson's Snipe** was flushed along the boardwalk trail at CC 3/12 (JC). There were 3 **Greater Yellowlegs** at CC 4/20 (BF). A single **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at CC 4/29 (JC).

Gull reports included 8 uncommon **Bonaparte's Gull** at CC 4/11 (JC) and 13 more at LA 4/11 (MD). A high count of 80 **Ring-billed Gulls** were at CC 3/7 (MN), and 2 **Herring Gulls** soared over the LTE 3/10 (NB) with a high of 5 Herring Gulls at CC 5/3 (NN). A lone **Caspian Tern** was photographed at CC 4/20 (BF), and 5 more Caspian Terns were noted there 5/3 (NN). A rare **Red-throated Loon** was at CC 4/9 (JC). The only **Great Egret** was at CC 4/28 (JC, NN).

There were 14 **Golden Eagles** observed migrating along a powerline cut above the Lower Trail 3/10 along with a migrating **Common Redpoll** (NB). A pair of **Northern Harriers** glided across a farm field near Williamsburg 5/8 (JC). **Ospreys** and **Bald Eagles** were consistently observed at CC, with a high count of 8 Ospreys 4/25 (JC, CK, NK) and single Osprey at PH 4/25 (MkB). A dark-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was at Reese Pond 3/11 (JC). A **Peregrine Falcon** was at TW 3/17 (JC) and one at Mansion Park 5/15. Lone **Merlins** were at Altoona campus 4/16 (MK) and CC 5/8 (JC, LC, MN).

An uncommon spring **Philadelphia Vireo** was heard and seen 5/15 at LTE (MN). There were five reports of **White-eyed Vireo** across the area including 2 at PH 5/15 (MkB). A single **Alder Flycatcher** was at LTE 5/16 (JC). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued to be seen and heard impressively as 15 different reports included a high count of 4 at PH 5/15 (MkB). A single **Henslow's Sparrow** was heard at SGL 198 along with 3 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 5/22 (JC). Three **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at PH 5/16.

A strong number of warbler species were spread across Blair as 33 species were recorded. The most notable uncommon warblers included 3 reports of single **Golden-winged Warblers** at Bells Gap Trail 4/29 (JC), and other single reports at LTE 5/13 (m.ob.) and at CC 5/22 (JC). A single **Mourning Warbler** popped up along the LTE 5/8 (JK, TK). A singing **Kentucky Warbler** was noted at LTE 5/7 (m.ob.). A high count of 3 **Bay-breasted Warblers** was observed at PH 5/15, along with 22 **Worm-eating Warblers**, 2 **Wilson's Warblers**, 9 **Nashville Warblers**, 6 **Blackburnian Warblers**, 19 **Black-and white Warblers**, 4 **Blackpoll Warblers**, 51 **American Redstarts** and one **Tennessee Warbler** (MkB).

Observers: **John Carter, 335 Bell-Tip Road, Tyrone, PA 16686, (814) 933-7426, carter0206@aol.com**, Tina Alianiello, Marcia Bonta, Mark Bonta (MkB), Nick Bolgiano, Lowell Burket, Sara Busch, Linderia Carter, Kyle Clark, Michael David, Jim Dunn, Carl Engstrom, Brian Freiwald, Deborah Grove, Greg Grove, Joe Gyekis, Pam Illig, Chad Kauffman, Noah Kauffman, Michael Kensinger, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Alan MacEachren, Nate Nagle, Mark Nale, Laura Palmer, Darla Shank, Beth Young.

Bradford County – no compiler

Bucks County

Locations: Bradford Dam (BRD), Delaware River (DEL), Maple Knoll Farms in Buckingham Township (MKF), Nockamixon State Park (NSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Quakertown Swamp (QTS), Silver Lake Park (SLP).

The month of March featured warmer temperatures than average (+3.1°F), with near-average precipitation (-0.97 inches). April was just a bit warm (+1.4°F) and a bit dry (-1.13 inches). May was just below normal for both temperature (-1.2°F) and precipitation (-0.87 inches). In total, 232 bird species were reported, a decent total that falls just below the 10-year average of 235. Spring migration varied in excitement, often with good variety but without many high counts or really excellent fallouts. One bonus was having a light "bounce-back" of northward winter finches after a great autumn for these.

To the delight of many, the Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) was revived in Bucks this year, after previous plans to end the long-term dataset. This year's count was run on 5/8, with an average showing of 148 species but just 8909 individuals on a day that started with some rain (DA). Three species were new for the all-time count list: **White-winged Scoter**, **Stilt Sandpiper**, and **Vesper Sparrow**. Four new species set high counts as well, while cuckoos, vireos and flycatchers were noticeably tardy and were in low numbers until days after the count.

Some of the top rarities in the county this spring included a probable **Barrow's Goldeneye**, **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, **Black-necked Stilt**, **Stilt Sandpiper**, **Wilson's Phalarope**, **Willet**, **Cattle Egret**, and **Mississippi Kite**, though that's certainly not all of them. Thanks very much to August Mirabella as always for compiling some general notes and observations. Ken Kitson's 1998 *Birds of Bucks County* was referenced for some historical information, as well as through updates per this journal.

Snow Goose flocks stayed a bit later than in previous years, with flocks of 100 or more still present later in Mar (m.ob.). One lingered at a New Britain Twp. park 5/4 (TH) The peak count of 280 was at MKF 3/1 (RS). These and the **Canada Geese** present attracted a flock of 5 **Greater White-fronted Geese** to the same location 3/1 (RS), a nice Mar record. Reports of **Cackling Geese** were limited to one at NSP 3/3 (JBH) and one at PVP 3/9 (AMi), with the exception of a flock of 7 at NSP 3/6 (DF). Local **Mute Swans** were reported in low single digits from 12 locations (m.ob.), with a high of 26 at PWT 5/16 (DF, AMi). It was a nice change to have some **Tundra Swan** flocks at NSP in Mar after several poor showings. Reported numbers ranged from 5 to 22 from 3/4-3/16, with max on 3/4 (EB). Given the frequency of visits to this park and the variance in reported numbers, it seems very likely that several groups of birds stopped here.

A total of 21 or 22 duck species were reported, just on the lower side of average. Numbers for many dabblers were significantly better than last year, but for the most part nothing compared to historical counts. Seasonal high counts of several dabblers will be featured more often in these reports to help document a new "baseline" of sorts for what passes through the county. The high of 9 **Blue-winged Teal** were at PWT 4/25 (DF), while smaller numbers were enjoyed by many at five other locations 3/24-5/12 (m.ob.). **Northern Shovelers** were at most area lakes in single digits 3/3-4/26 (m.ob.). A standout high estimate of 130 were at PWT 3/15, likely a modern-day record (AH, ph.). **Gadwall** peaked at their usual SLP location 3/9 with 30 seen (RN). A pair at PVP

5/8 were on the later side of spring migration (KI, VM). **American Wigeons** were most prominent at NSP, where 17 on 3/7 furnished the seasonal high count (VP). One of our vastly reduced dabblers is the **American Black Duck**, which topped out at a decent 64 birds at their favored L. Towhee C.P. 3/14 (SS, NF). One was at CVP until 5/19, a rather late date (SM). The habitat at PWT is suitable for large duck numbers, including a high of 80 **Green-winged Teal** 3/15 (AH). Most **Northern Pintails** are gone by early Mar, and the pattern held this year. Counts of 26 at NSP (JBH) and 30 at PVP (AMi) were made 3/9, with one lingering bird at PWT 4/5 (AH).

The only **Canvasback** report was of 2 at NSP 3/6 (PTs). **Redhead** reports were not much different, with one in Upper Makefield Twp. 3/25 (MG) and 2 in Yardley 4/3 (KH). Their **Ring-necked Duck** cousins were seen in much higher numbers as typical for this duck of smaller lakes. Four locations hosted 40-plus birds (m.ob.), with a high of 180 at PWT 3/15 (AH). One at NSP 5/26 would prove to stay on past the spring (EB). **Greater Scaup** were seen at three locations, with a high of 12 at NSP 3/18 (DF). Typically, Greaters are reported in lower numbers than **Lesser Scaup**, but the opposite was true this year. Maximum counts of 5 were at NSP 3/8 (PH) and Pine Run Dam 3/28 (KI), while a late female was at PVP 5/13 (AMi). The most common spring scoter here is **White-winged Scoter**, and 3 were seen at NSP 5/8 (AH). The two other scoters and even Long-tailed Duck went unreported. **Buffleheads** topped out at just 53 at PWT 3/30 (AH). Later males were at NSP 5/10 (DF, EB) and at PVP through the end of the period (m.ob.). Up to 30 **Common Goldeneyes** were at NSP 3/16, the spring high count (KRL). On the same date, one observer described a drake **Barrow's Goldeneye** very close to shore but was not able to get a photo (JBH). If accepted by PORC, this would be the ninth *Bucks* record. Most of the birds detected on the DEL in recent years have been females.

Common Mergansers peaked at 780 in the usual PVP location 3/10 (AMi). Two out of 3 **Hooded Mergansers** photographed at NSP 5/10 were quite dark and showed poorly developed crests, suggesting older juvs (EB). A good count of 16 **Red-breasted Mergansers** was at NSP 3/28, 11 of which were still there the next day (DF). A raft of about 100 **Ruddy Ducks** at PWT 3/6 were the highest reported number by far, but not a rare site at the location in late winter (DD). **Horned Grebes** were reported in ones and twos at four locations from 3/6-2/2 (m.ob.), with a very late bird photographed in stunning breeding plumage at PVP 5/25 (DLs).

This year's 2:1 ratio of sites with **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (18) and **Black-billed Cuckoo** (9) seemed to indicate a slightly down year for Yellow-billed. One Yellow-billed seen at Tyler SP 4/28 matched our known early date (CM). For the second straight year, spring counts of **Common Nighthawks** have been shockingly low. The max of 4 were at PVP 5/12 (AH ph.), a concerning statistic for this declining caprimulgid. One **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard way up in Durham Twp. 5/2, just the second spring eBird record in the past 10 years (MT).

Surprisingly, not a single Virginia Rail was confirmed in the county this spring, while **Sora** was at QTS only 4/2-3 (DF). See the standalone box below for a gripping story about a very rare rail (you probably know what it is already). The only site to consistently hold **American Coots** is PWT, where the high count was just 65 on 4/3 (RS). Late Mar into early Apr is turning into **Sandhill Crane** season here, especially for flyovers. The long-standing Pine Run Dam birds were last seen 3/20 (PT). Certainly, the 2 that flew over PVP that morning were the same birds (KL, RAf), but were the 2 that flew over a Tinicum Twp. yard two hours later (DA) also the same birds? These locations are less than 10 miles apart, but it's impossible to know whether they were the same birds. One was heard only as it flew past NSP 3/10 (DDm). A flock of 3 gave this compiler a jolt of excitement as they soared very high past NSP 3/12, heading north (PH). An added bonus was showing these birds to my retired university biology professor, who did not have cranes on his radar at all.

The average total of 19 shorebird species were found this spring. By far the best was a pair of **Black-necked Stilts** at PWT 5/16 (DF). It is possible that these were the same birds seen not so far away in *Cumberland* soon afterwards. Three **Black-bellied Plovers** were at PWT 5/27 (MG, DD), and one was there 5/29 (DF). The high count of 6 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at PWT 5/27 (MG, DD), with a high of 4 at

BRD 5/10 (GJ). Two **Stilt Sandpipers** graced PWT on 5/8 (DF), always a quality spring shorebird. Eight **Dunlins** were here 5/10 (MG, DD), and one 5/16 as well (DF, AH, AMi). Peak counts of **Least Sandpiper** were about normal, with 61 at BRD 5/13 (RS) and 32 at PWT 5/16 (AMi). The only spring report of **White-rumped Sandpiper** at PWT was of 3 on 5/12 (MG ph., DD). Out of three dates that **Pectoral Sandpiper** was seen at PWT, the peak count of 5 were on the earliest date of 3/30 (AH). Although **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was seen at both BRD and PWT during much of May, surprisingly the only count of more than one was of 3 at PWT 5/29 (DF). Often annual but in low numbers, just one **Short-billed Dowitcher** stopped at PWT 5/22 (DD, MG).

Wilson's Snipe maxed out at 8 at PWT 4/19 (AH), although they

On 5/1, Kevin Willauer of Milford Twp. was mowing his field when he saw a small bird run from in front of the mower. To his dismay, the bird decided to run back in towards the thick grass where the machine was heading. The farmer quickly jumped off and made a dive to successfully catch the bird! He didn't know what it was but took a picture of it in his hand and sent it to Devich Farbotnik, who identified it as the county's sixth known **Yellow Rail** and the first since 2007. In typical fashion for this species, it was never seen again after being released. One can only hope that this special bird reached its breeding grounds safely, thanks to the landowner's efforts.

were found at eight other locations (m.ob.). Two **Wilson's Phalaropes** turned up, a good spring for these phalaropes across multiple eastern states. One was at PWT 5/17 (JH), and one stayed for many to see 5/27 at BRD. This brings the total number of county records up to 19 or 20. The best count for **Solitary Sandpipers** is often had at BRD, where a good gathering of 20 were found 5/3 (MGr). An estimated 20 **Greater Yellowlegs** were at PWT 5/2 for the high count (AH). One **Willet** was seen by a single observer 5/10 for just the sixth *Bucks* record (JH). **Lesser Yellowlegs** peaked at 20 on 5/10 (DD), mirroring their larger cousins.

Only seven gull and three tern species were seen this spring. **Bonaparte's Gulls** put in an average showing, with a peak of 70 at PWT 4/11 (AH). Counts from other sites were mostly in single digits (m.ob.). **Laughing Gull** reports were as usual on and near the DEL, with several reports at the end of Mar (m.ob.) and a peak estimate of 800 at PWT 4/26 (AH). One to 3 **Iceland Gulls** were regular at NSP 3/10-17 (m.ob.), though not as reliable as in some years. One was at PVP 3/13 (RS). Two more were at PWT 3/17 (BCn), while one reported sporadically 3/27-5/11 (AH) may have involved more than one additional bird. At the beginning of Mar, about 500 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at NSP (DF). Most area counts were far below that, but one at NSP 3/13 was photographed with a PGC satellite tracking device (MD). **Caspian Tern** reports were low with 2 at NSP 5/10 (EB ph., AH, DF) and one or two at PVP 4/12 (AM ph., BC). The highlight of a quiet tern scene was a **Black Tern** that showed well for many at PVP 5/10 after a local birder put out a timely alert (AM, GG, DGr). One also was seen at NSP 5/10 (DF). Single **Common Terns** were at PWT 4/25 and NSP 5/10 (DF).

Red-throated Loons, rare but regular, this year were at PWT: an immature 3/6 (MG, ph.) and 2 apparent adults 3/27 (DD, ph.). Surprisingly, the high count of **Common Loons** was just 8 at PWT 4/11 (AH). Nearly all of the few **Great Cormorant** reports were from PWT, with a max of 5 northbound birds seen in flight on 3/21 (AH). Among multiple reports of 100-plus **Double-crested Cormorants**, the standout highs were an estimated 200 at Morrisville Levee on the DEL 4/12 (JHI) and a close estimate of 280 at PVP, also 4/12 (AM).

The annual sunset watch informally done at QTS produced 11 **American Bitterns** over eight nights 4/3-5/2 (DF), a bit on the lower side of average for the count. A **Great Egret** at Silver Lake Park 3/8 was just three days later than the known arrival date (DD). Reports came from nine locations, with a high of 5 at Churchville Park 4/18 (Angie Geiger). A **Snowy Egret** was photographed nicely at Churchville Park 5/20 (BK, KK). An immature **Little Blue Heron** featuring bluish and white "tie-dye" plumage was at BRD 4/21 (VP). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were found at Silver Lake Park as usual (m.ob.), but nowhere else, the high of 4 on 4/18 was 3 adults and an immature (DD ph.). A rare spring **Cattle Egret** was at NSP 4/30 (DF) but did not stick around. Two adult **Yellow-**

crowned Night-Herons were seen at different locations and months. One was at PVP 4/14 (JBU, DLs), and one was seen by a kayaker at NSP 5/27 (CG) where they have bred before. **Glossy Ibis** reports were all from PWT 4/9-5/16 (DD, AH, DF, m.ob.), always of one bird but possibly involving more than one individual.

A high count was tied on the PAMC for **Osprey** with 30 birds seen (DA). For the second straight spring, a **Golden Eagle** was observed flying overhead. This year's was an immature over MKF 3/10 (RS), right in the middle of peak Golden migration. This is just the fourth spring eBird record here. The county's 21st known **Mississippi Kite** was seen at NSP in habitat rich with periodical cicadas. It was likely the same bird, described as an adult, seen 5/27 (JHo *fide* PH) and 5/31 (EZ *fide* PH) through the end of the period. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** seen displaying at NSP 5/27-5/28 was intriguing in its breeding possibility (DF, JHo). The next day it was seen diving into suitable forest habitat along the lakeshore (PH).

The PAMC tally of 23 **Bald Eagles** bested the previous high of 21 (DA), a good but expected result. Spring counts of **Broad-winged Hawks** were more normal than in recent years, with top counts of 57 over Churchville Park 4/17 (CF) and 40 over Northampton Twp. 4/22 (MO). Similar to last year, **Barred Owls** were reported in ones and twos from seven or eight locations (m.ob.). **Long-eared Owls** were at their historical PVP roost in Mar with 5 on 3/9 (AM) and one 3/15 (KI).

After last year's huge spring **Red-headed Woodpecker** showing, this year birds were seen at just three locations, including the known Buckingham Twp. site (DS), Nockamixon Twp. 5/17 (EP), and a migrant at PVP 5/7 (AM ph.). Ten sites hosted **Peregrine Falcons**, likely a mix of resident birds and migrants (m.ob.). No American Kestrel nest update has been given yet, so the summer issue will have to suffice there.

Our only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** report was from SGL 157 on 5/17, exactly the same date as last year's bird at this favored stopover location (AH ph.). One **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at NSP 5/10 (DF). **Least Flycatcher** was seen or heard at just 3 widely spaced locations (MGr, AH, DF). A new early date was set for **Blue-headed Vireo** when one was heard at Silver Lake Park 4/10 (KG). Nesting was confirmed again for the now regular resident **Common Raven**, again in Haycock Twp. (DL) but also in Buckingham Twp. 5/15 on a small platform of a water tower ladder (LeRoy Tabb ph.).

After a decent irruption winter, **Black-capped Chickadees** were still seen at 7 locations until 3/29 (m.ob.). Single **Horned Larks** were at PWT 3/15 (AH) and at the preserved Patterson Farm 4/3 (MG). The high count at MKF was 3/2, where 102 were counted (RS). Breeding was not confirmed at this location as it is in some springs. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was widely reported after a fairly good fall push, but a pattern was evident in the distribution of spring sightings, as is often the case. Out of 30 sites reporting, only nine hosted single birds in Mar, likely overwintering individuals (m.ob.). The majority of sightings were in late Apr through mid-May (m.ob.), with the latest coming at Riegelsville 5/17 (AS). It is clear that many of these were returning migrants from points farther south. The new PAMC high count of 4 (DA) reflects this pattern, too. One **Brown Creeper** in a Doylestown Twp. yard 5/10 was likely a late migrant as well (KJ).

Migrant **Marsh Wrens** were at three locations: one at Tamanend Community Park 4/24 (CM vr.), one at Bradford Dam 5/3 (MGr), and one at PWT 5/16 (DF, AH). Single **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were at four locations across the lower and mid-county (m.ob.), with 2 birds present at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve 5/21 (DF, KI). **Swainson's Thrush** was well reported again, with the sum of high counts from 20 locations totaling 32 birds (m.ob.). This does not count one report from Tyler SP 5/10, where the observer reported to eBird with the quantity "X" but stated in the species comments that 15-plus were present over 7 miles. Out of four locations with **American Pipits** (m.ob.), MKF held a fairly low max of 23 on 4/19 (RS). The latest pipit was at PWT 5/12 (MG).

After a historic irruption winter in the state, **Bucks** snuck in one spring **Evening Grosbeak** with a male visiting a Solebury Twp. feeding station 4/30-5/2 (AM). This was just the second spring record since 1994, according to eBird reports. Wintering **Purple Finches** mixed with migrants, being reported from 22 locations (m.ob.). Again, only 5 of these sites reported ones and twos in Mar. The highest count was 9 at a New

Britain Twp. feeder 4/20 (JC), with the last report from BRD 5/10 (VP). Three female-types that flew in during light rain on the PAMC were a surprise and the first on the count since 2009 (DA, PH). An E. Rockhill Twp. homeowner noticed a "different" finch among the usual suspects at his feeders on 5/16 and took a photo, but it wasn't until days later that he looked at it and realized the visitor was a female-type **White-winged Crossbill** (RoS *fide* DF)! This is one of few county records since the 2012-13 invasion year, the other being a single bird in 2018. No previous May records exist since at least 1982, making this coincidental find really notable. **Pine Siskins** were here too, unsurprising given the laundry list of winter finches already mentioned. Most reports were of single-digit numbers at 13 locations (m.ob.). Almost all feeder observations tailed off in late Apr, with the final reports of a flyover at NSP 5/8 (AH) and a flock of 12 at Northampton Twp. feeders 5/8 (DG, vt.). The NSP flyover was part of a second-best PAMC total of 7 siskins (DA).

One **Snow Bunting** lingered with larks at MKF until 3/2 (RS ph.), the third time one has stayed until Mar at this location in the past 10 years. Van Sant Airport, the annual **Grasshopper Sparrow** location, hosted its first bird on 5/15 (BM), with 2 detected through the end of the month (m.ob.). Single-digit numbers of **American Tree Sparrows** were reported until 3/16 (m.ob., KrL), with the sum of high counts totaling 23 birds. While insignificant compared to historical numbers, this was clearly the best year for these sparrows since at least 2015. It will be interesting to see if numbers will remain better this coming winter. **White-crowned Sparrows** were seen at 15 locations in ones and twos, almost exclusively in the first two weeks of May (m.ob.). Although not truly a rare bird, these sharp-looking migrants had an above-average showing compared to most years. Speaking of above-average, 163 **White-throated Sparrows** were tallied on the PAMC for a new all-time high count (DA). Infrequent **Vesper Sparrows** were found at Tyler SP 4/23 (RA, ph.) and at MKF 5/8 (RS). The singing bird that greeted a West Rockhill Twp. observer on 3/30 (DF) was good for a new county arrival date. Just like last year, **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at four locations, including one to 2 showy birds at PVP (m.ob.).

One **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at NSP 5/13 (DF); it stayed and was seen by many after news trickled out of its presence. Most **Bobolink** reports were typical in number, but one was outstanding. An estimated 150 birds spent 5/12-13 staging during migration in alfalfa hay fields at a farm near MKF (RS). This may be a new county high. Small numbers of **Eastern Meadowlarks** were seen at 16 locations, not a bad showing for modern times (m.ob.). In a surprising twist of events, the second county-record **Bullock's Oriole** male that was thought to have left in Feb appeared at a different homeowners' feeders in Northampton Twp. and stayed until 3/12 (CFo ph., *fide* AM). Up to 7 of the wintering **Baltimore Orioles** in Lower Makefield Twp. stayed until the beginning of May (CF). **Rusty Blackbird** numbers were low again, but not quite as low as last year. Four sites had 10-plus birds (m.ob.), with a high count of about 50 at QTS 4/23 (KrL, KtL). On 3/6, a huge flock of mostly **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** was estimated at 30,000 flying over MKF (RS).

A bit better than last year and about average, 32 warbler species were reported. This year's misses were Golden-winged and Kentucky. Outside of a few really good days, many migrants seemed to be in fairly low numbers. The best spot for **Prothonotary Warbler** was at Churchville Park, where one to even 3 were singing 5/2-6, and one stayed through the end of the period (SM vr., m.ob.). The PVP bird arrived on 5/4 and stayed until 5/16 (CM, CV, KI, VM). A second bird was sometimes reported but never confirmed. A male was at BRD 5/10-12 (GJ, ph.), and one was heard only at Tyler SP on 5/11 (MF). Unfortunately, a female was not seen at any of these locations. **Orange-crowned Warbler** made the spring report when one was photographed in leafy trees at Tyler SP on 5/3, certainly an uncommon sight (MTt). A **Mourning Warbler** was seen briefly at SGL 157 on 5/13 for the only report (JH). Single **Hooded Warblers** were at five locations in May (m.ob.), never common in migration. A real treat, 2 different **Cerulean Warblers** were well described in Milford Twp. 5/10 (SH) and Falls Twp. 5/12 (MJ *fide* AM). A very nice count of 6 **Bay-breasted Warblers** was seen at SLP 5/15 (DD, ph.). The **Pine Warbler** winter party continued in Lower Makefield Twp., where up to 10 were enjoying suet and more

through Mar and until 4/18, when the last report of a single bird was received (CF). A singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** was a possible candidate for a breeder along the DEL in Riegelsville 5/17 (AS), where the habitat is good for this declining warbler. Unfortunately, the bird wasn't seen or heard again after several attempts (EB). Another was seen on the fairly early date of 4/9 when it crossed into Upper Makefield Twp. from the other side of the DEL (DB, PK).

One excellently photographed **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at a New Britain Twp. feeder 4/15 set a new *Bucks* early date (JC). At least two **Blue Grosbeaks** were back in the MKF vicinity by 5/8 (RS), while one in Tinicum Twp. 5/8 (AB) was a good record for the upper county and a product of the revived PAMC.

Observers: **Paul Heveran, 1012 Andrews Ln, Pennsburg, PA 18073, (267) 272-9225, birdmeister.paul@gmail.com**, Rachel Adler, Risa Alfieri (RAI), Diane Allison, Ann Ballantine, Jane Barker-Hunt, David Bernstein, Erich Boenzli, Jean Burch (JBu), Jennifer Cross, Bill Culp, Bob Cunningham (BCn), Matthew Danihel, Dawn Denner, Dave DeReamus (DDm), Connie Fairchild, Devich Farbotnik, Nikki Flood, Mike Fournier, Carla Foy (CFo), Mark Gallagher, Karen Gatewood, Angie Geiger, Chris Gigler, Deborah Glessner, Deborah Grove (DGr), Greg Grove, Mike Grubb (MGr), Andrew Harrington, Jim Hartley, Shelly Hartman, Kathryn Helland, Jason Horn (JHo), Joanne Hannah Imhof, Karin Isett, Mick Jeitner, Gail Johnson, Kelly Joslin, Bill Koch, Kris Koch, Peter Kwiatek, Karin Lee, Dave Long, Daniel Loss (DLs), Keith Loux (KtL), Kerry Loux (KrL), Vicky Mahmoud, Sharon Marciniak, Anita Maximo, Bob McGarry, August Mirabella (AMi), Christopher Mortensen, Ryan Neuman, Maryann O'Leary, Vinobha Pannerselvam, Ellen Przyusky, Kenneth Rieker, Adam Smith, Diane Smith, Richard Smith, Rod Smith (RoS), Scott Stollery, Patrick Taylor, Paul Teese (PTs), Mark Teichman, Mark Titus (MTt), Chris Vinosky, Eric Zawatski

Butler County

Locations: Butler-Freeport Road (BFR), Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO), Lakeview Beach (LB), North Shore (NS), Porter's Cove (PC), South Shore (SS), Waterfowl Observation Area (WOA)

Cold nighttime temperatures kept the lakes frozen through the first week of March but small areas of open water attracted a few water birds. Temps rose gradually through early March but a few below-zero nights seemed to delay most movement. By mid-March, a great variety of birds including **Cackling Geese**, 3 **Trumpeter Swans** grazing with over 500 **Tundra Swans**, and 400 **Ring-necked Ducks** arrived at Lake Arthur. A gradual warming trend in early April brought some early warblers, but shorebirds stole the show with two first *Butler* records, a probable second county record, and two phalarope species.

Up to 6 **Cackling Geese** lingered at PC 3/7-19 (MAK, GK et al.). Two banded **Canada Geese** were found: a year-old bird banded near Worthington, *Armstrong*, was at LO 4/11 (KB), and one seen near Fenelton was a male banded 6/22/2011 in North Oakland, *Allegheny*, hatched in 2010 or earlier (SB). A **Trumpeter Swan** at PC 3/13 (DD) was not alone as up to 3 were spotted over the next few days (m.ob.). Photos show an adult and a juvenile bird. The Trumpeters were with an amazing flock of over 500 **Tundra Swans** that thrilled many viewers. Careful counts tallied 502 birds 3/7 (ST) and 500 on 3/11 (OM). At one point, the flock of 500 was at PC (3/9), and another flock of 110 was seen at SS, totaling over 600 swans resting at LA.

Twenty-two species of ducks were reported, featuring a lone **Black Scoter** and some impressive flocks of **Ring-necked Ducks**, scaup species, and **Red-breasted Merganser**. The most frequently seen species with more than 50 reports included **Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, and **Ruddy Duck**. Least frequently reported were **Canvasback**, **Black Scoter**, **Long-tailed Duck**, and **Common Goldeneye**. **Blue-winged Teal** sightings were up, including birds that remained at SGL 95 until at least 5/16 (MAK, GK). A surprising number of **Ring-necked Ducks** present at PC 3/8-16 added to the spectacle of the Tundra Swan flock and Trumpeter Swans that thrilled many observers. Initially between 200 and

300 Ringed-necks were tallied, then careful counts of 435 on 3/11 (OM) and 490 on 3/12 (ST) were made.

Consistent with reports in the past, **Greater Scaup** was reported less than 10 times, but **Lesser Scaup** was seen over 30 times including nice flocks of 105 at SS 3/12 (MAK, GK), 79 at SS 4/6 (AH), and 92 at LO 4/7 KB. The best flock of bluebills was 180 scaup species at SS 3/12 (MAK, GK). The only scoter found this season was a **Black Scoter** at SS 3/10 (EH). Found later in the day, it was seen by a few lucky birders before moving on. **Red-breasted Mergansers**, between 200 and 400, frequented LA 3/16-24 (m.ob.) including the high count of an estimated 400 at SS 3/21 (KB). Late ducks included **Blue-winged Teal** at SGL 95 marsh 5/23 (KB), 6 **Gadwalls** at LO 5/7 (KB), 2 **Northern Pintails** at SGL 95 marsh 4/26 (KB), and at least 3 **Ruddy Ducks** at NS until 5/31 (MC). The Ruddies remained into early Jun.

Single **Ring-necked Pheasants** survived the winter and were spotted in several locations. **Ruffed Grouse** was noted at three locations (m.ob.). During the 2020 fall season, an aggressive Ruffed Grouse was noted following cars near PC. Some thought the bird was under the influence of fermented wild grapes nearby. Perhaps the grapes had nothing to do with it this period. During 3/8-20, at the same location, several birders reported that a grouse followed their car, ran under their car (KSJ) and ultimately attacked the boots of one birder 3/20 (AP). Did the bird have a nest nearby? **Pied-billed Grebe** was noted at LA, SGL 95, and Thorn Res. 3/16-5/2 (v.ob.). **Horned Grebe** was seen at LA, LO, and SGL 95 during 3/9-4/22 with a high count of 8 at Bear Run Boat Launch 3/16 (MC). Two **Red-necked Grebes** were discovered at SS 3/12 (AP). They were seen until 3/17 (v.ob.).

As usual, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports outnumbered those of **Black-billed Cuckoo** by a 4:1 ratio. Most often found in Aug, 4 **Common Nighthawks** flew over SGL 95 marsh 5/23 (KB). **Virginia Rail** and **Sora** returned to SGL 95 in Mar and were seen and heard through the season. The only rails seen elsewhere were 2 Virginia Rails at Preston Conservation Area 5/16 (EH). **Common Gallinule** was present at SGL 95 and near LA. (m.ob.). **American Coots** were seen regularly in double-digit numbers at LA 3/1 through Apr, but 2 remained at Glade Run L. to the end of May. **Sandhill Cranes** thrilled observers at their favorite haunts, SGL 95 and LA with at least four successful broods. Up to 38 were seen at several locations through the season (GW et al.).

Despite the oft-mentioned paucity of shorebird habitat in *Butler*, it was an amazing migration. The first highlight was the discovery of a **Black-necked Stilt**, a first *Butler* record, at SGL Calico Road 5/2 (CB). The bird was not near the road, and a few hardy souls made the trek to photograph the bird. Interestingly, there was another photographed in nearby *Lawrence* at Shanor Road ponds 4/30, a first for that county. A **Black-bellied Plover** dropped in at LB 5/10 (MAK, GK ph). This bird might be the third or fourth *Butler* record, but it did not stay for long. Then a **Red-necked Phalarope**, the second in two years here, added to the ever-growing growing list of avifauna discovered at Glade Run L. 5/19 (LB, ph). As if that wasn't enough, *Butler's* first record **Wilson's Phalarope** foraged at SGL 95 marsh 5/23 (KB, ph). Completing the string of exceptional finds was a flock of 9 **Whimbrels** at LA 5/27, photographed perched on a tree limb (MC), a very unusual place for shorebirds to rest! Unfortunately, kayakers flushed the birds, and they were not seen again. These birds are most likely the second *Butler* record, the first being 8/18/1984 at LA (GW).

Along with the above-mentioned surprises, 16 species were reported including **Semipalmated Plover**, **Killdeer**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **American Woodcock**, **Wilson's Snipe**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. Unfortunately, Upland Sandpiper, historically a breeding bird in *Butler*, has not been reported since 2016.

Nice flocks of **Bonaparte's Gulls** graced LA including 75 at NS 3/30 (EH), 34 there 4/2 (MC), and 58 at SS 4/6 (AH). Not often reported from SGL 95, 18 Bonies were there 4/14 (MAK, GK). Also present at LA were the usual **Ring-billed Gulls**, **Herring Gulls**, and, unusual for *Butler*, **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**. Two were photographed at SS 3/11 (NH). These birds may represent the seventh or eighth *Butler* record. Three of the four commonly seen terns passed through with one **Caspian Tern** at LB 5/10 (MAK, GK) and 3 at SGL 95 marsh 5/10 (KB). **Black Terns**

visited a pond at Brewer Road 5/7 (LC et al.), and one fished at PC 5/12 (RN). Small numbers of **Forster's Terns** were noted at LA 4/13-5/28 (MC et al.), but astonishing flocks of 51 and 60 were seen at LB following overnight rain 5/10 (MAK, GK, MC).

Common Loons were reported at LA and LO 3/11-5/27 (m.ob.). Seldom seen **American Bittern** was heard at SGL 95 marsh 5/23 (KB, MC) and single **Great Egrets** visited Wildlife Observation Area 4/20 (TA) and the Whitestown Road area 5/26 (MAK, GK). A **Black-crowned Night Heron** was photographed at SGL 95 marsh 5/11 (KB). Records for Black-crowned Night Heron in *Butler* appear to follow an odd pattern. While there are no records in the Listserve, Birds of Note or eBird between 1971 and 2007, they show up almost annually 2007 to 2012, then annually again 2016 to 2021. Perhaps there are other records in places the author has not searched.

Continuing their range expansion, **Black Vulture** has been venturing into nearby *Allegheny* recently, and 3 drifted as far north as Moraine SP 3/30 (MAK, GK). **Ospreys** and **Bald Eagles** tended nests at their usual sites at LA and SGL 95. A new Bald Eagle nest found at AK Steel, now called Cleveland Cliffs, could be the fourth breeding location (not the fourth nest) in *Butler*, but it does not appear that the nest was successful. Perhaps they were inexperienced, on their first attempt (*fide* CW). Historically most often seen at LA, LO, and SGL 95, **Ospreys** have been frequenting Glade Run L. increasingly in the last 5 years, but no indication of breeding has been reported there (m.ob.).

In keeping with their nomadic habits, **Short-eared Owls** have been seen wintering in *Butler* in the last few years, and one was seen as late as 5/8 (GW). It was hoped that nesting would be attempted, but cutting and planting dashed that wish. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported at no less than 12 locations including several new sites (m.ob.). A **Merlin** was spotted at SGL 95 marsh 4/24 (OM), and birds tagged late by eBird were seen nearby 5/6 and 5/8 (MAK, GK). They could have been the same bird because of close locations. **Common Raven** was seen 3/3 through the season in widespread locations with the high count of 3 at Tinker Road 5/8 (MAK, GK).

Two **Bank Swallows** visited a nest site at LA 5/17 (MC) but probable breeding was not confirmed. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** remained, visiting at least ten different locations 3/5-5/17 (m.ob.) while 2 were at SGL 95 near Swope Road 5/8 (MAK GK). Not often spotted, **Gray-cheeked Thrush** appeared at Wolf Creek Narrows 5/19 (RN), and **Swainson's Thrushes** passed through 5/10-26 (m.ob.). Continuing from the winter season, nice flocks of **Common Redpolls** grazed in a field of sunflowers with 36 seen at Meals Road 3/10 (MAK, GK), 74 in two flocks 3/13 (AH), and 40-plus on 3/20 (KB, DK, MC, RN). Numbers dwindled quickly after that. Two or three **Pine Siskins** visited a feeder near Portersville intermittently 3/1-4/28 with 5 there 3/11 (MC). A lone siskin returned to the feeder 5/27-31. **Yellow-breasted Chat** returned to SGL 95, seen 5/24-30 (m.ob.), and **Rusty Blackbird** moved through in single-digit flocks 3/17-5/2, with the exception of a nice tally of 41 at Calico Road 5/2 (DY).

Early warblers included **Louisiana Waterthrush** at BFR 3/30, **Palm Warbler** at Jennings Environmental Education Center 4/1, and **Yellow-throated Warbler** at BFR 4/6 (DB et al). A **Hooded Warbler** at LO 4/20 (KB) was tagged early by eBird. Thirty warbler species were reported; the most frequently reported were **Common Yellowthroat**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Ovenbird**. The least frequently reported included **Wilson's Warbler**, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **Mourning Warbler**, and **Golden-winged Warbler**. Not-often-seen Golden-winged Warblers were spotted twice: one at SGL 95 on 5/8 (CB) and one at Park Road 5/11 (MAK, GK).

Observers: **Oscar Miller**, aoscarmiller3@gmail.com, (412) 855-0483, Brendyn Baptiste, Corey Bellis, Kimberly Berry, Dave Brooke, Susan Burket, Lisa Busa, Martin Carlin, Dave Darney, Michael David, Mike Fialkovich, Eric Hall, Paul Hess, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Chris Kubiak, Richard Nugent, Aidan Place, Theo Rickert, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass, Dan Weeks, Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm, David Yeane II.

Butler was one of four counties with *Lawrence*, *Mercer*, and *Venango* celebrating the 26th consecutive Big Day for Birds (BDB) on May 8, 2021. The field team of Martin Carlin, with the assistance of Mary Eisenheimer, Jim Offhaus, and Clark Trauterman, had the highest number of 97 species (1162 individuals) among all field participants. Mary Alice Koeneke and Glenn Koppel came in second with 90 species (248 individuals), and Kim Berry in third place with 81 species (632 individuals), including 17 warbler species. Corey Bellis recorded a rare **Golden-winged Warbler** in SGL 95 with detailed description 5/8 (GW). *Butler* BDB participants were Beverly Barnett, Corey Bellis, Kim Berry, Anne Marie Bogdan, Dave Brooke, Martin Carlin, Robert Clouse, Bobbie Davis, Patti Day, Mary Eisenheimer, Jim Gray, Irene James, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glen Koppel, Henry Lenz, Linda Lenz, Sonya Lenz, Becky Lubold, Oscar Miller, Jim Offhaus, Karen Peterson, Anita Shaw, Dennis Shaw, Stacy Steele, Terry Steele, Clare Torso, Clark Trauterman, Amanda Wilhelm, Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm, Keira Wilhelm, Kevin Wilhelm. Observations by Gene Wilhelm in *Butler* this day included 2 possible breeding pairs of **American Coot** in propagation area MSP, at least four active nests of **Sandhill Cranes**, with 38 in a "bachelor" flock roaming throughout the county Mar through May; at least 8 active nests of **Osprey**, at least 3 active **Bald Eagle** nests in MSP and SGL 95, and an adult **Short-eared Owl** on Fergus Road.

Cambria County

Locations: Beaverdam Reservoir (BVR), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG), South Fork (SF).

Waterfowl migration was very nice. The long staying **Trumpeter Swan** remained along with good numbers of **Tundra Swans**. Ducks included **Northern Shoveler**, **American Wigeon**, **Northern Pintail**, **Canvasback**, **Redhead**, **Greater Scaup** and **Lesser Scaup**, **White-winged Scoter**, and **Long-tailed Duck**. Up to 4 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard at different locations. A single **Virginia Rail** was at PG 4/29 (MH).

Shorebirds at PG included **Dunlin**, **Least Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Wilson's Snipe**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and a single **Willet**. Probably our first record of an **American White Pelican** was at PG 4/12 (RL). There was a report of a flyover a few years ago but I'm not sure if it was accepted. Two **Black Vultures** were at SF 3/9 (SB). A **Golden Eagle** was seen at SF 3/6 (SB).

Two **White-eyed Vireos** were at the Sandy Run area 5/15 (PI). Uncommon in our area was a **Yellow-throated Vireo** at PG 5/15 (TA). The swallow migration was down considerably from other years at PG. Whether it was the cold or the fact that we lost a lot of birds in last year's record cold is unsure. *Cambria* was lucky to have a hundred birds on the wires at the marina. Other years it was not unusual to have hundreds, if not thousands, on the wires and over the lake.

A **Winter Wren** was seen at PG 5/15 (TA). An **Evening Grosbeak** was at an undisclosed feeder location 5/15 (TA). **White-throated Sparrows** and **Dark-eyed Juncos** were at BVR 5/16 (BS). Rare in this area, **Worm-eating Warbler** was at PG 5/10 (JC). Overall, the warbler migration was not very good as numbers were low. **Tennessee Warbler**, **Mourning Warbler**, **Cape May Warbler**, **Bay-breasted Warbler**, **Palm Warbler**, and **Wilson's Warbler** were some of the better ones.

Observers: **Dave Gobert**, (814) 674-8359 davidjgobert@gmail.com, Tina Alianiello, Seth Bernosky, John Carter, Margaret Higbee, Pam Illig, Renee Lubert, Barbara Salos.

Cameron County

Locations: Black Bridge (BB), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP), Sterling Run Mines (SRM).

There were 163 species found this season. Sinnemahoning State

Park held its third annual Big Day 5/8. Sixteen participants found 77 species. The highlights were **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Evening Grosbeak**, **Pine Siskin**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, and **Northern Waterthrush**.

A **Common Goldeneye** was found at SSP 4/3 (BS). Seventy-seven **Common Mergansers** were at SSP 3/17 (MJ). Six **Ruddy Ducks** were there 4/11 (MJ), as were 15 **Horned Grebes** 4/11 (ES). Three rare **Sandhill Cranes** flew over Britton Hill 3/10 (S&VV). A first county-record **Dunlin** was at SRM 4/12 (LC). Six **Wilson's Snipe** were at SRM 4/7 (MJ). Twenty-six **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 10 **Ring-billed Gulls**, and a **Common Tern** visited SSP 4/21 (MJ). A **Merlin** was at SRM 4/26 (MJ).

A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at SSP 5/1 (TP) and a **Philadelphia Vireo** was there 5/23 (EC). Two **Horned Lark** were at SRM 3/30 (MJ). Thirteen **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found at SRM 4/17 (AS). A **Northern Mockingbird** was at BB 4/8 (AS). Two **Swainson's Thrush** were at Fred Woods Trail 5/31 (JP). Fifteen **American Pipits** stopped at SRM 3/31 (ES). Two late **Red Crossbills** were found at SSP 5/24 (EC) and 15 **Pine Siskins** were there 5/8 (AS).

Two **Vesper Sparrows**, 2 **Savannah Sparrows**, and 8 **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at SRM 4/14, 3/25, 4/21 (MJ). An **Orchard Oriole** was at Sizerville SP 5/6 (L&BP). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at Bucktail Overlook 4/7 (MS). One **Golden-winged Warbler** was at SSP 5/5 (MJ). A **Mourning Warbler** was at Driftwood 5/15 (FM). Three **Cape May Warblers** were at BB 5/9 (AS). Twelve **Northern Parulas** were at SSP 5/23 (EC) and 2 **Pine Warblers** there 5/8 (AS). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Sterling Run 5/4 (MJ).

Observers: **Mark Johnson**, 72 Mason Grove, Driftwood, Pa 15832, 814-546-2886, luckybirder@gmail.com, Evan Coates, Leanne Cooney, Forrest Miller, Lauren and Ben Patt, T. Peterson, Julian Pozzi, Matthew Schenck, Andrew Sidelinger, Bennett Spernak, Eric Stafford, Steve and Valerie VanEerden.

Carbon County -- no report

Centre County

Locations: Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Black Moshannon State Park (BMSP), Colyer Lake (COL), Julian wetland-PennDOT remediation ponds (JUL), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (MMNC), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), State College (STCO), Tofrees pond and State Game Lands 176 (TOF).

There have been changes at some birding spots recently. The Muddy Paws Marsh has been closed to the public, and the Governor Tom Ridge Wetland Preserve has been renamed Soaring Eagle Wetland. There has been activity at the Julian wetland as well. Two ADA-accessible bird blinds and a gravel path have been built along the top of the dike that connects the blinds with the road.

Three rarities – **Virginia Rail**, **Great Egret**, and **Warbling Vireo** – were found in five or more locations and will not be discussed elsewhere. If 5/1 seems to come up a lot, it was the second day of the Shaver's Creek Birding Cup. Information for this report was obtained primarily from eBird and the State College Bird Club listserv with background and status from *Birds of Central Pennsylvania* by Nick Bolgiano and Greg Grove, 2010 (B&G, 2010).

This was an amazing season for major rarities – EIGHT accidental species were observed! I don't recall ever having this many in one report. I have pulled them together here; the rest of the *Centre* report will follow afterward.

In 1956, a **King Rail** was spotted at what is now the MMNC. Another was seen in 1981 in TOF. A third record came in 2009 at the JUL. This spring, the fourth county record took up temporary residence amidst the mown grass and shrubbery of someone's yard in a residential neighborhood in STCO. Initially mis-identified as a Virginia Rail, this year's King Rail had been present for about a week before being photographed and correctly identified 4/13 (KE, CE). Many birders were able to view this bird as it went about "consuming lots of earthworms and seem[ing] very comfortable in its new environment" 4/13-15 (CE).

Two accidental species were shorebirds. A **Marbled Godwit** was spotted foraging at BESP 4/28 (MS). Earlier reports of this accidental species were from 2014 and 2020, both also at the end of April. The 2020 bird was also observed in Howard, next to BESP. **Willetts** have been recorded 12 times. Six of these reports occurred 1947 to 2008, while the remaining ones have been in 2014, 2017, 2018, and 2020. The most recent sighting, a western **Willet**, occurred at BESP 5/5 when one in breeding plumage was spotted (RW *fide* JHo).

Two accidental gulls decided to stop at BESP. A juv. **Little Gull**, the sixth record, was observed 5/5 (JV, et al.). Previous records were from 2012-2014, 2018, and 2020; all were from BESP except 2018, which was from COL. Then on 5/8, a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (CE, KE) was spotted with other gulls on a "spit [where] the gulls like to loaf... [later] all took flight ... and settled out on the lake to roost for the night" (CE). Like the Little Gull, all the Lesser Black-backed Gull observations have been in recent years. This is fifth sighting since 2014, all at BESP. Previous reports include two in 2014 (one 3/16 and one 4/11), 2019, and a fall record in 2020.

An **American White Pelican** held court at BESP 4/16-18 with as many as 80 **Double-crested Cormorants** in attendance (MS et al.). They were also visible from across the lake in Howard, and the "extremely large white bird with ... [its] humongously long thick yellow-orange bill... [made] the cormorants [look] like bathtub toys" (NB). This was the third record for American White Pelican, with the previous observations also at BESP in 2001 and 2019.

The major 2020-2021 winter finch irruption included a **Hoary Redpoll**, which helped its **Common Redpoll** cousins make a serious dent in the bird seed at a feeder in STCO (SB et al.). This bird, the sixth county record, was first reported 12/29/2020 and continued through 3/7/2021. Earlier records include one in 1971 and four separate records in 2013.

Swainson's Warbler in *Centre*? YES! The first ever record was made at BMSP 4/30, and it continued through 5/2 (JP et al.). The only other record from the central region of Pennsylvania occurred about two weeks after the *Centre* bird was documented. For much of the time it was at BMSP, the bird traveled back and forth along a short stretch of wooded lakeshore, mostly staying in the brush at the water's edge. Its rather plain coloration made it difficult to see, even when it moved into shady open places to forage in the leaf litter.

Three **Red-necked Grebes** were observed at BESP 4/17-21 (RK et al.). **Sora** were heard more than seen starting with JUL 4/17-5/1 (JV et al.). One was noted during a Nocturnal Flight Call count in STCO 4/19, and another was present at BESP 4/29-5/6 (AB et al.). A lucky birder at Curtin wetland found 2 on 5/1 (JPo et al.). **Common Gallinules** are casual visitors, so getting two sightings in one season was a treat. The first was on at JUL 5/1 (MR, PI, SL), and the second was at the Haugh Family Preserve 5/11 (RH). Five **Sandhill Cranes** flew over STCO 4/13 (JV). Another bird was spotted at SCO 4/26 (JP, DR). Up to 4 **Dunlins** were found along Tadpole Rd. 5/10 (JV, KE, NSP).

A single **Black Tern** stopped over at BESP 4/21-27 (EZ, KE) and a trio was observed at BMSP 5/9 (L&BP). One laid-back **Red-throated Loon** was spotted 4/7-13 at BMSP (AF et al.). "This bird swam in the lake for three hours.... We never observed it feed or fly. It simply bobbed along in the water and watched the world go by!" (BC). Another was reported at BESP 4/21-29 (EZ et al.). At least one rare **Least Bittern** stalked through the reeds at the BESP Frog Pond 5/5-20 (JHo et al.). A second was noted there 5/9 (RR).

Both **Barn Owl** observations came during Nocturnal Flight Call counts: one at Shamrock 3/15 and the other in STCO 4/14 (JG). A **Snowy Owl** was photographed on the roof of a house in Halfmoon Twp. 4/20 (MM). A couple **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were reported: one at SCO 5/19-24 (TJ) and the other at BMSP 5/30 (RRo). A single **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen "foraging with [a] mixed flock" on Bear Meadows Rd. 5/20 (TJ).

It's spring, so there's a chance of a **Marsh Wren** or four. Birders found one at BESP 5/1 (BS, JC, PS) and another the same day at Curtin wetland (JPo et al.). Another was noted at JUL 5/1-3 (NB, PS, JV). MMNC joined the Marsh Wren club with one 5/13 (JC). A few **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were noted, including at least one recorded in STCO 5/15 during a Nocturnal Flight Call count (JV). Single birds were also present at SCO 5/19 (RRo) and at BMSP 5/26 (RS, JS).

The boreal finch irruption continued from winter with several species, including **Evening Grosbeak**, **Purple Finch**, **Common Redpoll**, and **Pine Siskin**, being reported at five or more locations, as well as the accidental **Hoary Redpoll** mentioned earlier. Crossbills were present as well, with up to 30 **Red Crossbills** recorded 3/15-5/28 at SCO (RRo et al.). Another flock of 20, later identified as Type 10, was observed "foraging in tall pines" at BESP 4/25 (DJM). A single bird flew over the observer off Panther Rd. near Beech Cr. 5/8 (KA). Two **White-winged Crossbills** were noted at SCO 3/16 (RC, JV).

A night-flying **Clay-colored Sparrow** was recorded at a Nocturnal Flight Call station in STCO 5/3 (JG) and a **Henslow's Sparrow** was spotted on Askey Rd. near Snow Shoe 5/23 (JV).

A **Prothonotary Warbler** was heard calling over STCO during a 4/29 Nocturnal Flight Call count (JG). SCO hosted a **Connecticut Warbler** 5/24-27 (T&JK et al.). This is a "very rare migrant in May – not reported most years in spring" (B&G, 2010). A trio of **Mourning Warblers** was observed: one on 5/19 in SGL 333 north of Spring Cr. (AM), another 5/21-31 at SCO (JH, AeB, SD), and a third at BMSP 5/30 (DL). Single **Yellow-throated Warblers** were spotted along Bald Eagle Cr. in Unionville 4/29-5/7 (JV, RF) and in BESP 5/1 (GP, PS).

A **Blue Grosbeak** sang at Penn State's Bathgate water retention pond 5/23 (JG, JV, EZ). This casual visitor was "a brownish first summer male" (JV).

Observers: N. Butkovich, njbutkovich@verizon.net, Kyle Aldinger, Anonymous eBirder (AeB), Susan Braun, Alex Busato, John Carter, Beth Clark, Ron Crandall, Shawn Davis, Carl Engstrom, Kurt Engstrom, Alicia Folk, Roana Fuller, Joe Gyekis, Jordan Hillsley, Ryan Hillsley, Jason Horn (JHo), Pam Illig, Tom Johnson, Rick Koval, Tom & Janet Kuehl, Dan Lanzo, Scott Lewis, Mark McLaughton, D.J. McNeil, Alan Minasi, N. Scott Parkhill, Lauren & Ben Patt, Gregory Pizzano, Julia Plummer, Joshua Potter (JPo), Rich Rehrig, Matthew Rockmore, Ron Rovanske (RRo), Dave Ryan, John Savage, Robyn Savage, Brian Schmoke, Peter Shaver, Michelle Smithbauer, Joe Verica, Rick Wiltraut, Eric Zawatski.

Chester County

Locations: Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), ChesLen Preserve (CLP), Downingtown (DOW), Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens (GH), Great Marsh (GM), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Pickering Creek Trail (PCT), Rushton Farm Banding Station (RFBS), Struble Lake (SL), Waterloo Mills Preserve (WMP)..

A large portion of unusual-to-rare sightings made during the Spring season are comprised of those species that stay late and those that arrive early. Add in the surprises that only migration can generate, and you have a typically rewarding spring! This spring, birds were not the only wonders in the sky as Brood X emerged in May with the sound of "billions" of 17-year cicadas. Videos were "enhanced" with the background clamor of all those insects, while birders played dodgeball with giant kamikaze, red-eyed bugs! Sadly, many reports were made to various agencies and rehabilitators of sick birds, possibly linked to the cicada emergence but as of this writing, no definite cause had been identified.

The shortage of rare goose sightings continued from the winter,

although a **Greater White-fronted Goose** was reported at Anson B. Nixon Park 3/7 (AD, ph). This was the only report submitted to eBird 3/4-11; possibly the bird departed 3/9 when the onset of a big weather warm-up resulted in numerous reports of geese and swans on the move throughout the region. By mid-Mar most of the **Snow Geese** and migrating **Canada Geese** had moved north. **Tundra Swans**, as well, were mostly gone by mid-Mar, but not before an impressive 186 birds were reported from MCSP 3/1 (AB, m.ob.), and 150 from SL (LL) on the same day.

First discovered at MCSP 2/26 (LL, m.ob.), the **Eurasian Wigeon** was again seen 3/2 (CK). Then on 3/5, on Catfish Lane Pond, an infrequently visited pond in the far northern area of the county, the presumed same Eurasian Wigeon was re-located (SS, m.ob.) and remained until 3/9. Interestingly, a second wigeon sp. was photographed at Chambers L. 3/4 (MN). Identification of this bird alternated between the two wigeon species until, in the end, it was determined to go with hybrid. Not rare locally, but who does not enjoy the return of **Wood Duck** to local waters? Woodie sightings increased in early Mar, and other puddle ducks made their appearance across local lakes and ponds. **Redhead** reports out-numbered that of **Canvasback**, continuing the winter trend. High count for Redhead was 18 on MCSP (BD), and for Canvasback a max of 4 also at MCSP was reported 3/8 (RR). One **Long-tailed Duck** was reported from the Black Rock R. Trail 4/12 (WSy, KC) for the only sighting; during the late evening of 3/25, 3-4 long-tailed ducks were identified flying overhead, using NFC methodology (ZB). Per the literature, the call of the long-tailed duck is "very distinctive." To that end, in *Montgomery* on 3/22 a similar report was submitted.

As in winter, there were no reports of Red-necked Grebe. **Horned Grebe** was noted at several locations, with a max. of 8 at MCSP 3/26 (LL). The first report of **Red-breasted Merganser** was made at SL 3/10 (LL), the same day and place that the seasonal high number of **250 Common Merganser** was reported.

Cuckoos of both species, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and **Black-billed Cuckoo**, began showing up at the beginning of May. Numbers of individual birds are relatively low during spring; as summer begins in June, Yellow-billed sightings increase as food sources increase, while Black-billed numbers typically decrease as they depart for breeding grounds in the north. Maintaining its status as the most reliable location in *Chester* for hearing **Eastern Whip-poor-will**, Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens produced the first report 5/8 (MH, CH, MD, BQ, m.ob.).

Virginia Rails are known to nest at two locations: GM, where the first bird was reported 4/11 (MC) with a subsequent max of 7 on 5/11, and at CLP when first report was 4/1 (AB, m.ob.), and then heard, seen and photographed by numerous other birders throughout this period. The earliest report came from Daisy Point Rd Wetland 3/21 of a single bird (SS) that was both heard and seen. One **Sora** was photographed at CLP 4/14 (CH, m.ob.) and last reported 5/13. **American Coots** were in most bodies of water in small numbers. Both Sora and Coot typically continue to breeding grounds in the northwest by mid-May.

The big evening for north bound fly-over shorebirds was 5/25, with reports coming from the expected location of BCP, and another from a personal location near DOW. On the same night, a location in *Montgomery* also reported flocks overhead. **Black-bellied Plover** was reported with 15 from BCP (LL, AG, JH, DB) and 25 from DOW (ZB), while *Montgomery* reported 70. **Whimbrels** numbered 106 at BCP (LL, AG, JH, DB) and 31 from DOW (ZB). Again, *Montgomery* reported 150. In addition, DOW also noted 2 **Red Knots** (ZB). This date of 5/25 was the only day of sightings for these three species. **Semipalmated Plover** reports came from Glenville Farm Pond, with one 5/13 (MGn) and 3 on 5/17 (CH). A single **Dunlin** was found at CLP 5/21 (CL, ph.), and a flock of 200 was over BCP 5/31 (LL). Noteworthy was a report of 102 **Least Sandpipers** at Glenville Farm Pond 5/17 (CH). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was reported from Wilson Rd Pond 5/1 (CH, MD) and **Semipalmated Sandpiper** were seen at several locations mid- to late May.

Of the four known shorebird state breeders, only **Killdeer** and **Spotted Sandpipers** continued to be reported. **American Woodcocks** became nearly non-existent by the beginning of Apr as evening flight calls wound down. No reports of **Wilson's Snipe** were received after mid-May; high counts during the peak were 10 birds at GM 3/24 (SS)

where all flushed as a group, and 7 at CLP 4/1 (AB) where all birds flew into the wetlands together.

Bonaparte's Gulls appeared at larger lakes, with a high of 12 reported from SL 5/10 (LJ). A somewhat unusual observation occurred at Springton Manor Elementary School 5/4 (PD), where one was seen sitting briefly on a lamp post before flying off. At SL on 5/10, a flock of 30 **Laughing Gulls** spent a few minutes circling overhead, calling constantly, "sounding more like Sea Isle City, New Jersey, than *Chester*" (RR). Both black-backed species of gull were noted from larger lakes: one report of a **Great Black-backed Gull** from MCSP 3/1 (CK), and several of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, max of 3 at SL 3/7 (LL, AB).

The season's only **Red-throated Loon** was at SL 4/23-26 (LL, m.ob.). **Common Loon** numbers peaked mid- to late Apr. An **American Bittern** was at CLP 4/18-5/7 (LR, m.ob.). Also at CLP, **Least Bittern** was heard giving its coo-coo-coo call 5/12-24 (m.ob.), although the bird was never observed! On 5/18 (RR, MN), a recording was made that strongly suggested there were 2 birds, but the possibility has not been confirmed. Three reports of a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were made: at PCT 5/3 (CH), at MCSP 5/4 (AB), and at GM 5/6 (SS). An imm. **Yellow-Crowned Night-Heron** was at Kardon Park 5/19 (PG, ph.), representing only the third documented sighting of this species since 2000. Another one-day wader was a **Glossy Ibis**, seen and photographed at Wilson Rd. Pond 5/29 (GTi, LL, ZB).

Springtime **Golden Eagle** sightings are certainly not common, so three were unexpected: an adult near DOW 3/10 (ZB, ph.), a juv. at Laurels Preserve (HMo, ph.), and an adult at Octorara Res. (PM). **Mississippi Kite** sightings continued this year from BCP during the annual Kite and Shorebird Watch. (LL, m.ob.) with 2 birds 5/22 and singles 5/25-26. While not as high as last year's numbers, BCP is the place in *Chester*. Kite sightings were frequently not far away to the south near New Castle, Delaware, with many birds seen feasting on those succulent cicadas. A single **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard near SGL 43 on 3/3 (SS).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from numerous locations, including several home feeders, one that has been coming to a back yard in Avondale since 4/29 and continuing through this period (KS). Reports are scattered from around the county, but Honey Brook area remains a location of many sightings. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at CLP 5/11 (KC, ph.), and a second spent a week at GH starting 5/22 (AC). More birders are using various Apps to make voice recordings to support challenging identifications, none more so than **Alder Flycatcher**. Such was the case for a bird at CLP 5/22-23 (BB, CH, MD, MH). The call of "free-BEER" alerted a group at Bryn-Coed Preserve 5/18 during a "Beginners Birding-by-Ear" walk sponsored by the Valley Forge Audubon Society. A third report came from WMP 5/11 (KFr), the same report that included **Least Flycatcher**, this one calling "che-bek." **Acadian Flycatcher** and **Willow Flycatcher** were also seen during this visit, accounting for four of the five state nesting *Empidonax* flycatchers. There were no reports of the fifth, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, this season. There were five additional reports of Least Flycatcher from the county.

Bank Swallow reports came in during the typical migration period of late Apr to mid-May; observers reported known nesting locations in *Chester*. Small numbers of **Cliff Swallows** have been reported each year, and this year was no exception. With little suitable habitat remaining, CLP is the location for the elusive **Marsh Wren**. The last report was made 5/15, and it seemed unlikely that *Chester* will host nesting birds this year. **Gray-cheeked Thrush** is generally the latest of the spot-breasted thrushes to migrate; a report at MCSP 5/5 was a bit early (AB), followed by a handful of single bird reports. One was caught and banded at RFBS 5/20 (MD).

During winter irruption years, spring migration season is also characterized by the appearance of northern breeders who are returning home from locations to the south, as well as those who wintered in our area. The last two reports of **Evening Grosbeaks** were made in DOW 5/3 (BBr) and at a home feeder 5/6 (DML). With their strong preference for conifers, **Red Crossbills** were found at Nottingham C.P. 4/17, where a male and female were photographed (LH), then a single male was at GH 4/26 (SF, ph.). Widely dispersed **Pine Siskin** were reported into this period and then were gone by mid-May, while the area around

Homestead Road barely held on to **Lapland Longspurs** and **Snow Buntings**. With the remaining snow cover gone by early Mar, these two species departed as well. Final reports were received of a single longspur and 2 buntings 3/1 (RR) and of a single longspur and one bunting 3/3 (JF).

Lincoln's Sparrow was a silent migrant as it passed through our area primarily during the second and third weeks of May with five observations. Two reports were of single birds from SGL 43 on 5/8 (AB) and 5/18 (KC). Two were at Binky Lee Preserve 5/9, with singles at Jenkins Arboretum 5/12 and Ellis Woods 5/15. Another county non-breeding species, although nesting does occur in surrounding counties, is the **Vesper Sparrow**. Earliest bird was photographed at Exton Park 3/2 (JD), while the last report was south of Coatesville 5/3 (BQ).

The overall decline of **Rusty Blackbirds** is well known to birders, and all sightings provide good info for conservation. Sightings in *Chester* were well distributed, but two locations accounted for many of the reports received. A reliable location, "rusties" were first reported at GM 3/7 (JM, m.ob.), up to 20 birds continued through 5/6. Twenty was also the max reported for the species at CLP, first noted 4/1 (AB, m.ob.) and last 5/15. Nearly all reports referenced the birds being seen "on the boardwalk" near the marshy area. The last area sighting of one was made at MCSP 5/18 (BB).

And then there are the warblers. In decline for years due to habitat loss, Brown-headed Cowbird parasitization and Blue-winged Warbler hybridization, **Golden-winged Warbler** sightings are "golden." There were two reports, and only one was visual; one bird was heard giving its characteristic call at SL on 5/9 (LL, AB) and the second provided a Lifer sighting at PCT 5/13 (AD, JK).

Not for many years of eBird data has there been a spring record of **Brewster's Warbler (hybrid)** in *Chester*. This year there were two. Statistically alone, this qualifies as a unique event. One photographed nicely at Ellis Woods Park 4/28 (EH), and the other was a bird captured and banded at RFBS 5/4 (WSh, RGr). It should be noted that there were also two spring reports last year in *Delaware*.

There were two reports of **Prothonotary Warbler**: one heard at Coventry Woods Park 5/21 (CH) and a second seen and photographed along PCT, first discovered 5/14 (JK, m.ob.) and continuing to 5/22. Always a nice find, **Kentucky Warbler** was reported three times, but only seen once; one was heard from WMP 5/5 (KFr) and from Welkenweir 5/12, when a bird was heard by a group of 13, and then at PCT 5/25 (JG, ph.). While you might run into a **Hooded Warbler** "anywhere" away from farmlands, the place to be for a guarantee has been SGL 43. As many as 10 were seen and heard 5/14 (LL, m.ob.). Also facing a severe population decline is **Cerulean Warbler**; a reserve dedicated to protecting the wintering grounds was established in the Andes of Columbia in 2005. Perhaps one bird that benefited from the reserve was heard, then seen, at WMP 5/12 (KFr), the only report. In *Chester* if you want **Yellow-throated Warbler**, go to Kerr Park in DOW. Since 2010, this park along the Brandywine has been the most reliable spot by far. This year, the first report was made 5/1 (JD, m.ob.). Excepting the previously mentioned Kentucky Warbler, there were no other reports of birds in the genus *Oporornis*.

A beautiful male **Summer Tanager** decided to leave its more southern haunts and spend time in southern *Chester*. First noted 5/22 and continuing through this period, it was seen and heard singing vociferously (AC, m.ob.), most often in one of his favorite locations atop a pine tree along the power cut. Oft times he could be heard singing further into the woods. The only **Dickcissel** report came on the next to last day of the period when a bird was heard "singing in the rain" along Wilson Rd 5/30 (KFr).

Observers: **Rick Robinson, 114 Mallard Drive, Coatesville, PA 19320, 610-639-0114, birder18@verizon.net**, Josh Auld, Zach Baer, Adam Bartles, Dorothy Bedford, Debbie Beer, Anne Bekker (ABe), Adrian Binns (ABi), Barry Blust, Bel Broadley (BBr), Sara Busch, Brian Byrnes (BBy), Kayann Cassidy, Brian Chilcote, Evan Coates, Angela Cote, Steve Cottrell, Mike Coulter, John Daniel, Hank Davis, Beth Daugherty, Mike DeFina, Joey Della Penna, Angela Detweiler, Bob Diebold (BDi),

Paul Dietz, Beth Domboski (BDo), Morna Dombach, Alandre Durr (ADu), Ed Edge, Andy Ednie, Jason Fehon, Nikki Flood, Judy Ford (JFr), Steve Fordyce, Kevin Fox, Kevin Fryberger (KFr), Melissa Gallardy, Ross Gallardy, Michael Gardner (MGn), Steve Gautier, Peter Gibb, Josh Graham, Ryan Green (RGr), Al Guarente, Frank Haas, Linda Hamp, Denise Hardtmann, Michael Hartshorne, Katie Henderson, W. Brian Henderson, Jason Horn, Lou Horwitz (LHo), Eric Hughes, Chad Hutchinson, Luc and Theresa Jacobs, Kristen Johnson, Mark Johnson, Lou Jacob, Sheryl Johnson, Jeff Kenney, Rick Keyser, Carol Kuniholm, Larry Lewis, Christian Long, Sandy Lockerman, Dave Luning, Carol Majors, Ron Majors, David McLaughlin, Doris McGovern, Michael McGraw, John McNamara, Carl Mease (CMe), John Mercer, Holly Merker, Patrick Millar, Zach Millen, Jim Moffet, Hudson Moore (HMo), Rob Murray (RMu), Pat Natase, Tony Natase, Michael Niven, Bill Oyler, Liz Pettet, Brian Quindlen, Brian Raicich, Laura Reilly, Timothy Schwartz, Joe Sebastiani, Win Shafer (WSh), Kathy Shattuck, Vince Smith, Tim Sterrett (TSt), Ian Stewart, Scott Stollery, Brian Storey, Wendy Sykora (WSy), George Tallman, Gerry Tieg (GTi), Andy Urquhart, Patty VanLandeghen, Patricia Verbosky, Laura Wagner, Jeff Wahl, Elizabeth Walshe, Chris Weaver, John Werth (JWe), Patty Werth, Ann Williams.

Clarion County

Locations: Beaver Creek Nature Area (BC), Clarion (CL), Curlsville (CV), Foxburg (FB), Kahle Lake (KL), Lucinda (LU), Mount Zion/Piney Tract/State Game Lands 330 (MZ), New Bethlehem (NB), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT), Rimersburg (RI), Sarah Furnace Armstrong Trail (SF).

A late **Tundra Swan** was found at a pond outside of CL 5/5 (ES). A less-common waterfowl, **Blue-winged Teal**, was noted in two areas. At BC, one was found 4/8 (JH) and 4/19 (ES), then 2 were present from 4/23-5/2 (AK, SK, RN, ES). Up to 5 were at nearby KL 4/27-5/4 (BF, JH, ES). **Northern Shoveler** is also less often reported, with just one at BC 3/19 (RN). Only 2 **Northern Pintails** were recorded, near FB on the Allegheny R. 3/5 (ES).

Once again, **Ruffed Grouse** were only noted in one location, a single bird along the RVT near Mayport 5/28 (ES). The only **Common Nighthawk** was seen at dusk calling as it flew over near CV 5/24 (CW). At what has become a regular location for them, 2 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard calling outside Strattanville 5/1 (MH).

Any rails are of note for a county with few wetlands, so the sighting of a **Virginia Rail** at BC is quite noteworthy. It was first found 5/4 (JH) then 2 were seen 5/5 (MHi, RM, LT). Unfortunately there was no definitive reporting after that date. Another species that may likely become a confirmed nester is **Sandhill Crane**, and they were found this season again with 3 seen 4/29-30 in cornfields near Fryburg (JR *vide* ES).

Several great shorebird reports were received, with the first that of **Wilson's Snipe** heard near CV winnowing at dusk in marshy field areas. Two were first noted 4/13 and then just one heard 4/28 (DD, CW). Another bird was also heard nearby on Rankin Rd 4/14 (DD, CW). The most noteworthy species was **Wilson's Phalarope**, with an adult male found at KL 5/2 (RN). This provided the only record at this location and for the county. **Greater Yellowlegs** were found with one near CL 5/5 (ES), 3 at BC 4/26 (ES), and 2 still there 5/2 (RN). **Willetts** were another unusual record for BC, with 8 present 5/2 (RN) and up to 9 birds 5/3 at KL (ES, JS, RS). Both were the first eBird record for this species at these locations. **Lesser Yellowlegs** were also found, with 3 at ponds outside CL 5/2 (ES), and one at KL 5/2 (RN).

A single **Herring Gull** was found lingering at KL 5/6 (ES). At this same location **Caspian Terns** were reported, with a single bird 5/2 (RN), and 2 present 5/3 (ES). **Common Terns** are actually less common than **Forster's Tern**, and both were found this season at KL, with 5 Commons present 5/3 (RS) and at least one seen 5/5 (JS, CW). Forster's were also seen there with at least 3 present 5/5 (JS, CW).

Common Loons were found in good numbers with 20 at KL 5/3 (RS) and a single **Red-throated Loon** there 5/4 (JS). There were more than the usual number of **Great Egrets** reported, with the first being a flyover outside CV 4/7 (CW). One was also seen at ponds outside of CL 4/18

and 5/16 (ES), and one at KL 5/2 (RN). The last report was one lingering a little late into the season along the Allegheny R. near SF 5/27 (OM).

An immature **Golden Eagle** was seen along the Allegheny R. at FB 3/13 (KC). **Northern Harriers** continued to show some decline in numbers. All sightings were just single birds early in the season. A male was near Wolfs Corners 3/5 (T&JK), one near CV 3/6 (ES), and one near LU 4/3 (ES, MS). A new nesting area for **Bald Eagles** was found near Climax on the RVT, with one young in the nest 5/15 (ES). A previously used nest site along the Clarion R. had an adult on the nest 3/3 (CW). At another known nesting site along the Clarion R. near Callensburg, 2 adults were seen 4/9 (ES), but then later reporting noted a female that was injured and removed for rehab, resulting in nesting failure at this site.

Always uncommon, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in a yard in Marianne 5/7-13 (JSw). At a new **American Kestrel** nest box near LU, a female was found on 5 eggs 5/8 (ES). **Merlins** were noted in CL on several occasions 3/24-4/4, and two observers noted a pair with breeding behavior exhibited 4/7 (ES, TS). Breeding confirmation of this species is hopefully possible within the next year or two and would be a first for the county.

White-eyed Vireos were noted more often with the first near CV, a singing male 4/28-5/17 (CW). One was also seen at KL 5/4 (JS), and one along the RVT 5/13 (KP). **Yellow-throated Vireos** have been present in limited habitat areas along the rivers usually, and one was singing at RVT near RI in their typical location 5/20-25 (CW), and 5/31 (ES). One was also found at SF 5/31 (ES).

Common Ravens were again found with fledged young in cliff areas along the RVT near Redbank 5/15 (MHi, RH). **Purple Martins** were found at a new nesting site in Fryburg, first with a likely scout appearing 4/18, then 7 adults being present 5/8 (JR *vide* ES). Another was seen at KL 5/6 (ES). **Cliff Swallows** were nest building at the bridge in NB, with 15 noted 5/15 (ES). **Winter Wrens** have been found more regularly in their few remaining breeding areas, in the older forested hillsides along the waterways north of I-80. In CL along the river they were reported 4/24 and 5/15, and in SGL 63 on 4/18 and 5/2 (TS). One was near Piney Dam 4/29, near Snydersburg 5/9, and 2 seen at a probable nest site in Clear Creek SF at Blyson Run 4/20 (ES). An unusual wren species was a **Marsh Wren**, first spotted at BC 4/23 (AK, SK) and then found again 4/26 (ES).

Gray-cheeked Thrush are less reported in spring usually, and this year one was seen fairly early in migration for this normally late-May migrant. One was heard giving its wiry descending call several times in thick understory at a property near CV 5/5 (CW). **Swainson's Thrush** reports were down this year for unknown reasons. One was reported at the RVT 5/1 (ES) and just 2 more near CV 5/20 (CW).

The northern finch invasion from winter carried over into the spring season, with **Evening Grosbeaks** continuing at one winter location near Leeper through 5/2 (AK, SK) as well as at another nearby site, with an average of 15 through 5/9, and a max of 36 birds 4/25 (MS). Three were also found at SGL 63 on 4/4 (TS), and a single male was at a feeder in RI 4/21 (MM). **Common Redpolls** also continued, though with just one sighting of 55 feeding in a weedy field in CV 3/10 (CW). **Pine Siskins** were found in low numbers at multiple feeders starting 4/6 through April, including at RI, NB, LU, CL, and Knox (ML, MM, ES, MS). At one feeder location near CV, 2 birds were present and singing as late as 5/23, though no further activity indicating breeding was noted after that date (CW).

Grasshopper Sparrows were not reported back on their typical breeding grounds until rather late, with 3 at MZ 5/6 (AB). One was also reported at a new location north of I-80 near Fryburg 5/9 (ES). Their more typical habitat has been in southern *Clarion* in the large grassland areas of old reclaimed strip mines. **Clay-colored Sparrows** had started to take advantage of the aging of these grasslands, as they started to fill in with more autumn olive, honeysuckle, and multiflora rose. Over the last five years though, these numbers have started to decline. Only one sighting was noted for the season: a single at MZ 5/22 (MC, ME). **Henslow's Sparrows** were first heard back at Rankin Rd near CV where 3 were singing at dusk 4/14 (CW). Overall good numbers were present at typical sites for the season, with the exception being at MZ where early into May numbers were reported much lower than normal, particularly in areas

where controlled burns had been completed earlier in the season (PC, MH, ML). By later in the season numbers had increased to the more typical level, especially in areas that had not been burned. Fifteen were singing at the main site of MZ 5/26 (CW).

Another species of the overgrown strip-mine fields is **Yellow-breasted Chat**. They are likely underreported for lack of birders visiting their preferred habitat. One regular breeding location is CV strips area, and they were reported there from 5/20 through May (PF, JH, AM). Another location with good habitat near CV had 2 birds present and singing from 5/5 through May (CW). **Rusty Blackbirds** are not regularly reported anymore, and only a single bird was noted this season, near NB 3/7 (ES).

Several warblers are of note for the season, the first being **Worm-eating Warbler**. In their typical location along the southern border, they were found at SF, with up to 2 seen 5/20 (EN, KN) and 5/31 (KP, ES). Up to 3 were also seen along the RVT starting 5/15 and through the season (MHi, RH, ES, CW). At a location further north than typically found, an apparent pair was seen along Mill Cr. near Fisher 5/12 (MH, LT). **Cerulean Warblers** were seen at CF, where not normally reported, with 2 found 5/22 (m.ob.). At their typical location along the RVT, up to 3 were seen starting 5/2 through the season, lower numbers than typically reported (MHi, RH, ES, CW). They were also seen at SF with 2 reported 5/20 (EN, KN). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was only reported once at its typical breeding area along the RVT, with one singing 4/30 (CW). They were also noted along the Clarion R. further north in CF with one 5/22 (BB, SB, FD), and one in CL during a migratory fallout 5/4 (ES).

Observers: **Carole Winslow**, cjwinslow94@gmail.com, Sarah Boucas-Neto, Bel Broadley, Alex Burdo, Martin Carlin, Paulette Colantonio, Kurt Crosbie, Frances DeMillion, Donald DeWolf, Mary Elsenheimer, Brian Freiwald, Jeffrey Hall, Mal Hays, Margaret Higbee (MHi), Roger Higbee, S. Kaye, Ann Kline, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Mike Leahy, Oscar Miller, Ron Montgomery, Mark Moore, Elizabeth Nicholson, Ken Nicholson, Richard Nugent, Kevin Parsons, Jim Reed, Eric Schill, Mike Schill, Tabassam Shah, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Janet Stewart (JSw), Larry Towse.

Clearfield County

Locations: Curwensville Lake (CL).

Personal communication was supplemented by information from the PABirds listserv and eBird for this report. One **Trumpeter Swan** was photographed at CL 5/3 (JF). Four **Surf Scoters** were at CL 4/11 (JF, JS). Two **Common Gallinules** were at the Philipsburg Wetlands 5/15 (JF, JS) and 5/23 (JS). Although rare throughout the state, **Upland Sandpipers** are regularly on Sandy Ridge Road with one observed 5/7 and 5/15-5/19 (m.ob.). Two **White-rumped Sandpipers** lingered at CL during migration 5/10-12 (JF, DR, JS, BV, NV). As many as 25 **Willetts** were at CL 4/29, 5/3 (JF, JS), which is a very close match for previous, albeit rare, reports in the area.

A **Least Bittern** was at Treasure Lake 5/21 (DR). A **Snowy Egret**, the first recorded in eBird in the County, was along the West Branch of the Susquehanna R. in Curwensville 4/21 (JF, JS). Single migrating **Golden Eagles** were seen at the Karthaus Elk Refuge 3/5 (DG) and the Beaver Meadow Walkway in DuBois 3/16 (DR). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at CL 5/9 (JF, JS). A **Peregrine Falcon** was near Rockton 3/17 (DR).

During this irruption year, **Evening Grosbeaks** continued to be seen throughout the county as late as 5/8 (m.ob.). A flock of **Common Redpolls** visited backyard feeders in Houtzdale 3/4-25 (MB) and one was observed near DuBois 3/22 (MA). A **Red Crossbill** was along Anderson Cr. Road 4/7 (DR). **Pine Siskins** continued to visit feeders through 5/24 including 2 apparent fledglings seen near DuBois (MA). A **Clay-Colored Sparrow** was seen along Yoder Road (JF). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at the Curwensville Tannery Ponds 5/12 (JF).

Observers: **Diane K. Bierly**, 143 W. Lytle Ave., State College, PA 16801, (814) 238-8183, dkb246@usa.net, Marianne Atkinson, Mary

Ann Belin, Ann Duey, Kurt Engstrom, John Forcey, Doug Graham, Holly Kleindienst, George Kleindienst, Sue-Ann Krupa, Tom Johnson, Ronnie Phillips, Dan Richards, Jerod Skebo, Kira Smith, Bill Voris, Nick Voris, Cathy Youcheff.

Clinton County

Locations: Central Mountain High School (CMHS), Lock Haven (LH), Mill Hall (MH), Woolrich (WR).

Northern Shovelers were observed at LH on the Susquehanna R. in Mar (m.ob.). A pair of **Black Scoters** was seen at Kettle Creek SP 3/22 (SL). A **Virginia Rail** was at the MH wetlands on 5/19 (MS) and 5/24 (TS). Another was found at the CMHS wetlands 5/24 (CH, ChH). A **Sora** was found at the MH wetlands 5/5 (CH, ChH) and another in wetlands west of LH 5/7 (MS, SS). A flock of 9 **Long-billed Dowitchers**, a first county record, was discovered at the CMHS wetlands 5/2 (CH, ChH, m.ob.). They were one-day wonders. A **Caspian Tern** was near Lamar 4/18 (RK, WK).

American Bitterns were reported at Fishers-Glen Union 4/23 (DF) and north of LH 5/6 (MS). For the second straight year, a **Least Bittern** was at the MH wetlands 5/29 (BS). The returning pair of **Ospreys** nested on the same cell tower in MH. Another active nest was reported in Beech Cr. on another cell tower (RH). A worker at the site said that this is the fifth year for this nest. If accurate, it may predate MH as a county-first nesting record.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were at feeders at WR 5/5-9 (RF) and at Mill Hall 4/19-27 (TS) and again 5/7-9 (BF). **Evening Grosbeaks** continued at a hunting camp in West Keating through Mar (PG). They were also seen in Loganton 3/8 and 3/17 (TS), at feeders in WR 3/11-5/8 (CH, ChH, RF), at feeders in Swisssdale 4/22-29 (EB, DB, RF, WL), and at McElhattan Res. 4/11 (BS). A **Common Redpoll** visited feeders in WR 3/31-4/2 (CH). One **White-winged Crossbill** was at the same feeders 4/12-16 (C&CH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found near Hyner 4/24 (DF).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher**, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, 570-748-7511, wmlaubscher@comcast.net. Elaine Barth, Dan Brauning, Dave Ferry, Brandon Forsythe, Richard Fultz, Polly Graybill, Carol Hildebrand, Charles Hildebrand (ChH), Rick Houseknecht, Rick Koval, Wendy Koval, Sarah Lindgren, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck, Brian Schmoke, Tom Shervinskie.

Columbia County

Locations: Catawissa (CATA), Weiser State Forest (WSF),

Spring was overall typical for the region. Good migration conditions allowed many birds to overfly the county so rare sightings were limited. While **Red-Headed Woodpeckers** are common in neighboring counties, few are reported in *Columbia*. This season's only report was a single adult seen along Gaswell Road near CATA 5/9 (AF). The species has been reported in nearby areas so there could be a chance that they are breeding here.

Merlins were reported in several locations. One was observed displaying at Bloomsburg Town Park 3/11 (AK). They most likely nested in the park this year. Single birds were reported twice in CATA, on 5/9 and 5/17 (JS).

Acadian Flycatchers were abundant at WSF this season. A total of 3 were reported 5/17 (KP), and singles were seen 5/21 and 5/31 (SB). Probably the highlight of the season was the report of one northbound **Evening Grosbeak** at a feeder in the Town of Bloomsburg (Anon.). Warbler highlights included one **Golden-winged Warbler** at WSF 5/15 (SB) and 3 **Blue-winged warblers** there 5/21 (SB).

Observers: **Andy Keister**, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com, Sue Bolstrum, Aiden Fisher, Karol Pasquinelli, John Slotterback.

Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Lake (CL); Conneaut Marsh: Custards (CUS), Geneva Marsh (GEN), McMichael Road (MMR); Meadville (MDV); Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology Housing Site (LAB); Pymatuning State Park (PSP): Hartstown Project (HP), Jamestown Campground (JC), Miller's Ponds (MP), Spillway (SPL), Tuttle Beach/Manning Boat Launch (TBM).

Observations of **Snow Geese** included 35 birds, 25 in blue phase, seen in the Hickernell area 3/6 (CN, AT), 2 in the same area 3/7 (MAK, GK), and 38 at MP 3/7 (KA). Five **Greater White-fronted Geese** flew over Pymatuning Waterfowl Management Area 3/10 (RL). A **Cackling Goose** was at MP 3/8 (KA, NA, AL). **Mute Swans** were seen throughout the county (m.ob.). **Trumpeter Swans** included up to 2 seen at CUS 3/20-31 (m.ob.), 3 at HP 3/27 (DF), one at Erie NWR 4/4 (BW), 4/11 (JHe), 4/28, 5/2 and 5/24 (RE), and again at GEN 4/16 (DY). Notable high counts of **Tundra Swan** included 580 at PSP's Nature Center 3/7 (MAK, GK) and 300 at PSP's Espyville Marina on the same date (MAK, GK).

Due to the presence of Pymatuning and Conneaut Lakes, as well as the extensive Conneaut Marsh area, spring waterfowl migration has been notable. Early reports of **Blue-winged Teal** included 4 at MP 4/3 (ME). **Gadwall** included a high count of 184 in the Pymatuning area 3/20 (RL) and 5 at MP 5/5 and 5/6 (JM, CN, MW), 2 in the same location 5/8-5/12 (m.ob.), and 2 at HP 5/12 (GH). Observations of **Eurasian Wigeon** included one seen at HP 3/9 (KN) and a well-observed Wigeon which stayed for a week at CUS 3/20-3/27 (m.ob.). A high count of 200 **American Wigeons** was at MMR 3/7 (MAK, GK). **American Black Ducks** appeared as usual (m.ob.). A high count of 300 **Northern Pintails** were at MMR 3/7 (MAK, GK). Late observations of **Green-winged Teal** included one seen at MP 5/6 (JM, MW) and 5/8 (CA, KA, NA).

A high count of 350 **Canvasbacks** was at CL 3/10 (RL). **Redheads** included a high count of 555 at CL 3/10 (RL); one was at SPL 5/14 (KZ, RZ), notably late. Six hundred **Ring-necked Ducks** were at CL 3/10 (RL). A **White-winged Scoter** was at Woodcock L. 3/3 (RL). **Long-tailed Duck** included one at PSP's Causeway 3/8 (EH), one at CL 3/9 (RL), 6 at TBM 3/20 (MH), 2 at SPL 3/20 (FM), and up to 12 at Woodcock L. 4/6-7 (JHe, AL, BM, TN, KP). Notable counts of **Bufflehead** included 100 at CL 3/14 (JHe, WH) and 100 at Woodcock L. 4/18 (JHe). A **Red-breasted Merganser** high count was 500 at PSP's Livingston Road Boat Launch 3/12 (EH) and a late individual at SPL 5/17 (TBU). About 360 **Ruddy Ducks** were at SPL 4/20 (CG).

Ruffed Grouse were primarily in the eastern half of *Crawford* in significantly higher frequency and numbers than average for the last five years (m.ob.). A **Red-necked Grebe** was at CUS 4/23 (RL). There was a higher-than-average number of **Black-billed Cuckoo** observations this season (m.ob.); notable counts included 8 at SGL 146 on 5/19 (JHe) and 4 at SGL 101 on 5/20 (NGB, JHe, KWs). **Common Nighthawks** with a long-term decline in frequency here, included one in the Conneautville area 5/12 (GH), one at MMR 5/20 (RHi, MHi, LW), one in the MDV area 5/20 (KPi), 4 at SGL 122 on 5/22 (AL), and one at SGL 214 on 5/23 (EH).

A **King Rail**, seen here in previous years, was heard at GEN 5/7 (SSm), 5/14 (MW), and 5/15 (RT). **Virginia Rail**, **Sora**, and **Common Gallinule** were in their expected numbers, breeding locations, and dates (m.ob.). Common Gallinule included an early one at CUS 3/27 (RN), and a notable count of 7 at the same location 5/13 (KSp). A good count of 250 **American Coots** were at CL 3/14 (JHe, WH). **Sandhill Cranes** were reported as expected (m.ob.) with a high count of 47 at GEN 4/16 (DY).

A **Black-bellied Plover** and an **American Golden-Plover** were each seen at the same location and dates as before. The Black-bellied Plover was at MP 5/15 (RT), 5/17 (MW), and 5/18 (JMc). The American Golden-Plover was at the same location 5/15 (DK), 5/17 (MW), and 5/18 (CN). **Upland Sandpipers** were as expected in numbers and breeding locations in the Pymatuning area (m.ob.). A **Least Sandpiper** was observed at MP 4/21-22 (MHo, CN), a slightly early date. An early **Pectoral Sandpiper** was observed at MP 3/29 (NH, AL, MF) and 3/30 (MW). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** included 2 at MP 4/22 (CN), an early date, and a good count of 20 at the same location 5/15 (RT). All

observations of **Short-billed Dowitcher** were at MP, including 8 birds 4/15 (CN), 2 on 5/15 (RL), and one on 5/17 (m.ob.). A good count of 12 **American Woodcocks** were at Woodcock L.'s Abandoned Road Trail 3/24 (TN, KP). At least 30 **Wilson's Snipe** were flushed from a field in the Cambridge Springs area 4/20 (KZ). **Lesser Yellowlegs** included one at MP 3/20 (MH, AL, FM) and 2 there 3/21 (JGI, JHa, MAK, GK, SW), slightly early dates. Six **Willetts** were in a large puddle in a farm field off Rte. 99 south of Edinboro 5/2 (JN, KZ, RZ). **Greater Yellowlegs** at MP, a reliable staging ground for these birds during spring migration, included one seen 3/13-14 (ReH, WHa, JHe, SM), a high count of 90 on 4/21 (MW), and a late bird 5/30 (MH). **Wilson's Phalarope** observations included one at MP 5/12 (ES, DY) and 2 there 5/16-17 (PF, MW).

The only **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at TBM 3/20 (MH). A **Great Black-backed Gull** was at PSP's Causeway 3/20 (RL). Observations of **Common Terns** included up to 3 at LAB 5/11 (ES, DY) and one at SPL 5/15 (DK, KSa, RT, MV). **Forster's Terns** included 25 over Woodcock L. 4/7 (JHe), 12 at SGL 122 on 4/11 (NGB, KWs), and 10 at LAB 5/11 (DY). A **Red-throated Loon** was at JC 3/20 (RL). Notable counts of **Double-crested Cormorant** included 400 at SPL 4/20 (CG) and 350 at the same location 4/23 (RL). **American Bittern** reports included one at CUS 5/9 (RHa), one at SGL 214 on 5/14 (MW), and one at PSP's Railroad Grade 5/5/22 (KW). **Least Bitterns** were in their usual locations and frequencies (m.ob.). A **Great Egret** appeared at SPL 3/27 (KSJ), which was an early date.

A **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen at SGL 69 on 4/9 (AL), a slightly early date. **Rough-legged Hawks** included single birds seen at MP 3/2 (EH), 3/7 (KA), and 4/3 (RL). A **Golden Eagle** was flying over MP 4/19 (RL). Notable owl observations included a single **Snowy Owl** in northern *Crawford*, south of Edinboro 3/2 (JHi, SW), and multiple observations of **Short-eared Owls**, including one at MPP 3/2 (CA, KA) and one at Tamarack L. 3/17 (RL).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed as expected, primarily in the Pymatuning and Conneaut Marsh areas (m.ob.); 6 were seen at JC 4/11 (MG). **Merlins** were also as expected, primarily in the MDV area (m.ob.). **Peregrine Falcons** included one at CUS 3/29 (NH), one at SGL 213 on 4/27 (AL, ESc, DY), and one at Woodcock Cr. Park's Dam 4/28 (TN). **Olive-sided Flycatchers** included one at SGL 214 on 5/14 (RN) and 5/19 (MW), and one at SGL 122 on 5/16 (AL).

A **Northern Shrike** was at SGL 213 on 3/12 (IF, SR). **White-eyed Vireos** were as expected (m.ob.). The only **Philadelphia Vireo** was one at GEN 5/4 (AL) and one at a private location in the MDV area 5/18 (RL). **Common Raven** continues to be observed in higher than historically normal numbers (m.ob.). These observations have typically been in the eastern half of *Crawford*, but there were several observations this season from the western half, especially in the Pymatuning area (m.ob.). **Horned Larks** were as expected (m.ob.). A **Purple Martin** seen at CL on the early date of 3/29 (NH). A high count of 200 **Barn Swallow** were at SGL 214 on 5/10 (MW).

Six **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were in the Centerville area 5/31 (AL), late for this species. A **House Wren** at SGL 200 4/12 (AL) was early. **Winter Wrens** were as expected (m.ob.). A **Sedge Wren** was heard singing at MMR 5/13 (JHe), 5/20 (AnM), 5/21 (SBu, JHo), and 5/24 (MW). **Marsh Wrens** were also as expected (m.ob.). A **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at SGL 200 4/6 (AL) was early.

Observations of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, a scarce spring migrant, included one seen in the Centerville area 5/13 (SF, NR) and one at SGL 214 on 5/23 (EH). A single early **Hermit Thrush** was at MDV's Lincoln Avenue Park 3/26 (BW). Observations of **Northern Mockingbird** continue to increase in *Crawford*, particularly in the southern Pymatuning area (m.ob.). A high count of 4 birds were seen in the Adamsville area 3/27 (MW) and 4/10 (TN, KP). High counts of **American Pipits** included 45 birds in the Centerville area 4/3 (TN, KP) and 50 in the Erie NWR-Sugar L. area 4/28 (RE).

The irruption of **Evening Grosbeak**, **Common Redpoll**, **Purple Finch** and **Pine Siskin** from the fall and winter seasons continued into early spring (m.ob.), while birds seen later in spring seemed to represent birds migrating north. Evening Grosbeaks included one at SGL 200 on 4/19 (AL) and one in the Candahota L. area 5/8-5/9 (MB). At least 100 Common Redpolls were at JC 3/7 (KA, SC). Two Pine Siskins observed

at feeders at a private location in the MDV area 5/23 (KPi) represented a particularly late date for this species.

Two **American Tree Sparrows** were late at MP 4/25 (CA, KA, NA), as was a **Field Sparrow** at MP 3/12 (EH). **Vesper Sparrow** reports were of one north of Titusville 4/1 (EN, KN), one in the Centerville area 4/2 (AL), and one at Erie NWR 4/18 (RE). **Grasshopper Sparrows** have increased recently with one at HP 4/24 (DS), one at SGL 214 on 5/12 (MW) and 5/26 (JHe, BM, DSu, MW), one at MP 5/15 (PF), 2 there on 5/16 (PF), and one at PSP's Wilson Road 5/30 (MH). A **Fox Sparrow** was at SGL 122 slightly late on 4/25 (AL). **Lincoln's Sparrows** included single birds at MDV's Lincoln Avenue Park 5/14 (BW), at MMR 5/13 (MG), in the Venango area 5/16 (WDDG), and at SGL 122 on 5/16 (AL).

Notable high counts of **Bobolink** included 25 seen at HP 5/12 (GH) and 20 at MP 5/17 (CA, KA, NA). **Orchard Orioles** were as expected (m.ob.), as were **Rusty Blackbirds** with a good count of 150 at CUS 3/27 (TN).

A **Worm-eating Warbler** was at MDV's Ernst Bike Trail 5/6 (IF). **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were as expected (m.ob.). Eight **Northern Waterthrushes** were at SGL 122 on 5/9 (AL). **Golden-winged Warbler** observations were of a single bird at MDV's Ernst Bike Trail 5/6 (IF), one off Price Road in the Saegertown area 5/11 (SF, NR) and one at Woodcock Cr. Park's Dam 5/19 (KPi) are especially notable. A **Brewster's Warbler** was seen at SGL 122 on 5/8 (AL). **Prothonotary Warbler** is a notable breeding bird here. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at MDV's Greendale Cemetery 5/4 (JHe). **Mourning Warblers** were as expected (m.ob.). A **Kentucky Warbler** was off Hilltop Road in the Springboro area 5/27 (HC, CN), where it was seen last summer. **Cerulean Warblers** included 7 in the Centerville area 5/13 (NR, SF) and 8 at SGL 101 on 5/20 (NGB, JHe, KWs). A high count of 5 **Canada Warblers** were at SGL 122 on 5/8-9 (AL). The only observation of a **Wilson's Warbler** was at MDV's Lincoln Avenue Park 5/11 (TN). A single **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** reported at a feeder along Tower Road in northern *Crawford* on 3/23 (CN) represented a remarkably early date in the state.

Observers: **Rob Hodgson, 709 Aiden Street, Meadville, PA 16335, (515) 708-0603, robhodgson888@gmail.com**, Tina Alianiello, Casey Andersen, KM Andersen, Nancy Andersen, Chelsea Beck, Mitzi Beckwith, Corey Bellis (CBI), Rebecca Biddle, Theo Bockhorst, Denise Bradt, Susan Braun, Dan Brauning (DBn), Jeff Brinker, Dave Brooke (DBo), Judy Brunner (JBU), Benjamin Bullock, Thomas Buehl Jr. (TBU), Ron Burkert, Sarah Busch, John Campbell, Martin Carlin, Henry Chupp, Shawn Collins, Becky Costello, Julie Cursi (JCU), Michael David, Patti Day, Karyn Delaney, W. Dwayne DeGrande, Jeffrey Denale, Sandy Diehl, Rich Eakin, Mary Eyman, Mike Fialkovich, Isaac Field, Patience Fisher, Donna Foyle, Brain Friewald, Shaina Frye, Chuck Gehringer, Jayme Glover, Noah Goodwin-Bain, S Gormley, Michael Gould, Alice Griffin, Barbara Griffith, John Griffith, Eric Hall, Jeffrey Hall, Nathan Hall, Ryan Hamilton, Mark Hanneman, Will Harrod, Robert Hard, Rebecca Hart, Josh Heiser (JHe), Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Geoff Hill, James Hill III (JHI), MiMi Hoffmaster (MHo), Jason Horn (JHo), Julie Jansen, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Chad Kauffman, Noah Kauffman, S Kaye, Michelle Kienholz, Linda Kim, David Kirk (DKi), Ann Kline, Ken Knapp, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Robert Krajieski, Sabine Kretschmar (SKr), Ron Leberman, Michael Leonard, Judy Lesso, Alejandra Lewandowski, Ken Limmer, Patrick Lister, Ella Luney, Alan MacEachren, Steve Manns, Andrew Markel (AMr), Jim McConnor, Flo McGuire, Daniel Mendenhall, Zach Millen, Brian Miller, Joseph Miller (JMI), Loretta Mooney, Ray Morris, Elizabeth Nicholson, Ken Nicholson, Claire Nicolls, Oscar Nigam, Jesse Nolt, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Richard Nugent, Elizabeth Pagel-Hogan, Kevin Parsons, Candace Patsy, Jason Petersheim, Ken Pinnow (KPi), Tom Pinter, Aidan Place, Nancy Ransom, Rich Rehg, Steve Rotkovecz, Steve Sanford, Kathy Saunders, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck (SSk), Eric Schill, Steve Schmidt (SSm), Robert Scribner, Jeremy Sheehan, Eli Smith (ESm), Phoenix Snook, K Springer (KSp), Kate St. John, Goran Stankovic, Claire Staples, Derek Stoner, Danielle Studer (DSu), Travis Suckow, Gavin Svenson (GSv), Linda Szczepanski, Ryan Tomazin, Brad Trescott, Adam Troyer, Mark Vass, Linda Wagner, Paul Warona, Edward Weller,

Katie Wickert, Bill Wilkinson, Michael Williams, Suzanne Winterberger, Kate Wise (KW), Chris Witherow, David Yearny II, Eric Zawatski, Brian Zimmerman, Kendall Zook, Regina Zook.

Cumberland County

Locations: State Game Lands 169 - Cabin Road (CR), Creekview Road Marsh (CRM), King's Gap State Park (KGSP), Mechanicsburg (MECH), Michaux State Forest (MSF), Mud Level Road (MLR), Opossum Lake (OL), State Game Lands 169 - Mountain Road Marsh (MRM).

There were 215 species reported. While passerine migration was rather slow in May, continuing irruptive winter species and a few brief rarity sightings still provided interesting records for the season. Unless otherwise stated, occurrences and the number of prior occurrences of the species listed in this report are according to eBird records and "Annotated List of Cumberland County Birds" (Pennsylvania Birds 30:138-147, V. Gauthier, 2016). It should also be noted that there may be current and historical sightings for *Cumberland* listed on eBird from the Susquehanna R. that may be possible to list on this report but, without clear documentation otherwise, they are considered to have occurred in *Dauphin* since the county line is the west shoreline of the river.

Trumpeter Swans returned this year to nest at CRM. Incubation began 4/22, and 6 eggs were counted in the nest 5/15 (MB, DK). Two cygnets hatched 5/29 (BK) and the third and last cygnet hatched 5/30 (DK). An additional pair of Trumpeter Swans was reported 5/28 from the propagation ponds at SGL 169 and apparently had been there a matter of weeks but did not appear to be nesting (SB). Likely the same pair was also noted just outside SGL 169 on 5/19 (JM).

Canvasbacks made a few appearances in Mar, including up to 2 at the Brackbill Boulevard Pond 3/2-3/7 (IG et al.). A rain system brought an exceptional 49 **Red-breasted Mergansers** to OL 3/28 for a new *Cumberland* high count (TJ, VG). A **Eurasian-collared Dove** took up residence only in downtown Shippensburg 4/26 through the remainder of the season (CP, RP).

One **Virginia Rail** was at MRM 5/3 (DW), as well as up to 2 at CR 4/27 and 5/3 (CP, RP). A **Sora** was also found at CR 5/11 (SK). Both species were in small numbers the second half of the season at CRM where they have nested in the past (m.ob.). An injured **Common Gallinule** was found in a yard in Carlisle 5/4 following overnight rain (*vide* CH). **American Coot** had a better spring than last year with sightings in several locations. Notable was one seen sporadically at CRM 5/5-31 (TJ, DK et al.). A single **Sandhill Crane** was found at MRM 5/4 (CP). Typically, this species is found roughly once annually in spring.

It was slow again for shorebirds as there was insufficient rain for shorebird habitat most of the season. The only species of note was **Black-bellied Plover** with 2 at MLR 5/5 following periods of rain (CP, m.ob.). A rainy day brought the only report of the season for **Caspian Tern** with a single bird found at OL 4/11 (MI). **American Bittern** was found at a few of its usual locations this year including 2 at the main pond at Huntsdale 5/13-14 (DW, PB). A **Glossy Ibis**, less than annual in *Cumberland*, made a brief appearance at MRM 5/3 (DB, SB, StB et al.). A sub-adult **Mississippi Kite** was seen in flight from a yard in MECH 5/31 (IG). Although one was also found last year, this represented just the fifth record for *Cumberland*.

Long-eared Owl and **Short-eared Owl** continued in the Plainfield area in Mar. Possible courtship behavior between 2 Long-eared Owls was observed in late Feb, providing some hope that they would nest here. The landowner inadvertently found their roost with 3 birds 3/16, including 2 in a thicket and one sitting on a nest in a deciduous tree. However, it is thought that this nest was perhaps too small to support these owls and may have been used for roosting only. A follow-up visit by the landowner in early May yielded no owls and no signs of recent activity at the roost. The last Long-eared Owl sighting was 3/27 (KJ), and the Short-eared Owl was last seen 3/29 (TJ).

Single **Oliver-sided Flycatchers** were found along Mountain Road south of Mt. Holly Springs 5/16 (SK), at SGL 230 on 5/16 and 5/27 (TC,

RK, AM, TA), and Elk Hill Road 5/24 (DB, SB, StB). A **Marsh Wren** was at the main pond at Huntsdale 4/16 (VG). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was detected by nocturnal flight call in MECH 5/9 (IG), one was seen at Winding Hills Nature Trail 5/20 (BM, EP), another at KGSP 5/22 (CP), and another heard singing along Furnace Hollow Road in MSF 5/23 (TJ).

Evening Grosbeak appeared in a couple yards with one in Mt. Holly Springs 5/11 (AD), and another in Camp Hill 5/12 (KS). A **Common Redpoll** was in both *Perry* and *Cumberland* counties at Miller's Gap 3/2 (IG), and 3 were along the White Rock Trail 3/21 (KM). Up to 9 **White-winged Crossbills** and 12 **Red Crossbills** were present at Camp Michaux 3/11-23 (CP, m.ob.), and one Red Crossbill was there again 5/17 (MC). Red Crossbills were also found at KGSP with 15 on 4/30 and 5 on 5/22 (CP), and up to 7 at SGL 230 on 5/4 and 5/6 (KJ, DB). **Pine Siskin** was widely reported most of the season with a high count of 30 in the White Rock Acres neighborhood 4/26 (RS).

After a good showing in winter, **Lapland Longspur** made a few appearances this season including 2 stragglers at Gephart Road near Shippensburg 4/9 (CP). An uncommon spring migrant, single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at SGL 230 from 5/8-17 (TA, IG et al.), along Ridge Road in MSF 5/16 (VG), and at KGSP 5/25 (RP).

In an otherwise slow spring for warblers, SGL 230 hosted the best warbler variety for the county including a few rarities. These included **Mourning Warbler** with singles intermittently 5/4-5/24 (m.ob.), up to 2 **Golden-winged Warblers** 5/9-5/14 (m.ob.), and a hybrid **Brewster's Warbler** 5/11 (SK). Another Brewster's Warbler was at a private residence a couple miles east of the game lands 5/10 (PL), though this species has not been found at its former territory in West Fairview in a couple years. **Yellow-throated Warbler** was still found as a migrant with one at MRM 4/19 (SB). It was a good spring for **Prothonotary Warbler** with multiple territories established. However, more notable was their early push into the county with sightings at six separate locations in Apr, including the first along the Big Spring 4/21 (VG). There were only 2 previous Apr records for this species in *Cumberland*. **Wilson's Warbler** made just two appearances, with singles at SGL 169 on 5/10 (TC, RK) and Letort Spring Nature Trail 5/12 and 5/15 (KJ, TJ, DB).

One of the best finds of the season was a second-year male **Summer Tanager** photographed in MECH 5/8 (VS). This was the first report of this species for *Cumberland* since May 2017. **Dickcissel** returned this year to Clover Hill Road near Newburg with one bird 5/7 (BK), yet more unusual was another visiting a feeder in the MECH area 3/3-19 (MS).

Observers: **Tim Johnson, 334 Greason Road, Carlisle, PA 17015, (717) 409-4805, tj359@sbcglobal.net**, Tony Arnold, Paul Banks Jr., Doris Brookens, Scott Brookens, Steve Brookens (StB), Marcus Burkholder, Troy Corman, Missy Cutchall, Andrew Dapkins, Vern Gauthier, Ian Gardner, Colleen Hertzler, Michael Illo, Karena Johnson, Stefan Karkuff, Dave Kerr, Bob Koontz, Ramsay Koury, Peter Lusardi, Annette Matthes, Brett Matlock, Kevin Mock, Jennifer Moore, Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne, Em Purinton, Maria Seitz, Karen Smith, Vicki Snyder, Roger Stone, Don Weidemann.

Dauphin County

Locations: Harrisburg (HBG), Rachel Carson State Office Building (RCSOB), State Game Lands 290-Haldeman Island (HI), Susquehanna River Heritage Park (SRHP), Susquehanna River West Fairview (SRWF), Weiser State Forest (WSF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

The Susquehanna River has always been of major importance for migrating and nesting waterfowl. This season there were 30 species of waterfowl documented on the river. This included a **Cackling Goose** at SGL 290's HI 3/20 (OB), a photographed **Eurasian Wigeon** at SGL 290's HI 5/8 (SB, StB, AB), a photographed **White-winged Scoter** with 5 young at SRHP 4/29 (SS), and a photographed **Long-tailed Duck** at SRWF 4/15 (BM). Adding to these was observation of a large raft of 54 **Ruddy Ducks** at SRWF 5/10 (TC, RK).

Ruffed Grouse were seen and heard drumming this spring in three locations at SGL 211: on 4/4 (ZR), 5/12 (AB), 5/13 (IG, ZR), and 5/16

(ZR). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were first heard in WSF 5/4 (AB). There were several uncommon marsh bird sightings. **Virginia Rails** were seen at Fort Indiantown Gap's west corridor 4/28 (JD, CH, CT) and on HI 5/8 (SB, StB, AB). A **Sora** was observed at WL 5/11 (P&RW) and 5/16 (SS). A **Common Gallinule** was also spotted at WL 5/10-22 (m.ob.). A flock of 13 **Sandhill Cranes** were seen in a flyover at SGL 211 on 4/7 (SB, StB), and a **Black-necked Stilt** was photographed and observed at WL 5/18 (m.ob.). Reported only three times since 2013 was a **Black-bellied Plover** at HI 5/27 (SB, StB).

The first **Great Egret** seen in *Dauphin* was at WL 3/9 (EC) and a lone **Snowy Egret** was seen at HI 5/21 (SB, StB). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** continued to nest at HBG's Second Street from Calder to Seneca Streets in uptown residential HBG with the first report 4/7 (IG).

Ospreys nested again on one of the cell towers along Industrial Road near WL, and it was suspected that the female was sitting on eggs (LI, S&GL) at the end of this reporting period. Two nests were active along the Susquehanna R. near Steelton 3/22 (EC) with no confirmation of young at the end of May. A **Golden Eagle** was spotted at Cummings Swamp-Millersburg 4/8 (SB, StB). The **Bald Eagle** pair who built a nest along Swatara Cr.'s Boathouse Road in Hershey produced 3 young again this year (BH, S&GL), but the high winds of 4/29 destroyed the nest and all 3 nestlings perished.

The **Peregrine Falcons** at RCSOB in HBG produced 4 young but only 3 were ready to fledge at the end of May, according to the Dept. of Environmental Protection's Falcon Wire (AM,). No confirmation could be made of any breeding success at the Clark's Ferry Bridge site (SB, StB, S&GL). A lone juvenile **Peregrine Falcon** was photographed at HSC in Hershey 5/26 (TB), confirming breeding had occurred this year at this site.

Dramatic events occurred this spring at the **Peregrine Falcon** nest site at the RCSOB in downtown Harrisburg, as reported by the Dept. of Environmental Protection's Falcon Wire. The 18-year-old male was challenged, as he had been the year before, and was ultimately defeated by a 4-year-old that had been sighted during the winter months. The elder Peregrine was found deceased 3/15 (AM) from an apparent collision with a building. In his lifetime, the male fathered 54 chicks, many of these now producing young of their own.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen in WSF 5/28 (SS), and an **Alder Flycatcher** was in SGL 211's Ibberson Conservation Area 5/30 (TJ). All six species of vireos were seen in migration including a **Philadelphia Vireo** heard and seen near Halifax 5/11 (AB). Four species of thrushes were seen including a view of a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** in SGL 211 on 5/16 (ZR). An **Evening Grosbeak** appeared at a feeder in the Halifax area 4/30 (SB, StB, AB), and a **Harris's Sparrow** made a brief stop at a home feeder in HBG 5/13 (R&PP).

Warblers were well represented with 33 species documented during the migration season. This includes a **Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler** hybrid seen on the Stoney Creek Powerline Cut 5/24 (SS) and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** observed at SGL 246 on 4/21 (DH).

Observers: **Sandy Lockerman, 3830 Lexington Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109, (717) 329-8040, sandylockerman@yahoo.com**, Tim Becker, Scott Bills, Stephanie Bills (StB), Oliver Bracko, Andy Brought, Ed Chubb, Troy Corman, Jarrod Derr, Ian Gardner, Christopher Hauer, Bob Hench, Deaune Hoffman, Larry Imes, Tom Johnson, Ramsey Koury, Sandy and Gary Lockerman, Barbara Matthews, Art McMorris, Rick & Peggy Price, Zach Richard, Steve Schmit, Cassidy Titus, Patricia & Richard Williams.

Delaware County

Locations: Chester Park (CP), Crum Creek Reservoir (CCR), Crum Woods (CW), Delaware River/Hog Island Rd (DRHIR), Governor Printz Park (GPZ), Houston Park (HP), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Little Tincum Island (LTI), Marcus Hook (MH), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Ridley Township Marina (RTM), Springton Reservoir (SR), Taylor Memorial Arboretum (TMA).

March temperatures averaged about 4° above normal. April was dry. The first winds conducive to migration began 4/27 as high winds ended April and ushered in May, followed by a push of migrants 5/1-2. Rain was next to nothing until the spotty deluges at the end of May from several rounds of storms beginning 5/26, but overall precipitation continued below normal.

Early Mar saw modest movements of **Snow Geese** and a lone bird lingered at MH through 5/5 (AG). A dozen **Tundra Swans** flying upriver DRHIR 5/25 were late (AG), otherwise there were fewer reports than usual with only 2 at MH 3/7 (MM).

The recent trend of increased numbers of duck reports in Mar continued. From 3/28-4/5 a pair of **Blue-winged Teals** used the pond at Delaware County Community College (DO, m.ob.). **Northern Shovelers** were present mostly at JHNWR as usual but also noted at CCR 3/20 (MM), SR 3/27 (DB, ABi) and DRHIR 5/4 (SB, JHo). **Gadwalls** were reported on eleven days from Mar through mid-Apr (m.ob.), while **American Wigeons** were seen 3/17 JHNWR (AG) and 3/27 SR (DB, ABi). For the second year in a row, **Green-winged Teal** reports topped more than two dozen, though scaup reports fell back to their more usual under-ten including the annual visit of a **Lesser Scaup** at Liseter 3/21 (SB).

A **Surf Scoter** 4/10 GPZ (RF) was a good find. A **Long-tailed Duck** used the creek at JHNWR 3/14-15 (NB, RZ), and one was at DRHIR 4/15 (RF). Two **Common Goldeneyes** were reported 3/28 MH (AG). **Red-breasted Mergansers** continued the good showing of last year with reports 4/9 (ABi) and 4/12 (RF) at GPZ and ten dates 3/25-5/28 DRHIR (m.ob.) with a high count of 32 flying upriver 4/12 (RF). **Ruddy Duck** was found at RTM 3/1 (RF) and JHNWR 3/3 (MM). **Pied-billed Grebes** were at their usual haunt, CCR, from 3/20-4/17 (m.ob.) but also at SR 3/27-4/24 (m.ob.) with other sightings at Brinton L. and JHNWR during that same time period (m.ob.). SR also held **Horned Grebes** on 3/27 (DB, ABi), 3/29 (RF) and 4/4 (DB, ABi) as did GPZ 3/12 (RF). A **Red-throated Loon** was seen from GPZ 3/27 (MM) and DRHIR 4/9 (SB, RF).

A male **Ring-necked Pheasant** visited a backyard in Aston 4/19-20 (JH). **Wild Turkeys** continue their stronghold in Chadds Ford, reported on seven dates 3/31-5/14 (LF, AS, MF). A dozen reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were above normal, as they were last year, with CP winning the prize for reports on five days (m.ob.). **Black-billed Cuckoo** were reported from that same locale 5/8, 5/10-11 (RF, BR, DO), the nearby TMA 5/3 (DO) and LTI 5/2 (MaH, BeB). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** visited a yard in Media 4/18 (JG).

Virginia Rail was first reported at Lester FedEx Complex Wetlands 4/3 (AG) and then noted sporadically there into May (m.ob.) with similar, but less frequent, observations at JHNWR 4/20 (RF, m.ob.) through the same time frame. It remains to be seen if breeding can be confirmed at either location. **Sora** reports at JHNWR were from 4/20 (RF), 4/24 (HM, BQ, m.ob.) and 5/7 (SB). **American Coot** was noted at SR 3/29 (JZ).

Shorebird finds at DRHIR continued this year, but overall numbers and variety did not match that of last year. **Black-bellied Plovers** were recorded on eight dates throughout May (m.ob.) with a max count of 6 on 5/24 (RF, DB, ABi); **Semipalmated Plover** were seven days from 5/4-28 (m.ob.) with a max count of eight 5/25 (AG). There were also five of the latter 5/21 at JHNWR (DO). A single **Whimbrel** was spotted flying upriver 5/29 (m.ob.). **Ruddy Turnstone** were present 5/29-30 (JHu, AG, MH) and **Dunlin** 5/10 (AG, RF). **Least Sandpiper** were noted 5/10-11, 5/24, 5/28 (m.ob.) and six dates at JHNWR (m.ob.). Only single **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen at DRHIR 4/11 (AG, DB, ABi), 4/12 (WS), 4/15 (RF), and 5/11 (RF). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at JHNWR 5/13 (MM) and 5/21 (DO) and at DRHIR 5/10 (RF) and 5/25 (AG). **Wilson's Snipe** were found at RTM 3/31 (AG) and at JHNWR 3/15-5/7 (m.ob.) with a high count of 19 on 3/15 (RZ) but most reliably at DRHIR 3/12-5/2 (m.ob.). **American Woodcock** were reported 3/7 from Darlington Tract (NS) and Tincum Twp (ABi).

For the second year in a row, **Bonaparte's Gulls** were regularly sighted at DRHIR 4/9-5/16 (m.ob.). The high count of 110 was recorded 4/22 (RF) with a large flock flying upriver, but 2.75 hours on 5/11 also produced an estimate of 50 (RF). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were reported 3/28 from both DRHIR (AG) and Commodore Barry bridge/riverfront (MM). **Caspian Terns** were regular at DRHIR 4/17-5/29

(m.ob.) with additional reports from JHNWR 4/18 (JZ) and GPZ 5/4 (BQ). Three **Black Terns** were sighted at DRHIR 5/10 (RF) flying downriver among 20 **Common Terns** with a total of 64 of the latter on that date (RF). **Common Terns** were also seen 4/30 (ABi), 5/4 (JHo) and 5/8 (ABi, DB). **Forster's Terns** were spotted with 13 in Essington 4/11 (DB, ABi), GPZ 4/24 (AG) and 5/30 (DH), LTI 5/2 (MaH, BeB), JHNWR 5/4 (JHo) and regularly DRHIR 4/10-5/30 (m.ob.).

An **American Bittern** NFC (nocturnal flight call) was recorded over Wallingford 4/18 (RF), while a **Least Bittern** was reported from JHNWR 5/7 (SB). A **Snowy Egret** was also there 4/12 (JD) and 4/28 (DO). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a flyover at DRHIR 5/15 (JZ). A single **Glossy Ibis** was at DRHIR 4/30 (ABi), while 8 were observed flying over JHNWR prior to heading into *Philadelphia* 5/8 (JHo).

Unknown in *Delaware* in recent times, a **Barn Owl** was documented on a NFC recording just after 4 AM over Wallingford 3/12 (RF). Although there were no other nearby reports, several NFC stations in the East detected this species during Mar (NFC Facebook Group). In addition to their usual RCSP and Barrett's Meadow locations, **Barred Owls** were noted as residing in Pennock Woods Park, Lansdowne (SG, WR).

Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported only from CP 5/11-12 (RF, m.ob.). **Alder Flycatcher** was heard 5/21 at the BT (AG), while **Least Flycatcher** was reported 4/26 CP (MM), 5/9 HP (JHo) and 5/19 TMA (MM). A notable **Bank Swallow** movement occurred 5/10-11 with birds headed upriver at DRHIR (RF, AG). **Cliff Swallows** were reported from along Creek Rd in Chadds Ford 5/23 (ABi, DB, JZ), 5/24 (AG), and 5/31 (RF). An early **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was seen at HP 3/27 (DO), and an early **House Wren** showed up on its box in a Bryn Mawr yard 4/8 (LN). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was noted at Cobbs Cr 5/8 (Richard Horwitz), in a Springfield yard 5/14 (ABi), at Glen Providence Park 5/15 (m.ob.) and in CW 5/15 (DE).

Among northerly invaders, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were widespread this season with **Purple Finch** reports numerous and **Pine Siskins** abundant; there was an influx of the latter during Apr (m.ob.), presumably as they headed back North, but the last lingered until 5/25 at Haverford College (SJ) where there was a flock of 40 feeding in the conifers 5/8 (SJ, KJ). **Red Crossbill** was recorded at the Pennsy Trail 3/3 (SB) and noted at RCSP 4/9 (ABi).

As was true for the last reporting period, **American Tree Sparrow** reports seemed up a bit coming from CW 3/1 (TH), Bethel Springs Elementary School 3/1-2 and 3/5 (BQ), Wawa Preserve 3/4 (MM) and DRHIR 3/18 (MM). A dozen **White-crowned Sparrow** reports, spread across the county and mostly in early May, were also more than usual (m.ob.) and included birds that lingered at two feeders in Springfield for several days 5/4-7 (JZ) and 5/5-13 (AB, DB) and even sang while there. **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported only from Haverford Reserve 5/4 (SR).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was discovered at the BT 5/20 (CS); stay tuned for possible nesting confirmation. **Bobolink** stopped over at various sites while passing through mid-May with the highest estimate of 20 at Garrett-Williamson 5/8 (WS), while another 50 were down the road (BS, WS). **Eastern Meadowlarks** returned to their usual DRHIR/Philadelphia Airport location as of 3/24 and were reported through 5/4 (m.ob.). The only other report of this species was from Boeing Ridley Park 3/15 (JHm). A dozen **Orchard Oriole** was singing at Hildacy Preserve 4/19 (DE). As usual, **Rusty Blackbird** reports were regular from JHNWR 3/13-5/10 (m.ob.), but in a good showing, there were also more than a dozen reports from locations across the county (m.ob.).

Thirty-three warbler species were reported during the count period though overall numbers seemed low. Among the more unusual were **Golden-winged Warblers** at CP 5/8 and 5/10 (RF, m.ob.), **Prothonotary Warblers** at Newlin Grist Mill 5/5 (JM) and Hunters Run Corporate Campus 5/8 (EW), **Kentucky Warbler** in Chadds Ford 5/12-14 (AS, LF), and **Yellow-throated Warbler** at TMA 5/5 (DO) and regularly at RCSP from 4/7 (m.ob.) in the mansion area where it bred last year. A **Pine Warbler** visited a Wallingford suet feeder 3/1-7 (RF). An early **Black-and-white Warbler** was at CCR 4/5 (JZ), and an early **Ovenbird** at TMA 4/9 (MM).

Summer Tanagers were heard singing at HP 5/9 (AG), at JHNWR that same day (ZL), and also in CP 5/11 (ABi, DB). **Blue Grosbeak** was seen in CP 5/1 (MM) and 5/10 (BB) and at TMA 5/8 (RF, DO), Harvey

Run Trail 5/14 (JM) and First State National Historic Park 5/15 (AG).

Observers: **Sheryl Johnson, 453 Duck Pond Lane, Haverford, PA 19041, (610) 649-4621, sbjohnso@haverford.edu**, Debbie Beer, Alan Belford, Adrian Binns (ABi), Bernard Brown (BeB), Sara Busch, Nicole Bye, Brian Byrnes, John Daniel, David Eberly, Rob Fergus, Linda Fields, Martha Frost, Sean Gallagher, Jeff Gordon, Al Guarente, Matt Halley (MaH), Tom Hals, Deborah Hansen, Julie Haring, Michael Hartshorne, Jeff Holmes (JHm), Jason Horn (JHo), Jason Hudnut (JHu), Kristen Johnson, Zachary Loman, Jim McConnell, John Mercer, Hudson Moore, Micah Muldowney, Lathrop Nelson, Damon Orsetti, Brian Quindlen, Walter Randall, Bill Reaume, Sarah Ryan, Alan Schreck, Win Shafer, Nate Sharp, Cindy Steven, Brian Storey, Eric Weislogel, Rich Ziegler, John Zygumunt.

Elk County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest - Buzzard Swamp Recreation Area (BUZ), East Branch Clarion River Lake Vicinity (EBL), Rasselas Marsh (RM), Rasselas Road (RR), West Creek Wetland Learning Center (WC).

There were 184 species reported to eBird for *Elk* during Spring 2021. Two migrating groups of **Tundra Swans** were heard but not seen near EBL 3/9 (BB). A **Blue-winged Teal** was at EBL 4/7 (BB), with 4 at WC 5/2 (MM). Up to 65 **Gadwalls** were at EBL 3/25 (BB), and 8 at Elk SP 3/28 (MS). **American Wigeons** were seen three times: 3 at Bendigo SP and 11 at Elk SP 3/14 (MS), and 2 at EBL 4/7 (BB). A **Green-winged Teal** was at EBL 4/7 as were 2 **Greater Scaups** (BB) and 2 **Surf Scoters** 4/7 and 4/29 (BB). Two **White-winged Scoters** were at EBL mixed with a raft of 10 **Ruddy Ducks** 4/29 (BB).

A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was at BUZ 3/25 (MS, SS), and on RR 5/21 (BB). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were at Elk SP 3/29 (MS). There were five sightings of **Horned Grebes** at EBL and Elk SP in Apr, with 9 at Elk SP 4/18 (MS). A **Common Nighthawk** was at EBL 5/22, with 4 there 5/24 (BB). A "Lifer!" **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at SGL 25 near EBL 5/23 (TH).

Two **Virginia Rails** and a **Sora** were at RM 5/3, and 2 **Wilson's Snipes** were there 4/8 (BB). Four reports of **Greater Yellowlegs** and three of **Lesser Yellowlegs** were made at several locations 4/28-5/3 (BB, MM). Two **Caspian Terns** and 3 **Forster's Terns** were at EBL 4/29 (BB). An **American Bittern** was at Table Falls 5/1 (KM). One **Great Egret** was reported at EBL 4/28 (BB), at Elk SP 4/28 (MS), and at WC 5/2 (MM, ph.).

Six sightings of a **Northern Harrier** were reported, with 2 seen at RM 4/19 (BB). An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was at EBL 4/11 (BB), and one was in Johnsonburg 5/17 (WE). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was in Jones Twp. 4/13 (BB). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was in Benezette 5/5 (CL). One **Merlin** was reported in EBL 4/21-23 (BB).

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was in EBL 5/21 (BB), two in Ridgway 5/26 (MS, SS), and one in Horton Twp. 5/27 (DR). Late May had six reports of **Alder Flycatchers** (BB, MHd, TH), with a high of 4 on RR 5/24 (BB). A **Willow Flycatcher** was at WC 5/25 (MM). A **White-eyed Vireo** was audio-recorded at RM 5/8 (BB); a **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at EBL 5/25 (BB); a **Warbling Vireo** was at EBL 5/7 (BB) and in Horton Twp. 5/26 (MS, SS).

A **Northern Shrike** was near Wilcox 3/5 (AS, ph.). At EBL, there was a **Horned Lark** 3/11, a **Purple Martin** 5/5, and a **Bank Swallow** 5/5 with 2 there 5/15 (BB). Several sightings of **Cliff Swallows** included 25 at EBL 5/17 and 40 at RM 5/27 (BB). A **Sedge Wren** was heard at RM 5/8, and a **Northern Mockingbird** was in St. Mary's 4/19 (BB). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was in SGL 34 near Quehanna Hwy. 5/12 (NS) and heard as Night Flight Calls in EBL 5/25 (BB). An **American Pipit** was at Elk SP 3/13 (MS).

The irruption of **Evening Grosbeaks** continued in EBL 3/1-5/17 with flocks almost daily in the hundreds (BB). There were up to 50 in the Wilcox area 4/4-11 (BB, BP, MS) and less than a dozen continued to be seen occasionally in Weedville (KH) and in Benezette 3/6-5/5 (CL). A **Red Crossbill** was in EBL 4/24 and again 5/24 (BB).

Only one or two sightings were reported for these: a **Snow Bunting**

in EBL 3/3 (BB); a **Vesper Sparrow** on RR 5/2 with 2 in EBL 4/20 (BB); a **Lincoln's Sparrow** and an **Orchard Oriole** in Elk SP 5/3 (BB); a **Rusty Blackbird** in EBL 3/9 (BB) and also in Elk SP 3/29 (MS); 2 **Louisiana Waterthrushes** on Hicks Run Rd. 4/17 (ES); a **Northern Waterthrush** in Wilcox 5/1 (SL); 2 **Tennessee Warblers** in EBL 5/17 (BB); 2 singing male **Mourning Warblers** in SGL 25 near EBL 5/24 (TH), and one near St. Mary's 5/23 (MM, ph.); 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers** in EBL 5/16 and again 5/17 (BB); a **Blackpoll Warbler** in EBL 5/21 (BB). A **Canada Warbler** was in Sigel 5/11 and Ridgway 5/14 (DK), in EBL 5/24 (BB), and 2 in Bendigo SP 5/25 (LV). A **Summer Tanager** was in Millstone Twp. 5/31 (MH).

Observers: **Carol Light, PO Box 6, Benezette, PA 15821, 814-787-6036, lightpc2@gmail.com**, Brendyn Baptiste, William Earley, Michael Henao, Marsha Hendrickson (MHd), Tyler Hodges, Krysta Huff, Dave Keith, Sarah Lindgren, Melinda Marconi, Kandy McCloskey, Brady Porter, Dan Richards, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck, Nicholas Schleissmann, Andrew Sidelinger, Eric Stafford, Lucille Voss.

Erie County

Locations: Gull Point (GP), Presque Isle Hawk Watch (PIHW), Presque Isle State Park (PISP), Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC).

The weather during the first half of the spring season was near normal, but the last half of the season was unseasonably cold with just a few days in May that warmed above normal. There were no days with big passerine fallouts. Perhaps because of no major weather events that would force migrants to the ground, the number of individual species was relatively low. Even at the PIHW, the number of raptors was well below average, with just 11 out of 49 days producing desirable winds for a lakeshore flight. Despite the lackluster migration, northern finches were presented in decent numbers in late April through mid-May, especially **Evening Grosbeaks** and **Pine Siskins**. Most finches were recorded passing by the TREC tower during a dawn bird count conducted by the Erie Bird Observatory. Highlights this season were reported mainly from one observer (JBE) who reported a rare spring and early-record **Long-billed Dowitcher**, a first spring county record of a young male **King Eider**, a flyby **collared-dove** of unknown species from the TREC tower, a **Cattle Egret** from the TREC tower, and a possible **Bell's Vireo**.

The following birds were recorded at PISP unless noted otherwise: A white morph **Snow Goose** was on Edinboro L. 3/7-9 (JF, et al.). The now annual **Cackling Goose** was noted when 2 were seen with **Canada Geese** flying past PIHW 3/11 (JM). Two adult **Trumpeter Swans** appeared at the head of Presque Isle Bay 4/6, and both remained to 5/13 (JBE). Nesting was suspected, but no evidence was found.

A first-year male **King Eider** was a good find off Beach 10 from 4/23-5/9 for the latest spring record (JBE). This bird was viewed and photographed by many as it moved up and down the beach going from one breakwater to another. A **Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser** was an unusual find off the east pier 3/5 (JH). An **Eared Grebe** was spotted off Leo's Landing on 3/1 and remained in the area to 3/22 (JM).

A **Eurasian/African Collared-Dove** was spotted flying past the TREC tower during a dawn bird count 5/14 (JB). The distance was too great to be able to determine to which species it belonged. Single **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** called in Erie 4/12 (KA) and on PISP 4/13 (JBE), early records for the county.

A flock of 9 **Whimbrels** put down at GP 5/26 for about 20 minutes before flying off over the lake (JM). A **Least Sandpiper** at GP 4/9 was an early record in the county by about three weeks (JBE). The only **White-rumped Sandpiper** reported was at GP 5/23 (RD). An unexpected surprise was a **Long-billed Dowitcher** at GP 3/21 and 3/22 for not only a rare spring record, but a record early date (JBE); the species was confirmed with a voice recording (JBE). There was a movement of **Willetts** during the first week of May with 9 at Edinboro L. 5/2 (JH), 8 flying past Vista 1 on the same day (JE), a flock of 21 at GP the next day (SB, DM, JF, JM), and up to 5 from 5/3-5 also at GP (JBE). An unprecedented 365 **Lesser Yellowlegs** flew over GP in flocks of a

few birds to up to 100 in just a short period of time 5/7 (JM).

Iceland Gulls of both **Kumlien's** and **Thayer's** race were reported during the first half of Mar (JM, JB). **Glaucous Gull** was reported in early Mar (JM) and again in May (JBE). A **Red-throated Loon** in nearly complete breeding plumage was a rare spring find by birders looking for the King Eider off Beach 9 on 5/9 (ST). An **American White Pelican** landed on Long Pond 5/4 (RS) and remained to the next morning (JM). A county record high of 14 American White Pelicans landed at GP 5/26 and stayed for three hours before flying off in a southerly direction (JM). **American Bitterns** were reported, mainly leaving the marshes in the evening, from 4/6 into early May (m.ob.). A county-record early **Least Bittern** was seen chasing an American Bittern on the evening of 4/13 over Niagara Pond (JBE). A **Cattle Egret** was a rare find as one was photographed flying past the TREC tower during a dawn bird count 5/3 (JB).

Two **Black Vultures** passed the PIHW 3/8 (JM) and another at the same site 3/21 (JM). A single **Snowy Owl** was along the *Erie/Crawford* line south of Edinboro 3/2 (JH), and another was at Sunset Point 3/20 (*fide* JBE). Up to 3 **Long-eared Owls** were in the pines 3/21-28 (RD), and 2 more were found near the same location 4/9 (JBEe, RD). One or 2 **Short-eared Owls** were reported at various sites along the shoreline of PISP as well as from the TREC tower from 3/23-4/20 (JBE, et al.). Single **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were in the pines 3/24-4/11 (JM, RD).

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were observed at the east end of PISP 5/14-20 (m.ob.). A possible **Bell's Vireo** was well described, but a photo could not be taken of the bird and it was never heard singing by an observer working for the Erie Bird Observatory who is familiar with the species (JBE). If it could have been fully documented, it would have been a first state record.

A continuing **Northern Shrike** from the winter season remained at SGL 109 until 3/6 (ON). A **Fish Crow** was heard on at least two occasions by individuals or groups familiar with the species. *Erie* certainly has been long overdue for this bird, despite the fact that this is not the first time over the past two decades the species has been reported, but there has never been a voice recording. A **Sedge Wren** made a brief appearance in a grassy section along Niagara Pond 5/12 (JM). A **Marsh Wren** heard off Sidewalk Trail 4/10 was record early in the county by about 10 days (JBE).

Singles or small groups of **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported from 4/23-5/15 at PISP and from the TREC tower, but most sightings were from the tower during the dawn bird count (JBE, et al.). **Common Redpolls** from the winter season were still lingering in the county until 4/4 (m.ob.). A late **Lapland Longspur** was heard while flying over GP 4/4 for the second county record in Apr (JB).

Single **Clay-colored Sparrows** were at Beach 11 area 5/13 (JBE, JM), at Erie Bluffs SP 5/21 (CD), and at Beach 10 on 5/22 (JP). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was present along Pine Tree Trail on 5/14-15 (JM, et al.) and another was along Gull Point Trail 5/25 (RB). A total of 5 **Golden-winged Warblers** were along several trails at the east end of PISP 5/4-14 (m.ob.). At least 2 pairs of **Prothonotary Warblers** were nesting in artificial boxes beginning mid-May (JH). The only **Prairie Warbler** for the season was one banded at the banding station near Fry's Landing 4/28 (*fide* JBE). A photo of a male **Indigo Bunting** was taken at a feeder 3/24 by an unknown visitor and was confirmed (JBE), which would make this sighting record early in the county by about two weeks.

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, Pa. 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**, Katie Andersen, Justin Berkheimer (JBE), Jason Bojczyk, Ron Burkert, Sara Busch, Charles Damstadt, Roger Donn, Julia Eckar, Jennifer Ferrick, Jamie Hill, Doug Massey, Oscar Nigam, Josh Pollock, Ruth Swaney, Shannon Thompson.

Fayette County

Locations: Duck Pond Road (DPR), Farmington (FARM), Greenlick Run Lake (GRL), Jacob's Creek Wetlands (JCW), Mill Run Reservoir (MRR), Nemaquin Woodlands Resort (NWR), Ohio State Park (OSP).

March was seasonable but April started unseasonably warm. The

third week of April a storm system brought wind, rain and some snow. Strangely, there was a lack of significant waterfowl fallouts that is typical of spring storms. A small farm pond on Duck Pond Road attracted some shorebirds including one that provided a first county record.

Tundra Swan high counts normally come from GRL but not this spring. The high counts include 471 at Heritage Scout Reservation 3/7 (DBu) and 150 at FARM 3/8 (DBu). A **Trumpeter Swan** was a surprise find at Deer L. 4/22 (CL, PL). The bird was photographed and seen by several birders but was gone the following day. This provided the first county record. Two **Snow Geese** were at L. Courage 3/5 (RM).

American Wigeons were present 3/2-19 at five locations with a max of 10 at JCW 3/10 (EJR). Four **Blue-winged Teal** were at Dunlap Cr. Park 4/19 (CL, PL). Singles were at GRL 3/25 (MA) and DPR 3/26 (KB). Two were at MRR 5/4 (EJR). Five **Northern Shovelers** were at DPR 3/12 (KB), 4 were at GRL 3/28 (MD, DBu), and 5 were there 4/25 (MJ). Three **Northern Pintails** were at JCW 3/9 (KB). **Canvasbacks** were found in small numbers with the max of only 4 at GRL 3/1 (MA). Ten **Redheads** at GRL 3/2 (KB) were the max count. Two remained at the lake to 3/25 (EJR, MA). The max count of **Ring-necked Ducks** for the season was 100 at GRL 3/1 (KB). **Ruddy Ducks** usually have been numerous, but 11 was the high count for the season at GRL 3/11 and 4/16 (KB, MF).

Ruffed Grouse reports are notable these days. Two were at SGL 51 on 4/4 (EJR), and one was at OSP 4/8 (CL, PL). **Horned Grebes** were present at GRL 3/7-25 with a max of 3 (m.ob.). Up to 2 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were in the Hopwood area 4/27-5/21 (EJR, HS). An **American Coot** was at JCW 3/9-13 (EJR, KB).

A **Semipalmated Plover** was at DPR 5/29 (MDo). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at MRR 5/9 (RM). Three **Least Sandpipers** were at DPR 5/29 (MDo) and one was at Spring Valley 5/30 (DBu). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at DPR 4/22 (KB). Eight **Wilson's Snipe** were there 4/12 (KB) and 2 were at MRR 4/13-5/10 (EJR). **American Woodcock** reports include one at JCW 3/9 (KB), 3 at Spring Valley 3/10 (DBu), one at Uniontown 3/12 (EJR), one at JCW 3/16 (MA), 3 at NWR 3/20 (DB), and one in FARM 4/7 (DBu).

A **Red-necked Phalarope** was a great find at DPR 5/29-30 (KB, m.ob.) providing a first county record. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported from GRL including 4 on 4/5 (EJR), 17 on 4/7 (EJR) and 7 on 4/21 (KB, MF, EJR). One was at L. Courage 4/8 (RM). Four species of tern made this spring notable in the county. Two **Caspian Terns** were at Dunlap Creek L. 4/15 (CL, PL) and one was at GRL 5/29 (MJ). **Forster's Terns** were at GRL 4/21-5/29. Max numbers included 3 on 5/4 (KB) and 5 on 5/7 (MF). A **Common Tern** and a **Black Tern** were at GRL 5/29 (MJ) during a rainy day. There were likely more than one Common Tern as birds were dropping in and leaving for a few hours. A **Common Loon** was at GRL 5/28 through the season (MF, et al.).

Single **Great Egrets** were at NWR 4/12 (DB), Heritage Scout Reservation 5/2 (DB) and Deer L. 5/11 (JC). There were a number of **Black Vulture** reports. Three were in Uniontown 3/17 (EJR), one was in Smithfield 3/20 (SM), one was at L. Courage 4/8 (RM), one was at OSP 4/17 (DBu, DT), one was feeding on a dead groundhog in Connellsville 5/20 (KB), and one was described well in eBird at OSP 5/29 (CC, TH, LV). There were two **Merlin** reports: one at Chestnut Hill Cemetery 3/8 (KB) and one at GRL 5/8 (MB).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported at eight locations during the season. A flock of 30 **American Pipits** in Spring Valley 4/1 (DBu) was the lone report. Five **Evening Grosbeaks** were at the Plantation Trail in Wharton Twp. 3/21 (EJR). **Fox Sparrows** were reported in a few locations. Two were in Wharton Twp. 3/21 (EJR), 5 at OSP 3/27 (EJR) and 5 at SGL 51 on 3/29 (EJR). A few **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported. Six were at NWR 3/19 (MDo), one in FARM 4/1 (DBu) and one at MRR 4/28 (EJR).

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, mpfial@verizon.net**, Mark Alt, Michael Barney, Kerry Bell, Dwight Blough, David Bureson (DBu), Jane Clark, Chapin Czarniecki, Michael David, Matthew Domer (MDo), Linda Grebe, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Tyler Hodges, Matthew Juskowich, Calvin Livengood, Peter Livengood, Ryan Mathis, Steve Manns, E.J. Regula, Heidi Smith, Dennis Trapnell, Lucille Voss.

Forest County

Locations: Allegheny National Forest - Bobbs Creek Area (BC), Beaver Meadows Recreation Area (BM), Buzzard Swamp Recreation Area (BUZ), Salmon Creek Valley (SCV); Kellettsville (KEL), Lighthouse Island (LI), Marienville (MAR), Tionesta (TIO), West Hickory (WH).

Spring brought eBird reports of 146 species. Thirty **Tundra Swans** were in a flyover above MAR 3/7 (WG). Four **Gadwalls** were near Yellow Hammer 3/14 (KS), and 2 **American Wigeons** near WH 3/12 (KS). A **Northern Pintail** was at LI 3/6 (RH, SM). Eleven **Canvasbacks** and 23 **Redheads** were at LI 3/1 (MD). A **Long-tailed Duck** was at WH 4/5 (KS), and 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at LI 3/1 (MD).

The only report for **Ring-necked Pheasant** was of 2 at BUZ 3/25 (MS, SS). Two **Ruffed Grouse** were at BUZ 3/25 (MS, SS); one was there 5/6 (SK, AK), and one at BC 5/24 (SSt). In early Apr, **Pied-billed Grebes** had four sightings, including 3 at BM 4/8 (AK, SK). Four **Horned Grebes** were at WH 4/5 (KS) and 10 at BM 4/7 (SK). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was near KEL 5/22 (FM), at MAR 5/22 (SBN, BBr), and at SCV 5/25 (SSt). A **Chimney Swift** was in TIO 5/3 (P&RW) and again 5/23 (MM). An **American Woodcock** was reported only twice: in WH 3/12 (KS) and near KEL 4/17 (KM).

Common Loons were in TIO 4/5 (KS) and 5/8 (FM), and a pair at BM 4/7-5/12 (AK, SK, FM). A **Northern Harrier** was photographed in East Hickory 4/3 (KS). A **Great Horned Owl** was in BM 4/8 (AK, SK). A **Barred Owl** was in MAR 5/22 (BBr), and 2 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were near Cooksburg 3/27 (MO).

Fifteen **Cliff Swallows** were in TIO 5/18 (FM). A **Swainson's Thrush** was in SGL 24 on 5/8 (FM) and in BM 5/13 (SK). **Evening Grosbeaks** continued their regular visits, including in TIO 3/7-5/4 (FM) and up to 53 in MAR 3/2-5/17 (DY, et al.). A **Common Redpoll** was in TIO 3/3 (FM) and LI 3/14 (KS). **American Tree Sparrows** were in LI and MAR 3/1-27 (MD, RH, SM, DY).

A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was outside of Cooksburg 5/16 (JP). Four **Bobolinks** were near TIO 5/8 (FM). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at LI 3/14 (KS), and 4 were near KEL 4/17 (KM). Two **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were at Allegheny NF's Minister Cr. Trail 4/27 (SSt), and one at Tionesta Lake 4/26 and 5/2 (FM). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was at BM 5/13 (AK, SK); a **Nashville Warbler** at BUZ 5/24 (MH, RH, FM); a **Mourning Warbler** at BC 5/24 (SSt). A **Cape May Warbler** was at BUZ 5/12 (AK, SK), and near Cooksburg 5/15 (JP). A **Cerulean Warbler** was at WH 5/8 (FM); 2 **Palm Warblers** were at BM 4/28 (AK, SK); a **Pine Warbler** was near Cooksburg 5/18 (JM). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen gleaning insects from the roof of a cabin and then in the trees in WH 5/14 (FM).

Observers: **Carol Light, PO Box 6, Benezette, PA 15821, 814-787-6036, lightpc2@gmail.com**, Brendyn Baptiste, Sarah Boucas-Neto, Bel Broadley (BBr), Michael David, Will Graves, Rebecca Hart, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee (RH), S Kaye, Ann Kline, Steve Manns, Mary McGinnis – Kent State Field Ornithology, Flo McGuire, Keith Michalski, Joseph Miller, Molly Owens, Joseph Plumford, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck, Jim Springer, K Springer, Scott Stoleson (SSt), Travis Suckow, Patricia & Richard Williams, David Yeany II.

Franklin County

Locations: Antrim Commons Ponds (ACP), Bender's Farm (BEFA), Buchanan State Forest-Eastern Slope (BSF-ES), Cr.side Nature Trail-Menohaven (CNT-MH), Fort Loudon Fort Historical Site (FLFHS), Greencastle Reservoir (GRRE), Keefer Road Farm Pond (KEEF), Kriner Road Retention Ponds (KRIN), Letterkenny Reservoir (LERE), Long Lane Pond (LLP), Mountain Brook Road Pond (MBRP), Mountain Lake Fannettsburg (MLF), State Game Lands 76-Lower Horse Valley (LHV), State Game Lands 235-Upper Horse Valley (UHV).

Reports of special winter birds continued into the spring reporting season in *Franklin*. The female **Rufous Hummingbird** that was first observed by Kathy Lauver at her feeders 10/9/20, continued for over five

months and was last seen 3/20/21. Irruptive northern species reported in fall and winter continued into spring. Many of the birds reported were likely ones that irrupted farther south for the winter and were returning northward. **Evening Grosbeak** and **Red Crossbill** reports continued as late as May. Knob Hill Road feeders near Fayetteville had up to 22 Evening Grosbeaks in March and up to 12 in April through 4/12 (DK). Additional Evening Grosbeak sightings were in Lower Horse Valley at feeders with a single bird 4/24 (GR) and two 5/2-9 (DU). Red Crossbills were reported from Michaux SF in areas along Ridge Road with pines. Reports from a timber cut near Stillhouse Hollow Road were of 8 birds 3/15 (DE), 26 on 3/17 (BO), and up to 7 on 3/20-21 (RG, TSG, GA). A later report of 7 birds was from farther north along Ridge Road 5/16 (NZ). There were numerous scattered reports of **Pine Siskins** into May. The big numbers were at feeders in the Greene Knolls yard that historically attracts them in large numbers with high counts of 26 in March, 40 in April, and much smaller numbers in May (VB). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and **Purple Finches** were reported through May as well.

Waterfowl species diversity and numbers were weak, especially migrating duck sightings. A large flock of about 100 **Snow Geese** was reported near Scotland 3/6 (DH). The species is found infrequently and in very small numbers in *Franklin*, which is not a major flyway. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at LLP 3/6 (BO, GA, BK, CP, RP). **Cackling Geese** were reported at GRRE 3/1 (BO, CG), at LLP 3/6 (DC, GA, BK, CP, RP), at KEEF 3/6 (DC, GA) and 3 at KEEF 3/8 (BO).

A pair of **Trumpeter Swans** was found in a farm puddle on Mainsville Road 3/31 (BO, CP). Likely the same birds were reported at different ponds along Burnt Mill Road 4/17 (BK, BO) and 4/25 (BK). Interestingly, there has been a pair nesting not far from these sightings in nearby western *Cumberland* for the past several years. It was confirmed that these birds were not the same birds in *Cumberland* on 4/25 when the observer in *Franklin* also went to *Cumberland* within a very short time and confirmed separate pairs (BK). There is no known evidence of nesting attempts of the *Franklin* birds, and the birds have not been reported here since the 4/25 sighting. Reports of this species in state are becoming more frequent and from more counties in recent years, and the same is true for nearby Maryland and Virginia.

The larger portion of the migration of **Tundra Swan** was in the winter in late Feb. In spring, a large flock of up to 100 was near Upper Strasburg 3/2-3 (BO), and afterward there were only reports of a few stragglers. A late drake **Redhead** was on a Muddy Cr. Road farm pond 5/28 (BK). According to the pond owners, the bird had been there a few weeks. A male **Common Goldeneye** was at BEFA 3/31-4/3 (BO, BK, GA). This species had a greater-than-normal sighting frequency in the winter reporting period. **Red-breasted Merganser** was reported from several locations over about a month's time with 2 at LERE 3/16 (BO), one at LERE 3/29 (BO, BK), one at BEFA 3/29-4/3 (BO, BK, GA), 5 at BEFA 4/11 (BO), one at BEFA 4/12 (BO), and one at MLF 4/12-13 (BK, BO). No **Canvasbacks** or **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported, after light reporting of these species this past winter.

A **Ruffed Grouse** was reported from Michaux SF-Stillhouse Hollow 3/13 (JS) and from UHV 4/19 (BO). **Horned Grebe** is expected: First reports were one at MBRP 3/26-28 (BO, CG, RM) and 4 at BEFA 3/28 (BO). The interesting thing this spring was that on 4/11 this species was found all over *Franklin*, and some locations had high numbers. One bird was at BEFA, 9 at MLF, one at Mt Parnell fish ponds, one at MBRP, 9 at Little Dipper Pond, one at Innovation Way pond, and one at Burnt Mill Road pond (BO, BK). GRRE had a high count of 3 on 4/11-13 (CG, GA, m.ob.). In eBird, this species is normally reported in Mar and Apr with higher numbers in Apr; however, nothing approached single-day sightings like this year.

There were the expected occasional reports of **Eurasian Collared-Dove** from Shady Grove, Clayhill, Greencastle, and Marion with a high of 30. Single **Common Nighthawks** reports were from Mt. Pleasant Road near Fayetteville 4/28 (DH), from CNT-MH 5/9 (BO), and from near Caledonia 5/19 (DP). **Virginia Rail** reports were from Conocodell Mill Race near Fayetteville 3/30 (DD) and from Happel's Meadow Preserve 4/30 (GA).

A few special shorebird species were found in *Franklin*, but overall

activity was weaker than last spring. Up to 6 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at ACP 4/30-5/31 (RM, m.ob.) and up to 3 at KRIN 5/16-21 (BO). A female **Sanderling** was found at GRRE 5/4 (GA), and likely the same bird was a few miles away at ACP 5/5-13 (BO, BK, CG, DE, m.ob.). A **Dunlin** was at ACP 4/29 (GA, BO, BK, DE), again at ACP 5/4-10 (RM, BO, DE, CG), and at KRIN 5/8 (BO, JD, SD). **Semipalmated Sandpiper** stayed late with 2 at ACP 5/25 (BK, CF) and one there 5/31 (BK). Along with Sanderling, the highlight shorebird of this reporting period was the female **Wilson's Phalarope** found at GRRE 5/16 (CG, GA, BO, CP, RP, BK). Other birders arrived from outside the county later in the day and did not find the bird; however, a check at ACP confirmed that the bird had relocated there late afternoon same day (BM, SB, DE, MC).

Bonaparte's Gull has been an annual migrant with up to 5 at KEEF 3/24 (BK), up to 5 at BEFA 3/28 and 4/7 (BO), and up to 6 at GRRE 4/11 (CG) with the highlight being 47 at MBRP 4/7 (BO). Terns are rare in *Franklin*, with a single **Forster's Tern** reported at BEFA 4/13 (BO) and one **Caspian Tern** reported at FLFHS 5/13 (BO). **Common Loons** were infrequently reported with one at BEFA 4/1-2 (BK, BO), one at MBRP 4/10 (BO, CG), and up to 6 at LERE 4/10-12 (BK, BO, DE). There were frequent reports of **Double-crested Cormorants**; the most noteworthy were 24 at MBRP 4/12 (BO) and 21 at BEFA 4/12 (BO, DE). An **American Bittern** was observed in flight at BEFA 4/29 (BO). Four **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported 4/25 at the Shippensburg Heron Rookery that is just inside *Franklin* at the edge of Shippensburg (BO), and one was at BEFA 5/3 (BO).

What had been a single **Barn Owl** in winter was joined by a mate in a barn near Edenville around 3/5 (specific location not disclosed). The pair was seen for several days, probably during their time of mating, and afterward a single bird remained in the barn through the end of the reporting period. A **Short-eared Owl** was hunting at dusk near Upper Strasburg 3/8 (BO, GA). This confirmed a previous sighting at very late dusk 3/2 (BO). Unlike the winter reporting period when they are often reported, the only spring report of **Merlin** was in the Upper Strasburg area 4/23 (BO). The only reports of **Peregrine Falcons** were from downtown Chambersburg 3/23-24 (DE, VB). Sightings of the bird that has regularly wintered downtown the past number of winters and early springs were not as frequent this year.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, more likely to be seen in fall, was found at FLFHS 5/18 (DE). **Alder Flycatcher**, a species with a short window of time during migration, was at FLFHS 5/20 (DE, BO). Swallows returned at about their normal times with these first reports: **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at ACP 3/23 (CP); **Purple Martin** at Olde Scotland Road 3/28 (JS); **Tree Swallow** at Conocodell Mill Race near Fayetteville 3/10 (DD); **Bank Swallow** at GRRE 5/7 (CG); **Barn Swallow** at several places 3/28 (m.ob.); **Cliff Swallow** at their Wenger Road nesting location 4/29 (BO). Of note were 8 Bank Swallows at GRRE 5/7 (BO, BK) and 8 Cliff Swallows at MLF 5/8 (BK). A **Marsh Wren** was at BEFA 4/23 (BO). **Lincoln's Sparrow**, more easily found in fall migration, was reported at FLFHS 5/13 (BO) and at SGL 235's Bricker Road 5/18 (DE).

Horse Valley, a mountain valley at the eastern edge of the ridge and valley landscape that covers central Pennsylvania, is the county go-to place for winged warblers. Up to 3 **Golden-winged Warblers** were observed in UHV 5/1 (BO, GA), and one or 2 were found later in May (BK, RG, TSG, m.ob.). Up to 2 Golden-wings were also at LHV 5/7, 5/21, and 23 (DC, SW) and an additional report was from BSF-ES 5/22-23 (DC). In addition to **Blue-winged Warbler**, which is the more common warbler species, a hybrid **Brewster's Warbler** was reported from UHV 5/12 (BO, RG) and also from same location later in May (BK, RG, TSG, SW).

Prothonotary Warbler numbers and nesting activity have been increasing in neighboring western *Cumberland* due to proper habitat and efforts by Vern Gauthier and Tim Becker to set nest boxes in appropriate places; however, it is a very difficult bird to find in *Franklin*. One was reported from the lower Conococheague Cr. at Rice Hollow Road just north of Maryland 5/20 (SK). The lower Conococheague has been the likely place for them to show up in *Franklin* because it feeds the Potomac R., where there are regular sightings of this species in spring.

Mourning Warblers were reported at CNT-MH 5/20 (BO) and at

Wilson College-Fulling Mill Trail 5/25 (BK). **Kentucky Warbler** was reported from Sylvan Road in Little Cove 5/6 (SK), a small mountain valley in southwest *Franklin*. Also, up to 2 birds were found in BSF-ES beginning 5/10 (RG, TSG, BO, GA, RM). **Yellow-throated Warbler**, a bird hard to come across in *Franklin*, was reported near the west branch of the Conococheague Cr. at FLFHS 5/13 (BO) and along the Conodoguinet Cr. at Mongul Road 5/31 (JP). This is a species that probably has been in the county more often than known along the Conodoguinet and lower Conococheague Creeks.

In recent years sightings of both **Blue Grosbeak** and **Dickcissel** have increased in frequency. Both species have arrived from mid-May forward, and sightings have continued well into summer. This year, there were only a few reports in May with no indication of things changing as this reporting period ended and the summer period began. The only reports of Blue Grosbeak were 2 birds in Amberson Valley 5/10 (JW) and one along South Road 5/20 (BK). The only Dickcissel was from Church Road near Pleasant Hall 5/20 (BO, JV).

Observers: **Bill Oyler, 1216 Wilson Ave, Chambersburg, Pa 17201 (717-360-5191), oylerbill@gmail.com**, Gavin Anderson, Val Barnes, Sara Busch, Dave Cooney, Missy Cutchall, Dwayne DeGrande, Josh Donaldson, Susan Donaldson, Dave Ebbitt, Conor Farrell, Carl Garner, Ron George, Tracy Snyder-George, Donna Hocker, Stefan Karkuff, Dan Kennell, Bob Koontz, Kathy Lauver, Ryan Martin, Brett Matlock, Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne, Jason Petersheim, Doug Powless, Gail Rosenberry, Jefferson Shank, Dennis Urban, Jeanne Verhulst, Jerry Walker, Scott Wood, Nathan Zilak.

Fulton County

Locations: Big Cove Tannery (BCT), Buchanan State Forest (BSF), Cowan's Gap SP (CG), Haines-Seville wetland (HS), Harrisonville (HAR), Meadow Grounds Lake (MGL), Redbud Natural Area in BSF (RBNA), Wells Tannery (WT).

The birding headliner of the season in *Fulton* was the first county record of a southern warbler. And good news for birders - the dam at Meadow Grounds Lake is repaired, and the lake, long-drained is refilling; after nearly a decade waterfowl birding will get a boost.

Only 10 species of ducks were reported. A **Blue-winged Teal** was at HS 4/1 (DG, GG) and 2 there 5/8 (AK). The only 3 **American Black Ducks** were at HS 3/10 (BO, VG). **Hooded Mergansers** were reported from HS six times, max count of 5 on 5/14 (VG, BO, JS). By *Fulton* standards, counts of 16 **Common Mergansers** on 3/19 and 13 on 3/24 at Boy Scout Rd. were good (VG). Single **Horned Grebes**, uncommon here, were at CG 3/16 (BO) and 4/9 (BO, VG).

A nice count of 14 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** was made on Tower Rd 5/7 (AK). **American Bittern** is a rarity, with only a half dozen previous eBird reports, so one at HS 5/15 (JS) is notable. **Barred Owl** was heard at MGL 4/17 (VG) and 5/9 (AE).

Most chickadees in *Fulton* are **Black-capped Chickadees**; **Carolina Chickadees** reports were one at CG 3/3 (VG, BO) and 2 at RBNA 3/19 (VG, BO). Representing only the fifth eBird report for the county, a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was on Bark Rd in BSF 5/4 (GG). Also not often reported, single **Swainson's Thrushes** were at Bark Rd in BSF and at MGL 5/8 (AK), and at BCT 5/22 (VG). Thirty-two **American Pipits** were in fields south of McConnellsburg 4/9 (VG), the fifth eBird record for *Fulton*.

One **Evening Grosbeak** was at Hustontown 4/12, 6 were near WT 4/29, and 4 at another location near WT 5/11-14 (all TM). A **Red Crossbill** was a great find at MGL 4/3 (VG), only the third eBird report for the county. A **Vesper Sparrow** at BCT 4/17 (VG) was a nice find for a species increasingly hard to locate. **Swamp Sparrow**, with counts of one or two, was reported five times at HS, twice at Boy Scout Rd., and once at MGL (m.ob.). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported only at the Knobsville Tract of BSF: one 5/8 (AK), 3 on 5/14 (VG, BO), and one 5/15 (JS). A good count of 20 **Rusty Blackbirds** at HS 4/24 (VG) was the season's highest.

One of at least six, remarkably, for the season in Pennsylvania, a

Swainson's Warbler at RBNA 5/14 (BO, VG) was of course a county first record. Twenty-eight warbler species were reported. Other warbler highlights included 3 **Golden-winged Warblers** off Bark Rd in SGL 65 (VG, GG, DG), and three reports of Golden-wings at the Knobsville Tract of BSF: one 5/8 (AK), 3 on 5/14 (VG, BO), and 2 on 5/15 (JS). Three **Cerulean Warblers** were on Bark Rd in BSF 5/4 (VG, GG, DG) and one there 5/8 (AK). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was near HAR 5/8 (AK).

Observers: **Greg Grove**, gwg2@psu.edu, Amy Evans, Vern Gauthier, Deborah Grove, Andy Keister, Tracy Mosebey, Bill Oyler, Joel Springer.

Greene County

Locations: East View (EV), Enlow Fork (EF), Franklin Twp. (FT), Greene River Trail (GRT), Lake Wilma (LW), Last Chance Ranch (LCR), Morgan Twp. (MT), Ryerson State Park (RSP), and Sycamore (SY).

Wood Duck was in EV 3/6 (MH); **Lesser Scaup**, **Hooded Merganser**, and **Common Merganser** were at LW 3/12 (SB); in FT there were **Gadwall** 3/11 (MH), 36 **Ring-necked Duck** 3/3 (MH) grew to 52 on 3/4 (SB), and **Bufflehead** 3/3 (KK, MH). There were **Red-breasted Merganser** at EV 4/10 (JH, MH) and a **Ruddy Duck** at GRT 3/6 (JF).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird was first sighted in Jackson Twp. 4/20 (CH, MiH). **Killdeer** was in MT 3/11 (KK), **American Woodcock** in MT 3/8 (KK), **Solitary Sandpiper** in EV 5/14 (JH, MH), and **Ring-billed Gull** in FT 3/1 (KK). **Green Heron** was seen in FT 4/17 (AC) and **Great Egret** in Wayne Twp. 5/15 (TC). **Osprey** was in MT 3/21 (SB). **Barred Owl** was at RSP 5/22 (RM).

Red-headed Woodpecker was seen in EV 5/22 (MH, JH). **Acadian Flycatcher** was first reported at EF 5/14 (SBu). **Eastern Kingbird** was reported at SY 5/1 (JC). **White-eyed Vireo** and **Red-eyed Vireo** were heard at EV 5/13 (MH) and **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Warbling Vireo** were at EF 4/25 (m. ob.).

Purple Martin was first sighted in Perry Twp. 5/2 (MS). **Tree Swallow** was first reported in MT 3/11 (KK, MH). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** arrived at EV 4/6 (MH); **Barn Swallow** at Claylick 3/12 (LA, RA). **House Wren** was first in MT 4/8 (KK), **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at SY 3/10 (JC), and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at RSP 4/13 (DG).

Swainson's Thrush was found in Monongahela Twp. 5/2 (ZT) and **Wood Thrush** at EF 4/25 (m. ob.). **Gray Catbird** arrived in EV 4/28 and **Brown Thrasher** at that same location 4/5 (MH). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found at SGL 223 on 4/28 (SW) and **Swamp Sparrow** at RSP 4/15 (DG, GG). **White-throated Sparrow** was last reported in EV 4/28 (MH), **White-crowned Sparrow** was last at LCR 5/15 (MLP), and **Dark-eyed Junco** was last reported in Monongahela Twp. 4/11 (ZT). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was in SY 5/1 (JC, MH, KK). **Eastern Meadowlark** was heard calling at Claylick 3/3 (RA, LA). **Orchard Oriole** was found at EF 4/25 (m. ob.); **Baltimore Oriole** at SY 4/28 (JC, AC).

Ovenbird arrived in Morris Twp. 5/1 (JC, MH, KK). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was first heard in MT 4/6 (KK, MH), **Hooded Warbler** first at SGL-223 4/28 (SW). **Cerulean Warbler** was found at EF 5/2 (RL) and 5/14 (SBu) and at Bell Farm 5/15 (m. ob.). **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was last reported in SGL 223 on 4/28 (SW). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was first heard in MT 4/6 (KK, MH).

Scarlet Tanager was first found at Beagle Club Rd 5/4 (Brian Freiwald). **Evening Grosbeak** was reported at a feeder in Jefferson Twp. 4/20 (AK). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** arrived in EV 4/24 (MH) and **Indigo Bunting** at Fairview Church 5/2 (RL).

Observers: **Marjorie Howard**, 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 852-3155, rkbirdclub@yahoo.com, Lyn Argent, Ron Argent, C. David Bell, David Bell, Leah Bell, Steve Bowes, Steve Bucklin (SBu), Al Churney, Jan Churney, Terry Cole, John Flannigan, Anne Foreman, Mary Grey, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Chase Howard, Jerry Howard, Michelle Howard, Kathy Kern, Rosanna Lane, Mary LaPlante, Rodney Martinez, Carol McCullough, Fred McCullough, Mike Slaven, Zachary Turner, and Steve Walthus.

Huntingdon County

Locations: Aitch Access at Raystown Lake (AA), Allison Road (AR), Brumbaugh's Access at Raystown Lake (BA), Cornpropst Mills (CM), Huntingdon (HU-town), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), Lower Trail at Alexandria (LT), Marklesburg waterfowl area-SGL 420 (MAR), McAlevys Fort (MF), Old Crow wetland (OC), Pennsylvania Furnace Rd (PF), Petersburg (PET), Raystown Lake (RL), Seven Points Rec Area at Raystown Lake (SP), Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC), Stone Creek Ridge (SCR), Stone Valley (SV), Trough Creek Valley (TCV), Tussey Mt. (TM), Tussey Mt. hawk watch (TMHW).

For spring 2021, 207 species were recorded in *Huntingdon*, just below the five-year average of 211. March was very warm, 5.6F above normal, and April and May near normal, although there was a spell of unseasonable cold during the second week of May. Overall precipitation was near normal, with May being the only month with above normal rainfall, but by only one inch.

Two **Cackling Geese** were at OC 3/1-9 (m.ob.). During the first two weeks of Mar, 1049 **Tundra Swans** were entered into eBird for the county; the high count was 200 at Coffee Run at RL (AP, m.ob.). It was a decidedly below-average season for ducks. The usual variety was there, with 21 species, but most were in low numbers. Among the most extreme, considering their former common status, was **American Black Duck** – there were only six reports, from five locations, totaling a mere 16 individuals. Another example of scarcity of a species often found in good numbers – a grand total of just one **Long-tailed Duck**, seen at LP 4/21 (SM). One of the few good counts, though by no means exceptional, was 30 **Redheads** at RL 3/3 (AP). Notably late was a drake **American Wigeon** at AA 5/22 (SM, MM, LM), possibly the same individual that had been lingering at OC through at least 5/17 (m.ob.). Grebes fared no better. Only 24 **Pied-billed Grebes**, total, from just three locations, were entered into eBird. Single **Horned Grebes** came from four locations (AP, KT, JC).

A slight improvement from recent reports, a total of 41 **Ruffed Grouse** were entered into eBird, though with no count of more than two birds.

Did Cuckoos respond to cicada presence, at least as of May 31? From comparisons via eBird, the answer is, possibly, "yes, to some degree." In May this year, 93 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were recorded in eBird in *Huntingdon*, compared to an average of 44 for May in 2016-2020. For **Black-billed Cuckoos**, the 2021 May tally for the county was 26, compared to the previous five-year average of 12. So both cuckoos were approximately double in number this year compared to recent Mays. As seen in the Table, the percentage of lists that included either cuckoo was also about double in May 2021 compared to the average for 2016-2020.

Huntingdon County	2021 May eBird total	2016-20 avg. May eBird total	% of 2021 checklists May 15-31	'16-'20 Avg % checklists May 15-31
YBCU	98	44.0	31.0%	14.7%
BBCU	26	12.4	6.5%	2.9%

Lone **Common Nighthawks** were reported at HU 5/6 (DK) and 5/7 (DKa), and at TM 5/14 (SM). The only **Virginia Rail** was at OC 4/30 (SM, MM, LM); Sora was not reported. Less than annual in the county, a **Common Gallinule** spent a short time at a tiny farm pond in TCV 5/8 (GG, DG, m.ob.). A **Sandhill Crane** flew over TMHW 4/2 (NB, SM), and one was briefly at OC 4/5 (KT, DG).

The shorebird season was modest, at best, as it often is; only nine species were listed. In keeping with low numbers of recent years, the top **Killdeer** report was of only seven birds (m.ob.). Similarly, the top **Wilson's Snipe** count was only four, which happened twice at OC, the location of most records, 3/38 and 4/6 (m.ob.). Five **Least Sandpipers** at OC 5/14 was tops for the most common of peeps inland (DK). Good counts of **Spotted Sandpiper** came from a 3-mile trip on the JR at PET 5/11, which produced 12 birds (SM, MM) and an 8-mile trip along the Little Juniata River near Spruce Creek 5/14, resulting in a count of 16

Spotties (SM). Seventeen **Solitary Sandpipers** was a good total at AR 5/11 (SM). Ten **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at OC 5/10 (KT, RL).

Gull reports were normal, meaning only the expected species: **Bonaparte's, Ring-billed,** and **Herring Gulls**. Terns were more scarce than usual. **Caspian Tern** reports were one at BA 4/11 (KT), 3 at James Creek Access, RL 4/12 (AP), and one at LP 4/17 (SM). **Forster's Terns** were 3 at SP 5/3 (DK) and one at LP 5/5 (SM, DW, JP, JK). **Common Loons** passed over TMHW 3/13-4/27 in small numbers early, with the high of 67 occurring 4/27 (SM, m.ob.). **Double-crested Cormorants** passed over TMHW 3/26-4/27, peaking at 28 on 4/27 (SM); elsewhere high numbers came from James Creek Access at RL with 37 on 4/2, and on RL near Saxton 4/5 (HR). **American Bitterns** were reported six times from three locations, all singles (m.ob.). A long-established heronry in Big Valley along Rt 655 held a min of 17 **Great Blue Herons** on at least 20 visible nests 4/17, a typical count there in recent years (GG).

At TMHW, the focal species is **Golden Eagle**, which had an above average year after several low years; the total count was 189 Golden's, compared to the average of 178. Best day was 42 on 3/10 (fourth highest day ever). **Bald Eagles** set a record for the season, with 104 counted. The primary counter was Sean McLaughlin (SM, NB, JK, m.ob.). See the spring hawk watch report in this issue for more details. The owl highlight was a **Short-eared Owl** at OC 3/2-3 (AM, DG, GG). Away from TMHW, **Merlins** were reported from four locations: singles at Hesston 3/27 (LF), SCEC 4/12 (DW), and MAR (DM); and a group of 3 at Myton Rd 4/30 (JS).

The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at Mothersbaugh Swamp in SV 5/20 (JK). Though certainly still uncommon, **Marsh Wrens** are now regular enough to perhaps no longer merit automatic inclusion in these reports. Four reports came from OC 4/20-5/10, and one from MAR 5/8 (m.ob.). **American Pipits** were a constant at PF, from late Mar throughout Apr; the high count was 100, on 3/29 (SB, RH). Elsewhere, 55 were tallied at MF 4/10 (JK).

Closing the books, presumably, on the winter finch invasion: The last report of **Evening Grosbeak** was of 4 on 5/5 near Alexandria (LMu). **Common Redpolls** were nearly daily fly-overs at TMHW through 4/2, with highs on a few days of about 40 birds. **Red Crossbill** reports, a dozen or more, continued in northern SV and around SCEC until at least 5/14, with a high count of 17 (m.ob.); elsewhere, 10 were noted picking at gravel along the road on SCR 4/18 (GG, DG). **Pine Siskin** reports dropped to zero by the fourth week of May; most counts had been less than 20, but a couple were as high as about 40 (m.ob.).

A late **Lapland Longspur** was at PF 3/28-29 (RF, RH, SB). Despite lots of birder activity, sparrow reports were limited. Best count of **Fox Sparrow** was 13 in SV 4/5 (SM). Only four **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported: singles at Garner Rd 5/8 (DK) and at OC 5/10 and at SCEC 5/15 and 5/16 (all SM). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported from at least seven locations. An excellent, and likely low, count of six came from the established location in SGL 112, enjoyed during a field trip of the State College Bird Club 5/23. **Bobolinks** returned to their primary nesting location in the county, the expansive fields at Longhorn Rd in TCv. The max count was ten, but the true number is probably a few times higher. A fairly reliable location to see migrant Bobolinks is OC, where counts of up to 30 were made 5/10-15 (m.ob.). Thirty-four warbler species were reported. Most notable was a **Prothonotary Warbler** at CM 4/28, approximately the sixth county record (GG). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at OC 4/27 (DK) and LT 5/13 (NB, SM).

Observers: **Greg Grove, gwg2@psu.edu**. Nick Bolgiano, Susan Braun, Jenna Conner, Roana Fuller, Luke Fultz, Aidan Griffiths, Deb Grove, Jeanette Harijanto, Ryan Hillsley, Debra Kalbfleisch (DKa), Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Renee Lubert, Alan MacEachren, Mark McLaughlin, Laurie McLaughlin, Sean McLaughlin, Dennis Miranda, Pedro Miranda, Larry Mutti (LMu), Alicia Palmer, Joshua Potter, Henry Rummel, Jerod Skebo, Ken Tucker, Doug Wentzel.

Indiana County

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Indiana (IN), Indiana Migration Count (IMC), Shelocta (SH), West Penn

Trail (WPT), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Not frequently found in the county in the spring, a single "blue" **Snow Goose** was photographed near YC 3/4 (MH, RH). YC hosted as many as 4 **Trumpeter Swans** 3/9 (MH, RH, ON); the only previous sighting was one bird 4/25/2006 (MH, GL, LC, KR). Top **Tundra Swan** counts of 200 occurred at YC 3/4 (MH, RH) and 3/6 (JaP, JP).

All waterfowl, shorebird, and gull reports are at YC unless otherwise specified. Thirteen was the high count for both **Blue-winged Teal** and **Northern Shoveler**; they were respectively noted 3/26 (MH, RH) and 3/4 (MH, RH). Fifty **American Wigeons** 3/10 (MD) was the top tally. Waterfowl peaked 3/9 (MH, RH, ON) with highs of 18 **Canvasbacks**, 38 **Redheads**, and 170 **Ring-necked Ducks**. Two **Greater Scaup** were noted 3/14 (RH, SM) and 3 on 4/18 (KA). An exact count of 98 **Lesser Scaup** was made 3/26 (MH, RH). Twenty-six **Common Mergansers** were tallied 3/9 (MH, RH, ON) and 33 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 4/22 (MH, RH).

American Coots peaked at 42 on 4/2 (MH, RH). A single **Semipalmated Plover** was listed 5/14 (DJ); 2 appeared 5/27 (JaP, JP) along with one **Least Sandpiper**. The WPT near Bow Ridge yielded a flock of 25 Least 5/21 (MC, ME). A **Wilson's Snipe** near YC 4/24 (MH, RH) was the only one reported. One to 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** were listed between 4/24 (SD) and 5/19 (SD). Three **Greater Yellowlegs** arrived 4/10 (SM) with singletons spotted through 5/27 (JaP, JP). Three **Lesser Yellowlegs** were photographed 5/10 (TR) at YC where 7 appeared the next day (LC, ED, PF, MH, RH, DK, DM, JT).

An amazing flock of 300 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 3/30 (SD) is the highest count on record for YC, surpassing the 275 seen 4/11/2006 (LC, DL, MH, SS). Not regularly seen in the county, 8 **Herring Gulls** were nice finds 3/9 (MEy, LS). Two **Caspian Terns** visited YC 4/25 (MH, RH) and one stopped by 5/11 (LC, ED, MH, RH, JT). Lake Margus yielded 4 **Forster's Terns** 4/29 (MH, RH) and 13 on 5/4 (GL) while 15 was the best YC count 5/10 (JT). Eleven **Common Loons** were present at YC during a heavy snowstorm 4/22 (MH, RH).

Two **Black Vulture** sightings are significant as this species continues to expand its range northward – singles near Lewisville 4/30 (MC) and at CD 5/12 and 5/16 (MH, RH). **Merlin** was sighted in an IN yard 4/23 (JP) and at YC 5/8 (MO). The only **Horned Larks** noted were one 4/2 (MH, RH) and 10 on 4/22 (MH, RH), all just north of YC.

Swallows seemed to be in short supply. Although there are several **Purple Martin** colonies in the northern part of the county, only one Purple Martin was eBirded this spring – an adult male at YC 4/26 (MH, RH). No **Barn Swallows** were listed at YC between 3/28 (AP) and 4/18 (KA). One or 2 **Bank Swallows** were at YC between 4/22 (MH, RH) and 5/10 (TR, JT). Single **Cliff Swallows** were found at YC 4/25, 4/29 (MH, RH) and 5/10 (TR); 2 were at Two Lick 5/14 (JC) where they nest.

A male **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was observed courtship-feeding a female 5/16 (MH, RH) near SH, where they had previously nested; he first passed her a piece of suet then foraged in the white pine and brought her another tidbit. The only **Winter Wren** noted was at BS 4/8 (JaP, JP). **Veeries** were tough to find this spring with the only sightings of singles at BS 5/6 (JT) and 5/11 (DK) and at Blacklick Valley NA 5/8 (JT). The IMC 5/8 (m.ob.) produced 4 **Swainson's Thrushes** in various parts of the county in addition to reports of 4 other Swainson's between 5/12 (DJ) and 5/21 (MCa). **Hermit Thrush** reports included singles in IN 4/7 and 4/13 (JP), at BS 4/8 (JP), at YC 4/24 (JK), and one near SH 5/8 (BR).

One to four **Pine Siskins** lingered at YC till 4/18 (KA), near Lewisville until 4/21 (MC), and near SH till 4/25 (MH, RH). The only **Grasshopper Sparrow** was found 5/8 (JaP, JP) at SGL 262. The wintering **Clay-colored Sparrow** near SH was last observed 3/15 (MH, RH). Only 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported: in IN 5/11 (JP) and at BS 5/8 (MH, RH, JT). Becoming ever more difficult to find in *Indiana*, 2 **Yellow-breasted Chats** were noted – one at the Conemaugh Floodlands in early May (DL) and one on the SH BBS route 5/31 (MH, RH). **Rusty Blackbirds** were 7 YC on four dates bracketed by 3/4 (MH, RH) and 3/29 (TR) with best count of 9 on 3/5 (MH, RH); seven were noted on the IMC 5/8 (SD) at Waterworks Conservation Area.

Thirty-three warblers were listed. Highlights included a banded **Golden-winged Warbler** at YC 5/5 (JT) which continued through the

end of the quarter. This warbler had been banded by Dr. Jeff Larkin at the L&M Campground near YC last year and fitted with a transmitter designed to fall off, which it apparently did. Other highlights were a **Prothonotary Warbler** at a bird bath near downtown IN 5/21 (SG) where it continued for two days, just the third *Indiana* record for this species; and the **Swainson's Warbler** found last year along the WPT had returned by 5/13 (DL) and continued through the end of May.

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 724-354-3493, bcoriole@windstream.net**. K.M. Anderson, Martin Carlin (MCA), Lee Carnahan, Jeremy Castle, Marcy Cunkelman, Michael David, Susan Dickson, Ed Donley, Mary Elsenheimer, Mary Eyman, (MEy), Patience Fisher, Sue Gatti, Rebecca Hart (RHa), Roger Higbee, Dennis Lauffer, Steve Manns, Oscar Nigam, Margarita Orlova, Aidan Place, James Pumford (JaP), Joseph Pumford, Bob Ramsey, Kevin Redvay, Theo Rickert, Scott Speedy, Liz Spence, John Taylor, Ken Truitt.

Jefferson County

Locations: Beechwoods Golf Course (BWGC), Belltown Bridge (BB), Brookville (BV), Clarrington (CLR), Clarion-Little Toby Trail (CLTT), Clear Creek State Forest (CCSF), Clear Creek State Park (CCSP), Cloe Lake (CL), Fordham Lake (FL), Galusha Road (GR), Interstate 80 (I-80), Jakes Farm (JF), Kyle Lake (KL), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MST), Pansy Hollow Road (PHR), Punxsutawney (PXY), Richardsville (RV), Ridge Road (RR), Ringgold (RG), Sandy Ridge Road (SRR), Skyline Drive (SD), State Game Lands #244 (SGL #244), Walter Dick Memorial Park (WDMP), Worthville Cemetery (WC).

Spring migration 2021 led off in late March with waterfowl arriving on *Jefferson's* mostly frozen waterways and concluded with a nice variety of neotropical passerine sightings throughout the month of May. A **Common Loon** and a **Horned Grebe** were tallied on KL 4/25 (DK). A **Pied-billed Grebe** was noted a few days earlier at the same locale 4/22 (RC). A **Great Egret** and a **Green Heron** were observed at FL on 5/8 and 5/5, respectively (JAK). A continuing rarity, a **Trumpeter Swan**, was reported in RV 4/11 (LC). A single **Gadwall** was located at a pond on SD 4/7 (JAK). A trio of **Redheads** and 4 **Ring-necked Ducks** were reported on KL 4/19 (MI). FL hosted a **Red-breasted Merganser** 4/3 (JAK). A flock of 13 **Ruddy Ducks** was present at KL 4/19 (MI).

Birds of prey highlights included a **Black Vulture** along the westbound lane of I-80 near Brookville 5/23 (IS) and a **Northern Harrier** along SD 3/20 (JAK). A **Bald Eagle** was present at WDMP 3/26 (DR). Upland game bird sightings included a **Ruffed Grouse** near RG 5/16 (JAK) and **Wild Turkey** at SGL 244 on 5/8 (DR) and RR 5/15 (DR).

The best birds of the 2021 spring migration were a trio of **Sandhill Cranes**, which were photographed flying over fields near CLR 4/25 (SK). Shorebird habitat is limited around the county; however, a **Greater Yellowlegs** and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present at FL 5/3 (JAK). A **Spotted Sandpiper** was present at a water hazard at BWGC 5/26 (DR). Several gull sightings included 5 **Bonaparte's Gulls** at KL 4/10 (DR), a **Ring-billed Gull** at KL 4/25 (DK), and a **Herring Gull** at CL 5/8 (JAK). The latter is rather unusual for west central PA. Additionally a lone **Common Tern** was tallied at CL 4/25 (JAK).

Owls included a **Great Horned Owl** recorded along MST 3/27 (JAK), and a **Barred Owl** and an **Eastern Screech-Owl** in PXY 5/18 and 5/19 (NV). Seven species of woodpeckers take up residence in Pennsylvania; however, the striking **Red-headed Woodpecker** is an unusual find in *Jefferson*. An adult was photographed along PHR 5/6 (JAK). Several **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were heard and observed on SGL 244 on 5/8 (DR).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, the best flycatcher of the season, was recorded at CCSF 5/31 (MH). Two **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were noted at BWGC and CLTT, respectively, 5/26 and 5/27 (DR). A pair of **Eastern Kingbirds** was spotted at BWGC 5/26 (DR). Notable vireo observations included 2 **White-eyed Vireos** at WC 5/19 (JAK). A pair of **Blue-headed Vireos** were located on SGL 244 on 5/8 (DR). A flock of 24 **Cliff Swallows** was present at BB 5/20 (DK).

A pair of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were tallied along SRR 5/15

(NV). Several thrush species were identified: highlights included a **Veery** singing along CLTT 5/27 (DR) and a **Swainson's Thrush** at CCSP 5/22 (SBN). A **Northern Mockingbird**, unusual in the region, was discovered near RG 5/12 (JAK).

Noteworthy warbler species included 4 **Blue-winged Warblers** at SGL 244 on 5/8 (DR), a rare **Cerulean Warbler** at WC 5/30 (JAK), a **Wilson's Warbler** at JF 5/15 (JAK), and a **Canada Warbler** at BB 5/20 (DK). A few lingering **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported well into May, the last at GR 5/6 (DK). Two **Purple Finches** were spotted at BWGC 5/26 (DR), and a tardy **Pine Siskin** was visiting a feeder in BV 5/3 (KA).

Observers: **Dan Richards, 1151 Treasure Lake, DuBois, PA 15801, (814) 771-2471, drichards7@verizon.net**, Kristin Attinger, Sarah Boucas-Neto, Lisa Catarouche, Ray Cunningham, Michael Henao, Matt Irons, S Kaye, John and Avis Keener, Dave Keith, Ian Sarmiento, Nick Voris.

Juniata County

Locations: Casner's Crossing - Juniata River (CC), Clearwater Res. in Licking Creek Valley (CR), Juniata River (JR), Lewistown Narrows Canal Park (LNCP), Licking Creek Valley (LCV), McAlisterville (MA), Metz Rd (MR), Mifflintown (MIF), Mifflintown River Access (MRA), Muskrat Springs (MS), Port Royal (PR), Van Wert (VW), Walker Access on Juniata River (WA).

Juniata birders totaled 187 species for spring 2021. County birders, including as a major component the active birding community among the Amish, were busy on the Global Big Day 5/8, tallying 151 species.

Eighteen duck species were recorded, providing good variety, but numbers were low for most species, as is usual, with single digit high counts for many. Notable good counts were 6 **Blue-winged Teal** at WA 5/1 (JP), 15 **American Black Ducks** at CR 3/13 (JP), 73 **Common Mergansers** at CR 3/12 (JH), and 27 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at MRA 3/28 (JP). **Horned Grebes** are usually scarce so a count of 4 at MRA 4/11 was nice (CK, NK).

The only report of **Common Nighthawk** was of one at CC 5/30 (CK, NK). A **Sandhill Crane**, about the fifth county record, was photographed near MA 5/29 (JP). Three **Semipalmated Plovers** were near MIF 5/29 (JP). There are only about a half-dozen eBird reports of **Dunlin** for *Juniata*, so one at Pine Grove Rd near MA 5/10 was notable (JP). Ten **Spotted Sandpipers** provided a nice find at WA 5/1 (JP). Twenty **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at CR 3/31 (MD). Among many reports of **Double-crested Cormorant**, a count of 71 at MRA 4/12 was impressive for *Juniata* (CK, JP). A **Short-eared Owl** was at VW 4/2 (JP, CK, NK).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted at eight locations, with a high of 7 at the established colony at the Juniata Saddle Club near MA 5/6 (DS). LNCP hosted a **Peregrine Falcon** 3/16 (RD) and an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 5/27 (JP). Among many reports of **American Pipits**, the high was 200 near PR 3/28 (CK). A winter flock of **Evening Grosbeaks** lingered to 5/8 in LCV, max of 3 during the spring season (DB, CK); singles were at Nealman Rd 5/11 (AW) and SGL 107 on 5/13 (JP). An impressive flock of **Common Redpolls**, numbering about 100, was near Nook for three days around 3/21 (MF).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at SGL 88 on 5/8 was the only report (JP). Thirty-two species of warblers were reported in eBird. Highlights include 2 **Golden-winged Warblers** 5/8 and one **Kentucky Warbler** 5/23, both at LNCP (JP), a **Mourning Warbler** at SGL 88 on 5/8 (JP), and four observations of one-two **Yellow-throated Warblers** at LNCP 5/8-29 (JP, RD). A **Dickcissel** was found on Flint Rd. 5/8, a location where seen in previous years (anon.).

Observers: **Greg Grove, gwg2@psu.edu, Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, chadkauffman@earthlink.net, cell 717-994-6715**. Deb Brackbill, Michael David, Rob Dickerson, Mike Fournier, Vern Gauthier, Jackie Heidenreich, Noah Kauffman, Jason Petersheim, Darla Shank, Austin Willi.

Lackawanna County

Locations: Corby Swamp (CS), Lackawanna SP (LSP), Lower Narrows Rd. (LN), Watts Rd. (WR).

Lackawanna recorded an abundance of significant sightings this period and continued to add support for northeastern Pennsylvania being seen as nothing shy of a gem for avian species. Waterfowl migration in its entirety came in slightly under par in comparison to previous seasons but exceeded expectations regarding geese sightings. **Snow Geese** were seen at several locations countywide exhibiting a distribution that does not happen annually; the high was of 400 in flight above Dickson City 3/14 (MM). **Northern Shovelers** are annual, but relatively infrequent, thus making the individual on the ponds at the Waverly Disc Golf Course 3/17 (MB, MC, JE) noteworthy. **Northern Pintails** were prevalent throughout Mar at WR; the period high was 6 on 3/26 (RA). Sixteen **White-winged Scoters** were encountered at Baylor's Lake 5/8 (TD.) On the downside, the period was limited to 4 **Long-tailed Duck** at Lake Scranton, a species that usually occurs in higher numbers, and 3 **Horned Grebes** 4/4 (CF).

Sandhill Cranes returned to their suspected breeding location at WR with one bird first sighted 3/16 (RA) and then joined by a second 4/1 (RK). This observation supports this species' recent status as a regular inhabitant of the region. Birders were delighted in the sight of Lackawanna's first **Red-necked Phalarope** discovered at Aylesworth Park 5/18 (CF). A **Common Tern** was a great find at LSP 5/8 (SP).

The county's first **Least Bittern** was found at CS 5/19 (TD) and continued through at least 5/22 (SP); perhaps this species will linger into the summer and attempt nesting at this location, well-suited for marsh birds. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was located at Ford's Lake 3/15 (RA), perhaps the same bird that is believed to have wintered in the county and was reported earlier from Jermyn Farm Rd. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found singing atop a tree snag in Clarks Summit 5/20 (SG).

Open-country birds like **Horned Lark** are often overlooked within the region; the only sighting was of a single bird in a corn field beside WR 3/3 (CF, RJ). **Purple Martins** are undisputedly the rarest of the northeast's swallows, giving the sighting of a single bird at LSP 5/9 (BM) value. **Marsh Wrens** appear to be frequenting the region more regularly within recent years; a new county high was set with 5 at Archbald Pothole SP 5/10 (TD).

Remnants of the winter finch invasion continued late into the period with sightings of 2 **Evening Grosbeaks** at a private residence southwest of Moscow 5/10 (AW) and a high of 8 **Common Redpolls** at Chapman Lake 3/16 (MM). Two birders stumbled onto what may be a breeding stronghold for **Worm-eating Warbler**; a county high of 11 were reported at LN 5/24 (CF, SP). Outside of the regenerating timber cuts in Pike's Delaware SF, **Golden-winged Warblers** are a true regional rarity; a well-dressed male was at Keystone College 5/6 (JE, TS, DS, ph.). A hybrid **Lawrence's Warbler** was also photographed at LSP 5/9 (BM). A lone **Cerulean Warbler** was a nice discovery at LN 5/21 (RK). Rounding off the excitement was a single **Mourning Warbler** found at Eales Preserve 5/11 (BM); with luck this species will breed here and continue to maintain a presence in the northeast.

Observers: **Ryan Johnson, 140 Hollisterville Hwy, Moscow, PA 18444, (570) 702-9118, natureguy13@gmail.com**, Ralph Allen, Marc Bonilla, Mason Crouthamel, Tony DeSantis, Joseph Elias, Chris Fischer, Spencer Galen, Rick Koval, M. Mack, Brian Marra, Susan Petty, Ty Sharrow, Devin Smith, Antonia Walsh.

Lancaster County

Locations: Lake Grubb Nature Park (LGNP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve (SFWP), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clarke (SRLC), Woods Edge Park (WEP).

Daily high temps in March were above normal by six degrees,

breaking February's icy grip and allowing early migrants to move. April stayed a mite on the warm side, but May was nearly normal. Precipitation was a bit low overall. Weather information is derived from Harrisburg data from the National Weather Service, which dates back to 1888. Just below the prior 4-year average of 234 (243, 233, 232, 232 previous), 232 species were recorded during the period. Two completely unexpected first county records appeared, and coincidentally both were also second state records!

Official counts of **Snow Geese** at MCWMA peaked at 90,000 on 3/8, as Feb ice-cover kept their numbers from really accumulating as in most years. **Ross's Geese** were reported in small numbers coinciding with the Snow Goose peak. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** resided at WEP 3/2-20 (SS, m.ob.). Surprisingly, no scoters or Long-tailed Ducks were recorded.

One of the most shocking discoveries in recent memory came in the form of a **Tundra Bean-Goose** at SRCF 5/2 (EW), seen through 5/4 (m.ob.). The only prior state record was a bird that spent the past winter in *Delaware* and *Philadelphia*, but by close examination of the bill pattern, this bird was judged to be a different individual. These are exceptionally rare Eurasian vagrants to North America which are most likely to show up on the Aleutian Islands, much less east of the Mississippi, and much, much less on a river in the middle of Pennsylvania in May!

Common Nighthawks were noted regularly toward the end of May, particularly along the Susquehanna R. It's always a pleasure to see these spirited, but substantially-declining aerial insectivores grace an evening sky. A singing **Whip-poor-will**, a tough species to encounter in the county, was recorded at LGNP 4/29 (EB, TN). Single **Sandhill Cranes** were at SRCF 4/18 (EW) and MCWMA 5/3-7 (SF, m.ob.).

All of the following shorebird observations were made at SRCF unless otherwise noted. Memorial Day weekend 5/29-31 brought very poor weather and excellent shorebird variety and counts. Over these dates, maximum counts of the following occurred: 5 **Black-bellied Plovers**, 27 **Semipalmated Plovers**, one **Sanderling**, 20 **Dunlins**, 30 **Least Sandpipers**, 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers**, 35 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, and 8 **Short-billed Dowitchers** (m.ob.). After a dismal shorebird showing in fall 2020, these birds were a welcome sight. An adult **Long-billed Dowitcher** was discovered at MCWMA 5/10 (SF, m.ob.), the first documented spring season report in *Lancaster*. A fortunate birder briefly observed a flock of 4 **Willetts** at WEP on the morning of 4/28 (RN).

Large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were hard to come by, with the best count being 475 on SRLC 3/30 (ML). As a result, **Little Gulls** were difficult to find, with only one seen 4/27 (ML, JM). There were 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** reports, one at Columbia River Park 3/3 (DS) and one at OR 3/15 (Larry Bernhardt). **Caspian** and **Common Terns** were regular, but somehow Forster's Tern was an unusual miss. Likewise, **Common Loons** were numerous, but Red-throated Loon did not show. An **American Bittern** was seen in wetlands near Kirkwood 4/27 (CG). A **Snowy Egret** stalked SRCF 4/28-5/4 (ML, m.ob.), followed by a **Cattle Egret** roosting there 5/8 (MS). Numbers of **Black-crowned Night-Herons** once again returned to their rookery at Ephrata Wellspan Hospital, joined by a single male **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** which has frequented this colony since 2015.

An imm. **Golden Eagle** glided over a Kirkwood farm 4/17 (m.ob.), to the delight of numerous observers waiting on an even better rarity (keep reading). A **Mississippi Kite** was described in flight over Welsh Mountain south of New Holland 5/22 (ZM), on a day when numerous individuals traversed the region. A continuing light-phase imm. **Rough-legged Hawk** at MCWMA was last reported 3/9 (m.ob.), and sightings of wintering **Short-eared Owls** petered out after 4/6 (m.ob.).

The only location reporting **Olive-sided Flycatchers** was MCWMA 5/19-26 (BC, TD, DK). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was photographed at NDP 5/16-17 (SM). Uncommon **Alder Flycatchers** were found in passage at SFWP 5/10 (RN) and NDP 5/14 (SM), and breeders were first heard at MCWMA 5/19 (m.ob.). NDP continued to produce rarities with a **Philadelphia Vireo** 5/19 (SM), which may be the first photographed in spring in the county. **Black-capped Chickadees**,

holding over from the winter's irruption, largely disappeared after Mar, but 2 were described at feeders 4/17 (SB, BM) in concert with later reports in southeast PA.

Uncommon **Cliff Swallows** returned to two known breeding colonies along the Susquehanna R. Plenty of wintering, irruptive **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported through Apr, with most May reports seemingly representing more southerly individuals found among mixed migrant flocks. Single **Marsh Wrens** were found at three locations 5/2-11 (m.ob.). Continuing irruptive **Purple Finches** and **Pine Siskins** were prevalent well into May. Two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were seen accompanying large flocks of other blackbirds: a male 3/3 near Quarryville (WW), and a female near Penryn 3/4 (BC).

In an incredible turn of events, *Lancaster* set not one, but two second state records this spring! Early in Apr the birding community learned of a male **Scott's Oriole** which had overwintered since Jan at a Kirkwood Amish farm. One lucky birder saw it briefly the morning of 4/6 (CG), however, its food source of orange slices and homemade peach-pineapple jam had dried up, so it disappeared for several tantalizing days. Then, on the afternoon of 4/9 the homeowners reported its return and were gracious enough to allow visitors. From then on you could set your watch to the oriole's visits, and by the end of Saturday 4/17 the visitor logbook contained 495 signatures! Its last day in residence was 4/18, seen privately by the homeowners on that Sunday. The bird was extraordinary, the family's hospitality legendary, and we in the birding community extend a hearty thank you to them.

Thirty-three expected warbler species were found this spring. Of this group, a male **Brewster's Warbler** (Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler) was photographed in the vicinity of the dam at MCWMA 5/9-11 (NW, WW). Coincidentally, a female **Golden-winged Warbler** was photographed in precisely the same location 5/10 (JW), and so the Patagonia Picnic Table Effect strikes again. The continuing male **Painted Bunting** was last observed 4/9 by the homeowner, and hopefully he extends his remarkably lengthy stay with us next winter (roll scenes from *The Incredible Journey*). Lastly, 3 **Dickcissels**, a pair and a separate male were seen in Peach Bottom fields 5/25 (JH) where they bred in past years.

Observers: **Zach Millen, 101 Bridle Path, New Holland, PA 17557, (717) 723-1279, zjmillen@gmail.com**, Larry Bernhardt, Sabrena Boeckel, Emily Broich, Bruce Carl, Tom Donahue, Carlton Groff, Jason Horn, Steve Ferreri, Darlene Kershner, Meredith Lombard, Brett Matlock, Seth McComsey, Randall Nett, Ted Nichols II, Mike Schall, Stanley Stahl, Derek Stoner, Eric Witmer, Joe Wolf, Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf.

Lawrence County

ocations: Black Swamp (BS), Mason Road, SGL 151 (MR), Plain Grove Township (PG), Shaner Road Marsh (SR), Volant Strips (VSM), Vosler Road (VR).

The season, as is typical in spring, was dominated by reports of waterfowl and shorebirds, mostly from SR, which has quickly become one of the best hotspots for waterbirds in western Pennsylvania away from Lake Erie. The end of the season was punctuated by a shocking rarity, one of two county firsts this spring.

Twenty **Tundra Swans** at Edinburg Lake 3/5 (MV) were the last of their spring migration here. **Blue-winged Teal** was a fixture at SR beginning 3/20 through mid-May, but the top count during that time was just 9 birds (m.ob.). Up to 4 **Northern Shovelers** were at SR 3/13-4/12 (GK, MAK). It was a good season for **Gadwall**, with top counts of 30 at BS 3/1 (MS, SuS) and 18 at the Copper Road marsh 3/18-27 (MC). Along with the Gadwalls at BS 3/1 were 15 **American Wigeons** (MS, SuS), and one very late wigeon was at SR 5/14 (MC). **American Black Ducks** were very few; last was one at SR 3/13 (GK, MAK).

Canvasback can be hard to find in *Lawrence*, so one at SR 3/20 (MV, GK, MAK) was notable. Top count of **Redhead** was just 15 at BS 3/1-15 (MC, et al.) but **Ring-necked Ducks** were quite numerous at SR, where counts reached 210 on 3/20 (MV), 268 on 4/7 (GK, MAK), and 140

still there 4/24 (SS). At least 9 lingered to 5/2 (GK, MAK). Quite remarkable were two records of **Long-tailed Duck**, one at MR 3/10 (RN) and one at SR 3/20 (GG, DG). **Bufflehead** were present at SR in small numbers for several weeks, but numbers briefly spiked to as many as 50 on 4/24 (SS). Unusual for *Lawrence* was a **Common Goldeneye** at Edinburg Lake 3/6 (MV). A female **Common Merganser** with 12 chicks in tow were at SGL 178 on 5/31 (MK), further evidence of their continued expansion into southwestern Pennsylvania as a breeding species. A late **Red-breasted Merganser** was at MR 5/22-29 (MV, MC).

An eBird report of 2 **Common Nighthawks** at McConnell's Mill State Park 5/22 represented the only ones noted. A **Virginia Rail** at BS 4/25 (GK, MAK) was also the only one of its kind reported, but there were two **Soras**, one at BS 5/6 (SSm) and one at SR 5/12 (RN). A **Common Gallinule** was at Wampum-New Galilee Road 4/24 (MV) where the species breeds annually, but there were no reports thereafter, probably due to lack of coverage. Thirty-two **Sandhill Cranes** at SR 5/23 (DF) was an unusually high number for that late a date.

Shorebirding at SR was outstanding once again this spring. Best of all shorebirds was the county's first **Black-necked Stilt** photographed at SR 4/30 (AH), just the second for western Pennsylvania following one that appeared in *Bedford* in May 2004. Unfortunately, it did not linger and was not seen by anyone other than the finder. A **Black-bellied Plover** was at SR 5/10 (ON), a species that is always a fine treat anywhere in western Pennsylvania away from Presque Isle. Up to 5 **Sempalmated Plovers** were at SR 5/21-29 (m.ob.). Along with the Black-bellied Plover 5/10 was a **Ruddy Turnstone** (ON), another excellent bird for the spring season. Reports of **Dunlin** included one at VR 4/23 (MV), one at SR 4/24-25 (GK, MAK), and 2 at SR 5/6-7 (SSm). A nice count of 15 **Pectoral Sandpipers** was made early in the season at MR 4/6 (TP), and one was still hanging around SR 5/23 (MC). Counts of **Sempalmated Sandpiper** were modest, with maxes of just 6 at SR in the last week of May (DB, MV). Three **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at SR 5/10 (ON), but better, especially in spring, were 4 **Long-billed Dowitchers** at SR 5/2 (ph. TP). A very early **Solitary Sandpiper** was at MR 3/20 (MV), perhaps record early for the county. A **Common Tern** was at SR 5/10 (GK, MAK), another rare bird for *Lawrence*.

The shock of the season was the county's first (and Pennsylvania's fifth) **White-faced Ibis** at VR 5/24 (MV). Several birders rushed to the scene, but unfortunately only a lucky handful saw it before it took flight and departed to the east. While present, the bird was very cooperative, and extremely well-photographed. An **American Bittern** was another nice find at SR 5/10 (MC).

Northern Harriers in the month of May included birds at VSM 5/8 (MC) and at VR 5/29 (GK, MAK). Last **Rough-legged Hawk** of the winter was on Lake Road 3/6 (MC). Quite interesting was a **Short-eared Owl** at VSM on the late date of 4/26 (MC), but unfortunately it was not seen thereafter. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continue to be well-reported in the county; they remained on Book Road, SGL 151 from last year through at least 4/30 (m.ob.), but they were also noted at SGL 150 from 3/30-4/9 (MH, RH, LW) and at SGL 178 from 5/23-30 (GK, MAK). A **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted from the Pennsylvania Turnpike in the southeastern corner of the county, east of Enon Valley 3/17 (DK, KS).

Alder Flycatchers included single birds at BS 5/22 (DK) and at VSM 5/25 (DK). A **Common Raven** was seen from the Bevington boat access on the North Country Trail 4/3 (GK, MAK). A few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** lingered in a few locations to 3/19 (MV, ST, et al.). The **Varied Thrush** that appeared in a yard near New Bedford in Feb was last seen 3/5 (*fide* BR). Nice tallies of up to 100 **American Pipits** were made on Lake Road 4/15-17 (ST, GK, MAK). A **Purple Finch** was at SGL 151 on 4/9 (MH, RH, LW, DK).

Quite nice were 10 **Common Redpolls** at VSM 3/20 (GG, DG). Tarrying **Pine Siskins** scattered around county feeders through mid-May (m.ob.), but one photographed at a feeder in New Castle 5/31 was notably late (eBird). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at SGL 178 on 5/30 (LW) was a nice find, as this species is seldom reported in the county. Twenty-seven **Bobolinks** at BS 5/15 were part of a day total of 40 across the PGT area that day (GK, MAK). Several reports of small numbers of **Rusty Blackbirds** were topped by 17 birds at SGL 150 on 4/30 (LW). A **Northern Waterthrush** was found in PGT 5/6 (SSm). A pair of

Prothonotary Warblers, a very rare breeder in the county, set up shop at SGL 178 by season's end (LW, m.ob.). An eager **Yellow-throated Warbler** was already as far north as SGL 150 by 4/7 (MH, RH, FM, DK, LW).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, David Brooke, Martin Carlin, Donna Foyle, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Ashley Harold, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Deb Kalbfleisch, Michelle Kienholz, Mary Alice Koeneke (MAK), Glenn Koppel, Flo McGuire, Oscar Nigam, Richard Nugent, Tom Pinter, Bobbie Rochow, Steve Sanford, Kathy Saunders, Matt Schenck, Susan Schenck (SuS), Steve Schmit (SSm), Kate St. John (KSJ), Shannon Thompson, Mark Vass, Linda Wagner.

Lebanon County

Locations: Balmer Farm Ponds (BFP), Cornwall Area (CA), Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation (FIG), Fox and Prescott Rd (FXP), Kreider's Pond (KP), Marquette Lake (ML), Memorial Lake State Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Mount Pleasant Rd (MPR), Pine Rd (PR), SGL 145, SGL 211, Shuey Lake (SL), Spring Hill Acres (SHA), Swatara State Park (SSP).

Two **Cackling Geese** were at MC 3/12 (EH). Up to 10 **Blue-winged Teal** provided a good count at MLSP 4/11-14 (KB, TB, MC, RS, JH, SW). Five **Redheads** were at MC 3/15 (JH). A **Greater Scaup** was at MLSP 3/18-20 (JH, TB, MC, SW). Four **Long-tailed Ducks** were part of a fallout at MLSP 3/26 (TB, JH, TN, MC). Two **Common Goldeneyes** were also at MLSP 3/26 (TB, JH, TN, MC), along with a **Red-breasted Merganser** (TB, TN, JW, JH). A Red-breasted Merganser was also at MLSP 3/18-20 (TB, KB, JH, SW), with 5 there 4/12 (JH).

Ruffed Grouse were found in various parts of SGL 211 between 5/3-21 (m.ob.). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** are normally limited to the northern part of the county, especially FIG and SGL 211. However, southern *Lebanon* provided the first record this spring with one heard at SHA 4/14 (JH). Up to 3 **Virginia Rails** were at FIG 4/12-26 (JD, CT), with 2 near SL at FIG 5/8 (JH). A **Sora** was near SL at FIG 5/6-8 (JD, CT, RP, JH).

A **Black-bellied Plover** was along MPR 5/5 (RSt). Four **Semipalmated Plovers** were on the mudflats at ML 5/29-31 (RSt). Two **Dunlins** were at KP 4/30 (JH) and again 5/4-8 (JH). One was along MPR 4/30 (RSt). Up to 17 **American Woodcocks** were "peenting" at MLSP 3/26-27 (TN, SB, BB). A **Red-necked Phalarope** was swimming at BFP 5/23 (m.ob.); one or 2 were at MC 5/23 (SF) and 5/25 (JH). Up to 3 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were intermittent at MLSP 4/10-25 (m.ob.). One was there again 5/10 (P&RW). Up to 4 **Caspian Terns** were occasional at MLSP 4/15-5/4 (m.ob.) and 2 were observed along Tomstown Rd at FIG 5/4 (JD, CT, RP).

Forster's Terns are a rarity in *Lebanon*. Prior to this year, the last report was of a single bird at MLSP after Hurricane Sandy in Oct 2012. This spring MLSP hosted Forster's Terns on three occasions: a single Forster's Tern 4/25 (JH, SW, MC, BBr, AM), up to 4 from 5/3-4 (JF, P&RW, TB), and a single 5/10 (JD, CT, TB, KB).

An **American Bittern** was at FIG near MLSP 5/8-10 (m.ob.). Two **Cattle Egrets** provided a great find at FXP 4/19 (PH, JH, SBu, P&RW). A **Black-crowned Night-heron** flew over Cold Springs Rd at FIG 5/8 (JH), and one was at MLSP 5/9 (MC). A **Glossy Ibis** was at MC 5/28 (SF).

Up to 2 **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen at MC 3/1-3 (JFi, FH, JS). Up to 4 **Barred Owls** were found through the quarter at SGL 211 (JH, TN, ER, JF). Single Barred Owls were also heard at SGL 145 on 5/8 (JH) and PR 5/22 (TB). A **Long-eared Owl**, continuing from the winter, was at SSP 3/20-21 (JW, JH). A **Short-eared Owl** flew into *Lebanon* airspace at MC 3/15 (JH). Up to 3 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were found at SGL 211 on 3/20-30 (JH, TN, ER, GS).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed in small numbers at their stronghold in FIG 5/8-22 (SK, JD, CT). Three were found north of Annville 5/17 (BB). **Merlins** were seen at MLSP 3/26 (JW), and FIG 5/10 (JD, CT, CH, RP). A **Peregrine Falcon** was observed on Second

Mountain at FIG 5/8 (SK). **Alder Flycatchers** were found in Palmyra 5/23 (SW) and at the Royal Oaks Golf Course 5/24 (JFi). One settled in at MC 5/22-31 (P&RW, JFi, RSt, EHe).

Coming off of an invasion year, single **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found at five locations 3/9-5/17 (m.ob.). Notable counts of **American Pipits** were 26 at MC 3/21 (JH) and 40 along Obie Rd 3/31 (P&RW). A few **Evening Grosbeaks** passed through the county in early May. Four were at a residence in Greenpoint 5/6 (BW, m.ob.). Single Evening Grosbeaks were noted at SHA 5/6 (JH) and MC 5/9 (JH). Small numbers of **Pine Siskins** persisted at CA 3/1-5/7 (P&RW), with 14 there 3/18 (P&RW). Six Siskins were at SHA 3/24 (JH), with 3 there 5/7 (JH).

Two **Lapland Longspurs** were at MC 3/13 (JH). A very cooperative **Clay-colored Sparrow** provided a rare county find at MLSP 5/8-10 (JSw, SS, m.ob.). Seventeen **Fox Sparrows** were a notable count at SGL 211 on 3/20 (JH). A **Vesper Sparrow** was found along Krumstown Rd 4/25 (JH). Another visited a feeder near Myerstown 4/25 through the period (SH). Forty **Bobolinks** were counted in a tree at MLSP the morning of 5/10 (P&RW). Fourteen **Rusty Blackbirds** provided a good count at PR 3/11 (TB).

A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a terrific find at FIG 5/10-11 (JD, CT, RSt). **Mourning Warblers** were observed at SSP 5/4 (ME) and MLSP 5/10 (ME). **Cerulean Warblers** were at FIG 4/28 (JD, CT), MLSP 5/1 (JH), SGL 211 on 5/8 (JH), and SSP 5/8 (JH). One was singing at SGL 211, along Cold Springs Rd, 5/17-21 (NF, JSz). **Yellow-throated Warblers**, a county rarity, were found at a home along Meadow Lane 4/13 (MD) and at SSP 5/1 (JH). A **Blue Grosbeak** was at MC 5/1-31 (JH, SW, JHo, JSz).

Observers: **Timothy Becker, 10283 Jonestown Rd, Grantville Pa 17028, tjbecker81@aol.com**, Kathy Becker, Brandon Brown, Brian Brown (BBr), Stefani Brown, Paul Brubaker, Sara Busch (SBu), Mary Coomer, Mike Dale, Jarrod Derr, Mike Epler, Emily Felty, Justin Felty, Nate Felty, Steve Ferreri, Jim Fiorentino (JFi), Stephanie Hammer, Eric Hartshaw, Christopher Hauer, Frederick Heilman, Jonathan Heller, Elaine Hendricks (EHe), Pam Holmes, Jason Horn (JHr), Josh Houck (JHo), Sally Kraus, Annette Mathes, Ted Nichols, Rebecca Picone, Rick and Peggy Price (R&PP), Emily Ritter, Mike Shull, Rosemary Spreha, Goran Stankovic, Rita Stima (RSt), Jerr Stine, Joe Swift (JSw), Shirley Sword, Jen Szekeres (JSz), Cassidy Titus, Steve Walthius, Brian Weaver, Pat and Richard Williams (P&RR), Joe Wolf.

Lehigh County

As over the winter, this season was slow for **Snow Geese** in *Lehigh*. There were no major wintering flocks, and most reports were of groups well under five hundred. There were a few reports of fly over flocks up to ten thousand in mid-March, likely north bound birds. A well-photographed **Tundra Swan** continued at Trexler Memorial Park, reported daily to 3/6. Elsewhere, there were reports from Haaf Road (2) and Whitehall (3) 3/13 (TG, LR), and one from Lynn Township 4/28 (DA). A pair of **Blue-winged Teals** were at Leaser Lake (BB) and at Nestle Way 4/28 (JaH). Up to 6 **Northern Pintails** were at Haaf Rd and at nearby Cetronia Rd in Upper Macungie 3/12-25. **Green-winged Teal** were at the usual spots in Upper Macungie daily 3/1 to 5/1, max count (26) at Nestle Way 4/1 (JH).

Two cooperative **Canvasbacks** were enjoyed by many at the pond at Trexler Park 3/1-5. Weather knocked down some good ducks at Leaser Lake 3/26, including a raft of 56 scaup sp. (probably both **Greater Scaup** and **Lesser Scaup**), as well as 8 **Long-tailed Ducks** and 7 **Red-breasted Mergansers** (BB). The only report of **Ruddy Duck** (2) was from Leaser Lake 3/21 (PN).

In keeping with the recent trend, **Wild Turkey** remains scarce. There were 22 eBird reports, but the max count was just 3 birds. There have been very few double digit reports over the past several years. Up to six **Pied-billed Grebes** were reported through 4/24 at Leaser Lake, where they are probable breeders. **Horned Grebes** (3) were also at Leaser Lake 3/26-27. There were only four eBird reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo**, half of these being nocturnal flight call (NFC) recordings by Jeff Vinosky in Alburts. An **Eastern Whip-Poor-Will** was photographed at

SGL 217 near Slatington 5/9 (TB). **Virginia Rails** were present near Alburdis 4/29 to at least 5/18 in suitable habitat (JV). Hopefully these were a successful breeding pair.

We had a plover “sweep” in May, with all four expected species found. The two good ones were quickies, seen by only a lucky few: a **Black-bellied Plover** was photographed at Nestle Way 5/24 (CH), and an **American Golden-Plover** was found a few days later, 5/29 at Cetrionia Road (JH, JaH). One or two **Semi-palmated Plovers** were reported regularly from various spots in Macungie 5/16-25. **Killdeer** was typically ubiquitous anywhere there's a little mud, and many places where there isn't. Killdeer...the plover that you kinda forget about sometimes. Not so forgettable, a **Long-billed Dowitcher** was photographed and well-studied at Nestle Way 5/20 (JH). This may be just the second record for the county, and seems to be the first since 1984!

Common Loons were at Leaser Lake most days 3/26-5/16, with max count (16) 3/31 (EK). An **American Bittern** stopped over at Leaser Lake 4/24 (HE), and a NFC recording was made 4/28 at Alburdis (JV). Two **Glossy Ibis** were photographed at Breinigsville 3/31-4/1 (RH). The resident leucistic **Red-tailed Hawk** was photographed over Center Valley 5/16 (LS). This striking, nearly all white bird has been reported from the area regularly over the past several years. **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard 3/3 at New Tripoli (MB), and 3/17 near Alburdis (JV).

Red-headed Woodpecker continues to do very well here, reported from at least ten different locations, several of them known breeding territories. This is a great local story for sure! There were no reports from the Slatington territory, as it seems no one checked it. **Peregrine Falcons** seemed to be nesting again at the 8th Street Bridge in Allentown, following a gap of several years at that site. The pair from the Wind Creek Casino property in Bethlehem were noted frequently from the *Lehigh* side of the county line, and adults were photographed atop the PPL building in Allentown, which is another recent nest site.

Alder Flycatcher vocalizations were well described from Haaf Road 5/21 (JD). Occurrence and status of this species is poorly understood in *Lehigh*, so a confident report is of interest. **Blue Jays** made a significant push through the area 5/4. Jays were notably abundant that morning, so a brief, concerted attempt was made to count north bound migrants at Lehigh Gap Nature Center, where 158 Blue Jays were tallied passing through the gap between noon and 1:00 pm (BE). At about that same time at the southern end of the county, 107 Blue Jays were counted migrating north over DeSales University 10:30 to 11:00 am (PH).

Red-breasted Nuthatch is never a predictable bird here. They were sporadic throughout March, nearly absent the first three weeks of April, then reported daily 4/19 to 5/14. Max count (5) was at SGL 217 5/14 (AS). A **Marsh Wren** was photographed 5/15 at Leaser Lake (TBu). Between 5/16 and 5/27, Vinosky's NFC station captured about 20 recordings of **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, plus three recording of **Gray-cheeked / Bicknell's Thrush**. The “slash” recordings were apparently a bit too low in frequency to call either way, but of interest none the less. Bicknell's will be a county first when it is confirmed some day.

Similar to Red-breasted Nuthatch, it was also a weird season for **Purple Finch**. Following a pretty good fall and winter for the species, there was only one report in March (3/1). After the second week of April, they were reported almost daily 4/5-12; max count (10) was at Alburdis 5/8 (JV). A **Red Crossbill** was heard near Trexler Park 3/4 (JV), and 2 were noted from SGL 217 at Translator Lane 5/6 (CHu). **Pine Siskin** was another species reported heavily last fall, but only sporadically this spring. There were about 20 eBird records for the period, through at least 5/12. Max count (6) was at Pool Wildlife Sanctuary 5/2 (DH).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Leaser Lake 5/9 (CB). They have bred here recently, but didn't seem to this year. **Rusty Blackbird** was reported at least six times 3/1-4/28, max count (4) at DeSales University 3/26 (PH). All 31 of the most expected warblers were noted, including a few highlights that aren't always seen. **Mourning Warbler** was at Trexler Nature Preserve 5/14 (JF). **Kentucky Warbler** seemed to have a breeding territory along the Reservoir Road section of SGL 217 (m.ob., 5/23 AS). Finally, **Wilson's Warbler** was reported twice: 5/4 at Lehigh Gap Nature Center (BE), and 5/10 at Leaser Lake (JaH).

Observers: Bill Etter (407 S. Cigar Rd, Northampton, PA 18067. billetter01@gmail.com, Dan Altif, Tony Bauer, Craig Becker, Mark Boyd, Bracken Brown, Thomas Buehl Jr. (TBu), Jonathan DeBalko, Heather Eline, James Funk, Todd Gilbert, Paul Heveran, Russell Hoffmann, Jeff Hopkins, Jason Horn (JaH), Dan Hinnebusch, Chris Huggoson, Corey Husic (CHu), Ed Komito, Paul Nale, Dave Neimeyer, Lee Rackus, Adam Smith, Jeff Vinosky Lehigh Valle Audubon Society.

Luzerne County – no compiler

Lycoming County

Locations: Mill Street (MS), Robert Porter Allen Natural Area (RPANA), Rose Valley Lake (RVL), Williamsport Dam (WD)

By most measures, the spring season was pretty poor, particularly in terms of pure numbers of birds for the expected species. However, the lackluster showing by the expected migrants was more than compensated for by a good number of rarities, including a state first! In total, 214 species were reported during the spring.

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were in Nisbet 3/3 (BM, et al.). A **Cackling Goose** was seen at MS 3/10 (BB), and one was in a field in Hughesville 3/18 (BB, DeB, BoB, RB) and 3/19 (AK). Three **White-winged Scoters** were at RVL 4/29-30 (SP, et al.). **Buffleheads** remained at WD through 5/21 and at RVL through the end of May (m.ob.).

Black-billed Cuckoo numbers were much higher during May than they were during 2020. **Virginia Rails** were detected fairly regularly at RPANA and on Bodines Rd. There was a nice push of **Soras** during mid-May. At least 2 were at a wetland along Rte. 44 a few minutes north of Jersey Shore 5/8 (SP, et al.), one was at RPANA 5/8 (BM), 5/11 (BB, DeB, BoB), and 5/12 (AK), and one was at RVL 5/10 (BB, DeB, BoB).

Common Gallinules were at SGL 252 on 5/2 (EH), 5/16 (BB, AK), and 5/23 (BB, AK). The only **American Coot** report was from RVL 4/25 (BM). A **Sandhill Crane** dropped in at RVL 4/4 (BB, DeB, BoB).

There was a massive fallout of **Black-bellied Plovers** in central PA 5/29, and *Lycoming* was represented with 3 at RVL (BB) and 57 in Antes Fort (SP, BB, DeB, BoB, RB). A **Semipalmated Plover** was at WD 5/20-24 (BB, et al.) and RVL 5/29 (BB). A **Ruddy Turnstone** was at WD 5/20-21 (MD, JD, et al.), providing the fourth *Lycoming* record of that species. Another one was found at RVL 5/28 (MH, et al.), which, of course, provided the fifth *Lycoming* record.

It was a fairly good spring season for **Dunlins**. A flock of 10 flew over MS in a rainstorm 5/9 (BB). Two were at RVL 5/19 (BB, et al.), and 2 were at the same location during the fallout event 5/29 (BB). Two also were with a downed flock of shorebirds in Antes Fort 5/29 (BB, DeB, BoB, RB, SP, et al.). Three **Least Sandpipers** were at RPANA 5/28 (BB), one was at MS 5/20 (BB, DeB, BoB), one was at WD 5/21 (m.ob.), and 3 were at RVL 5/20 (BB, et al.). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at RVL 5/20 (BB, et al.).

Ten **Short-billed Dowitchers** were involved in the shorebird fallout in Antes Fort 5/29 (BB, DeB, BoB, RB, SP, et al.), which was the first time that species had been seen in *Lycoming* for nearly 30 years. Ten **Lesser Yellowlegs** were knocked down by rain at MS 5/9 (BB, RB) and one was present at the same location 5/14-15 (BB, DeB, BoB).

A **Black Tern** briefly dropped in at RVL 5/10 (BB, DeB, BoB). A **Common Tern** was seen at RVL 4/21 (BB, DeB, BoB), one there 5/9-10 (BB, DeB, BoB, RB), and 2 there 5/20 (BB). Two **Forster's Terns** dropped in at WD during a downpour 5/4 (BB, DeB) and one was at the same location 5/5 (BB, et al.).

Easily the biggest highlight of the spring, a **Neotropic Cormorant** was found at WD 4/11 (BM, et al.) and was seen by many birders from all over the state. This provided not only the first *Lycoming* record of that species, but also the long-anticipated first record for Pennsylvania! The bird continued through dusk 4/13.

A **Least Bittern** was at RPANA 5/11 (BB, DeB, BoB), providing the second known *Lycoming* record of that species. Surprisingly, there were no American Bittern reports. A **Great Egret** was at SGL 252 on 5/6 (BM),

one flew by WD 5/20 (BB, et al.), and one flew past MS 5/21 (BB, DeB).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported a few times, including at a suet feeder in Eldred Twp. 5/2 and 5/16 (JD) and at SGL 252 on 5/23 (BB, AK). The **Peregrine Falcon** nest site in Williamsport had 4 young 5/31 (BB, et al.). The species also nested in Muncy at another previously-used site.

A very vocal **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at RVL 5/25-26 (BB, et al.). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was found on Skyline Dr. 5/24 (BB, DeB, BoB, RB) and another was at RVL 5/30 (BB). It was a pretty good spring for **White-eyed Vireo** reports, with a long-staying bird on private land near Williamsport seen off and on from 5/2 into Jun (DF, et al.). Other reports of that species were at MS 5/1 (BB, DeB, BoB) and the Williamsport Water Authority 5/25 (BB).

Evening Grosbeaks were reported a few times, with at least 2 at MS 4/29 (BB), one at SGL 252 on 5/2 (BB, DeB), 2 at SGL 252 on 5/6 (BM), and one in Eldred Twp. 5/7 (JD). A **Common Redpoll** was at RPANA 3/22 (BB), and a flock of 17 was seen in the same area 4/1 (BM). **Pine Siskins** were far less abundant than they were during the fall season, with some scattered reports, but no large flocks. A fairly late individual was at MS 5/27 (BB).

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was briefly seen at MS 5/10 (BB, DeB), providing the sixth known *Lycoming* record of that species. A **Vesper Sparrow** was at South Williamsport Park 4/19 (AK) and one was seen at MS 4/22 (BB, et al.) and 5/5 (BB, DeB). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported at MS 5/12 (NS) and 5/14 (BB, DeB). A displaying **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at SGL 252 on 5/23 (BB, AK).

It was a pretty strong spring for the "winged warblers." A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at SGL 252 on 5/9 (BB, AK). **Blue-winged Warblers** were found more often than normal, and several hybrids were also reported, including a **Brewster's Warbler** at SGL 252 on 5/9 (BB, AK).

Observers: **Bobby Brown, bobbybrown1011@gmail.com**, Bob Brown (BoB), Deb Brown (DeB), Rebecca Brown, Jean Dalton, Maddi Dunlap, Dave Ferry, Melissa Holland, Evan Houston, Andy Keister, Brett Matlock, Steve Pinkerton, Nicholas Schleissmann.

Mercer County

Locations: Beaver Pond Road (BPR), Big Bend (BB), Cannery Road (CA), Carlisle Road (CAR), Clark's Mills (CM), Fredonia (FR), Golden Run (GR), Greenville (GN), Grove City (GC), Jamestown (JA), Maurice Goddard SP (MG), Mercer (ME), Shenango Propagation Area (PR), SGL130, SGL151, SGL 284, Sharon (SH), Shenango Reservoir (SR), Tieline Road (TE), Transfer (TF), Triple Link (TL), West Lake Road (WLR), Williamson Road (WR), Wolf Creek (WC).

This year's spring was another unusual one weather-wise. There was a nice warming trend at the end of April, but a cold snap hit on the weekend of the Migratory Bird Day. Though species numbers were about normal, with 32 species of warblers and 12 species of shorebirds, overall bird numbers appear low. Some lingering winter finches were also noted.

Waterfowl seemed to linger late. A single **Snow Goose** was found at PR 4/10 (MW). Good numbers of **Tundra Swans** were found throughout the area; 250 were at PR 3/7 (MW). One **Northern Shoveler** was still at PR 5/1 (MW), 2 **Gadwalls** at PR 5/11 (KS, JS), and 2 **American Wigeons** also at PR 5/11 (KS, JS). Nice flocks of **Redheads** showed up at PR 3/12 with 120 seen (MW). **Long-tailed Ducks** seemed more common than usual; a high count of 36 at MG 3/20 (TS) was an excellent showing. As usual, large numbers of several ducks included: 120 **Common Goldeneyes** at PR 3/12 (MW), 500 **Common Mergansers** and 350 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at PR 3/9 (MW), and 98 **Ruddy Ducks** at PR 4/7 (BW).

Common Nighthawk was on time with one at SH 5/22 (MH). A rarely reported **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was at MG 5/7 (MW). **Virginia Rail** was first found 4/8 with 3 at JA (MW). **Common Gallinule** was noted in the traditional breeding ground at TL with 2 found 5/11 (MW).

Even though shorebird species number was about normal, numbers of birds appeared lower than normal and included: one **Semipalmated**

Plover at PR 5/21 (BW), 3 **Dunlins** 5/10 at PR (JN), one **Pectoral Sandpiper** at WLR 5/2 (KS), 7 **American Woodcocks** at GN 3/13 (MW), one **Spotted Sandpiper** at PR 4/17 (MW), and 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** at PR 4/17 (MW). **Bonaparte's Gulls** came through in good numbers, with 19 on 3/25 at MG (JH). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** are appearing more regularly; one was at TF 3/14 (MW). Three **Caspian Terns** were first seen 4/18 at BPR (KS), and a very good number of 75 **Common Terns** were at MG 5/7 (MS).

Double-crested Cormorants always seem to show up in large flocks; an estimated 701 were at TF 4/24 (MH). Rarely-seen inland, an **American White Pelican** was at PR 5/3 (MW). This is the second record in eBird for *Mercer* although PSO records show a few more. One **Least Bittern** was found at a traditional breeding area at TL 5/23 (SB, MW). **Great Egrets** are regularly found; 2 were at CM 5/16 (JP). A good showing of 13 **Green Herons** at JA 5/10 (SB) was noted. The first **Black-crowned Night Heron** was at ME 5/11 (JB). **Bald Eagles** show up in good numbers by Mar. Although not as high as last year, 32 were at PR 3/9 (MW).

Flycatchers appeared pretty much on time: **Great-crested Flycatcher** at SGL 151 on 4/28 (MK, GK), **Acadian Flycatcher** by 5/15 at BB (KS), and **Alder Flycatcher** 5/18 at SGL 284 (TR). **Common Ravens** are now found throughout the county in all seasons. One was at WR 4/10 (DK) and another at JA 5/5 (MW). Single **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found throughout the season (m.ob.), but the max was only 2 at JA 4/17 (MW). **American Pipits** came in good numbers: 15 at FR 4/25 (MW), 13 at TF 4/28 (KS, JS), and 22 at TE, a regular location, 5/2 (MW).

As mentioned, winter finches continued into the period. Good numbers of **Common Redpolls** were found in various locations. As in the winter season, one of the more reliable locations was CAR, where 12 were reported 3/6 (MW). There were also 17 at PR 3/12 (BW) and 20 at JA 3/17 (MW). Confirmed **Hoary Redpolls** were at CAR 3/6 (MW) and TF 3/14 (MW). **Pine Siskins** were seen through the end of May. Nine were at GN 3/15 (MW), a few at TF 5/1-10 (KS), and the last reported one at HE 5/25 (KC). Some of this can be attributed to the PGC-planted fields of sunflower last year; it is hoped that will continue into this year.

A few interesting sparrows were found, although none were found in numbers. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at WC 5/5 (LB), a **Fox Sparrow** at GN 3/15 (MW), a **Vesper Sparrow** at PR 5/4 (MW), and a lone **Lincoln's** at PR 5/1 (MW). It is always good to find **Rusty Blackbirds**. The first was at CA 3/2 (KS), 12 were at JA 3/30 (KS, JS), and 6 at PR 4/10 (MW). The first large group of **Common Grackles** numbered 30 at GC 3/1 (LB).

Mercer continues to be an excellent place for migrating warblers. This year, 32 species were found during, which is about normal, although total numbers were low. There is a surprising diversity of habitats in this county that contributes to excellent bird-finding. Some of the highlights were: **Northern Waterthrush**, 7 at TL 4/28 (MW); a single **Golden-winged Warbler** at an undisclosed location around SR 5/17 (KS); 5 **Blue-winged Warblers** at SGL 130 on 4/30 (ON); one **Prothonotary Warbler** at PR 5/1 (MW); **Mourning Warbler** at GR 5/16 (MW); **Kentucky Warbler** at SR 5/10 (BW), TL 5/31 (MW) and in the traditional breeding area at SGL 130 on 5/21 (KS); **Cape May Warbler** at JA 5/5 (MW); **Cerulean Warbler** at GC 5/2 (ML); **Bay-breasted Warbler** at ME 5/4 (JB); **Blackburnian Warbler** at SGL 130, a traditional nesting area, 4/30 (ON); **Blackpoll Warbler** at PR 5/14 (JB); **Canada Warbler** at BB 5/5 (MW); **Wilson's Warbler** at BB 5/8 (JB), Jamestown Trail 5/10 (MW), SGL 130 on 5/11 (MW) and TF 5/23 (JS, KS).

Observers: **Glenn Koppel 122 Linsdale Dr., Butler, PA 16001, macatilly@gmail.com**, Sophia Balunek, Jeff Brinker, Lauren Brock, Karen Clapper, Mimi Hoffmaster, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Mary Alice Koeneke, Mark Leist, Jennifer Neider, Oscar Nigam, Jason Petersheim, Tabassam Shah, Jim Springer, Kim Springer, Michael Williams, Bill Winkler.

Mifflin County -- no report

Monroe County

Locations: Cherry Valley NWR (CV), Gouldsboro State Park (GSP), Kalahari Resorts (KL), Lynchwood Lake (LL), Mount Pocono Airport (MPA), Mt. Airy Lake (MA), Silver Valley Natural Area (SV), Skytop (ST), Swiftwater Lake (SL).

Spring Migration 2021 may have turned out to be one of the best ever, most likely due to the huge birding effort put in by old locals, new residents, and visiting birders from other counties. The efforts of some individuals were nothing short of heroic! The weather in March came in like a lamb, while May ended like a lion, leaving birders wondering when all the migrants were going to appear. Many species were late this year due to unfavorable winds and cold fronts that lingered throughout most of May. But needless to say, nothing kept back the birders in this most favorable time of the year for birding.

March 12th started off with a **Cackling Goose** in the Snydersville area (BJ). The everlasting **Trumpeter Swan** continued in the Pocono Summit area through Mar (m.ob.). Saylor's Lake scored a good variety of waterfowl passing through; **Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup, Ruddy Duck, and Ring-necked Duck** all appeared in very small numbers in Mar on this deep and very old ice-cutting lake (JM, m.ob.). Weir Lake, also, held a pair of shovelers on the late date of 5/8 (PN, m.ob.). On 3/26, Mountain Springs Lake held highs of 7 Gadwalls, 54 Ring-necked Ducks, and 3 **Long-tailed Ducks** (BJ). A high count of 5 **American Wigeon** were at SV 4/10 (RL, m.ob.). A **Blue-winged Teal** at KL lingered for a few days 4/26-27 (NF, m.ob.) while there was also a pair at SV 4/27 (PN). In the early morning hours of 5/8 at GSP, 24 **White-winged Scoters** and 5 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were found and nicely photographed (JM).

In late Apr and up to mid-May, SV again came up huge for the ever-sought but hard-to-find species of water and swamp birds. On 4/24, a **Sora** was found sneaking into a thicket (JM, AM). **American Bitterns, Least Bittern, Virginia Rail,** and a lone **Marsh Wren** were all captured by eye, ear, or camera in the above-named time frame (m.ob.).

On 5/10, shorebird sightings started to heat up, with MPA again taking the lead. Three **Pectoral Sandpipers**, 2 **Semipalmated Plovers**, and 3 **Dunlin** were observed at different times and waterholes at this location (CH, DH, BJ, m.ob.). Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found at SL 4/28 (TG). A **Greater Black-backed Gull** was a great find at ST 5/4, along with ticks of 23 species of warblers (for a total of 103 species in almost 5 hours of birding) (RK). Other magnificent finds for the month occurred 5/10: 8 **Caspian Terns**, 6 **Common Terns**, 43 **Least Sandpipers**, 3 **Greater** and 12 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were tallied (JM) and unselfishly passed on to other birders (m.ob.). One of the few, if not the only, **Great Egrets** was found 5/12 at MA (TG). An exciting, but only 8-minute wonder occurred with a **Pacific Loon** on Pocono Summit Lake 5/3; upon repositioning of the observer to another side of the lake for better viewing, the bird must have flown off and disappeared (BJ). On 4/17 GSP produced another high count, this time with 21 **Double crested Cormorants** (JM).

A couple **Peregrine Falcons** were briefly observed in CV and Minisink 3/22 and 5/1, respectively (JM). Single **Merlins** were recorded in Stroudsburg and MPA (JS, JM), all in early May, with two flying and sitting together at MPA 5/11, with no further observation in spite of follow-up birding (BJ). Four **Sandhill Cranes** made an unannounced and unexpected landing on an ice-covered Pocono Summit Lake at dusk 3/20, possibly attracted to over 200 gulls circling and resting on the iced-over lake surface (BJ, m.ob.).

Finch numbers weren't anything like last fall, where sometimes hundreds were located and counted. Most birds were seen in singles or pairs with a few exceptions. Low numbers of **Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches,** and **Red Crossbills** were seen across the county, with notable sightings of 14 **Evening Grosbeaks** at Locust Lake Village 3/10 (JP), and 26 Red Crossbills at ST 3/5 (RK). One very excited young birder finally saw her first Evening Grosbeak 4/30 after waiting all winter for one to show up at the feeders (Maricatherine Garr).

American Pipits, Rusty Blackbirds, and **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were all seen but in very low numbers. A high of 9 **Fox**

Sparrows were observed in CV 3/20 (JM), and **Vesper Sparrows** were found in CV and MPA 3/30 and 4/25, respectively (BJ).

A very early **Pine Warbler** was nicely photographed feeding at a suet feeder 3/30 (NT). The first warbler of the season always gets the blood flowing. Another anticipated early arriver is the **Yellow-throated Warbler**. A few were spotted and photographed in their usual hotspots along the Delaware River; this year down along the Minisink (m.ob.). Along the river, further up towards the upper end of the county, both **Lawrence's and Brewster's Warblers** were found, now seemingly to be an annual occurrence (JM, RL). In terms of big '20-Warbler Days', top honors seem to be at SV 5/9 with 22 species (AM) and 21 species (JM), and ST with 23 species 5/4 (RK). A long-time out-of-county birder, with whom some may be familiar, tallied 20 species at DWG Refuge HQ 5/15 (TF). Pardon any omissions; numbers are from eBird as best I could follow.

Observers: **Bruce Johnson, brucejohnson207@yahoo.com,** Todd Fellenbaum, Nate Fronk, Tim Grover, Cory Husic, Diane Husic, Rick Koval, Renae Losey, Paul Nale, Adam Miller, Jon Mularczyk, Jeff Pace, June Smith, Nancy Tully.

Montgomery County

Locations: Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Evansburg S.P. (ESP), Fort Washington S.P. (FWSP), Four Mills Nature Reserve (FMNR), Franconia Twp. (FT), Green Lane Park (GLP), Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve (GWP), Haverford College (HC), Norristown Dam (ND), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

The species total for spring 2021 was an outstanding 225, the highest total recorded since 2013, the first *Montgomery* spring summary churned out by me, your friendly neighborhood compiler. To give a better indication of how many more birds than usual were found this season, the average species count of spring 2013-2020 was 208.4. This generous species haul came without the finding of any mega-rarities: the only confirmed PORC review list species for the period was one of the more common ones, Summer Tanager, though a possible first state record subspecies was also noted. Observer effort and good luck with lower-tier rarities and irruptive species was sufficient. Many new seasonal high counts and early dates were set as well. (As always, we're defining these records based on data that has been uploaded to eBird which, while not complete, is the best repository of county data we've got.)

Fifteen thousand **Snow Geese** relaxed at GLP on several days 3/2-8 (m.ob.). Numbers dropped to 10,500 by 3/9 and declined sharply after that (m.ob.). A few Snow Geese lingered into May: 2 in West Norriton Twp. 5/7 (AD), one at a Flourtown golf course 5/7 (JHe, ph.) and another on Manatawny Creek at Pottstown 5/15 (JT, ph.), which stayed put through the remainder of the period. A **Ross's Goose** was documented at GLP 3/19 (PD, ph.). A pair of **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at GLP 3/2-3 (DM, DB, VW, ph.), and another was at PERT 3/11 (PD, ph.), and then again, later in the day, at nearby Huntingdon Valley Country Club (JC, ph.). As many as 4 **Cackling Geese** were present at GLP through 3/20 (m.ob., ph.) and a flyover was noted from Pennsburg 3/9 (PH, ph.). One hundred nineteen **Tundra Swans** were at GLP 3/9 (KR, m.ob.). Apart from one other report, 14 at GLP 3/1 (PH), no other days this period saw Tundra Swan numbers breach 2 (m.ob.).

Seven late **Blue-winged Teal** were viewed at GLP 5/10 (GF, ph.). Two more late Blue-winged Teal, at ESP 5/11, represented a new duck for that park's bird list (KR). Nine **Northern Shovelers** were seen at GLP on the relatively late date of 5/10 (GF). No large quantities of this species were noted, with GLP numbers peaking at only 10 (m.ob.). The day of the Tundra Swan plenitude, 3/9, also featured the presence of 120 **Northern Pintails** at GLP (PH). A female pintail remained at GLP until 5/14 (m.ob., ph.), and was joined, briefly, by a second female 5/4 (PH, ph.). A male pintail was at WWP 5/28 and 5/30 (PD, ph.). It or another male was also at Mermaid Lake Park 5/29 (DB, ph.). The two parks are separated by only 3.5 miles. Mermaid Lake was, until recently, a private

tennis and swimming club, but was officially opened to the public as a Whitpain Twp. Park in late 2020. In addition to the occasional interesting duck, the park's shallow pond gets shorebirds regularly. Now that it's readily accessible to all, Mermaid Lake should be a nice addition to the roster of shorebirding locations available in the county. A late drake **Green-winged Teal** was at GLP 5/27-29 (m.ob., ph.).

Ten **Canvasbacks** were at GLP 3/1 (PH, ph.). Single Canvasbacks were at GLP 3/7 and 3/9 as well (both PH). A **Ring-necked Duck** stuck at WWP to the delinquent date of 5/8 (m.ob.). A female-type **Greater Scaup** was noted at GLP 3/22-24 (SS, m.ob., ph.). A group of 9 **White-winged Scoters** dropped in at GLP 4/29 (PH, ph.). This represented a new county record high count of the species, besting a former record of 3, from Jan 2003. A calling flyover **Long-tailed Duck** on 3/22 was one of the many interesting birds recorded by SG's FT Nocturnal Flight Call (NFC) microphone this period. Returning to the visual realm, a female-type Long-tailed Duck was located on the Schuylkill River at Upper Schuylkill Valley Park 4/12 (KCa, WS, ph.). **Common Goldeneye** was noted from four spots (m.ob.), including ND, where 21 were counted 3/21 (MR, DB), the highest tally of this species in *Montgomery* since 1993. A pale-billed female at the Norristown goldeneye convention 3/1 caused a minor uproar. Ultimately, it was decided that this duck was likely just an aberrant Common rather than a more exotic Barrow's. A goldeneye at HC 3/23 was the first of its kind to be observed on campus (SJ). **Hooded Mergansers** were seen in 4 locations in May (m.ob., ph.), all likely breeding sites. A **Red-breasted Merganser** was noted at ND 3/1 (DB, SGr) and as many as 6 were seen at GLP 3/13-27 (m.ob., ph.). Nineteen **Horned Grebes** were witnessed at GLP 4/12 (ML, m.ob.).

Black-billed Cuckoo was noted at 11 locations 4/29-5/25 (m.ob.). One or 2 **Virginia Rails** were heard in Lower Moreland Twp. 3/28-30, 4/21, and 4/29 (PD, m.ob., vr.). Another was reported from Plymouth Meeting 5/22 (DB). NFC recording in FT illustrated how many more rails are passing through our airspace than are typically found in the field. Flyover Virginia Rails were recorded on an astounding 20 nights between 3/30 and the end of the period (SG, vr.). **Sora** were not quite as common, but were still picked up as NFCs over FT on four nights 4/19-5/6 (SG, vr.). They were seen on the ground at four locations 4/18-5/13 (m.ob.), including a particularly accommodating, long-staying pair at DMP 4/18-5/2 (LV, m.ob., ph.). Of the annually-detected rail species, **American Coot** was, somewhat surprisingly, the least common. Singles only were observed at just four locations 3/1-5/3 (m.ob.).

Multiple **Sandhill Cranes** were documented, all of them flyover birds. One was seen from GLP 3/4 (BM, SP, ph.), one was heard at Pennsburg 3/11 (PH), a group of 3 flew over Salford Twp. 3/12 (WBH, vr.), and a final, much later, crane went past GWP 5/1 (KM, et al., ph.).

A **Black-bellied Plover** was briefly present on the mud at GLP 5/17 (DM, ph.). In what has become something of an annual tradition, shorebird watches were conducted at GLP and VFNHP in the final days of May. A group of 10 Black-bellied Plovers was reported over the heads of watchers at GLP 5/24 (PD, JH), and 70 were claimed at VFNHP the following night (SGr). The species was picked up on NFC mic at FT 5/25 (SG, vr.) and another was grounded by rain at GLP 5/28 (SGr, PH, ph.). The shorebird watches also tallied 100 **Whimbrels** over GLP 5/24 (PD, JH) and 150 at VFNHP 5/25 (SGr), representing new county high counts of this species, previously noted only from two sightings of single birds in Jul 2010. Consequently, 19 Whimbrels present for little more than an hour on a mudbar at GLP 5/29 (PD, m.ob., ph.) also represented our biggest Whimbrel number to date to be seen on the ground.

Providing another shattered shorebird record were 69 **Least Sandpipers** at GLP 5/11 (PH, JG), setting a new county seasonal high-water mark for these spring peeps. Prior to 2021, the Least Sandpiper springtime high count was 40, set back in 1994. Least numbers on several days in May 2021 topped that 40 (m.ob.). A pair of **Semipalmated Sandpipers** was at WWP 5/17-19 (DB, m.ob., ph.), and up to 4 were at GLP 5/22-27 (PH, m.ob., ph.). **Short-billed Dowitcher** calls were recorded in FT 5/17-18 (SG, vr.), and one was visible at GLP 5/28 (KR, m.ob., ph.). A late **American Woodcock** was reported from PERT 4/29 (MG), where the species *might* breed. We hit the **Red-necked Phalarope** jackpot in May. In addition to a pair of phalaropes at WWP 5/12 (RB, m.ob., ph.), a group of 7 appeared at WWP 5/21 (DB,

m.ob., ph.). This number defined a new county high count record, besting a previous high of 4, originally set in 1972 and then tied in 1981. One of those 7 Red-necked Phalaropes persisted until the following day, 5/22 (m.ob., ph.).

A **Willet** found at GLP's Church Rd. 5/24 looked pretty good for Eastern Willet, and would represent PA's first record of this subspecies if accepted by PORC (CH, m.ob., ph., doc. submitted). Either way, this bird was *Montgomery's* first Willet since 2010. Because when it rains, it pours, a second Willet, this one a clearcut Western, was found at the south end of GLP that same day, 5/24 (PD, JH, ph.). Five **Lesser Yellowlegs** at WWP 3/25 (AM) and one at GLP 3/26 (PD) were about a week earlier than typical. GLP's Lesser Yellowlegs numbers exploded in early May, toppling a previous spring high count of 20, set May 1983. Thirty-three Lessers were counted at GLP 5/4 (PH), followed by 30 on 5/10 (GF).

There were 41 **Bonaparte's Gulls** in the season's biggest flock, at GLP 4/13 (GF, m.ob.). A late Bonaparte's was seen at GLP 5/13 (PH, ph.). An immature **Laughing Gull** was well-described at Heuser Park in King of Prussia 5/15 (DB, MR). Late **Herring Gulls** were seen over HC 4/25 (SJ) and Pennsburg 5/2 (PH). The peak GLP **Lesser Black-backed Gull** count was 37 on 3/21 (AM). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were noted from Lower Moreland Twp. 3/21 (CA) and GLP 3/22 (GF). A pair of **Caspian Terns** were at GLP 4/16-17 (SB, KB, BB), and one **Forster's Tern** was reported at WWP 4/29 (JM).

An early **Common Loon** flew over Towamencin Twp. 3/9 (JW), a full two weeks before the next described loon. During skywatching sessions from his Pennsburg yard, PH recorded several high loon counts: 105 on 4/21, 61 on 5/2, and 58 on 4/14. The 4/21 session also saw 175 **Double-crested Cormorants** pass over the yard (PH, ML).

An **American Bittern** was uncharacteristically visible and seen by many at DMP 4/27 (EK, m.ob., ph.). Another, seen by only one, was noted at GLP 4/29 (JH). Two American Bitterns were recorded passing through FT 5/10 (SG, vr.). **Least Bittern** talked into SG's FT NFC mic even more regularly, their calls appearing on six evenings' recordings 5/3-26 (SG, vr.). A Least Bittern was also detected at Bethayres Swamp 5/8 (PD, vr.). A flyover flock of 10 **Great Egrets** at Fisher's Park 4/18 doubled the previous spring high count of this species (AD, ED, ph.). A **Snowy Egret** was photographed at GLP 5/21 (JHa, PH, ph.). A **Cattle Egret** hung out with some cattle at DMP 4/29 (PB, m.ob., ph.). A flyby **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at GLP 5/29 (JF, et al.) complemented at least 12 recorded over FT 4/7-5/18 (SG, vr.). DMP hosted another unusual wader in the preserve's first **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, an adult, spotted on four days 4/21-28 (TB, m.ob., ph.). Regrettably, no Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were located at or around ND, where they likely nested in some previous years. A **Glossy Ibis** with better places to be spent less than five minutes at WWP 5/10 (JM, RB, ph.).

Three county spring (eBird) raptor high-count records were set this period, two of them on the same day. Militia Hill Hawk Watch's Raptorthon #9, held at FWSP 4/17 caught a lucky break in not only coinciding with a day when *some* hawks were flying, but having the great fortune to happen on what may have been the biggest hawk migration day of the season. Record high numbers of both **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 33, and **Broad-winged Hawks**, 1370, were logged during the event (RC, AF). This Broad-wing bonanza more than quadrupled the previous spring high count of 308, set only a year earlier. Eighty Broad-wings were also noted over Pennsburg 4/20 (PH). Representing the third spring high count were 9 **Red-shouldered Hawks** migrating over Pennsburg 3/27 (PH). Hatfield's perennial leucistic, near-white **Red-tailed Hawk** was seen again 3/24 (KR). It has been present at this site since at least spring 2012.

Barn Owls were recorded over FT 5/6 and 5/14 (SG, vr.), intriguingly late dates for the species to be on the move, though not unprecedented. Single **Short-eared Owls** were at VFNHP 3/7 (VS, SGr), GLP 3/13 (AD, et al.) and, again at VFNHP 3/21 (SBu). As many as five **Long-eared Owls** were noted in northwestern *Montgomery* through 4/14 (m.ob., ph.), with the lone remaining owl on 4/14 capturing the new late-date record for the county. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was reported tooting in Plymouth Twp. 3/8 (PB).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen in Wayne 5/1 (CD, ph.) and

FT 5/7 (SG, ph.). **Olive-sided Flycatchers** made late season appearances at PERT 5/27 (PD, vt.) and Armentrout Preserve 5/29 (DB). **Alder Flycatchers** were noted at ESP 5/20 (KR), GLP 5/20-21 (PD, m.ob., vr.) and as a NFC from FT 5/25 (SG, vr.). Ten or more **Least Flycatchers** were found at various locations 4/29-5/18 (m.ob.).

Several big days for **Blue Jay** migration were entered into the record. From Pennsburg, 352 were counted 5/2, 240 on 4/28, and 134 on 5/16 (all PH). From FT came a report of 219 jays 4/28 (SG). The hefty 5/2 Pennsburg total fell within 54 of our seasonal record, set on nearly the same date in 2019, and had to settle for the silver medal, number two slot. Following an eerily similar pattern, a flock of 90 **Fish Crows** over Pennsburg 4/15 (PH) was 30 less than 120 counted from the same spot, also in 2019, also earning the second highest spring county record. There were **Common Ravens** a-plenty (m.ob.).

Black-capped Chickadee, a species which made a reasonable push into southeast PA over the winter, was sighted at nine sites through 4/18 (m.ob.). Most of these were one-offs or inconsistent, save for a fairly regularly pair in FT (SG). An extraordinarily-large-for-the-date flock of 28 **Horned Larks** was seen at Fell Rd. in FT 5/2 (SG, vr.), a location where they likely (attempt to) nest. This represents a new May high count by a margin of 25.

The highest **Purple Martin** report from the Ruth Rd. colony in FT was 36 on 5/21 (AA). Forty-five **Bank Swallows** were sighted at GLP 5/11 (PH, JG). Single **Cliff Swallows** were at GLP, WWP, and DMP on five dates 5/5-26 (m.ob., ph.). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were widespread, seen in ones and twos through 5/14 (m.ob.). A smattering of **Brown Creepers** lingered into May, including one at Meng Preserve 5/8 (CH).

A **Marsh Wren** documented at Valley Center Park in Lower Moreland Twp. in Mar 2020 (PD), represented the first Mar record for the county. A second Mar record was set 3/17 this year, when another Marsh Wren, potentially even the same individual, was found at the same location (PD, vt.). It or another Marsh Wren was seen here again a month later, 4/23 (JC, ph.). Singles were also located at WWP 5/10 (DB, RS, ph.) and GLP 5/11 (PH, KR, ph.). A flyover flock of 44 **American Pipits** at Pennsburg 5/2 (PH) was not only notably large for the date, it was record-setting, and represents a new May high count, as well as the highest spring record since 1973.

Solo female **Evening Grosbeaks** were photographed at feeders at FMNR 5/4 (JS, JSe, ph.) and in Fort Washington 5/5 (AO, ph.). A calling flyover group of 9 **Red Crossbills** was reported from FWSP 4/17 (AA, SGr). Fellow irruptive finch, **Purple Finch**, re-appeared in *Montgomery* 3/31 (WBH, ph.), after a late-winter break of about a month. Frequency of reports grew from there, peaked in mid-to-late Apr, then fizzled out, with only a few stragglers by mid-May (m.ob.), including single Purple Finches in FT 5/14 (SG) and Pennsburg 5/16 (PH). The biggest Purple Finch flock sighted contained 9 individuals, found in Springfield Twp. 4/18 (AR, RR, ph.). **Pine Siskins** were noted at 36 locations through nearly the entire period (m.ob.), but were really only regular at a handful of feeders. One of these, in Penn Valley, was the site of nearly all double-digit reports, including 43 on 3/12 and 3/16 (BK, PS). Some siskins remained rather late into May, such as 4 at the aforementioned Penn Valley feeders 5/22 (BK, PS, ph.) and a single siskin in East Norriton Twp. 5/26 (KY, ph.). One hundred thirteen **American Goldfinches** were counted migrating over Pennsburg 4/21 (PH, ML), a good reminder that even our common resident species migrate. That number also provided us with another new spring record high count.

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was noted at GWP 4/30 (NR, CC). They had returned to their usual breeding territory on Fruitville Rd. in Upper Hanover Twp. by 5/4 (ML, m.ob., ph.). Grasshopper Sparrow NFC were recorded on a remarkable 12 nights in FT, beginning 4/14 (SG), which also represents a record arrival date by a full nine days. Several overwintering **Chipping Sparrows** met up with newly arrived migrants in mid-Mar (m.ob.). A nice flock of 17 **American Tree Sparrows** was seen at GLP 3/1 (PH). A **Dark-eyed Junco** at HC 5/16 (SJ) was the latest of several lingerers this period. A big, snow-related mob of 47 juncos was present in a Salford Twp. yard 3/6, along with an even bigger mob of 82 **White-throated Sparrows** (WBH, KH). Both of these counts, while not record-setting, were not exceeded in spring 2021. White-

throated Sparrow volume continued in Salford through much of the period, with 79 still present there on 4/2, and 26 as late as 5/11 (WBH, KH). Singles of this species remained through the final days of May: in Salford Twp. through 5/28 (WBH, ph.), in Penn Valley 5/29 (BK, PS) and in Ambler through the end of the period (AA). **White-crowned Sparrows** were found in quantities of 1-3 at 20 sites until 5/15 (m.ob.). Single **Vesper Sparrows** were at Bryn Athyn 3/26 (PD, ph.), DMP 4/16 (BR, ph.) and Fell Rd. 4/24 (SG, ph.). Six **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found at five locations 5/6-17 (m.ob., ph.). At least a couple of these birds were heard singing, a real treat to hear in southeastern PA (SG, WBH).

A pair of **Yellow-breasted Chats** seemed to set up shop at Heuser Park, residing there from 5/15 through the end of the period (DB, SGr, m.ob., ph.). Three chats were reported on the first day, 5/15, presumably the potentially-breeding pair joined by a migrant, just passing through (DB, SGr).

Noteworthy blackbird numbers for the period included 5900 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 3700 **Common Grackles** at Pennsburg 3/9, and 5900 Common Grackles at the same location 3/3 (all PH). **Rusty Blackbirds** were found at 17 locations in mostly small numbers (m.ob., ph.). A generally reliable flock of this species took advantage of the newish wetland mitigation area near WWP in Ambler, and was seen frequently there 3/20-5/9, often in quantities of 20+ (CB, m.ob., ph.). For example, 38 Rusties were recorded at this mitigation area 4/9 (AM). Twenty-five Rusty Blackbirds were also seen at Bethayres Swamp 3/23 (PD).

A **Lawrence's Warbler**, the informal name given to **Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler** backcross hybrid, was described at FWSP 5/2 (DB, JB). The **Orange-crowned Warbler** first detected 2/16 remained at Oaks until at least 3/7 (MR, m.ob., ph.). At least 5 **Mourning Warblers** were recorded from assorted parks and yards 5/11-20 (m.ob., vr.). Four **Kentucky Warblers** were heard and/or seen at four sites this period as well (m.ob.). These include one at FWSP 4/30 (AD, ED, vr.), which represented a new record early arrival date. A Kentucky Warbler first discovered in the Unami Creek Valley 5/16 was clearly on territory, remaining there, singing its head off, through the end of the period (KC, m.ob., ph.). Kentucky Warbler has been almost entirely extirpated as a breeding species in *Montgomery*, so this was a rare treat, even if, sadly, there was no indication that this bird found a mate. A notably early **Common Yellowthroat** was seen at PERT 4/11 (MG, AnM), and one was also recorded over FT later that night (SG, vr.). There were a dozen sightings of single **Hooded Warblers** 4/18-5/16 (m.ob., ph.). More **Cerulean Warblers** were found than usual: at FWSP 4/29 (PB), Pottstown 5/4 (JT, ph.), Salford Twp. 5/5 (WBH, vr.), FWSP 5/8 (DB, SP) and Lorimer Park 5/15 (PD, m.ob., vr.). Late **Pine Warbler** reports were also more common this season than most, with birds noted singing at six locations on 5/19 or later, and at least 3 of those birds remaining through the end of the period (m.ob., ph.). A late **Palm Warbler** was reported at McCarthy Park in Plymouth Meeting 5/22 (DB). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were detected at PERT 4/1 (RoC), Wayne 4/22-23 (CD, ph.), FMNR 4/26 (RB) and GLP 5/3 (PH). The 4/1 Yellow-throated Warbler represents a new early date for the county by 10 days.

A **Summer Tanager** visited a feeder in Hatboro 5/3 (KE, ph., doc. submitted via eBird). A beautiful male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** appeared at an Abington feeder on the exceptionally early date of 4/11 (PSm, ph.). Because you needed one more county record in this summary: 4/11 smashes the old arrival date by almost two weeks. **Blue Grosbeaks** were at FMNR 5/13 (JSe, ph.), DMP 5/27 (JFe, ph.), Royersford 5/29 (AW, ph.), and one also flew over FT 5/19 (SG, vr.).

EXOTICS: A **Mandarin Duck**, a presumed escapee, was seen with a group of **Wood Ducks** in FT 4/27 (SG, ph.).

Observers: **W. Brian Henderson, Salford Twp., PA, wbhenderson@gmail.com**, Cindy Ahern, Andrew Albright, Bert Bealer, Kris Bealer, Dave Belford, Jeff Belford, Carrie Bell, Paul Bernhardt, Steve Bicker, Redmond Brubaker, Tanya Burnett, Sara Busch (SBu), Kayann Cassidy (KCa), Rich Conroy, Josh Cooper, Robin Cooper (RoC), Kevin Crilley, Chuck Cruit, Carol Dailey, Andrew Dolan, Edward Dolan, Paul Driver, Karen Ericsson, Andrew Fayer, Jason Fehon (JFe), George Franchois, James Funk, Scott Godshall, Joe Greco, Mike Grubb, Steve

Grunwald (SGr), Jason Hall (JHa), Jane Henderson (JHe), Katie Henderson, Paul Heveran, Clifford Hirst, Jason Horn, Sheryl Johnson, Edward Komito, Bill Kunze, Michael Lyman, Jack McBrearty, Brandon McCracken, Anna Mindel (AnM), August Mirabella, Dennis Miranda, Kristey Morley, Ann Oliveros, Samuel Perloff, Bill Reaume, Nate Rice, Kenneth Rieker, Ann Rife, Ray Rife, Michael Rosengarten, Sarah Sato, Jennifer Segrest (JSe), Rebecca Schulze, Paul Smith (PSm), Vincent Smith, Jamie Stewart, Perri Strawn, Wendy Sykora, Jaime Thomas, Leor Veleanu, Amber Walraven, John Ward, Vanessa Worley, Kristi Yingling.

Montour County

Locations: Kelly's Dam Rd Marsh (KD), Montour Preserve (MP),

The seasonal highlights were a **Whimbrel** and 27 **Black-bellied Plovers** in a farm field along Rte. 54 5/29 (AK), present due to unsettled weather that dropped down migrating shorebirds around the state.

Common Nighthawks are not "common" in the spring, and 3 were at MP 5/16 (EH, EZ). Not just one, but 2 **American Bitterns** were found 4/29, at MP and KD (BH, JS) and an additional report came from MP 5/3 (AK). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at MP 5/11 (MH, Bucknell Birders).

Topping the passerine news were a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** and a **Philadelphia Vireo** both at MP 5/18 (AB, AK, respectively). Two **Marsh Wrens** were found 4/29, one at normal marshy habitat at KD (BH, JS) where it lingered through 5/1 (AK), and the other at the edge of a non-marshy meadow at Chillisquaque Natural Area (BH, JS). A notably high count of 150 **American Pipits** was along Shady Hill Rd 4/9 (AK), and **Pine Siskins**, reported each month of this period, continued their irruption. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** at MP 5/3 (AK) was a good spring bird. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was recorded at MP 5/4 (AK).

Observers: **Evan Houston, evanhouston@gmail.com**, Alex Busato, Matthew Heintzelman, Brian Henderson, Andrew Keister, Joe Sebastiani, Eric Zawatsk

Northampton County

Locations: East Bangor Dam (EBD).

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at Seiple's Farm Pond 3/19 (JM). **Virginia Rail** was reported from EBD 4/6-5/8 (MS) with a high of 4 on 4/24 (AM). A **Common Gallinule** was seen at Minsi Lake 4/18-5/24 (DD). A very early **Baird's Sandpiper** was reported at the Hollo Rd. Retention Pond 4/24 (JH). **American Bittern** was at Minsi Lake 4/29 (MSa) and Bear Swamp Park 5/1-2 (BS). **Black-crowned Night-heron** was seen at EBD 5/8 (JM). Another good bird at EBD was a **Marsh Wren** on 4/21 (MSa).

This past autumn there was a winter finch irruption which meant some of these same birds would return through PA. Three **Red Crossbills** were found on Fox Gap Rd. 4/17 (LL) and a lone bird was at the Green Pond Golf Course 5/15 (MSa). A small group of **Pine Siskins** and a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were at a private feeder at a Danielsville property into April (BSi). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was at Echo Lake 5/16 (MSa) while another was located along the Lehigh River by the Rt 33 boat launch 5/16-18 (GD). The **Orange-crowned Warbler** that wintered at Nisky Hill Cemetery was last seen 4/4 (TW). At Housenick Memorial Park, a **Kentucky Warbler** was observed 5/24 (CH, PH).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 610-737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Dave DeReamus, Gordon Dimmig, Chuck Holliday, Patricia Holiday, Jeff Hopkins, Larry Lewis, Adam Miller, Jon Mularczyk, Matt Sabatine (MSa), Brad Silfies (BSi), Brandon Swayser, Todd Watkins.

Northumberland County

Locations: Adam T. Bower Dam (ATBD), Amish Pond (AP), Milton (MILT), Natalie Trail System (NTS), Old Swamp Road (OSR), Susquehanna River at Lewisburg (SRL), Water Company Road (WCR).

Spring weather was typical for the region. Few storms limited fallout and as a result, notable sightings were limited. Six **Common Goldeneyes** were seen at SRL 3/2 (DI); most reports of this species come from lower on the river near the ATBD. **Ruffed Grouse** were reported twice, from the north end of the county; both sightings were of single birds from the WCR area on 3/20 (GM) and 5/7 (GM). Hopefully, they are still breeding at this location. The season's only **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard near the NTS 5/26 (KP).

The only notable shorebird report was of 3 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at the AP 5/1 (AK). A single **Herring Gull** was found among lots of **Ring-billed Gulls** at the ATBD 5/8 (KP). Six **Caspian Terns** were also seen at the ATBD 4/30 (KP). The season's only report of **Red-throated Loon** was a single bird at the ATBD 4/1 (KP).

Red-Headed Woodpecker is now permanently established at several places in the county and this season's high count was 4 adult birds along OSR 5/9 (WE). A single northbound **Evening Grosbeak** was seen at a feeder in MILT 5/1 (KT).

Observers: **Andy Keister, 110 Hawk Ridge Road, Bloomsburg, 17815, (570) 337-3802, akeister110@gmail.com**, Wesley Egli, Deepak Iyer, Gary Metzger, Karol Pasquinnelli, Karen Trutt.

Perry County

Locations: Bryner Rd (BR), Heritage Park (HP), Little Buffalo Park (LB), Miller's Gap (MG), Route 17 meadows (17M), Warm Springs Rd (WS).

Spring was relatively slow in *Perry*, but there were a few outstanding birds, including a high count of 13 **Trumpeter Swans** at WS 3/6 (VG) and one Trumpeter Swan at LB 4/5 (DP). Due to the dry spring there was very little suitable shorebird habitat to be found, however 8 **Black-Bellied Plovers** were seen at 17M 5/30 (TW, SS, DB) representing another county first. A high count of 19 **Semipalmated Plovers** were also seen at 17M 5/29 (DB). Two **Caspian Terns** were photographed at LB 4/16 (DP). A **Black Tern**, a county first, and 7 **Common Terns** were seen at HP 5/10 (SS).

One **Common Redpoll** was reported at MG 3/2 (IG). A **Mourning Warbler** was seen at BR 5/19 (SS, TW).

Observers: **Steve Schmit, stevegreen40@gmail.com**, Dave Barnes, Ian Gardner, Vern Gauthier, Dale Passow, Tiffany Willow.

Philadelphia County

Locations: Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Navy Yard (NY), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education (SCEE), Southwest Water Treatment Plant (SWTP).

The remarkably high **Snow Goose** numbers seen in the previous season continued into Mar with a maximum of about 1000 migrating birds at Glen Foerd 3/11 (GM). A new high count for **Canada Goose** was achieved when 4000 were estimated heading north at NY 3/9 (LH). That day appeared to be great across the entire city with 2080 birds at SCEE (PD) and 1200 at POD (GM). Lingered waterfowl seemed to favor ACE again with 3 **Gadwalls** and a **Northern Pintail** there 5/23 (HP, LH, MW, PM, VS). Five distant **White-winged Scoters** were at Fort Mifflin 5/8 (GA).

A pair of **Virginia Rails** were photographed copulating at JHNWR 4/24 and continued to be seen thereafter (AM, et al.). **Soras** were at JHNWR 4/10-5/24 (m.ob.). **Common Gallinules** were back at their three known breeding locations (FDR, JHNWR, SWTP) as early as 4/16 (m.ob.).

One **Black-bellied Plover** was at JHNWR 5/25-27 (KW, et al.), but 25 individuals on the flats at POD 5/29 were exceptional (PM). **Semipalmated Plovers** were unusually numerous at JHNWR with up to 32 from 5/15-31 (m.ob.). Extremely rare in spring, 4 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were a nice surprise at JHNWR 5/13-18 (GA, et al.). The

first **Long-billed Dowitcher** in five years, and likely only the second spring record, was a one-day wonder at JHNWR 5/4 (JH, et al.). Thirty-two **Solitary Sandpipers** were a new county high at JHNWR 5/4 (GM).

A **Black Tern** was enjoyed by many at JHNWR 5/30-31 (DK, et al.), and another flew upriver at POD 5/30 (LH). An adult **Brown Booby** flew upriver at NY 5/3 continuing the streak of annual observations since 2018 (LH). Likely the first confirmed record for the city, a **Brown Pelican** flew upriver at NY 4/21 (HP). It was also the 200th species for this eBird hotspot. A **Cattle Egret** was trailing a flock of **Laughing Gulls** at NY 4/29 (HP). Nocturnal flight calls were recorded of a slightly early migrant **Black-crowned Night-Heron** 3/31 (LH).

Adult **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at FDR 4/29-5/4 (m.ob.), Fisher Park 5/1 (RK), and Houston Meadow 5/13 (JF). The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at SCEE 5/23 (DL, GA, JW, KK). Calls of **Alder Flycatchers** were recorded at JHNWR 5/23-24 (JE, PM) and SCEE 5/25-27 (LH, PD) making identification bullet-proof. After a good number of **Black-capped Chickadees** were observed last fall, a few were caught on their way back north at FDR, Pennypack Park, Upper Roxborough Reservoir, and Wissahickon Valley Park (m.ob.).

Amazingly, for the first time in decades, a pair of **Horned Larks** was found nest-building at ACE 5/23 (HP, LH, MW, PM, VS). This species was confirmed breeding at the site of the international airport 1939-1948, 1950-1954, and possibly 1988, but not since then. Data from the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania (2004-09) indicated the absence of breeders in *Philadelphia* and neighboring counties. **Bank Swallows**, after their Apr arrival, began occupying burrows at the only colony in the county discovered last year at ACE (m.ob.).

After another southward irruption last fall, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen in many locations throughout the city as they headed north. A couple **Brown Creepers** were not in a hurry to get to their breeding grounds as they hung around Cobbs Creek Park 5/11-13 (SH, TC). Winter finches were migrating back north as well with one **Evening Grosbeak** at Awbury Arboretum 5/8 (BR, et al.), up to 6 **Purple Finches** at a private backyard in NW Philadelphia 4/14 (KBe), and up to 10 **Pine Siskins** at another feeder in NW Philadelphia 3/30-5/3 (LV). The overwintering **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Rittenhouse Square was not seen after 3/10. Birds observed there 4/24-5/12 were likely migrants (MD).

Several **Prothonotary Warblers** were found at six locations with one at FDR 4/29-5/2 (HP, et al.) and up to 2 at Temple University 4/29-30 (MP, et al.) enjoyed by many observers. A male **Mourning Warbler** was posing nicely for photographs at JHNWR 5/24-31 (DL, GA, LH), and another was more elusive at Woodlands Cemetery 5/29 (VS). Earlier than usual were a **Common Yellowthroat** at SWTP 3/26 (DB, VS) and a **Hooded Warbler** at Sedgley Woods 4/12-13 (MH, et al.). Migrating **American Redstarts** typically start to move through the city in the last three to five days of Apr. A female bird was definitely in a rush at JHNWR 4/17 (BF). One of the more sought-after targets for any respectable county lister in *Philadelphia*, a male **Cerulean Warbler** was a first eBird record at FDR 5/2 (HP, et al.).

Summer Tanagers were at FDR 4/30-5/1 (JL, et al.) and 5/4-5 (KBr, RH, et al.), Independence National Historic Park 5/11 (DK, GA, TJ, et al.), Lemon Hill 5/14 (CS), and a private backyard in NE Philadelphia 5/20-21 (PS). A male **Dickcissel** in the rarely seen breeding plumage was a brief visitor at JHNWR 5/26 (EE, PM).

Observers: **Holger Pflücke, Philadelphia, PA 19148, pflücke.holger@gmail.com**, George Armistead, Debbie Beer, Kevin Berkoff (KBe), Kevin Browngroehl (KBr), Tony Croasdale, Martin Dellwo, Peter DeStefano, Ed Edge, John Eskate, Jason Fehon, Bill Fiero, Matthew Halley, Susan Haidar, Liam Hart, Jason Horn, Richard Horwitz, Tykee James, Daniel Kalamarides, Robert King, Kristin Klein, Jamie LaMent, Daniel Lane, Gregory Mandel, Patrick McGill, Adrian Melck, Maria Pacheco, Bill Reaume, Patrick Schmitt, Victoria Sindlinger, Connor Smyth, Leor Veleanu, Michael Walter, Karyl Weber, Jason Weckstein.

Pike County

A **Trumpeter Swan** was found at Decker Pond 3/19-20 (AN).

Probably the same swan moved around but stayed in the county during the period. It was seen at Pickerel Lake and at Pecks Pond 4/19 (BW). There are additional reports of the swan in the summer period. There were 37 **White-winged Scoters** flying over Lake Wallenpaupack 5/8 (CF). The birds never landed within view of the observer. A **Long-tailed Duck** was at E. Birchwood Lake 3/26 (BW). A **Sora** was at the Dingman's Ferry Mitigation Wetland 5/14 (BW). Two **American Coots** were at Peck's Pond 4/9-5/1 (BW). On 3/23, 2 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at Lake Wallenpaupack (BW, CF).

There were about eight reports of **Red-headed Woodpecker** around the county, perhaps a sign that this species is increasing in the Pocono Mountains. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was observed at SGL183 on 5/20 (MB, NS). **Evening Grosbeak** was seen at feeders in Greeley 3/7 (AN) and in Dingman's Ferry 4/28-5/2 (BW). Up to 6 **Red Crossbills** were observed at old William Penn Camp on Snow Hill Rd. 3/20-21 (AM). **Vesper Sparrow** was reported from Jerry Lees Trailhead 4/1 (BW) and at Dingman's Ferry Mitigation Wetland 5/14 (BW).

Observers: **Michael Schall, 610-737-5275, mdtjschall@yahoo.com**, Michael Barney, Chris Fischer, Adam Miller, Alexis Neenan, Nicholas Schleissmann, Bradley White.

Potter County

Locations: Austin (AUS), Borie Branch (BOBR), Cherry Springs SP (CSSP), Corbett Rd (COR), Coudersport (COU), Cross Fork (CRFO), Dry Run Road (DRR), First Fork and Anson Roads (FFA), Galetton (GAL), Galetton Lake (GLA), Genesee (GEN), Hebron (HEB), Joerg Road (JOR), Keating Summit (KeSu), Keeny Hollow (KEHO), Kettle Creek and Rte 44 (KC44), Lyman Run SP (LRSP), Mitchel Hollow and Gates Hill Roads (MHGH), North Fork Dam (NFD), Ole Bull State Park (OBSP), Plank Road (PLR), Roulette (ROUL), Shinglehouse (SHI), Sinnemahoning SP-Potter (SISP), Sizerville (SIZV), State Game Lands 59 (SGL59), Stewardson Twp (STWP), Sweden Hill Road (SHR), Ulysses (ULY), West Branch Cowley Run (WBCR), West Branch Township (WBT) and Wharton (WHAR).

Reports were taken from eBird for the spring season totaling 136 species for the county. Data for notable sightings reported below, were obtained from 32 locations, submitted by 26 observers and listed after checking the overview data page, bar charts, and the species maps from eBird.

Twenty-three **Tundra Swans** were at KESU 3/8 (AS). There were two reports of **American Black Duck**, 2 at LRSP 4/8 (MS) and one SGL59 5/1 (BV), and two of **Green-winged Teal**, one at LRSP and 2 at GLA, both 4/21 (MS, SS, respectively). **Ring-necked Ducks** were at GLA 4/4 (SL) and LRSP with 3 there 3/17 (MS), and one 4/20 (BP) and 4/21 (MS, SS).

Two **Buffleheads** were at KEHO 3/25, with 9 there 4/11 (both SL), and Wharton Road, AUS hosted 2 on 4/7 (MS, SS) and GLA had one 4/23 (KC, CC). **Hooded Mergansers** were reported primarily from GLA, with one to 8 birds 3/7-5/2 (KC, CC, MS, SL); LRSP held 2 on 4/21 (MS, SS). **Common Mergansers** were reported 36 times from various locations around the county, while a single **Red-breasted Merganser** was observed at SGL59 4/8 (MS). Six single-bird sightings of **Ruffed Grouse** were reported from ULY 4/26 (AS), DRR 5/10 (TK), AUS 5/22 (AB) and OBSP 3/3, 4/20, 5/22 and 5/26 (SL). **Wild Turkeys** were reported mostly as single birds from seven locations.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported from three locations: SHI 4/22 (KE), as well as Beaver Swamp at OBSP and OBSP 5/26 (SL). One report of 5 **Common Nighthawks** came from OBSP 5/25 (SL), which was interestingly, the only report found in eBird over "all years" (from 1900-2021). During the second BBA, no data for Common Nighthawk were given, though the birds were found in the county during the first BBA (7 possible and 2 probable). Three reports of single **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were from JOR 4/28, 5/18, and 5/26, with a fourth from OBSP 5/25 (all SL) and these were the only reports historically for the county since the year 2000. The second BBA shows one probable sighting for Eastern Whip-poor-will, that had been made in the Austin area, a

decrease from the eight sightings, made in the county from areas above and below Rte. 6 during the first BBA.

Two **American Woodcocks** were reported from OBSP 5/26 (SL), one or two from CSSP 3/14 (BG) and 4/26 (AS) and one from JOR 5/26 and 5/30 (SL). A single **Wilson's Snipe** was at NFD 4/25 (KR). **Spotted Sandpiper** was reported from four locations: GLA 4/21 (SL, MS), LRSP 4/20 (BP), 5/2 (Ae) and 5/11 (RM), OBSP 5/12 (SL) and NFD 4/25 (KR). **Solitary Sandpiper** was reported from four locations: GLA 4/21 (MS, SS), OBSP including Beaver Swamp 4/27, 5/4, 5/7, 5/16 and 5/26 (all SL), and at JOR 5/16 (SL). A high count of 55 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at LRP 4/21 (MS, SS), another 25 were at GLA that same day (MS, SS), and 4 at GLA 5/2 (KR). Fifteen **Ring-billed Gulls** were at GLA with one **Herring Gull** 4/21 (MS, SS). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was at GLA 5/2 (KR).

One **Black Vulture** was at CSSP 5/15 (JM). Single bird sightings of **Osprey** were reported from LRSP 4/20 (BP), ULY 4/21 (MS, SS), OBSP 4/20, 5/26, Beaver Swamp, OBSP 4/27, and JOR 5/9 (all SL). One **Golden Eagle** was seen during migration from Beaver Swamp, OBSP 3/10 (SL). A **Northern Harrier** was reported from OBSP 3/14 (SL). One **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at OBSP 5/10, and a **Cooper's Hawk** at JOR 4/24 were the only accipiters reported (SL). **Bald Eagles** were seen at eight locations 3/3-5/22.

Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported from the Beaver Swamp, OBSP, 3/10, 3/11 and 3/12 and from a residence at Ole Bull Road and JOR 3/19 (all SL). Reports of **Broad-winged Hawk** included COU 5/9 (DF), Beaver Swamp at OBSP 4/27 (SL) and single-bird sightings from JOR 4/25, 5/15 and 5/16 (SL). Seven reports of single **Red-tailed Hawks** came from WBCR 3/3, (AS), OBSP 3/16 (SL), AUS 4/27 (MS, SS), WBT 4/23 (KC, CC), and LRSP 5/16 (JM).

Single **Barred Owls** were reported from five locations: GEN 3/7 (CB), SGL59 on 4/8 (MS, SS), CSSP 4/10, 4/26, and 5/15 (BG, ASc, JM), LRSP 5/1 (BV) and GAL 5/12 (RM). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was reported from CSSP 4/26 (ASc). One past report of NSWO found in eBird was from COU 3/14/2014. In addition, during the second BBA, Saw-whets had one confirmed, two probable, and two possible sightings. Single **American Kestrels** were observed at four locations: COU 3/17 (MS), SGL59 on 4/8 (MS), ROUL 4/21 (MS, SS) and MHGH 5/8 (DF). **Merlin** was observed at three locations: SHI 3/14 (KE), Assembly Park Trail, SHI where there were two 4/13 (KE) and GLA 4/21 (MS, SS).

Just three reports of **Alder Flycatcher** were noted, including AUS 5/26 (DK), SHI 5/22 (KE) and 2 at Beaver Swamp, OBSP 5/26 (SL). Two **Willow Flycatchers** were observed at Pine Hill Road, CRFO 5/26 (AL) and one at Beaver Swamp, OBSP 5/29 (SL). **Least Flycatchers** were reported from CSSP 5/9 and 5/15 (BG) and OBSP 5/26, where one **Great Crested Flycatcher** was observed as well 5/26 (SL). Three single-bird sightings of **Eastern Kingbird** were reported from the COU area 5/9 and First Fork Road near BOBR 5/15 (JM). **Warbling Vireo** was at just one location, AUS 5/26 (DK). Two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were reported at GLA 4/21 (MS, SS) and at Beaver Swamp, OBSP 5/4 (SL).

An irruption year bird, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was seen multiple times (1-2 birds) at Beaver Swamp, OBSP and JOR 3/3-5/16 (SL), with singles at CSSP 5/9 and 5/15 (BG) and at DDR 5/10 (TK). Reports of **Brown Creeper** were limited to three observations of single birds: PLR 3/20 (Ae), LRSP 4/20 (BP) and OBSP 5/7 (SL). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were observed at SISP 4/28 (SS) and CSP 5/15 (JM), and single **Winter Wrens** were found at WHAR 4/3 (DR) and SGL59 4/8 (MS).

Another irruption year bird, **Evening Grosbeak** was observed in numbers ranging from 6-17 individuals at four locations. There were 6 at Water Tank Hollow, COR 3/6 (BBr), 10 at Beaver Swamp OBSP 3/11 (SL), 17 at JOR (SL) that same date, and 5 at CRFO 3/10 (SL). A third irruption year bird, **Common Redpolls** were reported only from the HEB area, with 5 on 3/12 and 10 on 3/18 (DWH), and just 5 **Pine Siskins** were reported at HEB 3/8 (DWH).

American Tree Sparrows were in low numbers and reported from only three locations: HEB 3/8 (DWH), KC44 on 3/4(SL), and 1-3 birds at JOR from 3/3-19 (SL). **Fox Sparrows** were seen at CSSP 4/11 (BG), OBSP 4/16 (SL) and JOR 3/30 and 4/7 (SL). **White-crowned Sparrows**

were reported from five locations: JOR 5/16 (SL), SISP 4/28 (SS), 2-5 at COU 5/2, 5/4, and 5/9 (BB, KR), 4 at GAL 5/2 (Ae), and 4 at CSSP 5/15 (BG). A **Rusty Blackbird** was seen at LRSP 4/21 (MS, SS).

Louisiana Waterthrush was observed at KC44 on 4/10 and OBSP 5/7 and single **Northern Waterthrushes** at JOR 5/16 and OBSP 5/29 (all SL). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at CSSP 5/16 and a **Prothonotary Warbler** at LRSP 5/16 (JM). One **Northern Parula** was reported from Pine Hill Road, CRFO 5/26 (AL). **Palm Warblers** were observed at SISP 4/28 (SS), SIZV 5/1 (SS), and COU 5/9 (KR) and 5/11 (TK). Single **Canada Warblers** were at CSSP 5/15 (BG) and JOR 5/16 (SL).

Observers: **Robert Snyder, P.O. Box 603, Howard, PA 16841, (814) 753-2629, birdphotoginpa@gmail.com**, Colin Bailey, Andrew Bosche, Bob Boyd, Brian Brubaker (BBr), Anonymous eBirder (Ae), Christine Cooper, Ken Cooper, Kathy Ebeling, David Ferry, Barbara Gee, DW Hauber, Ted Keen, Darlene Kershner, Alejandra Lewandowski, Bill Libhart, Sarah Lindgren, John Mattie, Reed Moyer, Brandon Pentz, Ken Reichman, Dan Richards, Matthew Schenk, Susan Schenk, Annemarie Sciarra (ASc), Andrew Slidelinger, Brian Vitunic.

Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HM), Kelayres Reclaimed Minelands (KRM), Landingville Dam and Marsh (LVD), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Owl Creek (OC), Still Creek Reservoir (SCR), Swatara State Park (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL).

Schuylkill does not have any large water bodies that attract good numbers of waterfowl, only farm ponds to modest-sized municipal reservoirs. The reservoirs, in steep valleys, generally lack extensive shallow zones that would support aquatic vegetation. With some minor exceptions, waterfowl appear low in numbers and range from uncommon to occasional to rare. Kittatinny Ridge, along the southern border of the county, may also act as a barrier forcing many ducks to migrate to the west along the Susquehanna River. This year there were mild temperatures that kept the county lakes ice-free most of the winter, except for Feb when colder weather with excessive snow prevailed.

A large flock of 38 **Tundra Swans** were spotted 3/9 at LVD (DR, RR) and 3 others were seen 3/14 at LLSP (TB). **Blue-winged Teal** were only found this spring at LVD with 2 seen 4/19 (DR, RR) and 2 more 5/7 (TB). A large flock of 22 **American Wigeons** was at LVD 3/9 (DR, RR) some of which stayed until 3/16, while another pair was at SAL 3/9 (TB). The best place in the county for **American Black Duck** is by far APWS where they were seen almost every day 3/10-4/27 (JoD, GK) with a high count of 12 on 3/12. They also showed up at SAL 3/22 (BR), HM 4/10 (PH), LVD 4/13 (DR), 3/16 (DBr), and 3/7 (TB), and SCR 3/24 (JD). **Northern Pintail** was only found this year at LVD 3/11 (DR) and 4/3 (TB). Most of the **Green-winged Teal** seen were at LVD 3/7-4/19 (TB, DR, RR); a pair was also at SAL 3/13 (BR) and one on 3/15 at APWS (JoD).

Again, the majority of **Ring-necked Ducks** were also found at LVD 3/1-4/12 (m.ob.) and pairs were spotted at SAL 3/26 (BR) and OC 3/19 (MY). Both species of scaup were seen: **Greater Scaup** at SAL 3/26 (BR, RR) and OC 3/19 (MY); **Lesser Scaup** at SAL 3/26 (BR, RR) and 4/2 (NF, TB). **Buffleheads** were seen in small numbers at four locations: SAL 3/13 (BR) and 4/20 (TB), LLSP 3/26-4/30 (m.ob.), APWS 3/26 (JoD), and OC 3/21 (DK). **Red-breasted Mergansers** are becoming more regular in the spring with singles reported at SAL 3/26 (RR) and LVD 4/27 (DK). A **Ruddy Duck** was seen 4/2 at SAL (TB) and 8 were found at LLSP 3/26 (JoD). A **Horned Grebe** was at SAL 4/2 (NF) and others were reported at LLSP 3/27 (JoD) and 3/29 (TB). **American Coot** was at SSP 4/2 (TB) and at LVD 4/12 (RR) and 5/6 (DR).

A very unusual sighting for the county was a pair of **Sandhill Cranes** at APWS 5/7 (JD). Four **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at LVD 4/27 (DK); 3 were there 4/28 (TB). **Semipalmated Plovers** were regular visitors at LVD 5/10-5/27 with up to 4 present (DK, DR, RR). A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at LVD 5/8 (DB, DR, RR) and another at SAL on three days in April (EB, WL, TB). An **American Bittern** was seen several times 4/27-5/5 at SSP (BR).

It was another good spring for **Red-headed Woodpeckers** with single birds reported in a timbered area in South Manheim Twp. 5/22 (DR), in the Molino area 5/7 (TB), and at HM 4/28 and 5/15 (CF, PH). At least 5 **Common Redpolls** stayed around the McAdoo area until late March (JD). The rest of the following birds are usually found every year but can be hard to locate. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found at the Burma Road grasslands in May (TB, TJ) and at KRM in mid-May (JD, JoD). A **Vesper Sparrow** was in St. Clair 5/13 (TJ). Two **Lincoln Sparrows** were along West Deerview Dr. 5/8 (DB, DR, RR). **Bobolinks** were seen at three locations, a lot for this species: along Rte. 895 in South Manheim Township 5/11 (TB), on Spancake Rd. in mid-May (RR, DR), and at TSP in mid-May (KP, JoD). An **Evening Grosbeak** was seen at a feeder near Pine Grove 5/5 (DD). There were 28 warbler species found in the county this spring, one less than last year.

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stony Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com**, Ed Barrell, David Boltz, Dan Brennan (DBr), Thomas Buehl Jr., John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko, Denise Donmoyer, Caroline Fegley, Nate Felty, Paul Heveran, Gabrielle Kaschak, Dave Krueel, Wes Levan, Karol Pasquinelli, Rich Rieger, Barb Ritzheimer, Michael Yoo.

Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Buffalo Creek (BC), Bluebird Hill Farm – near Quemahoning Res. (BHF), Confluence Area (CA), Flight 93 National Memorial (FLT93), High Point Lake (HPL), Indian Lake (IL), Laurel Hill State Park (LHSP), Laurel Summit State Park (LSSP), Payne Property on Allegheny Mt. (PP), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Somerset Lake IBA (SL).

Although most expected waterfowl was found this season, mostly at QR, overall numbers were low compared to times when SL was not drained. Three **Snow Geese** started the season at QR 3/1 (LG). A **Cackling Goose** was scrutinized at QR 3/6 (SB). Two **Mute Swans** 3/12 at Seven Springs had 3 cygnets by 5/23 (AS). Although there were numerous **Tundra Swan** reports, one of the season's highlights was the accumulation of 1010 birds on the ice and small melted holes on QR 3/8 (LG).

Wood Duck reports were numerous as expected, but 31 near Boswell 3/14 (PL) was most impressive. **Blue-winged Teal** were found 3/24-5/10 with a high of 11 in BA 3/26 (JP). **Northern Shovelers** were sparse with just two reports, 6 at QR 3/12 (RR) and 2 at PP 4/18 (JP). **Gadwall** were only found in Mar with a maximum of 33 on 3/12 at QR (RR). **American Wigeon** were present until 5/6 with 33 the high count at QR 3/8 (JP). **American Black Ducks** were present all Mar with up to 14 in BA, one of which persisted until 4/28 (JP). **Northern Pintails** were all in early Mar with a nice 15 at QR 3/4 (LG). **Green-winged Teal** were sparse with just 3 reports and a high of 7 in BA 3/14 (JP).

Canvasbacks were at QR through 3/12 with 5 found 3/4 at QR (LG). **Redhead** numbers were decent including 62 on 3/7 at QR (EG). **Ring-necked Ducks** hit a high of 176 at QR 3/8 (JP). Moderate numbers of both **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup** were found there all of Mar with the last reports of **Greater** 4/29 (LG) and **Lesser** 5/5 (LG). A **White-winged Scoter** first showed up at QR 3/2 (BP), with 2 there from 4/24-30 (LG, JP) and a single persisting until at least 5/10 (LB, JP). Two reports for **Long-tailed Duck** were received: 2 at QR 3/12 (RR) and one at HPL 3/20 (BO, TM). **Bufflehead** were found until 5/9 with a high count of 42 at Deer Valley L. 3/20 (TM). **Common Goldeneye** are always early migrants and were found through most of March with a max of 5 at QR 3/13 (T&JK, MM). At QR, **Hooded Mergansers** topped out at 35 on 3/13 (T&JK, MM), while **Red-breasted Mergansers** hit their max of 30 on 4/28 (J&BS). **Common Merganser** max was 25 at LHSP 3/19 (MR). **Ruddy Ducks** were found in modest numbers through 5/10 when 3 were at HPL (LB, JP).

Three surviving **Ring-necked Pheasants** were in the grasslands at FLT93 on 4/3 (RA, DS). Four **Ruffed Grouse** reports came from widespread locales. Five was the high count for both **Pied-billed Grebes** 3/31 and **Horned Grebes** 5/29, both at QR (LG). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

was reported twice, 5/14 at QR (SC) and 5/22 at PP (JP) and likewise for **Black-billed Cuckoo** at PP (JP) and Mt. Davis (KH) both 5/22. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was reported just once, on MacDonaldton Road 5/19 (TM). A noteworthy 400 **Chimney Swifts** were apparent migrants along Casselman R. 4/30 (TO). The earliest **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at Glenmoor 4/18 (LG). Rails were only reported from BC with 2 **Virginia** 4/18 and 5/10 (JP) and one **Sora** 5/10 (LB, JP). **American Coots** were found until 5/8 at QR with a high of 15 on 3/20 (LG). Three **Sandhill Cranes** were in the Holsopple area from 3/8 (BF) to 3/15 (PL).

With weeds choking most of the mudflats at the drained SL, shorebirding was slow. A **Dunlin** was in BA 3/24 (JP) and on Spiegel Rd 4/7-5/24 (PL, LG). **Least Sandpipers** were in BA 4/28 (JP), Spiegel Rd 5/3 and 5/14 (PL) and at SL 5/16 (JP). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was in BA 4/28 and 2 were at SL 5/10 (JP). Forty **Wilson's Snipe** were detected along a mile of partially flooded land along Stonycreek R. north of Berlin 3/20 (CP, JP, RP). **Spotted Sandpipers** were reported on six occasions. **Solitary Sandpipers** didn't mind the vegetation at SL where 27 were counted 5/10 (JP). **Greater Yellowlegs** topped out at 6 in BA 4/28 (JP) with a scattering of other reports. **Lesser Yellowlegs** were more numerous with a good 72 at SL 5/10 (JP). A nice flight of 62 **Bonaparte's Gulls** stopped at QR 3/30 (LG); a high of 105 **Ring-Billed Gulls** were there 3/8 (LG). **Black Terns** put in appearances at QR 5/10 with 3 (LG, JP) and SL 5/29 with a single (JP). **Forster's Terns** were found at QR 5/3 (LG), 5/10 (LB, JP) and 5/27 (LG) with 4 birds each time.

From one to four **Common Loons** were seen on many occasions 3/24-5/21 at QR, IL and HPL (m.ob.). **Double-crested Cormorant** records were all from QR except for 5 flyovers at PP 3/27 (JP). An **American Bittern** showed up at a small created wetland at BHF 4/26 (PL, LG, JP). Only a couple migrant **Great Egrets** were spotted, one 4/27 at BC (JP) and one 5/5-6 at BHF (PL, LG). **Green Herons** were found in singles or pairs in multiple locations.

As usual, **Black Vultures** were scarce with two reports: two 5/8 near Rockwood (SD) and one near New Baltimore 5/31 (CP, JP, RP). **Ospreys** were reported singly or in pairs in five locations. **Northern Harriers** were spotted as single migrants early but seemed to persist at FLT93 where they have bred. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were spotted five times, while **Cooper's Hawks** were slightly more common with nine reports. **Bald Eagles** are thriving with at least five active nests including the first successful nest at SL. **Red-shouldered Hawks** were represented by 3 singles; **Broad-winged Hawks** were found six times. There was only one sighting of **Eastern Screech-Owl** 5/8 at Rockwood (SD). **Great Horned Owls** are still not getting many reports with singles at Glenmoor (LG) and Seven Springs (CH) and then a pair calling at PP 5/29 (JP). The **Snowy Owl** at Seven Springs was last seen 3/10 (AS). **Barred Owls** were widely reported.

Belted Kingfisher was widely reported as one or two birds, but 5 in Gallitzin SP 3/21 (SB) was a high number. All woodpeckers were accounted for with **Red-headed Woodpeckers** being least common with reports from four locales. **Pileated Woodpecker** numbers seem to be up, possibly due to widespread Emerald Ash Borers and interestingly are much more common at suet feeders than previously. Only one **Merlin** report 5/8 at Glenmoor (LG) was received.

Flycatcher reports were a bit sparse overall, especially Empids with only four mentions of **Acadian**, one of **Alder** on Allegheny Mt 5/31 (CP, JP, RP), four **Least Flycatcher** sightings, and, surprisingly, **Willow** only mentioned once in CA 5/11 (EH). **White-eyed Vireos** were only found twice in CA and twice at QR. **Yellow-throated Vireo** is usually uncommon. The only report was 5/2 in CA (MH); likewise for **Warbling Vireo** with just 2 reported, in Meyersdale 4/13 (TM) and at Hidden Valley 5/27 (CW). Interesting for this county was a report 5/11 of **Fish Crow** at the northern border along the Stonycreek R. 5/11 (EJR).

A nice count of 100 **Horned Larks** 3/20 at Meadow Road were probably migrants (CP, JP, RP). All swallows were found with **Purple Martins** only at the colony near Springs 5/10 and **Bank Swallows** only at HPL the same day (LB, JP). There were many reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** early, with the last being at Laurel Summit SP 5/19 (KD, KS). **Brown Creepers** garnered eight reports mostly from mountain tops. **Winter Wrens** were mostly along Laurel Mt. where they breed. A

great find was a **Marsh Wren** by a small pond near Boswell 5/10 (BF, LG). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were in Norway Spruces along Allegheny Mt. at PP and Imgrund Mt. Rd 5/31 (CP, JP, RP).

A drive along Laurel Summit 5/19 yielded 10 **Veeries** (KD). **Swainson's Thrush** was only found twice, 5/8 at North Fork Res (LG) and 5/15 at PP (JP). **Northern Mockingbird** is a bit sparse in *Somerset* so seven single reports were welcome. **Cedar Waxwings** did not seem to appear until 5/8, then became common. **Evening Grosbeaks** were at Glencoe feeders from 4/2-5/9 (CL) and 2 were at PP 4/16 (JP). **Pine Siskins** were only found three times from 5/8-11, and then only one or two birds. Rather late was a **Lapland Longspur** on Meadow Rd 3/14 (JP).

Grasshopper Sparrow was found at Listie Grove 5/24 (AJ). The last 2 **American Tree Sparrows** were at PP 3/10 (JP). **Fox Sparrow** reports only came from PP 3/10-4/19 with 12 present 3/13 (JP). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were abundant, but only at higher elevation mountain tops by end of period. **White-crowned Sparrows** were found at seven locations in low numbers from 4/28-5/16 (m.ob.). **White-throated Sparrows** persisted until 5/15. The only **Vesper Sparrow** was at Markleton from 5/15-27 (TO). Several **Savannah Sparrows** were found, but just one **Lincoln's Sparrow** in Markleton 5/12 (TO). Twenty **Swamp Sparrows** at BD 5/10 was impressive (LB, JP). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was singing in CA 5/10 (LB, JP). **Bobolink** was found 4/25 through the period, but numbers seemed low. **Orchard Orioles** were fairly well represented on seven lists from 5/3 on, while **Baltimore Orioles** arrived 4/29 and were well-reported. **Rusty Blackbirds** were sparse with only four reports of one or two birds from 3/13-5/17 (m.ob.).

Twenty-six warbler species were found this. **Ovenbirds** were very abundant. **Louisiana Waterthrush** arrived 4/9 and were found in appropriate habitats widely while **Northern Waterthrush** was only reported 5/16 at QR (LG). **Golden-winged Warblers** were at QR 5/2-14 (PI, LG) and CA 5/14 (LG). **Black-and-white Warblers** arrived 4/23 and were abundant. A single **Nashville Warbler** was at PP 5/15 (JP), and one **Kentucky Warbler** was in CA 5/2 (MH). **Hooded Warbler** was early at MacDonaldton 4/13 (TM) and then rather common, especially in CA. **Northern Parulas** arrived 4/19; **American Redstarts** 4/29. **Cape May Warblers** were in Meyersdale 5/10-13 (TM); **Cerulean Warblers** were in CA and possibly QR and were fairly common. **Magnolia Warblers** were found four times including 6 at LSSP 5/19 (KD, KS). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were also found four times including 5/17 at QR (PH). **Blackburnian Warblers** made it in by 4/30 and were reported seven times including 4 at PP 5/15 (JP).

Yellow Warblers were a bit late, arriving 4/28, then common. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** started 5/2, then were common. **Blackpoll Warblers** were first reported 5/17 with five reports until the end of the period. **Black-throated Blue Warblers** had a nice high count of 12 at LRSP 5/7 (MB). **Palm Warblers** were reported seven times from 4/5-5/12. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were widely seen from 4/10-5/21. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found at Confluence 4/23 (MH, KG) and 5/10 (LB, JP) as well as Markleton 5/12 (TO). The locally uncommon **Prairie Warbler** was at New Centerville 4/30 (JH). **Black-throated Green Warblers** were abundant from 4/28 on, and **Canada Warblers** were especially common on Mt. David where 9 were found 5/19 (LF).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks showed up 4/27 at PP (JP) and Waxwing Hill (AS) and were common at sunflower feeders thereafter.

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin, PA 15530, (814) 267-5718, paynemt@gmail.com**, Ruth Adam, Larry Barth, Michael Barney, Seth Burnosky, Sandy Cline, Stephanie Darby, Karyn Delaney, Ben Flora, Leah Franzluebbbers, Ed Gowarty, Linda Greble, Kathryn Guntur, Joseph Hadaway, Eric Hartshaw, Kayla Hartung, Caroline Hays, Mark Hopey, Pam Hornick, Pam Illic, Andrew Johnson, Tom & Janet Kuehl, Paul Lehman, Cathy Ludy, Mark McConaughy, Tom Miller, Becky Ohler, Tiffany Ohler, Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne, E. J. Regula, Meredith Rohn, Russ Ruffing, Dylan Shank, Kathy Shurders, Andrew Smith, James & Beth Sybrandy, Carol Winckler.

Sullivan County

Locations: Konklin Run Wilderness Area (CRWA), Deer Lake (DL), Dushore (DU), Dutch Mtn (DM), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), Hillsgrove Covered Bridge (HCB), Kinsley's Corner (KC), Litzelman Rd Cherry Township (LR), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Ricketts Glen SP Hayfields (RGH), SGL 13 Splashdam Pond (SDP), SGL 66 Shady Nook (SN), World's End State Park (WESP).

There were no major weather events during the season. The month of May did seem cooler than normal with several mornings below forty degrees. Lakes and ponds were free of ice by late March. There are many interesting sightings for the season. All reports except personal observations by the author are taken from eBird. All reports are from the author except where noted.

Waterfowl reports were mostly typical for the county with breeders and typical migrants. One male and 2 female **White-winged Scoters** were an excellent find on EML 5/8. Another good find were 2 female **Red-breasted Mergansers** at RGSP 5/13 (DG). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, first observed 5/12 (WE), was present near DL on multiple occasions. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** returned to SDP with multiple individuals first heard 5/8. **Sandhill Crane** was a nester again; one chick accompanied by 2 adults was seen 5/8 at LR.

Shorebird habitat is limited in the county and there are few regular species to be found. Notable sightings included 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at SDP 5/2 (SMu), one **Greater Yellowlegs** at SDP 4/18, and 4 **Wilson's Snipe** first observed at LR 3/27. Three more **Wilson's Snipe** at the same location 5/15 seemed late. A pair of **Green Herons** was at Bob Kost's Pond in DU 5/14. Subsequent visits found as many as 4 individuals at one time at this location. Two **Black Vultures** in DU 3/20 seemed rather early. This is still not a common bird in the county. **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was first heard on DM 5/8. A **Long-eared Owl** was reported from

Two **Merlins** were observed at EML 4/17. The first bird was heard calling and then seen flying into a tree and acting in an agitated manner with wing fluttering and chattering sounds. A second bird soon flew in briefly, and the pair were observed copulating. The first bird, a female, remained in the tree for several minutes; the male returned a second time, and copulation occurred again. Presumably the same pair was found again in the same location on Global Big Day 5/8 with copulation again observed. Merlin was confirmed nesting in this area a few years ago. Unfortunately, the birds were not observed again during the season.

WESP 5/15 (JV). A lone **Red-headed Woodpecker** was an excellent find at KC 5/2.

Notable passerine sightings included **Warbling Vireo** 5/2 at SN. A **Fish Crow** in DU on 4/17 was a good find. At least one **Bank Swallow** was among a flock of **Tree Swallows** and **Barn Swallows** at EML 5/8. **Cliff Swallows** were located at the Rte 87 bridge over the Loyalsock Creek near HCB 5/15 where they have been observed in previous years. Two **Northern Mockingbirds** and 2 **Swainson's Thrush** were good finds, both reported 4/30 at SDP (A&BY). A single female **Evening Grosbeak** was reported at a feeder in Mildred 5/4 (SS). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** were in the DL vicinity 5/6 (WE). **Fox Sparrow** was first reported at DL 3/14. Seven **Rusty Blackbirds**, a high count, were seen in a wet field near DU 3/27.

There were reports of 25 species of warbler. The best sighting was the **Golden-winged Warbler** reported at RGH 5/24 (DG). Other notable observations included **Worm-eating Warbler**, first seen at WESP 5/15, and 2 **Pine Warblers** at CRWA 5/2 (SMi). **Hooded Warbler** was first observed in the DL area 5/6 (WE). Migrants were well-represented with **Bay-breasted Warbler** reported 5/14 at WESP (AS), **Cape May Warbler** first seen at DL 5/15, and a high of 15 **Palm Warblers** at SDP 5/2.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Dr, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610)858-6361, Robert.r.megraw@gmail.com**, Wes Egli, Doug Gross, Sean Minnick, Sean Murphy (SMu), Shannon Scheffler, Alice Simmons, Jeff Vinosky, Alan & Bonnie Yuscavage.

Susquehanna County

Locations: Locations: Hollister's Pond (HOL), Lake Montrose (LMO).

What is it about the passage of **Snow Geese** that so aptly marks the beginning of spring? Is it the geese flying north? Or are they a symbol of the retreat of winter weather? Either way, *Susquehanna* is tucked southeast and proximate to the Finger Lakes of New York State which are major stopover destinations for these migrating waterfowl. Eyes expectantly lifted to the skies were rewarded by the first overhead waves of these beautiful birds on 3/9 (EM, BN, TN, JS). An unanticipated and unusual **Graylag Goose** spent a month at HOL 3/26-4/30 (SF, TN, JS). Four **Blue-winged Teal** were seen on a private wetland south of New Milford 3/26-4/1 (m.ob.). Lake Montrose hosted 7 **Northern Shovelers** 4/22 (SF, TN, NV). A **Northern Pintail** was present on HOL 3/19-21 (SF, TN, BS, JS). An unusually large flock of 30 **White-winged Scoters** appeared for a day on LMO accompanied by 3 **Red-necked Grebes** 5/8 (m.ob.). A **Red-breasted Merganser**, the only one reported, was photographed on Dunn Pond 4/27 (CF).

During the evenings of 5/22-31, **Common Nighthawks** passed north through the county following the river course. The number of birds counted over seven evenings totaled 130 individuals with a single night high count of 37 on 5/23 (BS, GS). Two **Soras** visited a private wetland south of New Milford 5/19-20 (NV), and another was spotted at SGL236 on 4/27 (CF). Three **Common Gallinules** made appearances, one at Bendix Swamp 4/23 (TN), one at Broadhead Pond 5/13 (JS), and one at a private wetland 5/13 (NV). Hints of possible **Sandhill Crane** nesting came from several unconfirmed reports by non-birders. Supporting that possibility were three reports of cranes: one from South Auburn 3/23 (TB), one from outside New Milford 4/15 (SF, BS, GS, NV), and 3 at Broadhead Pond 4/17 (JS). While Sandhills are occasionally spotted in migration and they are known to nest in neighboring counties, there are no records of breeders in *Susquehanna*. The search is on!

A pair of **Wilson's Snipe** were on Broadhead Pond 4/18 (TN). An **American Bittern** was photographed in a remote and infrequently visited wetland in SGL35 on 5/9 (EM, JM, WS). Another was seen south of Lenox 5/23 (CF). Our only **Great Egret** visitor stopped by Stearns Lake 5/15 (EB).

We continue to await the range expansion into the county of **Black Vultures**. A pair was spotted in the expansive agricultural fields of the southern part of *Susquehanna* 3/20 (TS). A **Golden Eagle** in the same area provided opportunity for a beautiful photographic study 3/5 (MM).

Another southern species always welcome briefly appeared at a feeder at Lake Montrose 5/21 (TN). This **Red-headed Woodpecker** allowed nice views and photographs for the residents and then teasingly disappeared before the birding community could respond to the rare bird alert. The only observation of **Olive-sided Flycatcher** occurred in SGL35 on the last day of the season having been photographed by our newest birding enthusiast 5/31 (ON). Welcome Oscar! A large flock of **Horned Larks** foraged in farm fields just north of the county fairgrounds 3/1-6 with a high count of 85 on 3/6 (DF, SF).

A hard-to-find **Marsh Wren** was present at Stillwater Reservoir 5/20 (CF). The only **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was spotted at the same location and on the same day (CF). There was unusually low detection of migrating **Swainson's Thrush** this spring. Thanks to a sharp-eared observer one was identified near Hop Bottom 5/21 (KF). Similarly, the only **American Pipits** were 8 birds seen on Troy Road 4/11 (NB).

Evening Grosbeaks in May? After this past winter's eruption - Sure. One was at a feeder near Laurel Lake 5/1 where 5 had been photographed 4/29 (EM, JM). Five were also present near Woodbourne Forest Preserve 5/2 (JS). A flock of 31 Common Redpolls was photographed in Glemboski Farm Fields 3/3 (CF, RJ). The wintering **White-winged Crossbill** was last photographed on Page Rd 3/1 (EZ), making it into this report by a single day.

A cooperative, first-record **Clay-colored Sparrow** perched outside the window of a very gracious birding couple's home near LMO 4/24-28 allowing many to add a new species to their county lists (TN, m.ob.). **Vesper Sparrows** were present east of Great Bend 4/19-20 (SF, BS, GS) and on Potter Hill Rd 4/17 (CF). A pair of **Lincoln's Sparrows** were

the only ones seen this season, present on private property near Great Bend 5/7 (BS, GS).

Golden-winged Warblers were added to two property lists: a male was photographed southeast of New Milford 5/7 (NV) and another male was at a farm on Troy Rd 5/8 (NB). Likely often missed passing through the county, this season 2 **Wilson's Warblers** were spotted. One was at Comfort Pond 5/17 (CF), and one near Laurel Lake 5/24 (EM). A total of 27 species of warblers were reported, providing the expected yet always welcome "sugar fix" of eye-candy for the local birding community.

The spring season 2021 was characterized by a tepid waterfowl migration, lingering winter irruptive species, and good numbers of returning passerines. The timing of the thawing of the glacial lakes is a major factor in the variety and numbers of waterfowl stopping on their move north. This year waters opened up at the same time as those larger bodies of water to the immediate north. The sense of the season was that most waterbird migrants passed us by this year. A number of the northern species that had graced the county with their winter presence and had represented an historic finch year across the northeast, continued to be seen locally during the spring months. Insectivores returning from the southeast and the tropics did so in seemingly healthy numbers, resulting in an outbreak of warbler neck among those listed below.

Observers: **Evan Mann, 8313 Laurel Lake Road, Montrose, PA 18801, (570) 663-2621, 7evanmann@gmail.com**, Nick Bolgiano, Tom Boyle, Ed Burdick, Kelly Finan, Chris Fischer, Dale Fisher, Sara Fisher, Ryan Johnson, Justin Mann, Michele Morningstar, Oscar Nigam, Sharon Norville, Tom Norville, Win Shafer, Ty Sharrow, Barb Stone, Gary Stone, Joyce Stone, Nancy VanCott, Eric Zawatski.

Union County – no report

Tioga County

Locations: Asaph (ASP), Colton Point SP (CPSP), Covington (COV), Cowanesque Lake (COWL), Hills Creek Lake Road (HCLR), Hills Creek Road (HCR), Hills Creek SP (HCSP), Keeneyville (KEEN), Kerr Road (KER), Knapp (KNP), Mansfield (MAN), Marsh Creek/The Muck (MCM-IBA), Muck Railyard (MURY), Nessmuck Lake (NEL), Ogdensburg (OGD), Painter Run Road (PRR), Pine Creek Rail Trail (PCRT), Roseville (ROS), Rte. 6 at Smith Run (R6SR), Tauscher Pond (TAP), Tioga-Hammond Lakes (THLA), Tioga-Hammond Lakes-Ives Run Rec. Area (THL-IRRA), Tioga (TIO), Tioga State Forest (TISF), Wellsboro (WEL).

A total of 201 species were reported on eBird during the spring season. Species data reported below are from 25 locations by 36 observers and were obtained from eBird using bar charts and the species map features. **Snow Geese** were reported from five locations 3/9-4/24 with a high of 25 from the Meade Street Rec. Area, WEL 3/9 (SM). One **Trumpeter Swan** was observed from a blind along Marsh Creek, TISF 4/7 (KR), and a second was seen at MCM-IBA 4/4-19 (SM, m.ob.). Approximately 300 **Tundra Swans** in several flocks flew over a residence near ASP 3/9, the same day 200 were reported flying over KNP (JC, DKP).

Blue-winged Teal were seen at MURY 4/3 (LD), HCSP 5/2 (GT), and TAP 4/30 (KC) and 5/1 (CC). **Northern Shovelers** were observed at TAP 5/1(LD, KC, CC), R6SR 3/9 (JC) and NEL 5/3 (KC). **American Wigeons** were seen at three locations, with the high of 10 at HCSP 3/26 (LD), 2 at the channel overlook THLA 3/11(GT), and 2 at MCM-IBA 4/7 (LD). **American Black Ducks** were reported in low numbers (5 max) from nine locations 3/1-5/19 (m.ob.). **Green-winged Teal** were seen at six locations: MURY 4/3, MCM-IBA 4/7, Clymer Puddle and PCRT 4/25 (all LD), Marsh Creek Rd, WEL 4/27 (KC), HCSP 4/4 (SM) and TAP 4/9 (BC).

Ring-necked Ducks were reported many times along Marsh Creek from ASP, MCM-IBA, HCSP, THLA and also from COWL. **Greater Scaup** were reported in small numbers (5 max) from seven locations: THLA, MCM-IBA, TAP, HCSP, NEL, Ridge Road Ponds, and TIO.

Lesser Scaup were seen at the Channel overlook, THLA 3/3 (LSt) and TAP 3-4 birds per sighting 4/9–19 (BC, LD, KC). One **Surf Scoter** was at COWL 4/11 (BC). **White-winged Scoters** were reported from THL-IRRA 4/13 (MS) and 4/29 when there were 13 (LD) and from HCSP 8-10 birds 4/29 (MSh, KC, CC, GT, LD). A single **Long-tailed Duck** was reported in fourteen accounts from HCSP 3/26-5/15 (m.ob.). Three **Common Goldeneyes** were at COWL 4/12 (BC). One **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen at COWL 3/27 (SM). Mostly single-bird observations of **Ruddy Ducks** were reported from several locations, with a high of 12 from THL-IRRA 4/11 (BC).

Ruffed Grouse was reported mostly as single bird sightings from fourteen locations, while **Wild Turkeys** were reported from many locations numbering 1-17 birds, with the high count of 25 reported from Reese Hill Road and HCR 3/31 (LD).

Grebes were represented in low numbers. **Pied-billed Grebe** was reported 23 times from seven locations while **Horned Grebe** surfaced at six (m.ob.). Most notable was a single **Red-necked Grebe** at HCSP 4/16 (GT, EW, KC, CoC, LD). Single-bird sightings of **Common Nighthawk** were reported from the rail grade trail, THL-IRRA 5/20, Lambs Creek Rec Area, THLA 5/22 and HCLR 5/23 (LD). A **Common Gallinule** was reported from MCM-ABA 5/15 and 5/20 (m.ob.). There was one **American Coot** at TAP 4/18, 4/19, and 4/20 (MS, KC, LD). One **Sandhill Crane** was photographed flying over Webster Pond along the PCRT 5/8 (LS).

There was a large fallout of shorebirds in the fields east of Airport Rd, WEL on 5/29; several observers obtained photographs. An estimated 300 **Black-bellied Plovers** were reported 5/29 by nine observers from Canyon Airport and Airport Rd, WEL (TJ, ph., m.ob.). **Semipalmated Plovers** were reported from MURY 5/7 (LD, ph.), 5/13 (KC), 5/30 when there were 7 (JC), and 5/31 (GT, KR) as well as along Airport Rd on fallout day with a high count of 10 there (m.ob.). Sightings (ph. by TJ, AK) of a **Whimbrel** were from various locations along Airport Rd, WEL 5/29 (m.ob.). A high count of 35 **Ruddy Turnstones** (ph. TJ, m.ob.) were also present there with an additional 3 at MURY (JC). Up to 5 **Red Knots** (JH), 7 **Sanderlings** and 10 **Dunlins** were among the downed flock (m.ob.). A **Dunlin** was also reported from MURY 5/7 (ph. LD). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were in the Airport Rd. event 5/29 (SB, JH), as well as at MURY 5/12 (GT) and 5/30 (JC) and at MCM-IBA 5/15 (LD). **Least Sandpiper** was reported from Pine Camp, THLA 4/26 (LD), from Airport Rd, WEL 5/29 (SB, JH), and from MURY 5/1-31 (ph. NF, EH) with a high count of 20 on 5/29 (JC). A high count of 20 **Short-billed Dowitchers** was reported at Airport Road, WEL 5/29 (m.ob.).

Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, and Short-billed Dowitcher were all first ever *Tioga* reports in eBird.

American Woodcock, ranging from one to 4 birds, were noted in 18 reports. **Wilson's Snipe** was reported from three locations: MURY 3/23 (DKP), Webster Road, PCRT 4/14 (LD) and a residence north of ASP 4/19-29 (JC). Thirteen **Herring Gulls** were at the Channel Overlook, THLA 3/20 (OB). **Caspian Tern** was reported from TAP 4/30 (KR) and COWL 4/11, 4/16, and 4/21 (BC, KC, CC). Two **Common Terns** were seen at THL-IRRA 5/26 (GT, KC, CC). A **Red-throated Loon** was at THL-IRRA 4/10 (BC). **American Bittern** was reported from MCM-IBA 5/3 and 5/7 (LD). A **Least Bittern** was reported from MCM-IBA 5/13 (ph. AB) and again 5/20 (KC). A **Great Egret** was at NEL 4/27 (ASc, LD).

A **Golden Eagle** was seen soaring above THL-IRRA 4/12 (BC). **Northern Harrier** was reported from seven locations: Brown Road, WEL 3/10 and 4/18 (LD), MCM-IBA 4/25 (KB), HCLR 4/30 (LD), ROS 4/14 (BS), Stowell and Airport Roads, WEL 5/4 (LD), and COWL 4/12 (MW). Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported from Dean Hill Road 3/10 (LD) and one from Brown Road near WEL the same day (LD). A lone **Snowy Owl** was seen perched in a tree near OGD 4/23 (CA). **American Kestrel** was reported as single-bird observations 38 times across the county. A **Peregrine Falcon** was observed at Pine Camp, THLA 4/26 (LD).

Horned Lark was reported from fields along KER 3/23 (LD) and from fields along Airport Road, WEL 5/29 (AK). **Bank Swallows** were seen at three locations: White Lane, PRR 5/10 and 5/29 (KR), Webster Road access to PCRT 5/30 (DKP) and TAP 5/1 (LD). **Swainson's Thrush** was

reported from Straight Run, PCRT 5/16 (JC) and Rattler Road, WEL 5/18 (NF, EH). Three **American Pipits** were at MURY 5/1 (LD, KC, CC).

Three irruption species were observed. **Evening Grosbeak** was seen at seven locations, 3/3-5/6, with the high count of 30 reported from KNP 3/26 (DKP). One **Common Redpoll** was reported from a residence near PCR 3/11 (SM). **Pine Siskins** were seen in low numbers at seven locations 3/20-5/19 (JT, m.ob.). There were 47 reports posted on eBird for **American Tree Sparrow**, with a high of 21 at a residence along Marsh Creek, north of ASP 3/9 (JC). One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was reported from the Butler Road access, PCRT 5/4 (GT).

There were 32 reports of **Bobolinks** with high counts of 11 at Sherman Hill Road, KEEN 5/30 (LD) and 10 at West Hill/Hilfiger Roads, COV 5/26 (KC). **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported at COWL, HCLR, KNP, and MUY, with the highest counts of 31 at MCM-IBA 4/7 (KR), and 20 at ASP 4/25 (JC), and 12 at the Stokesdale access to the PCRT 3/28 (LD).

Single sightings of **Louisiana Waterthrush** were from seven locations along the Marsh Creek watershed from Rexford to ASP and one observation at HCSP. There were just two reports of single **Northern Waterthrush**: MCM-IBA 5/8 and Shaw Road, MAN 4/24 (KB, JT). **Blue-winged Warbler** was reported mostly as singles 4/29–5/31 from nine locations with a high of 5 at COWL 5/31 (MW). The following warblers were seen at CPSP: **Mourning Warbler** 5/21 (AD, DD, TJ, ph. by GK and HK), **Bay-breasted Warbler** 5/20 (KC), and **Blackpoll Warbler** 5/21 (TJ, AD, DD). **Palm Warblers** were observed at nine locations, usually as singles, though 6 were at HCSP 5/10 (DKP). One **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen on multiple dates at MAN 5/11, 5/18, 5/19 and 5/20 (EWa) and **Wilson's Warbler** was reported from Owassie Road, TISF 5/25 (LD), and Kendrick Road, COV 5/25 (CC, KC).

Observers: **Robert Snyder, P.O. Box 603, [158 Black Street], Howard, PA 16841, (814) 753-2629, birdphotoginpa@gmail.com**, Christine Allen, Kiley Birgensmith, Oliver Bracko, Sara Busch, Alex Busato, Bruce Carl, Colton Cooper (CoC), Christine Cooper, Ken Cooper, John Corcoran, Lisa Doud, Ann Duey, David Duey, Norwood Frederick, Eric Hartshaw, Jason Horn, Tom Johnson, Andy Keister, George Kleindienst, Holly Kleindienst, Dale and Karen Plumley (DKP), Kathryn Riley, Matthew Schenk, Annemarie Sciarra (ASc), Marcie Shinn (MSh), Barbara Silverstein, Linda Stager, Laura Steele (LSt), Joyce Tice, Gary Tyson, Edward Washington (EWa), Ella Weoiskopff, Monica Wood.

Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Barkeyville Fields (BF), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Franklin area (FA), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City area (OCA), Oil Creek State Park (OCSP), Seneca area (SA), Sandy Creek Trail (SCT), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP), Wyattville Pond (WP).

It was a fairly uneventful spring. The weather patterns bombarded us with many days of north winds. Coupled with cold, rainy days in May, the spring migration was poor. Fallouts of spring migrants were scarce; seemingly, most of the migrants just slipped through.

Highlights of the season included large numbers of **Tundra Swan** at WP 3/4-7, with numbers up to 340 (JS) and a **Trumpeter Swan** also present in that same time period (JS). Five **Mute Swan** appeared at TMRP 5/29, but these, though free-flying, may have been released. **Blue-winged Teal** were noted 3/27-5/6 at various locations (m.ob.). The only **Northern Shoveler** observation was 3/28 (JS). **Gadwall** had only two sightings, 3/9 (JH) and 4/8 (RS); **American Wigeon** only 3/28 (JH); and **Green-winged Teal** 3/28-4/7 (AR, KL, TMRP). Both **Canvasback** and **Redhead** were found 3/9 at KL (JS). There were 12 **Long-tailed Duck** at TMRP 3/12 (JS). **Ruddy Duck** were uncommon this spring.

Wild Turkey numbers seemed to have gone down drastically from the last few years, with few reports and few numbers. **Pied-billed** and **Horned Grebe** were also in low numbers. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** arrived 5/2 (RS); **Black-billed Cuckoo** 5/22 (RS). **Common Nighthawk** was first seen in FR 5/17 (JH). Uncommon for *Venango* was a flyover **Sandhill Crane** at BHNS 3/11 (JS, KG).

Shorebirds, never very common in *Venango*, made a decent showing this spring with nine species reported. All sightings were at TMRP unless

noted. **Least Sandpiper** numbered up to 4 from 5/17-22 (RS). **American Woodcock** was first reported from OSCP 3/17 (JH). Two **Wilson's Snipe** were present 4/20 (JH). **Spotted Sandpiper** arrived 4/30 (m.ob.). **Solitary Sandpiper** was noted 5/5-18 (RS) and **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/30-5/18 (m.ob.). Six **Willetts** were spotted at KL 5/3 (JS) and when RS and GE arrived they were not present. Eventually 9 willets flew into view and landed across the lake. They sat for a while and then flew around the lake and landed in the same spot. Then a **Northern Harrier** flew in low over them and the Willets flew off. As they were circling back for a landing a **Bald Eagle** flew across the lake toward the Willets. At that point, I believe they decided it was time to get out of Dodge (the **Northern Harrier** also made a quick retreat). They then circled up and headed north from the lake. The final shorebird species reported was **Lesser Yellowlegs**, from 4/20-5/4 (RS).

Gulls and terns are never very common in *Venango*. **Bonaparte's Gull** was sighted 3/28-5/16 with a high of 170 at AR 4/13 (JS). The only **Ring-billed Gull** report was from AR 4/21 (RS). **Caspian Tern** was at TMRP 4/20 (RS) and 3 at KL 4/21 (JS). Two **Black Terns** were seen 5/16 at WP (JS). On KL and TMRP, **Common Tern** was noted 4/21-5/5 (KL, GE, RS, JH) and **Forster's Tern** 4/30-5/5 (JS, RS).

A **Red-throated Loon** was at KL 5/4 (JS, RS) and again 5/17 (JS). **Common Loon** showed 4/18-5/16 with a high of 20 on 5/3 at KL (RS). The only **Double-crested Cormorant** report was from AR 4/30 (RS). Two **Black-crowned Night-Heron** were found at TMRP 5/6 (EA, RS). **Broad-winged Hawk** were first sighted on 4/19 (JS, KB). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** reports were 4/3-5/6.

Flycatcher reports were almost nonexistent, with **Eastern Phoebe** noted from 3/30 onward, **Great Crested Flycatcher** starting 5/6 (RS), and **Eastern Kingbird** on 5/14 (JS, KG) the only reported species. A **White-eyed Vireo**, very uncommon for *Venango*, was heard at KL 5/4 (JS). Two **Fish Crows**, a first for *Venango*, were observed at KL 4/12 (JS). The first **Purple Martin** returned to KL 4/29 (GE).

Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen 3/25-5/3; **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** 4/7-29. **Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher** was first spotted 4/28 at OCSP (RS). A **Winter Wren** was reported 3/31 (JS). Three **Northern Mockingbirds** were at BF 5/3 (RS). **Veery** was first seen 5/13 at TMRP (RS); **Hermit Thrush** 4/8 (RS); **Wood Thrush** 4/28 (JS). Two **American Pipit** were noted at KL 4/21 (JS).

Two reports of **Evening Grosbeak** were 4/26 at FA (NB) and 5/11 from BHNS (JS, KG). **Pine Siskin** made a couple appearances: 5/11 at BHNS (JS, KG) and 5/16-18 at FA (NB). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was first seen on 4/29 (RS), while **American Tree Sparrow** lingered until 4/7. **Fox Sparrow** was reported 4/1 (JS, KG), **White-Crowned Sparrow** 4/28-5/4 (m.ob.), **White-throated Sparrow** 3/29-4/22 and **Savannah Sparrow** 4/18. Three **Vesper Sparrow** were at KL 4/21 (JS). There were no reports of Henslow's Sparrow or Lincoln's Sparrow.

An **Orchard Oriole** put in a quick appearance at BHNS 4/30 (JS, KG). There were two reports of **Rusty Blackbird**: 3/21 at KL (JS) and 3/31 at TMRP (JH). Only 19 species of warbler were reported this season, a very low number. The migration was just pitiful. Highlights include: **Worm-eating Warbler** at SCT 5/15 (JH), **Northern Waterthrush** at FA 4/30-5/19 (JS), **Cerulean Warbler** 5/15 (JS), **Bay-breasted Warbler** 5/18 (JS), **Pine Warbler** 4/8-28 (MK, NK), **Yellow-throated Warbler** 4/27-5/17 (RS, JS), and **Canada Warbler** 5/18 (RS).

Scarlet Tanager was first noted 5/18 (MK, NK), **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 4/28 (MK, NK), and **Indigo Bunting** 5/2 (RS).

Observers: **Russ States**, 111 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 676-6320, pelagics202@gmail.com, **Gary Edwards**, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, gedwards@csonline.net; Ed Atts, Nancy Baker, Kathie Goodblood, Diane Hall, Jeff Hall, Meg Kolodick, Nick Kolodick, Joh Schreiber (JS), Kim Springer, Jerry Stanley.

Warren County

Locations: Akeley Swamp (AS), Anders Run Natural Area (AR), Bailey Hill Rd (BH), Big Four Road (B4), Brokenstraw Airport (BA), Buckaloons campground (BC), Chapman State Park (CD), Cherry Hill Cemetery, Sugar Grove (CH), City of Warren (CW), Farnsworth Creek (FC), Hillside Acres

Tidioute (HA), Little Hickory Creek (LHC), Longhouse Drive (LH), Meade Island (MI), Newbold Estate (NE), Sandstone Springs (SS), State Gamelands 86 (GL), Tidioute (TI), Tidioute Trail (TT), Wenzel Road (WR).

As has become the usual lately, *Warren* experienced rather unusual weather this spring, beginning with a warm March and April, followed by a mostly cold and wet May. Early migrants came earlier, and late migrants were delayed, if they showed up at all.

The big news for waterfowl was an immature **Trumpeter Swan** seen 3/25-4/8 at AS, with 2 adults present for part of that time (m.ob.). **Tundra Swans** passed through in some numbers, with a maximum count of 100 at MI 3/4 (EN, KN). **Wood Ducks** are the most common breeding waterfowl in *Warren*; a high of 22 was reported from AS 3/26 (TS). **Blue-winged Teal** are not reported every year, so multiple sightings this spring were notable. A high count of 8 was at AS 4/24 (TS); similarly, a high of 5 of the locally-rare **Northern Shoveler** also came from AS 3/29 (BR). One odd duck that showed up briefly at AS was a hybrid **Eurasian-American Wigeon** seen 3/25-3/27 (m.ob.). It was a particularly good year for migrant **Ring-necked Ducks**, with up to 78 seen at AS 3/21 (BC, TS). A maximum of 11 **Common Goldeneye** were spotted on RR 3/3 (SS). A single **Horned Grebe** was reported 3/25 at AS (BC, TS).

The first **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported 5/19 at CD, a bit earlier than most years (TB); **Black-billed Cuckoos** showed up a day earlier, with singles reported from HA (EN, KN) and GL (SS). An impressive 9 **Common Nighthawks** were seen at TI 5/26 (EN, KN). Like nighthawks, **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** have declined precipitously across the country, so a possible resident at HA, first heard 5/3, was encouraging (EN, KN). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was recorded at HA 5/2 (EN).

High counts of 10 **Virginia Rails** and 4 **Soras** were reported at *Warren's* rail hotspot, AS, on 4/24 (TS). Akeley also functions as the shorebird hotspot in this highly-forested county: up to 4 **Least Sandpipers** were spotted there 5/4 (EN, KN), 7 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 5/2 (TS), and 5 **Greater Yellowlegs** and 15 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/7 (EN, KN). An incredible 96 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen on or over the Allegheny River at TT 4/7 (KN). Unusual for *Warren*, a single **Herring Gull** was noted at AS 5/21 (TS). A lingering light-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen 3/18 at BH (TS). A pair of **Great Horned Owls** nested in an old crow's nest at AS (m.ob.). A **Merlin** seen 5/2 at BA may represent yet another breeding pair in *Warren*; at least one active nest was found in CW 4/13 (BC, TS), and others are regular at the other end of town.

At least 3 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were seen 5/21 at both AS (TS) and LD (SS). Five singing **Alder Flycatchers** were heard along a 1-km stretch of LHC 5/25 (SS). Usually much less abundant in *Warren* than the previous species, 4 **Willow Flycatchers** at AS 5/24 were noteworthy. Also noteworthy were 7 **Great Crested Flycatchers** 5/21 at AS (TS). Like many aerial insectivores, **Eastern Kingbirds** are declining across much of their range, so 5 seen at AS 5/21 (TS) was encouraging. **White-eyed Vireos** rarely range as far north as *Warren*, but local birders were lucky to find 3 this spring: at AS 5/2 (TS), at B4 5/12 (TS), and one seen for almost two weeks at TT starting 5/2 (EN, JN, KN). Much more regular but still local are **Yellow-throated Vireos**, which showed up at all their usual spots, including 4 at LH 5/21 (TR). A grand total of 4 **Warbling Vireos** was recorded at AS 5/12 (TS).

Common Ravens are locally common but rather shy around their remote nesting sites, so a pair nesting on a rock face above the Tanbark Trail at SS 3/22 was unusual (SS). A high of 12 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was seen at KD 5/30 (BW). For the second year, **Bank Swallows** nested behind CH; up to 31 were seen 5/21 (TS). Scattered **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** pass through on their way north; high counts of 7 were seen at TT 4/12 (EN, KN) and 4/17 (CW). Single **Marsh Wrens** were heard and seen at AS 5/10 and 5/21 (TS); whether these represent breeders in this appropriate habitat is unclear although the timing suggests that possibility. **Northern Mockingbirds** are accidental in *Warren* (they can't take the winter cold), so one seen at BC 5/14 was unusual (KN). **Swainson's Thrushes** are one of our latest migrants; one seen at NE 5/18 was rather early (SS).

The winter of 2021 was a phenomenal winter finch year, and that continued into the spring. A large flock of 45 **Evening Grosbeaks** was seen at MR 3/2 (BC, TS), and some were still present at HA until at least

5/11 (EN, KN). Similarly, a flock of 63 **Common Redpolls** lingered at least until 3/15 at WR (BC, TS). The sole report of **Lincoln's Sparrow** this spring was of 6 seen at AS 5/10 (TS). Unusual for here were 3 **Orchard Orioles** along the Allegheny River at TT 5/15 (KN). **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported regularly at AS from late Mar to early May, with a high on 4/5 of 27 (BR).

Worm-eating Warblers rarely occur in *Warren*, so one seen at TT 5/30 (BWA) was a treat – at least for those few who saw it. **Louisiana Waterthrushes** tend to be the first warbler to arrive in *Warren* each spring; this year's first was at AR 4/9 (TS). Several boreal warblers seemed particularly sparse this spring. For example, the maximum count of the typically abundant **Tennessee Warbler** was a mere 4 at FC 5/19 (TS). Only single **Cape May Warblers** were seen and not many of those (m.ob.); high counts for **Blackpoll Warblers** were a measly 2 at RR 5/21 (SSc) and at HA 5/23 (EN). In stark contrast to 2020 when they were abundant locally, no one in *Warren* reported a single Bay-breasted Warbler this spring! **Cerulean Warblers** arrived early and in good numbers; a high count of 7 singing males were recorded from LH 5/21 (TR, SS). It also seemed to be an outstanding year for **Yellow-throated Warblers**, here near the very northern fringe of their breeding range: 3 individuals were seen at AR 4/9 and 3 more at B4 5/2 (TS).

Observers: **Scott H. Stoleson, 114 Sanders Rd, Sugar Grove, PA 16350, (814) 489-3734, stoleson@aol.com**, Thomas Buehl, Jr., Becky Costello, Elizabeth Nicholson, Jeremy Nicholson, Ken Nicholson, Tessa Rhinehart, Bruce Robinson, Susan Schenck [SSc], Travis Suckow, Benjamin Walton [BWA], Bill Wilkinson, Carole Winslow.

Washington County

Locations: Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Ginger Hill area ponds (GHP), Hillman State Park (HSP), Mingo Creek County Park (MC), Peters Lake (PL), Washington Park (WP), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).

Twenty **Tundra Swans** over Peters Twp. 3/9 (GG) were the last northbound migrants seen. Small numbers of **Blue-winged Teal** hung around CL 4/9-5/7, with a high count of 10 on 4/25 (m.ob.). Three reports of **Northern Shoveler** was an above average total: one at CL 3/10-16 (JP, JF), 4 at CC 3/21-22 (FK, AN), and one at CL 4/2 (JF). Four **American Wigeons** at CL 3/1 (JL) were somewhat early, but two more that appeared at R4 from 3/6-7 (LC) were already the last of the season. Two **Northern Pintails** were noted at CC 3/9 (RI). Uncommon in the county, 8-10 **Canvasbacks** were noted at GHP 3/6-13 (JF) and one was at CC 3/9 (RI). During the same time at GHP, up to 5 **Redheads** were present (JF), as were impressive counts **Ring-necked Ducks**: 50 on 3/6 (JF) and 100 on 3/3 (JF, LF). Elsewhere, 28 ring-necks were at R4 on 3/7 (RI) and 23 were at CC 3/9 (RI). Two **Greater Scaup** were a good find at PL 4/9 (JF). Small numbers of **Lesser Scaup** and **Bufflehead** were noted at PL, CC, and CL in the first half of the season, but neither in appreciable numbers (m.ob.). Four **Red-breasted Mergansers** were somewhat late at CC 4/26 (LC).

The only **Black-billed Cuckoo** reported was one at MC 5/17 (GG). Similarly, 3 **Common Nighthawks** at HSP 5/22 (RT) were also the only ones reported. Up to 4 **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were tallied at HSP 5/12-22 (ON, m.ob.) where they have long been a reliable breeding species. A **Virginia Rail** was a very nice find at CL 4/15, and it was still being reported there as late as 5/12 (JF, LF, ST). It was joined by a **Sora** 4/25-5/2 (JF, LF, MJ). Shorebird migration was mostly a non-event, aside from excellent counts of **Solitary Sandpiper** on 5/2, when 41 were counted at CL and 20 were at Cherry Valley Res. (both MJ). Seven **Bonaparte's Gulls** put down at Boone Res. 4/7 (JF), and a **Herring Gull** was described at CL 4/24 (CT). **Common Loons** included one at CC 4/5 (RI) and one at PL 4/16 (MR). **Great Egret** is usually a spring-season fixture at CL, but this season none appear there until one showed up 5/26 (MJ).

A **Northern Harrier** was noted on Ciaffoni Road on the intriguing date of 5/12 (JF, LF), but there were no reports thereafter. The **Bald Eagle** pair had already laid an egg by 3/1 (LC), and observations of this now-famous nest continued through the season. Two different **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were noted in new locations this spring: one at Donora 4/25

(MB) and one at Avella 5/8 (RL). A **Merlin** was a lucky find in Peters Twp. 3/7 (GG). The **Peregrine Falcon** pair mentioned last season was seen around the Speers Railroad Bridge through 3/27 (AN), and were even seen defending the bridge against a **Common Raven** at one point, but there were no other reports of the pair after 3/27. It is not yet clear whether this was due to lack of coverage, or the birds abandoning the area. An update will be made next season.

Speaking of **Common Raven**, there were 31 distinct eBird reports of the species this season. A survey of SGL 232 on 5/22 produced an impressive count of 30 **Red-eyed Vireos** (FK, AN). A **Cliff Swallow** was somewhat unexpected at Ciaffoni Road 5/6 (JF), and was the only one reported for the spring migration. A number of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** hung around feeders, primarily around the city of Washington, through 5/22 (LC, et al.). Nearly unheard of in the county away from Greencove Wetlands, a **Marsh Wren** was found at CL 4/25 (ST), a fine addition to the list of species at this heavily suburbanized reservoir. A few **Veeries** were found at WP 5/8-14 (LC), and a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was a good find there 5/18 (RI).

A **Purple Finch** at Houston 4/22 (FK) provided the only report, but there were six separate reports of lingering **Pine Siskins** from various locations through 5/10 (m.ob.). **Henslow's Sparrows** were noted at two non-traditional locations: one at SGL 117 on 5/13 (ON) and 2 on Ciaffoni Road 5/24 (FK). MC hosted good numbers of **Yellow-breasted Chats** 5/6-13 (FK), and one was at SGL 117 on 5/19 (ON). A very nice count of 16 **Bobolinks** was made at Ciaffoni Road 5/24 (FK).

Warbler migration was a little better than average, with the more common passage migrants frequently reported, for the most part. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** at WP 5/1 (LC) was an excellent find for the spring season. A **Mourning Warbler** was also at WP 5/14 (LC). **Kentucky Warbler** was frequently noted at MC, where multiple pairs probably breed (FK, et al.), but one at WP 5/8 (LC) was certainly a migrant. Yet another Kentucky was found in Robinson Twp. on King Road, just across the *Allegheny* line from the Imperial area, 5/16 (MV). Another was heard in this area for a few springs in the early 2000s, but not since. One "common" migrant warbler that was not well-reported was **Cape May Warbler**; one at WP 5/12 (LC) was the only one for the season. A **Pine Warbler** at HSP 3/21-25 (DF, et al.) was hard to classify either as an early migrant or perhaps a bird that had been in the area from earlier in the winter. Up to 5 **Prairie Warblers** were noted at MC 5/6-16 (FK), and 4 were at SGL 177 from 5/13-19 (ON). A **Canada Warbler** was at WP 5/17 (RI, SG).

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Michele Beresh, Lauren Conkle, Leslie Ferree, John Flannigan, Donna Foyle, Gigi Gerben, Sayre Greenfield, Roy Ickes, Matthew Juskowich, Fred Kachmarik, Ryan Lapp, Judy Lesso, Alyssa Nees, Oscar Nigam, Joe Papp, Meredith Rohn, Shannon Thompson, Ryan Tomazin, Conor Tompkins, Mark Vass.

Wayne County – no report

Westmoreland County

Locations: Allegheny River Lock and Dam #4 at Natrona (LD#4), Beaver Run Reservoir Rt. 380 Overlook (BRR-380), Conemaugh River Lake – Livermore to Indiana County Border (CRL), Crabtree Farm Area (CFA), Donegal Lake (DL), Ethel Springs Reservoir (ESR, also more commonly known as Derry Lake), Keystone State Park (KSP), Kuehl Property – Murrsville (KP), Latrobe Reservoir (LR, also known as Trout Run Reservoir), Laughlin Farm Road (LFR), Love Hollow – Andy Mack Ligonier location (LH), Loyalhanna Dam (LD), Mammoth Park (MP), Powdermill Nature Preserve (PNR), Spruce Flats Bog (SFB), St. Vincent Lake (SVL), Twin Lakes Park (TLP), Westmoreland Heritage Trail through the MAWC property (WHT-BR), from Delmont to Trees Mill (WHT-D) and from the Sarah Steel Trailhead to Saltsburg (WHT-SS), Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve (WPNR), Wolf Rocks Trail (WRT).

A substantial volume of eBird submissions, part of which was the result of Steve Manns leading a continuation of the now-abandoned spring PAMC by the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club (WB&NC) membership,

provided for robust reporting for the season.

One **Greater White-fronted Goose**, now a somewhat regular migrant, was observed at both the Monastery Run Treatment ponds and the lake at St. Vincent College 3/5-10 (RC, m.ob., ph.). Seven **Cackling Geese** were reported 3/2 at SVL (PCo), and up to 7 continued to be reported and photographed by the eBirder-throng who chased the Greater White-fronted Goose 3/5-3/8. Seven Cackling Geese were reported again at SVL 3/14 (JoP), and a last report was of one 3/15 (RC). Birding in the late afternoon of 3/7 produced reports of 4 **Tundra Swans** at DL (AL) and 8 at LR (AL). Perhaps including continuing birds from 3/7, there were 7 **Tundra Swans** at DL 3/8 (MM).

Wood Ducks were reported at many locations including 17 at WHT-BR 3/29 (KB). There were many reports of **Blue-winged Teal** with the MP location being quite productive from 4/8 (5 by PF) through 5/4 (one by RC) with a high count of 8 on 4/27 (LK, SM), and again 8 on 4/28 (MM). Several reports for **Northern Shoveler** included 8 at DL 3/28 (MD). **Gadwall** were well-reported, including a count of 21 at DL 3/28 (MD). Reported at many locations, **American Wigeon** had a max count of 9 at DL 3/9 (AL). **American Black Duck** were at SVL 3/1-27 (m.ob.) with the high count of 17 tallied on 3/6 (AP). Reports of **Northern Pintail** and **Green-winged Teal** were normal.

Canvasback was only recorded very early in the season: at DL from 3/1-3 (m.ob.), and at ESL with 7 on 3/2 (PCs) and one 3/7 (PCo). All reports for **Redhead** were in the first half of Mar, with most reports from SVL including a max of 5 on 3/8 (RC, MM, SuM). High counts of **Ring-necked Duck** included 54 at LR 3/8 (MM), 84 at CRL 3/13 (KB) and 90 at DL 3/13 (JLK, TK, MM). **Greater Scaup** reports included 6 at ESL and 6 at LR 3/8 (MM); there was more modest reporting of **Lesser Scaup** with a max of 6 at DL 4/4 (PCs), 4/5 (EJR) and 4/8 (SW). Unusual were reports of **Red-breasted Merganser** at several locations, including 14 at BRR-380 on 3/27 (MM), and 6 there 4/22 (SuM) with 5 remaining 4/25 (MD). The highest count for **Ruddy Duck** was 11 at LR 3/13 (JLK, TK, MM). **Horned Grebe** was reported at ESL 3/12-13 and 3/20 (all SuM), and one was at SVL 4/23 (PCo).

There was but one report of **Ruffed Grouse**, drumming at LH 4/6 (AM). As expected, there were many reports for **Wild Turkey** with this observer very highly entertained by the high count of 17 on 4/1, and by as many as 4 strutting Toms that made almost daily visits to the KP feeders 3/8-5/20 (JLK, TK).

There were 2 **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at PNR 5/27 (AL) and a **Black-billed Cuckoo** there the same day (AL). At an unusual time of day, 11:49am, one **Common Nighthawk** flew over St. Vincent College on 4/30 (JLK, TK). Another opportune report was of an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** sitting on Weaver Mill Road near PNR at 5:13am on 5/26 (AL).

Sora were reported at two locations on 5/8, one at Youngwood Swamp (MJ) and one at SVL (JK). The highest counts for **American Coot** were in Mar at ESR, including 12 on 3/3 (MM) and 12 on 3/20 (SuM). A chance sighting of one juv **Sandhill Crane** was well-described in an eBird checklist submitted for the Ruffs Dale area 4/21 (Megan Cunningham). A one-day wonder, 28-30 **American Avocets** were at the Bush Recreation Area of Loyalhanna Creek 4/25 (TM, m.ob.).

The following are significant reports for migrating shorebirds at MP: **Semipalmated Plovers** 5/4-31 (RC, SuM, PF, m.ob.), **Least Sandpipers** 5/8-31 (MJ, m.ob.), one **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/19 (PF), **Pectoral Sandpipers** 4/25-28 (RH, SMa, m.ob.) and **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 5/26-30 (m.ob.) with 11 on that first date (MJ). **American Woodcock** were reported at several locations with the earliest report of 2 at DL 3/2 (RH, SMa) and the season high-count of 5 at the Bush Recreation Area 3/14 (RH, SMa). Regular effort at the KP provided reports for birds heard 3/7-4/16. The most productive location for **Wilson Snipe** was MP with reports 4/1-5/9 (m.ob.) and a high count of 6 on 4/26 (PF). This location was also the hot spot for Yellowlegs' species: **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/9-5/15 and **Lesser Yellowlegs** 4/27-5/15. Seasonal high counts at MP were 5 on 4/28 (MM) for Greater Yellowlegs and 9 on 5/14 (SM, LK) for Lesser Yellowlegs.

There were several substantial counts during the first half of Apr for **Bonaparte's Gull**, including 62 at DL 4/5 (EJR), 17 at TLP 4/11 (SM, LK), and 32 at MP 4/14 (RC). There were several reports for **Ring-billed Gull** with the only substantial count being 16 at BRR-380 on 3/8 (MM). **Herring Gull** favored the *Westmoreland* side of the Allegheny River at LD#4 (RB)

and at TLP on 4/5 (PCo), and perhaps the same bird was again at TLP 4/6 (PCo). There were three reports for **Foster's Tern**: one at MP 4/25 (MJ), one at the Rolling Rock Club 5/8 (AL, KCT) and 15 at MP 5/29 (SuM). **Common Loon** was found at DL 4/3 (DMo), at BRR-380 on 4/17 (JLK, TK, MM) and 2 were also there 5/16 (RH, SMa). **Double-crested Cormorants** were reported at several locations, although in no higher numbers than the 11 at BRR-380 on 4/12 (RH, SMa).

One **American Bittern** was reported at PNR 5/12 (KCT). Effort for the 5/8 Global Big Day and the Migration Count being conducted by the WB&NC provided for an exciting report of one **Least Bittern** (JK) at the Two Mile Run Road bridge crossing of Loyalhanna Creek just west of Ligonier. eBird indicates just two previous *Westmoreland* records for Least Bittern, both at PNR. Nests at the Galando Rd rookery on Loyalhanna Creek outside of New Alexandria were occupied with **Great Blue Herons** 4/14 (JLK, TK, MM), and a careful inspection and count on 4/18 (LK, SM) tallied at least 16 nests and 9 herons. **Great Egret** is missed most years so it was extraordinary to have reports from three locations: SVL 4/29 (RC), DL 4/29 (CK) and again 4/30 (AL), and then one at MP 5/13-15 (m.ob.). An eBird checklist noted that the sounds matched both Audubon and Merlin applications for a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** that was well-heard, then shape-seen at night (10 pm), at KSP (Jessica Compton).

As expected, **Black Vultures** were reported in the Ligonier Valley, including 15 at a roost in Wilpen 3/4 (AM) and another early season report of 3 on a raccoon carcass on Bethel Church Road 3/11 (Dick Byers). Black Vultures were also reported from MP and LFR (m.ob.). There was significant reporting of **Osprey** at several locations this season. Following a fish-in-talon display flight, a pair of Osprey were seen copulating at the Loyalhanna Lake Recreation Area 4/24 (RC). From DL came a report of a pair of Ospreys on the nest 4/25 (LK, SM). Perhaps an indication of interest for additional nesting by Osprey in *Westmoreland* are the many reports from other locations which included KSP and TLP. The few scattered reports for **Northern Harrier** included one in the CFA 3/5 (RB). **Bald Eagles** were widely reported at many of the largest reservoirs in *Westmoreland*. A report of 6 **Bald Eagles** on 3/3 at LD (PCo) and a report of 8 immatures seen in the same area on the WHT-SS 3/7 (KB) likely indicate birds lingering at the LD over-wintering hot spot. One migrant **Golden Eagle** was observed at CLR near the bridge crossing into *Indiana* on 3/13 (KB). Although both are a migrant and breeding buteo raptors species, this season's reporting of **Red-shoulder Hawk** and **Broad-winged Hawk**, though well-scattered was modest. Of note is that at the KP one and sometimes 2 **Red-shoulder Hawks** were heard or seen on some two dozen days during the season, beginning on 3/2 and continuing through 5/31. Most notable for **Broad-winged Hawk** was a kettle of 5 reported at WHT-SS 4/18 (KB). One **Rough-legged Hawk**, was reported in Greensburg 3/2 (SM, LK).

Among the several reports for **Eastern Screech-Owl** was one for 6 birds, including 4 owlets in a nest box on Haymaker Farm Road in Murrysville 4/28 (BP). Given the impact of West Nile Virus on this species it was encouraging to have several reports for **Great Horned Owl** including 2 at MR 4/9 (RH, SMa) and 2 making contact calls at PNR 4/24 (AL, KCT). Also, one Great Horned Owl seen 5/1 in flight at the WHT-D parking lot was then harassed by **American Crows** (KB). There were several reports for **Barred Owls** including 2 heard at the Trees Mill parking lot at WHT-BRR (RC), one heard at the KP 3/17 and then 2 heard on 3/30 and 5/7 (JLK, TK), and two calling at PNR 5/8 (JLK).

There were many reports of **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at both low and high elevation locations, although expected that the low elevation April reports were of migrants while most of the May reports at Laurel Highland locations are likely of birds returning to breeding territories. Effort on the 5/8 Global Big Day/*Westmoreland* Bird & Nature Club Migration Count provided for a report of 2 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** on the grounds of the Rolling Rock Club in Laughlintown (AL, KCT).

Peregrine Falcons continued nesting activity at the Tarentum Bridge during the season. On 3/8, 2 adult Peregrine Falcons were both on a pillar closer to the *Westmoreland* than *Allegheny* bank of the Allegheny River, so this observer claimed a *Westmoreland* report for this season. (JLK, TK).

There was only one **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** report from WHT-D 5/4 (KB) and no definitive reports for Alder Flycatcher. The only reports for **Philadelphia Vireo** were from captures at PNR, where a season total of 9

were processed. A neat sighting for **Common Raven** was of 3 that harassed an immature Bald Eagle on Ten-School Road east of New Alexandria 3/6 (JLK, TK). The two reports for **Horned Lark** both occurred on 3/3, at CFA (MM) and LFR (AL).

Purple Martin was first reported at MCP 4/12 (SuM), and the high count at that same location by the same observer and nest monitor was 28 on both 5/5 and 5/8. At the BRR-380 martin house, the first report of the season was of 3 on 4/25 (MD), and the highest count was 12 on 5/8 (RH, SM). An early and high-count of 30 Purple Martins were at DL 3/31 (EJR). **Bank Swallow** was reported at several area reservoirs including 4 at TLP 4/28 (PCo), 4 at MP 5/29 (PF), and 7 at DL 5/1 (AL). **Cliff Swallow** were also reported at several area reservoirs including 4 at DL 5/9 (JP), 4 at CRL 5/10 (PF), 6 at MP 5/13 (RH, SM), and 2 at BRR-380 on 5/31 (MM).

PNR captures from 4/13-5/8 indicated a modest irruption year for **Red-breasted Nuthatch**; this was supported by additional feeder reports. Three **Winter Wren** arrived at LRSP, a breeding location, 4/9 (JLK, TK). The only report of **Marsh Wren** was a PNR capture of one 4/23.

Just 3 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were captured at PNR for the season, and the only field report was of one on 5/17 at CRL (RC). A modest 23 **Swainson's Thrush** were banded at PNR, and there were three field reports. There were also just a few reports for **Hermit Thrush**, a Laurel Highlands breeder, including at two reliable locations: 2 at WRT 5/16 (SB) and one 5/17 at SFB (JLK, TK). At a low elevation, an early-season report of one **Hermit Thrush** was made on 3/6 at MP (LK, SM). **American Pipit** was reported only at MP 4/26 (PF) and 5/2 (MJ). The only report for **Evening Grosbeak** was from Hummingbird Lane in Ligonier 5/9 (Alan Cassler) and included a photo of a female visiting the yard indicating that the bird visited over multiple days. This bit of an irruption year, **Purple Finch** was widely reported, four locations reported **Pine Siskin** and 3 **Common Redpolls** were photographed at MP 3/20 (SM, LK).

Excluding captures at PNR, there were limited reports of **Fox Sparrow**, although one was seen 3/1-4/3 at KP. **White-crowned Sparrows** were reliable at WPNR 3/3-5/12 (m.ob.). Reports for **Savannah Sparrow** were all made in the Latrobe area with one at SVL 4/19 (AL), one at WPR 4/28 (JK) and 4 on Airport Rd 5/6 (JK). The only report for **Lincoln's Sparrow** was from PNR 5/6 (AL, KCT).

Migration Count effort on 5/8 (WB&NC) provided many reports of **Bobolink**, including 6 in the Stahlstown area (Dick Byers). Several observers reported an **Eastern Meadowlark** at WPNR 3/17-5/21. There were 3 **Orchard Orioles** reported at DL 5/9 (JP). Returning to a reliable location on the WHT-SS were 2 that were observed there on 5/30 (KB). There were a few scattered reports for **Rusty Blackbird** including 2 at CLR 3/27 (MM, ph.).

Northern Waterthrush was reported at DL 5/18 (AL) and at CLR 5/22 (PCs). There were no Worm-eating Warblers nor confirmed reports of Golden-winged Warbler for the season; however, monitoring work by the PA Game Commission provided an audio report of 2 **Blue-winged Warbler** songs on 5/11 near HL (Tammy Colt) and a confirmed sighting of one male **Blue-winged Warbler** 5/12 at HL. Other reports for **Blue-winged Warbler** included one at LH 4/28 (AM) and one in the HL/Blair Brothers Trail area 4/30 (DM). One **Orange-crowned Warbler** was captured at PNR on 4/24. One **Mourning Warbler** was reported at MP 4/12 (RC), while 2 were banded at PNR during the season. There were several reports for **Kentucky Warbler** at Pleasant Valley Park: 2 on 5/1 (PCs), 2 on 5/8 (LH) and 3 on 5/28 (EH). The Camp Run parking area was productive for **Kentucky Warbler** 5/12 with 3, all heard, and one well seen (JLK, TK). There were just a few reports for **Cape May Warbler** including 2 on McDowell Rd outside of Ligonier 5/10 (DC). The most productive location for **Cerulean Warbler** was at CLR where they were first reported 5/6 (LH) and then periodically through 5/31 (JLK, TK). **Bay-breasted Warbler** was another boreal species that had limited reporting except for a productive day on the WHT-D 5/17 that yielded 4 (KB). It was unusual that there were no captures at PNR. A **Blackpoll Warbler** was photographed 5/17 at MP (SW). It was a good day for **Palm Warbler** at WPNR 5/10 with a report of one early (SW) and 4 later that day (LK, SM). The high count of several reports for the reliable CRL location for **Yellow-throated Warbler** was of 4 on 5/2 (RC). The only report of **Wilson's Warbler** was from PNR 5/27. The warbler species that breed at higher elevations in *Westmoreland* (**Magnolia Warbler**, **Blackburnian Warbler**,

Chestnut-sided Warbler, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, **Black-throated Green** and **Canada Warbler**) were widely-reported at the heavily-birded Laurel Highlands eBird hotspot-locations of LRSP, WRT, and SFB.

Observers: **Tom Kuehl**, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, (724)-325-1918, tjkuehl@comcast.net. Stephen Bucklin, Ron Burkert, Ken Byerly, Richard Chirichiello, Peter Comas (PCs), Pete Compolongo (PCo), Douglas Craig, Michael David, Patience Fisher, Eric Hall, Rebecca Hart, Linda Huber, Matt Juskovich, Chole Kalp, Lydia Klimchok, Jim Kellam, Janet Lee Kuehl (JLK), Annie Lindsay, Andy Mack, Steve Manns (SMA), Dale Matuza, Mark McConaughy, Sue Miller (SuM), Donna Mohny (DMo), Tom Moser, Sean Mueseler, Jeff Payne, Aidan Place, Joseph Pumford (JoP), Bill Powers, E.J. Regula, Kevin Chumpitaz Trujillo (KCT), Steve Wagner.

Wyoming County

L Locations: Davis Crossing (DC), Hoppy Road (HR), Lake Carey (LC), Oxbow Lake (OL), Perrin's Marsh (PM), Sordoni's Farm (SF), State Gamelands 57 (SGL), Vosburg Neck (including Camp Lackawanna and the Howland Preserve) (VN).

For the most part, what I've related here are sightings of winter residents that were migrating out to their breeding locations and through-migrators that happened to be viewed or heard while in *Wyoming*, but I also included some comments about local breeders and have identified them as such.

As usual, **Snow Goose** was recorded several times as flocks flew overhead across the county since they rarely stopover. Some 1000-1500 were recorded 3/20 over Factoryville and over LC (RL, JD), very likely the same flock.

There was only one record of **Green-winged Teal**: 2 birds seen at SF 3/18 (RK). **Ring-necked Duck**, on the other hand, is a regular spring migration visitor to *Wyoming*, and this year was a usual one, as birds were recorded on five of the county's ponds/lakes from mid-Mar to mid-Apr. Numbers ranged from 2 at OL 4/1 (MCA) to 62 at SF 3/22 (RK). Another regularly reported species is **Bufflehead**, which is usually found on LC and OL. This year, Bufflehead was recorded 3/18-4/13 at LC in numbers from 2-12 (JD, MC), from 3/30-4/18 at OL, 2-6 in number (MCA, JD), and on Tunkhannock Creek near Tunkhannock there were 8 on 3/17 (DS). There were three records of **Ruddy Duck**, all from LC: single birds 4/7 and 4/22 (JD, MCA) and 2 birds 4/15 (JD).

Pied-billed Grebe is listed as a possible breeder in the BBA but is only occasionally reported during the expected safe dates. This spring, single individuals were recorded in mid-Mar at LC (MCA) and 5/4 at OL (JD), both dates outside safe dates. **Chimney Swift** is listed as a probable breeder in the BBA, and I mention it to again emphasize the continuing great reduction in the numbers of swifts in the air. Although the species was reported from many locations, the reports included only 1-3 birds each time. Again, this year, **Sandhill Cranes** returned to SL to breed. On 5/4, 2 adult cranes were reported foraging among the vegetation, accompanied by two colts.

For the first time in several years, so far as I know, **Least Sandpiper** was recorded in *Wyoming*. One bird was reported 5/15 at DC (EZ). Another uncommon record is **Solitary Sandpiper**, which was reported from four different locations during May: 1-3 at DC 5/3-16 (JD, MC, MB, SP, EZ); 1-2 at SGL-Creveling Lake 5/14-15/15; 3 along Meshoppen Creek 5/14 (MCA); and one 5/15 along Tunkhannock Creek (MC). **Common Loon** is regularly recorded in the county during fall and spring migration. One or two individuals were recorded at LC 4/12-5/4, and 12 were observed 4/21 (AT); one was also at OL 5/1 (JD).

Listed as a possible breeder during the BBA, **Black Vulture** rose to confirmed as a pair fledged 2 young from a nest in a barn just outside Tunkhannock during 2020. This spring, a pair also took up residence in that same barn (same vultures?). We are awaiting possible fledging this year. For at least the third consecutive year, **Peregrine Falcons** produced young at the *Wyoming* nesting site. Three nestlings were observed being fed by an adult 5/31 (JD).

Four **Evening Grosbeaks**, a species we used to see regularly during

migration, were reported 5/5 from a home near the Shadowbrook Resort in Tunkhannock (ST). This species has become a really rare sighting in Wyoming. Among winter finches, **Common Redpoll** was observed on two occasions, both at LC. A flock of 30 were recorded 3/6 (AL) and 3 were present 3/21 (MCa). Eight **Red Crossbills**, a rare species, were recorded 5/31 at SGL (TB). Two **Pine Siskins** made an appearance 5/9 at HR (SP). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** were present 5/2 at a home near Shadowbrook Resort (ST).

Four species of warblers were recorded as they migrated through the area, each an uncommon record for *Wyoming*. From 5/15-20, from 1-20 **Tennessee Warblers** were present at VN (TB). In addition, 1-3 **Cape May Warblers** were observed, also at VN (TB). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was seen 5/15 at SGL-Creveling Lakes, and 2 were at VN 5/20 (TB). These are the first Bay-breasts reported in some time. Finally, a single **Palm Warbler** made its presence known 5/1 at HR (SP).

Observers: **Joe DeMarco, 15 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA, 18657, (570) 836-1468** Mark Bonilla, Tom Boyle, Emily Broich, Mark Catalano (MCa), Mason Crouthamel, Jonathan DeBalko (JDB), Joe DeMarco, Laura Dickson, Scott Godshall, Kathy Goodwin, Sandy Goodwin (SGo), Brian Hende, Laura Kemmick, Rick Koval, Rebecca Lesko, Arianna Lizza, Susan Petty, Hal and Mary Platt (HMP), Kay Simons, David Snyder, Sharon Templin, Alan Thatcher (AT), Alex Thornton (ATH), Eric Zawatski.

York County

Lake Redman (LR) Lake Williams (LW).

This Spring's 207 total species count was a repeat of the prior two. One event that provided some long-awaited mudflat appearance for the county was the maintenance drawdown of Gifford Pinchot State Park. This dropped levels five feet from full capacity and gave county birders the opportunity to enjoy some good shorebirding experiences that have been lacking for a number of years as a result of high precipitation levels.

A late **Snow Goose** was at GPSP 4/22 (DN). **Mute Swan** presence at Spring Grove grew to 9 from 3/17-20 (DA, BR). A nice county count of 300 **Tundra Swan** came from LR 3/10 (BR). Three sites reporting **Northern Shoveler** were limited to a max of 4 birds (m.ob.). Decent **American Wigeon** counts included 36 at GPSP 3/2 (DN, NN) and 38 at CSP 3/10 (EV). **American Black Duck** was found at seven sites 3/1-4/18 (m.ob.) but no count exceeded a pair. Three **Canvasback** and four **Redhead** reports were paced by high of 6 Canvasbacks 3/10 (EV) and 40 Redheads 3/1 (BP) at CSP. Nice counts of **Lesser Scaup** included 30 at Spring Grove 3/20 (DA) and up to 24 at GPSP 3/16 (DN). The lone **Long-tailed Duck** report was a single at LR 4/7 (BR). A male **Bufflehead** lingered throughout the period at LR and into Jun. Up to 10 **Common Goldeneye** were at CSP 3/1-7 (AM, BP, RS, EV), and GPSP held up to three 3/3-16 (JM, DN, JP, AS). A good **Red-breasted Merganser** count of 26 came from GPSP 4/10 (NT). A **Red-necked Grebe** lingered at CSP until 5/21 (SA, CB, HM).

The lone **Ring-necked Pheasant** report was a bird in Manchester Twp 4/4 (DJ). Fifty-five **Wild Turkeys** in a DVTP harvested soybean field 3/17 (DCa) was the strongest count in years. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were found at 12 sites while single **Black-billed Cuckoos** were at LR 4/29 (BR) and GPSP 5/2 and 5/30 (DN, NN, AW). Five reports of **Common Nighthawks** spanned 5/1-22 (m. ob.) with a high of 11 birds at Brogue 5/15 (Z&RM). Marsh Run continued to produce **Virginia Rail** reports with up to 2 birds 3/12-5/23 (DA, DN). SGL 242 also produced a single 5/2 (DN, NN). LR provided the sole **Sora** report with a bird 4/24-5/2 (CE, et al). CSP held up to 60 **American Coots** 3/1-5/21 (m.ob.) with a single lingering until 5/21 (SA).

The attractiveness of the GPSP drawdown was apparent with very strong high counts of 20 **Spotted Sandpipers** 5/30 (CB), 15 **Solitary Sandpipers** 5/7 (TC, RK), and a remarkable 31 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/7 (TC, RK). Up to 9 **Semipalmated Plovers** were at GPSP 5/15-31 (DA, RK, DN, NN) and one at LR 5/8 (SL). A good catch, a **Whimbrel**, was flew over LR 5/30 (BR). Another good find, a pair of **Dunlins** was at GPSP 5/30-31 (DA, CB, RK). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at GPSP 5/30-31

(DA, RK, DN, NN). Like *Adams, York* enjoyed strong **American Woodcock** reporting. They were found at seven sites 3/2-5/12 (m.ob.) with SGL 243 producing the high count of 7 birds 3/17 (QP).

Seven sites produced **Bonaparte's Gull** reports, and 50 at GPSP 3/27 (DN, NN) was a great count for the county. A pair of **Herring Gulls** was at LR 3/1 (BR), and GPSP held a single 3/20 (DN, NN, RPP). **Caspian Terns** were found at three sites 4/15-25 (m.ob.) with a strong 13-count at GPSP 4/25 (DA). A single **Forster's Tern** was at CSP 5/2 (EV), and one at Long Arm Res. 5/31 (DA) had the appearance of surfing on a bobbing log as it stayed perched for the ride.

SGL 242 held an **American Bittern** 5/12 (TC, RK), and "eyes to the sky" captured one overhead at York 5/16 (AW). Like last year, LR enjoyed a **Least Bittern** visit 4/23-5/1 (CE, et al). The Kiwanis L. rookery produced a 40-bird high count with 32 nests for **Great Egrets** 5/12 (AP), and an 11-bird high count 4/20 (AS) with a five-nest count 5/12 (AP) for **Black-crowned Night Herons**. This site continues to evolve with an expanding egret colony pushing the herons into new nesting locales. Heron nesting is also now occurring on a very small island on the lake and nests are difficult to detect and count in the rather dense shrubs and bushes. A **Glossy Ibis** was at GPSP 4/28 (JP) and a fortunate observer saw 10 (!!!) in flight over LW 5/14 (BR).

A strong 83-count for **Black Vultures** came from CSP 5/23 (AM, RS). GPSP produced a nice "away from the river" count of 10 **Bald Eagles** 3/20 (DN, NN, RPP). **Eastern Screech Owl** singles were found at three locales, while **Great Horned Owl** and **Barred Owl** enjoyed solid reporting with eight and ten sites reporting, respectively. HTP held **Short-eared Owls** until 3/11 (MB, DF, AM, RS) with a high count of 4 on 3/8 (DF). Rarely found away from HTP, a Short-ear was seen in DVTP 3/3 (DCa). Twenty sites reporting **Red-headed Woodpeckers** (m.ob.) were a positive with a high of 7 at GPSP 4/19 (DN). Three reports each of **Merlins** and **Peregrine Falcons** were noted with a pair at Grand Valley Rd 4/10 (RFi) being noteworthy as single-bird reports are the norm.

Four sites reported **Least Flycatcher** in an extremely tight window of 5/12-14 (DA, DC, BR, EV, AWy). A strong 9-count of **Yellow-throated Vireos** came from GPSP 5/7 (TC, RK). **Warbling Vireos** showed very early with a bird at LR 4/6 (BR) and again 4/10 (DA, CE). **Bank Swallow** was reported 5/13-31 (m.ob.), but this compiler has been unaware of any colonies in the county in recent years. A **Barn Swallow** was early at LR 3/29 (BR). **Cliff Swallows** were reported at four sites 4/29-5/31 (m.ob.) with the colony at CSP still active. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at LW 3/30 (DN, NN) was early. Gray-cheeked Thrush was a miss this spring.

A trio of **American Pipits** was at Longstown Village 5/13 (LV) and up to 5 were at GPSP 4/29-5/12 (m.ob.). High count for **Cedar Waxwing** was about 100 birds at Indian Rock Dam 3/6 (DA). Reports of single **Evening Grosbeaks** came from Reynolds Mill Rd 5/5 (SS), York 5/7 (RSc), and LR 5/18 (JB). **Purple Finch** reporting was widespread with a number of double-digit counts. High count was 18 at GPSP 4/25 (DA). A nice surprise, 6 **Common Redpolls** were at GPSP 3/24 (JC). **Pine Siskins** were frequently found with a high of 15 coming from Dillsburg 5/3 (KA).

Grasshopper Sparrows were found at three sites with HTP producing up to 6 from 4/18-5/31 (m.ob.). A **Chipping Sparrow** was early along the Rail Trail 3/2 (CK). The Rail Trail also produced a **Vesper Sparrow** 3/29 (CK). HTP led the way with an 8-count of **Savannah Sparrows** 5/8 (CB) versus the other four sites reporting. Nice finds were **Lincoln Sparrow** singles at Nixon C.P. 5/8 (RSi) and Shepperd Myers Res. 5/14 (EV). Impressive for 17 sites (m.ob.) reporting was **Swamp Sparrow**.

Continuing in the superlative vein, eight sites that reported **Yellow-breasted Chat** 5/12-22 (m. ob.) was likely a record. Lock 12 held up to 3 chats 5/7-13 (DA, RF, J&WH). A nice 20-count of **Bobolinks** at Loganville 5/8 (BR) led the four sites reporting. Seven sites reporting **Eastern Meadowlark** were led by an 18-count at HTP 5/26 (DN, NN). The orioles enjoyed strong reporting, and 8 **Orchard Orioles** at Lock 12 on 5/14 (RSi) were notable. **Rusty Blackbird** saw good reporting as well with seven sites reporting and, of those seven, three sites had double-digit counts. High count was 24 birds at GPSP 4/8 (DN).

Like last year, GPSP appeared to outpace Rocky Ridge C.P. for warbler migration highlights. Thirty-two species and one hybrid were consistent with prior springs. A **Lawrence's Warbler** was photographed

and voice-recorded at Warrington Twp Park 5/22-23 (DN, NN, AS). **Blue-winged Warbler** reports came from five sites 4/29-5/23 (m.ob.) with high count being 5 at GPSP 5/11 (DN). The four sites reporting **Prothonotary Warblers** were all along the Susquehanna R. (m.ob.). Evidence of nesting was seen at Brunner's Island 5/14 (DC), a traditional nesting site. GPSP produced the high counts of 5 **Tennessee Warblers** 5/12 (AW) and 3 **Nashville Warblers** 5/6 (RK). **Mourning Warbler** singles were found at Green Lane Farms 5/10 (TC, RK) and Riddle Rd 5/16 (DA).

Always a good find, a **Cerulean Warbler** was at RRCP 5/14 (MH), another at Muddy Creek 5/23 (DA), a pair at Holtwood Dam 5/8 (CB), and Lock 12 held up to 4 on 5/7-15 (DA, JH, J&WH). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were found at six sites with GPSP producing a 6-count 5/7 and 5/9 (DA, TC, RK). Always targeted but infrequently found, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Wrightsville 4/7 (ML). Another challenge, **Wilson's Warbler**, was limited to one at Fairview Twp 5/12 (NZ). Three sites produced **Blue Grosbeak** reports: one at GPSP 4/28 (JC), up to a pair at SVCP 5/10-12 (DA, BR), and 2 at HTP 5/26-28 (DN, NN, AS).

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, (717) 259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, Tom Amico, Steve Aprile, David Arrow, Karen Atwood, Chuck Berthoud, Jeffrey Boltz, Martin Brazeau, Steve & Doris Brookens, Sara Busch, Debra Carman (DCa), Dick Cleary, Evan Coates, Jady Conroy, Troy Corman, Mary Creager, Jon Dale, Dave Ebbitt, Chad Ehrhart, David Farner, Robert Ferguson, Rin Fritz (RFi), Carl Garner, Dennis Harnly, Jim & Wendy Hill, Josh Houck, Matt Hunter, David Jelley, Chuck Kling, Ramsay Koury, Sean Lauer (SLa), Meredith Lombard, Sherry Lookofsky, Henry McLin, Annette Mathes (AMa), Zach & Rebecca Millen, Paige Morabito, Joshua Moritz, Judith Morris (JMs), Anne Muren, Dean Newhouse, Norma Newhouse, Peter Osenton, Q P, Jeff Pace, Tom Peightel, Brandon Pentz, Ann Pettigrew, Rick & Peggy Price, Bob Reiter, Laura Roman, Keith Rutter, Rebecca Schweizer (RSc), R Siegrist (RSi), Alice Simmons, Andy Smith (ASm), Robin Smith, Stephen Smith, David Taylor, Nathan Tiday, Pam Toschik, Evan Vaeth, Linda Vegh, Mike Wielgopolski, Eric Witmer, Andrew Wolf, Andy Wyatt (AWy), Darryl Yetman, Nathan Zalik, Megan Zettlemoyer

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE: Materials to be included in the publication are needed by the due dates below.

Issue	Sightings due to Compilers by...	Articles due to Editor by...	Publication Date
Dec-Feb (Vol. 1)	31 March	1 May	July
Mar-May (Vol. 2)	30 June	1 August	October
Jun-Jul (Vol. 3)	31 August	1 October	December
Aug-Nov (Vol. 4)	31 December	1 February	April

SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS FOR PUBLICATION: We welcome submission of feature articles, artwork, or photographs focusing on any aspect of Pennsylvania birds or birding. We strongly encourage that submissions be sent in electronic format by email but will accept handwritten or typewritten material if necessary.

For articles, the Microsoft Office suite (any version) is preferred; however we will accept any popularly used format, or plain text. Please email written materials in an attached document in its original source format (i.e., no PDF files, please).

Solicitations window for photos for each issue of Pennsylvania Birds are posted to statewide e-mail lists and Facebook groups by the Photo Editor when submissions are preferred to be received. Digital photos or scanned image files sent for consideration must be sent to radickerson@gmail.com in JPG format and submitted as attachments and not embedded in the e-mail. Horizontal images (preferred) MUST be able to be cropped to 1050px x 700px with a resolution of 300 px/in and vertical images MUST be able to be cropped to 1050px x 1313px at 300 px/in. Images will not be enlarged/upscaled. High-resolution images are requested during initial submission. Submissions must also include pertinent information for captioning to include species, location photographed, county photographed, date of photo and any other information of significance regarding the sighting. Submitted photos may be cropped or adjusted for color, brightness, or contrast as the editor sees fit without notice to the photographer. Photos with copyright or signature text visible in the image will not be accepted. Photographers will be acknowledged in the photo caption.

REPRINTS: Request reprints of articles from: PSO, 2469 Hammertown Rd., Narvon, PA 17555, or fchaas@pabirds.org.

ADVERTISING: Current rates for classified ads are \$0.75 per word with a minimum of 20 words. A copy-ready block of approximately 2" by 2" would be \$50.00 per issue. Rates for other sizes or types of advertising are negotiable. Copy deadline is as noted above. Payment should be sent with copy. **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS** and PSO are not responsible for the quality of goods or services advertised herein.

Send previews of digital images for consideration to **radickerson@gmail.com**

Send all other materials (articles, artwork, advertising, etc. to: **Greg Grove, 9524 Stone Creek Ridge Rd, Huntingdon PA, 16652. gwg2@psu.edu**

IN FOCUS – Spring 2021 - In Marsh and Swamp



Blue-winged Teal at Hamilton Rd., *Westmoreland* 7 April. (Mark McConaughy)



Sora at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia* 24 April. (George Armistead)



Normally a secretive bird of marsh, this **King Rail** made itself at-home in a decidedly non-marshy backyard in State College, *Centre* eating earthworms and posing for photographers 7-15 (here 15) April. (Ron Crandall)



A nesting species of inland marshes across North America, **Black Terns** are always a treat; this bird was at Brewer Road Farm Pond, *Butler* 7 May. (Dave Brooke)



Its nesting population hard to assess in remote far northern wet woodlands and swamps, **Rusty Blackbirds** are believed to be in serious decline; this Rusty posed at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia* 10 April. (Al Guarente)



Highly localized cavity nesters in swampy woodlands in Pennsylvania, this **Prothonotary Warbler** was found along the Lehigh River, *Northampton* 18 May, an area where nesting is not known to occur. (Dave DeReamus)