

# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS



Volume 36, No. 2  
Mar - May 2022  
Issued October 2022





# PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

Journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology

Volume 36 Number 2 March - May 2022

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@hawkmtn.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  
fhaasbirds@gmail.com

### 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

Clearfield County

## Contents

- 67 from the Editor
  - 68 Summary of an American Kestrel Nest Box Program in New Jersey and Pennsylvania  
..... Steve C. Eisenhauer and Elizabeth W. Eisenhauer
  - 75 Twenty-seventh Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee 2020 Records ..... Mike Fialkovich
  - 82 Pennsylvania Raptor Migration Summary - Spring 2022  
..... David Barber
  - 87 Book Review: *Learning the Birds: A Midlife Adventure*  
..... Mary Birdsong
  - 87 Twenty-five Years ago in Pennsylvania Birds ..... Frank Haas
  - 88 Where do birds get fat? A new application of stable isotope analysis on fat stores in migrating songbirds ..... Andrea Lindsay
  - 91 Summary of the Season: Spring 2022 ..... Mike Fialkovich
  - 93 Birds of Note – March - May 2022
  - 97 Photographic Highlights
  - 104 Local Notes
  - 149 Suggestions for Contributors – Publication Schedule
  - 150 Statement of Ownership
- Inside back cover – In Focus – American Kestrel

Cover: A species whose number and range in Pennsylvania are in serious decline, this Golden-winged Warbler was beautifully photographed on Birdman Rd. *Somerset* 26 May. (David Poder)

**Remembering Tom Dick**

Tom Dick, DMV, a stalwart of wildlife and habitat conservation, passed away at age 80 on July 30, 2022. He was one of the founders of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society (APAS), organized in 1984. He purchased land on the escarpment of the Shaffer Mountain section of the Allegheny Front along the Somerset/Bedford County Border to provide a permanent location for the raptor migration monitoring work of APAS. The Allegheny Front Hawk Watch has become well known as one of the premier sites to monitor Golden Eagle migration in the East.

Tom and his wife, Sally, also bought 175 acres of degraded farmland along Dunning Creek that they transformed into numerous shallow impoundments for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Dunning Creek Wetlands is located in the valley east of the Allegheny Front in Bedford County and earned Tom a well-deserved Conservation Award from the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) in 2006. Tom told the conservation story of the wetlands development when he was the banquet speaker at the 2011 PSO annual meeting held in Bedford.

The Dick Family generously share their conservation properties with birders and other nature enthusiasts. In addition to opening the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch to the public and allowing outings to the Dunning Creek Wetlands, Tom and Sally hosted countless APAS picnics, Audubon Christmas Bird Counts, and summer butterfly counts/tallies at what they fondly called “The Farm,” their home in Somerset County, located on the Allegheny Plateau roughly one mile west from the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch. Tom’s many Citizen Science contributions included his work as the Bedford County Compiler for *Pennsylvania Birds* from 1988 (first volume) through 2018. From 2005 – 2012, Tom was one of the key leaders who contributed time and money to successfully stop the development of the Gamesa industrial wind turbine project proposed for the Allegheny Front just north of the hawk watch.

*Laura Jackson, Tom Kuehl, Brian Wargo*

**American Kestrel nest boxes – help needed for monitoring**

I think of American Kestrels as a charismatic species; and indeed, a couple years ago they were picked as the ABA Bird of the Year. Aside from the obvious positive points of this small raptor, some of the attention derives from an alarming population decline in New England and mid-Atlantic coastal states. As has been presented in this journal previously, many extensive and successful nest box programs exist.

We are pleased in this issue of *Pennsylvania Birds* to present detailed analysis by Steve and and Dr. Elizabeth Eisenhower of results of Steve’s nest box efforts in central Pennsylvania (as well as from his longer established project in New Jersey). If you have any interest in the conservation of Kestrels – this article is packed with an enormous amount of information.

One aspect Steve would like to emphasize is finding volunteers to monitor nests during spring into early summer. If interested contact Steve (eisenhauer@natlands.org) for more information.

**2022 PSO meeting at Middle Creek**

The annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology returned, largely, to a live, in-person format this year, with the option to attend from home via Zoom, thus a hybrid meeting. The live attendance of nearly 100 exceeded expectations. For the first time since 2019, our traditional awards were also presented. Congratulations to Dr. Margaret Brittingham, recently retired from the Penn State faculty, the 2022 Poole awardee and to the volunteers of the Ned Smith Center in Millersburg, awarded this year’s Conservation Award. Meeting details are in the latest issue of *The Pileated*. <https://pabirds.org/index.php>

**2023 annual meeting will be at State College.**

The 2023 annual meeting will return to the spring season for 2023, and to State College area, site of one of our best attended previous meetings, way back in 2001. Planning is underway with details forthcoming in a future issue of *The Pileated*.

**Compiler news**

With this issue, we welcome one new compiler. **Lisa Doud**, a resident of *Tioga*, takes over there, from **Bob Snyder**, who has been handling both *Tioga* and *Potter* (and continues in the latter).

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

**County compilers:** **Phil Keener** (Adams, York), **Mike Fialkovich** (Allegheny, Fayette), **Jim Kellam** (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), **Ellen Davis** (Carbon), **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 Oyer** (Franklin), **Marjorie Howard** (Greene), **Vern Gauthier** (Fulton), **Greg Grove** (Huntingdon, Juniata), **Margaret Higbee** (Indiana), **Dan Richards** (Jefferson), **Chad Kauffman** (Juniata), **Ryan Johnson** (Lackawanna), **Zach Millen** (Lancaster), **Tim Becker** (Lebanon), **Bill Etter** (Lehigh), **Dennis Miranda** (Luzerne), **Bobby Brown** (Lycoming), **Glenn Koppel** (Mercer), **Rob Dickerson** (Mifflin), **Bruce Johnson** (Monroe), **Brian Henderson** (Montgomery), **Evan Houston** (Montour), **Michael Schall** (Northampton, Pike), **Holger Pflücke** (Philadelphia), **Robert Snyder** (Potter), **Dave Rieger** (Schuylkill), **Jeff Payne** (Somerset), **Rob Megraw** (Sullivan), **Evan Mann** (Susquehanna), **Andrew Hurst** (Union), **Gary Edwards** and **Russ States** (Venango), **Scott Stoleson** (Warren), **Josh Jones** (Wayne), **Tom Kuehl** (Westmoreland), **Joe DeMarco** (Wyoming).

**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 © 2022 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.

# Summary of an American Kestrel Nest Box Program in New Jersey and Pennsylvania

Steve C. Eisenhauer and Elizabeth W. Eisenhauer

## Abstract

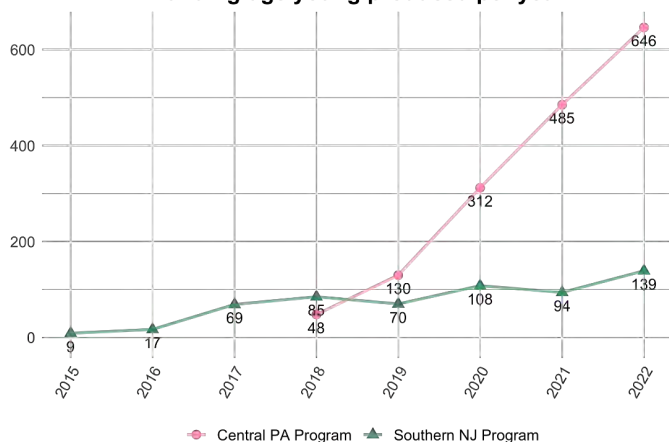
In 2014 an American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) nest box program was initiated in southern New Jersey by Natural Lands, a regional conservation organization. NJ Department of Environmental Protection’s Endangered Species Program (NJDEP-ENSP) staff assisted Natural Lands in this effort to help this state-threatened species. Boxes were primarily mounted on telescoping steel poles located on or adjacent to pastureland, but with some located on meadows, grassy rights-of-way, hayfields, and blueberry farms. First-year success: two boxes producing nine young, which grew in eight years to 33 successful boxes producing 139 young in 2022.

In 2018 the program expanded to central Pennsylvania, with sponsorship provided by Penn State University’s Shavers Creek Environmental Center (SCEC). All boxes were initially mounted on steel poles, but in subsequent years utility pole mounts were increasingly used. First-year success: 12 boxes producing 48 young, which grew to 145 successful boxes producing 646 young in 2022. Of the 145 boxes, 144 were located on or adjacent to farms with pastureland.

In 2017, SCEC staff had initiated a separate kestrel nest box program in the same study area, which grew to 20 successful boxes producing 87 young in 2022. In 2021 Central Pennsylvania Conservancy became the sponsor of the larger program detailed in this report, with SCEC staff continuing to manage the smaller separate program not included in this report.

During the program’s initial four years of exploring different habitats – such as blueberry farms where ten boxes were installed – proximity to pasture soon became the preferred method to prioritize new box locations due to higher box occupancy and productivity observed in this habitat. Box design, mounting system, maintenance, monitoring and data acquisition methods were also identified as variables of interest related to individual box and program-wide occupancy and productivity. These methods have evolved organically, with changes monitored, then adopted, rejected or altered after reviewing the results in the field. Future work will examine the effect of our methods systematically.

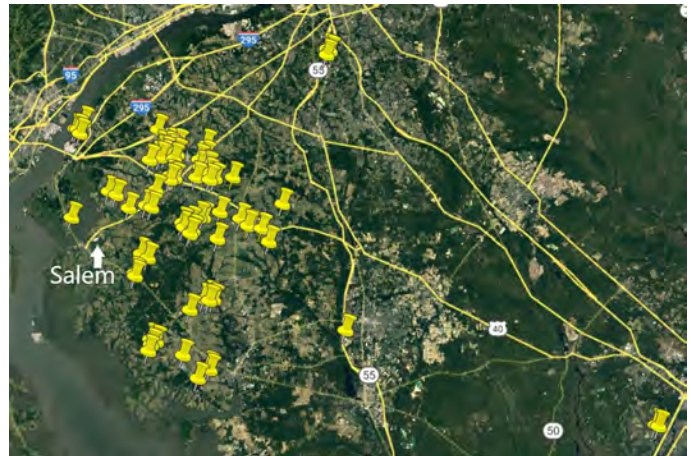
**Banding-age young produced per year**



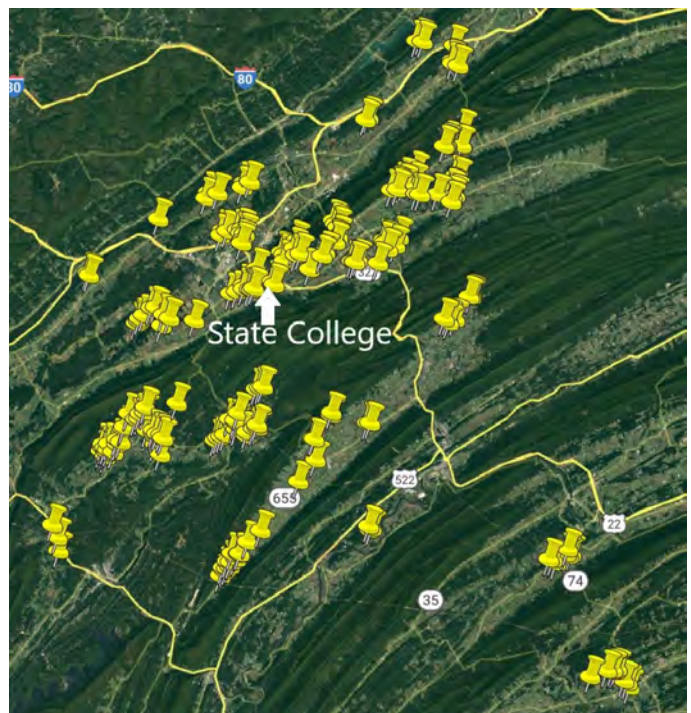
## Study Areas

The southern NJ study area is within the New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast Region where, in the last 50 years, the kestrel’s Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) decline is 95% (Peregrine Fund 2020c). Boxes are concentrated in Salem County, with five occupied boxes in 2022 just across the eastern county line in

Cumberland County, and two at an abandoned landfill in north-adjacent Gloucester County. The numerous boxes installed in the coastal southeastern NJ counties – Atlantic and Cape May – were unoccupied for seven years, so were removed. The relative lack of pastureland and the sandy soils found in these coastal areas are suspected as the reasons kestrels didn’t choose to breed in this habitat (Peregrine Fund 2020a, Sipe 2002). Meadow voles – a primary breeding season food source for many American Kestrels in this geographic area – are uncommon to rare in many outer coastal plain areas (Lee et al. 1982, Webster et al. 1985, Carolina Bird Club 2020).



Approximate locations of 77 kestrel nest boxes in the southern New Jersey part of the program in 2022. The outlier pins to the north and east are at closed landfills



Approximate locations of 201 kestrel nest boxes in the central Pennsylvania part of the program in 2022

The central PA study area is squarely within the Appalachian Mountains Bird Conservation Region where the 50-year kestrel

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) decline is 27% (Peregrine Fund 2020d). Breeding is concentrated in this mountain region's grassland and other open non-forested areas. Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data indicates Pennsylvania and Virginia have the highest kestrel wintering populations east of Ohio, and the Winter Raptor Survey (WRS) shows the center of wintering kestrel abundance during 2001-2015 as the Susquehanna Valley (Bolgiano et al 2015). The PA program kestrel boxes are concentrated in Susquehanna Valley counties: Centre, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, and Perry.

### Sink/source assessments

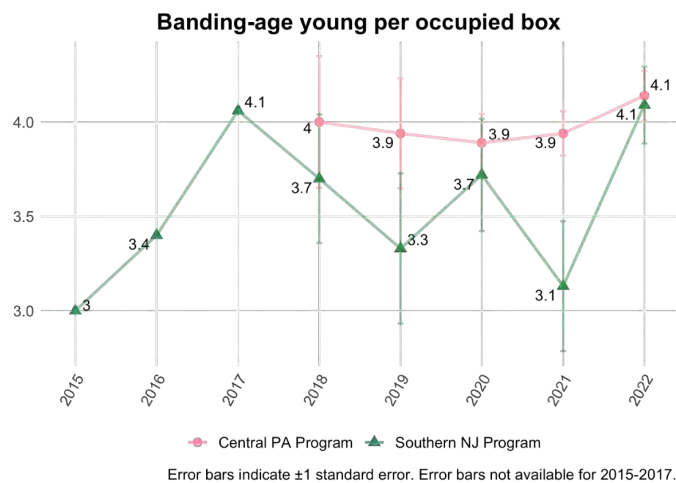
Published nest box productivity measures attempt to capture fledglings/young produced per nesting kestrel pair (Morrow & Morrow 2021, Wheeler 1992, Bloom & Hawks 1983). Our own sink/source assessments use the measure “banding-age young per occupied box” to guide individual box and program-wide decisions. A sink box – sometimes referred to as an ecological trap – is one that produces too few healthy young to maintain population levels. A source box produces enough young to increase a population. The sink/source line for kestrel boxes undoubtedly varies – regionally and annually – with adult and fledgling survival rates affected by innumerable factors, such as the population percentage that migrates, how far and where migrants travel, snowfall, and roadway traffic levels. Jacobs (1995) suggests the productivity in his Wisconsin study population – at 2.8 per occupied box – provides a stable population. Morrow and Morrow’s (2021) program average of 3.1 over 13 years matches the average of 11 other successful kestrel nest box programs in the country.

This productivity measure is inherently complex. An occupied box – occasionally called a nested box – is one with at least one egg in it, but it loses clarity with re-nest attempts after failures, double occupancies by different pairs, and double broods by the same pair in the same or different boxes. Our own use of the word “young” applies to both a fledgling and nestling, with the fledgling-nestling distinction being imprecise. “Fledgling” – in the published literature – does not always meet the dictionary definition of a nestling reaching sustained flight outside the box. This stage is rarely captured for all nestlings. Additionally, “banding-age” is similarly variable. Katzner et al. (2005) note the recommended banding age as 10 to 23 days. Increased accuracy could be gained by banding young in the last week of the 30-day nestling period, but costs may outweigh accuracy gains since disturbance-caused premature fledging increases the likelihood of early death.

The imprecise definition of banding-age young may not have a large impact on reported measures. Morrow & Morrow (2021) noted that 98% of their 1,900 banded nestlings (12 to 25 days old) fledged over a 13-year period, with adjustments made for dead banded chicks found in boxes after all others have fledged. Tuttle (2019) noted that of 67 eggs hatched, 98.5% fledged, and in 2017 of 75 hatched eggs 97.3% fledged. Toland & Elder (1987) noted a similar 98% fledge rate over a three-year period. In our own central PA program in 2021, six dead banded young were found during box cleanouts, which converts to a 99% fledge rate. However, in some years fledge rates may be significantly lower. Mullican (2018) found that of 342 nestlings, 244 (71%) reached 80% of the fledgling age (24 days or older). The inaccuracy in using only “dead banded young found in a box” to determine fledge rate must also be acknowledged: some dead are likely consumed or removed by animals before boxes are cleaned out.

The number of young (10 days or older) per occupied box measure is the primary productivity measure for the program in this report, with other measures providing support or nuance. The re-nest, double occupancy/brood complexity is partially addressed by counting all young in a box per year as one occupancy, with one zero if both occupancies are failures (successful double occupancies were observed in 0 to 3% of occupied boxes annually). Morrow and Morrow (2021) found a high percentage of double occupancies were by different pairs; therefore, the productivity measure in their published research is per nest attempt rather than

per occupied box. Different pairs may nest – successfully or unsuccessfully – in different boxes or natural cavities in the same year. This complexity remains unresolved without extensive tracking not possible with our own minimum disturbance procedures (no banding of adults in boxes).



### Methods and Results

#### 1. Program establishment and nest box site selection - Methods

The primary program establishment tools are Google Earth and onX Hunt map, followed by US Postal Service mailings. Careful map reviews were done to help avoid selection of sink habitats that might attract breeding kestrels but not provide adequate prey and acceptable disturbance levels throughout the nesting period: a concern noted by Touihri et al. (2019). The “Historical Imagery” feature of Google Earth is helpful in identifying possible sink habitats, such as hayfields that are regularly rotated with row crops to reduce establishment of rodent, insect and other small animal populations. Similarly, long established pastureland was given preference over pasture recently created from row crops. Beyond identification of promising locations for boxes, Google Earth has been established as the data management system, with all boxes identified by pins on the digital map.

USPS mailings utilized letterhead paper and envelopes provided in New Jersey by Natural Lands and, in Pennsylvania, by SCEC or – since 2021 – Central PA Conservancy. Internet searches of farms with horses, cattle, sheep, and other livestock were also utilized to connect with possible program participants.

#### Results

Response to mailings and email inquiries is estimated by the researcher to be in the 20-25% range. Boxes are installed after meeting with respondents to discuss box locations that won't interfere with farm operations. Visitation concerns are resolved, with some landowners asking for text messages with each visit but most being comfortable with unannounced visits. Word-of-mouth referrals have been increasingly helpful as the program has matured.

#### 2. Box design and mounting systems – Methods

A predator-susceptible box in good habitat can attract nesting adults, only to repeatedly lose their young and maybe their own lives to a nearby snake or raccoon. A poorly-designed box can allow water to soak eggs, bedding and/or young, thereby reducing or eliminating hatching or development. Box alterations can change sink boxes to source boxes if, for example, the predator is identified and an effective guard installed, or a faulty roof system

repaired. Lambrechts et al (2010) note that different nest box designs and mounting systems can affect productivity, and that most published nest box research does not adequately describe designs and systems.

The program's box dimensions and characteristics are:

- interiors between 80 and 90 square inches (octagonal boxes are now replacing all 4-sided boxes but the effect of this shape change on productivity or box life has not been explored)
- roofs flat or backward-sloping, aluminum-sheathed over ½" plywood base with drip edges (early installed boxes with front slopes are being phased out), with 3.5" front roof overhang, 1.5" from top of hole to roof
- floors 1.5 to 2" thick, with ¾" deep 4" circumference concave hollows cut in the interior floor center in case eggs are laid after starlings have removed all or most of the bedding material (this hollow is meant to prevent eggs from rolling around when unattended)
- steel pipe mounted boxes screw into the floor's center to reduce twisting in the wind, and utility pole boxes have spacer boards that facilitate roof draining away from front entrance hole
- bedding in boxes is 2-3" of aspen shavings unless starlings have placed straw/grass bedding in box, in which case this bedding is left alone (after removing any starling eggs)
- predator guards (primarily 24" of aluminum sheet wrap around utility poles or 30" of 4" diameter plastic pipes "wobble-suspended" under steel pipe mounted boxes) are utilized on about 20% of boxes (researcher estimate)
- steel pipe mounts involve a 1.25" diameter schedule 40 galvanized pipe base, typically dug into the ground 2' with 50 lbs. of concrete poured below ground level – usually also clamped to a stable fence post – with a 1" threaded steel pipe inserted into it, which screws into a steel floor flange in the nest box bottom center
- chosen orientation is primarily with front facing the best habitat with secondary attention to facing south, southeast or southwest directions
- other box characteristics are: 3" entrance hole, 9" to 12" from bottom of hole to floor, ventilation slots/holes under roof, light clay or white colored paint only on the box outside

Thicker floors add to the insulation value for incubating eggs, a concern highlighted by Varland and Loughin (1993) who found: "In our study, all 12 clutches on a substrate of bare wood failed during the incubation stage. Egg chilling due to insufficient substrate for insulation probably was the primary reason for egg failure on bare wood." All their boxes were clamped to I-beams on the back of interstate highway signs. The rigidity of this I-beam mounting system likely eliminates box sway and twist during wind events. While adding and cracking of eggs laid on bare wood floors is a problem with boxes mounted on posts or pipes that sway on windy days, the Varland and Loughin study suggests bedding's insulation value may be as important as its value in cradling the eggs. Kestrels evolved using tree cavities with concave bottoms filled with other-animal debris, leaves or woody litter. Thick concave-cut interior box bottoms mimic natural cavity bottoms.

Initial mounting systems in New Jersey were a mix of 14'-high wood posts and 14-16' telescoping steel pipe mounts. Wood post mounts have all been replaced due to a perceived accessibility to predators, and since small biting ants were common in nearly all occupied wood post nests (although evidence is inconclusive the ants affect kestrel productivity). Utility poles were not initially utilized in New Jersey or Pennsylvania. By 2022, 18 New Jersey and 88 Pennsylvania boxes were mounted 14-18' high on utility poles. In 2021, 198 of the 201 Pennsylvania boxes and 67 of the 77 New Jersey boxes (utility and steel pole) were lowered to 10-11', to facilitate monitoring and to reduce the sway of steel poles (perceived to be a productivity concern).

## **Results**

Attention is paid to box and mount details, such as ensuring boxes have adequate bedding and quickly addressing predator concerns. One finding is that utility pole mounted boxes outproduced steel pole boxes by 9% on average (see chart at the end of the article). However, both mounts have acceptably high productivity rates.

Of the 70 utility pole occupied boxes in 2022, only 8 are located along public roadways (within 20') and 62 are in privately-owned fields or along private access roads. Public roadway box mounts are generally avoided, but there are long-term successful programs in the U.S. that rely on roadside-mounts for all or most of their boxes (Manske 2011, Morrow and Morrow 2021).

Of particular note is the lowering of nearly all the 201 Pennsylvania boxes and most of the New Jersey boxes to 10-11' between 2021 and 2022 did not correspond with lower productivity, which rose from 3.9 to 4.1 per occupied box. The percentage of failures was higher in Pennsylvania and lower in New Jersey, but average young per occupied box numbers were higher in both states. Interpretation of these results is premature after one year but, so far, this reduced height appears to be an acceptable change. It may reduce sway in steel pole boxes and, perhaps more importantly, it allows easier and safer box access, which makes it more likely boxes will be maintained in future decades.

### **Success\* percentage of occupied boxes**

2022 (144 of 155) 93% in central PA

2021 (118 of 123) 96%

2020 (73 of 78) 94%

2019 (31 of 34) 92%

2018 (12 of 12) 100%

Overall (378 of 402) 94%

2022 (33 of 34) 97% in southern NJ

2021 (24 of 30) 80%

2020 (26 of 29) 90%

2019 (18 of 21) 86%

2018 (20 of 23) 87%

2017 (16 of 17) 94%

2016 (4 of 5) 80%

2015 (2 of 3) 67%

Overall (143 of 162) 88%

---

\*success is defined as a box that fledges at least one kestrel

---

\*A measure – success percentage of occupied boxes – provides a perspective that may point to predator damage, since predators are more likely to affect all eggs or young in a box, whereas other factors may be more likely to reduce the number of eggs that hatch or young that fledge. The program's only New Jersey box failure in 2022 was at a farm where the male was found on the ground severely injured (apparently from a fight with a predator) during the incubation period. The nest was soon abandoned by the female and taken over by starlings. If the loss of a parent occurs after chicks are old enough to thermoregulate, one parent bird can often provide enough food to fledge the young.

Snakes and raccoons are other predators unlikely to leave any eggs or nestlings behind if they can access a box. In southern New Jersey, black snakes are a concern: one very fat 6-footer was found curled up by this researcher in a box 18-feet-up a utility pole (luckily, starlings were on its menu and not kestrels). A predator guard (24-30" of aluminum wrapped around a utility pole, or a 4"x 30" plastic wobble tube below a steel pipe mounted box) can potentially deter all but the largest snakes.

In central Pennsylvania, the western subspecies of fox squirrel is a concern, although on two occasions kestrels successfully nested in utility pole boxes after fox squirrels had raised a family and left for the season (fox squirrels typically nest between January and April). On three occasions adult kestrel body parts were found in utility pole boxes taken over by fox squirrels (once, just two intact wings of a male kestrel were found). Fox squirrels are larger and bolder than grey squirrels and will venture far out into open fields (apparently less fearful of Red-tailed Hawks and other large raptors). Aluminum wrapping below boxes has been found to usually deter them. No evidence has been noted of them using or predated steel pipe mounted boxes.

When one or more nonviable eggs or dead young are found in a box, predators may not be the issue (exceptions are when one or both adults have been taken outside the box by a predator, or when starlings poke holes in eggs). Prey population crashes, extreme weather conditions, water saturating box interiors, temporary or permanent disturbances (a house built next to a box), inexperienced parents, pesticides, or other factors may be responsible. Careful detective work can suggest or identify a solution. Relocation is sometimes the best option. Many now-successful boxes in both programs have been relocated one or more times on the same property.

## Results

Smooth trend lines in the above plot suggest the slope of the mean trend may change as nestlings age, with mean weight increasing steadily until it stabilizes above the mean weight for adults. Our analysis suggests the shift from weight gain to weight stabilization occurs between 17 and 18 days (Muggeo, 2008). At 15 days old, 56% of 195 nestlings exceeded the average adult weight from the USGS Bird Banding Lab (BBL) data. In contrast, of 753 nestlings over 17 days old, 90% exceeded the average adult weight from BBL. Possible explanations for the weight stabilization in the last 2 weeks in the box are food being reduced by parents, caloric needs being higher for larger, more-active nestlings, and/or other factors.

No precise line has been established to define underweight nestlings. The above plot is a reference that, when combined with other measures such as banding age young per box, provides a more comprehensive assessment of box and program productivity.

### 4. Percent occupancy – Methods

Percent occupancy is a useful measure of success (Smallwood et al 2009a, Morrow & Morrow 2021, Shave & Lindell 2017), particularly when determining if an area is oversaturated with boxes or if additional boxes should be installed. However, the percent occupancy measure can create an ecological trap (Demeyrier et al 2016, Gehlbach 1994, Avile's and Parejo 2004, Ma'nd et al. 2005) if boxes are kept in place even when there's low productivity per box due to predators, disappearing late-season prey base, habitat changes or other factors (Delibes et al. 2001, Battin 2004). Research with the Little Owl in Germany (Gotschalk et al 2011) is relevant: "Our results suggested that the efficiency of this nest-box program could be substantially increased if unoccupied nest boxes were relocated to sites where occupancy is more likely, and if unproductive nest boxes were relocated to locations that would enhance breeding success."

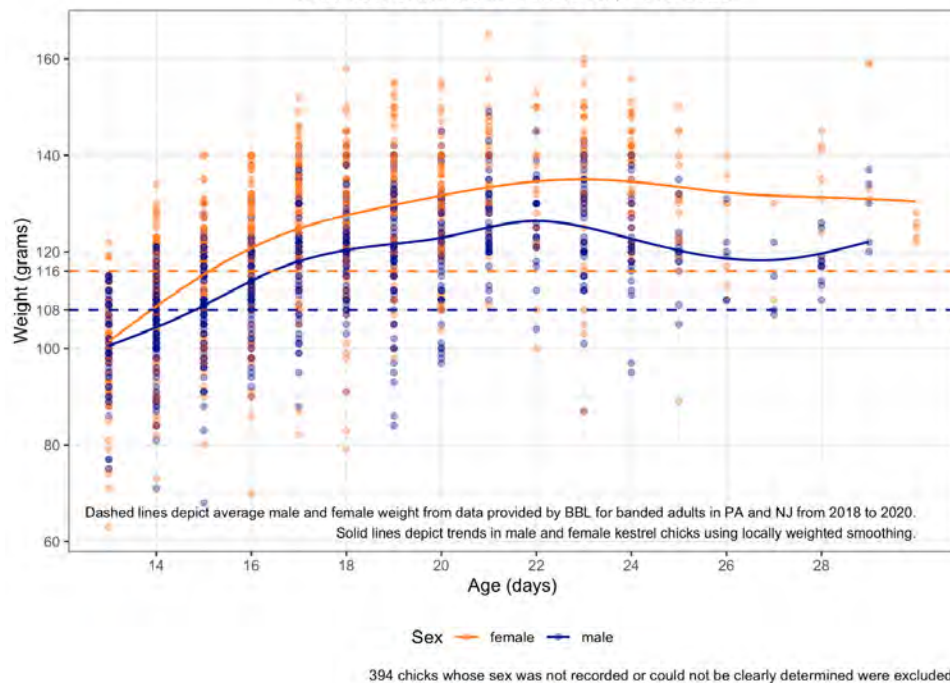
When percent occupancy is a fixed research measure, highly productive boxes may not be evaluated for placement of additional boxes in the same apparently good habitat. In addition to lost opportunities for more kestrel nests, competition among kestrels for limited

nest boxes in good habitat can potentially have negative results. Possible egg dumping – common with wood ducks – by female kestrels in other females' nest boxes has been noted by Manske (2012).

Another concern with percent occupancy as a primary research measure is how it can not only discourage placement of additional boxes on productive properties, but also on new properties within the study area. One barrier to box placement is securing landowner permission, which sometimes takes years. Another barrier is the inability to initially identify all promising habitats in a study area. Flexibility in adding new nest boxes can result in higher productivity. A nest box program manager focused more on research than overall production may be reluctant to add new boxes – or remove boxes when habitat is degraded by land use changes – since additions and removals can skew research findings.

Percent occupancy and nest box spacing are often closely connected. Nesting kestrels are territorial, but territories vary with habitat quality (based primarily on food supply) and line-of-sight visibility. Kestrels appear to have a colonial aspect when nesting,

1723 kestrel chicks in PA and NJ, 2018-2022



### 3. Nestling weight relative to age assessment – Methods

Nestling weight relative to age in days is a helpful health measure. Average or above-average weight nestlings are assumed to have a better chance of survival than underweight nestlings. The reference used for calculating age after 10 days of age is *A Photographic Timeline of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's American Kestrel Nestlings* (Klucsarits & Rusbuldt 2007). Nestling weights are combined with other productivity measures in making decisions about box removals, relocations on the same property or – in the case of consistently above-average nestling weights and counts in a box – adding additional nearby boxes. Boxes regularly producing underweight young may be sinks nudging the population in a negative direction, so removal or relocation is considered. Additional research is needed to verify these assumptions about nestling weights and survival.

which may reduce competition from starlings. Nagy (1963) erected 9 nest boxes on his 320-acre Pennsylvania farm and, in a favorable prey year, had 6 pairs of kestrels nesting as close as 37 yards apart. Manske (2011) reports similar close nest spacing: “Two pairs of kestrels were found to have nested in the same barn at the same time during the 2009 season. One pair used a cavity on the north side of the barn and hunted lands north of the barn and the other used a cavity on the south side of the barn and hunted lands south of the barn.”

**Results**

The percent occupancy rate of the central Pennsylvania boxes increased from 35% (12 of 34) in 2018 to 77% (154 of 200) in 2022. Southern New Jersey’s highest rate in its most productive year, 2022, was 44% (34 of 78). 100% occupancy may not be beneficial, since it does not allow for new recruitment in an area or provide nesting opportunities for late-nesting pairs or re-nest attempts

On four occasions in the 5-year Pennsylvania study period, clutches of 7 to 9 eggs were found, raising suspicion two females laid eggs in the same box. Assuming there was competition for a limited number of boxes, at one farm where all the boxes were occupied an additional box was added about 300 yards away. Both were occupied the following year.

Throughout the 5-year Pennsylvania study period, close box spacings were increasingly tried on farms with productive boxes. Findings included:

- At a Lewistown farm in 2018 one steel pole box was successful. A second box was added on a utility pole 440 yards away, and the steel pole box was relocated nearby to a utility pole. In 2019 and 2020 both were successful. A third box was added 330 yards away on a steel pole along a fence line. In 2021 and 2022 all three boxes were successful, producing 15 young in 2022.

- At a Belleville farm, after one box was successful in 2019, a second box was installed 300 yards away (separated by a farmhouse and barn). Both boxes were successful in 2020, 2021, and 2022, with a second successful occupancy in one box in 2022 resulting in 13 young produced in the two boxes.

- At a Petersburg farm in 2020, two boxes on utility poles 900 yards apart were successful. Two boxes were added, reducing spacing to 450 yards: all four boxes were successful in 2021 and 2022.

- At a Spring Mills farm, three of four boxes installed more than 700 yards apart in 2019 were successfully occupied. In 2020, all four were successful, but a fifth box added 250 yards away was unoccupied. In 2021, all five boxes were successful, producing 21 young. Two more boxes were added for the 2022 season, and all seven were successfully occupied.

**5. Maintenance, monitoring and data acquisition – Methods**

Box maintenance in New Jersey is done in February since winter weather can cause damage that needs repair. The removal of old nesting debris and addition of wood shavings are best done just prior to the breeding season since winter roost occupants can foul a box or – in the case of starlings – remove all nesting material. However, in Pennsylvania late fall maintenance is now the norm, since icy/snowy roads and fields in the colder and more mountainous central Pennsylvania region makes travel less safe and maintenance more difficult.

Breeding season monitoring is done with an Olympus TG6 waterproof camera mounted on a telescoping fiberglass pole. The resultant high-quality images create a reference file for each nest box. Disturbance to occupants is typically low, even though flash

lighting is used for each photograph. Many nesting kestrels don’t even look up from incubation to see the intruding camera, some turn their heads to look up, others spin around in a defensive posture, and a few temporarily vacate the box (with the most remote boxes, kestrels will sometimes exit when they sense someone approaching).

Adults in our nest boxes are not caught and banded. However, capturing and banding adults (preferably both males and females) in boxes produces valuable data, since more adults will live for at least another breeding season and be available for recapture, whereas most young will die before breeding. Also, if adults aren’t recaptured, then less is learned about returning banded young from previous years. Smallwood’s (2017) research suggests capturing adults during nesting does not negatively impact nest box productivity. However, Varland and Laughlin (1993) note: “We accidentally broke one egg in each of four clutches of five eggs while handling the adult kestrels”. Manske (2011) bands adults when captured in boxes but notes: “Disruption of adults on eggs undoubtedly has caused some desertions. To minimize nest desertions caused by our research activities, we attempted to visit nests only after eggs have hatched.” Manske’s first visit is during “a 5-6 day period starting on or near 24 June”.

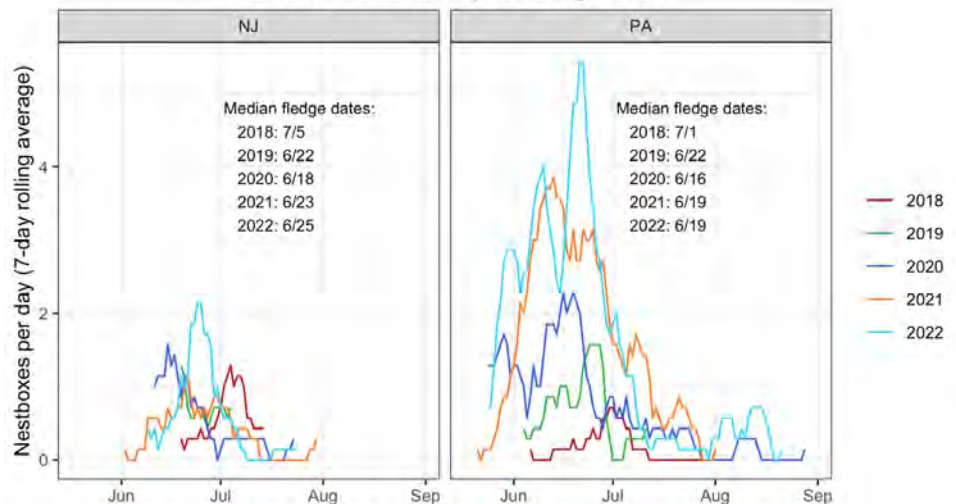
Our first spring visits to New Jersey boxes are the last week of April. The Pennsylvania boxes are checked the first week of May. These box checks serve three purposes: removal of starling eggs if present, replenishing bedding material in boxes where it has been completely removed by starlings, and documenting kestrel eggs or nestlings.

Data recorded on an Excel spreadsheet includes: number of young/eggs (if visible under adults), age estimation of young when visible, dates of visits and banding, and weight and sex of young during banding.

**Results**

Assuming 30 days for incubation and another 30 days before fledging, the age determination at banding permits calculation of fledge and full clutch dates.

Estimated mean 30-day-old fledge dates



The central Pennsylvania boxes fledged (and began egg laying) an average 4 to 6 days before the New Jersey boxes, despite the colder climate and greater snowfall levels. Possible explanations are a high resident kestrel population (Bolgiano et al 2015), better habitat, and more old barns and other farm structures available for shelter in central Pennsylvania. With the high occupancy of the Pennsylvania boxes and the earliest fledge dates in late May, consideration is being given to moving the early Pennsylvania box visits to the second week of May.



Monitoring over the eight year study period reveals that kestrels frequently move starlings out of nest boxes, sometimes laying eggs within starling eggs, but sometimes starlings move kestrels out, laying eggs on nesting material built on top of kestrel eggs.

### **Discussion on the Role of Pastureland**

*With rare exceptions (four on landfills and one on managed grassland) all 189 successful Pennsylvania and New Jersey nest boxes in 2022 were on or adjacent to pastureland.* Judging from the high percentage of grey furry pellets found in and around nest boxes, grassland-loving meadow voles and other small rodents are important kestrel breeding-season prey. Pastured livestock undoubtedly help kestrels catch rodents by keeping grass low and by treading on shallow rodent tunnels and nests. Other pasture and associated hayfield prey – large invertebrates, small birds, snakes, amphibians – may be equally or more important seasonally.

*Kestrels are certainly not always pasture dependent, particularly in other geographic areas. They are opportunistic feeders. Many – possibly most – of the kestrel nesting populations and box programs in the country have little to no association with pasture. One of the more notable examples is the New York City breeding kestrel population – estimated at over 70 pairs – that has thrived for over a century, feeding primarily on house sparrows and other small urban creatures* (Buckley et al 2018, Giunta 2017). *The many flat roofs of Manhattan and surrounding boroughs substitute for rural open areas, and rusted-out cornice holes, ledges and crevices provide for nesting cavities.*

The motivation for our decision to choose pasture as a preferred kestrel nest box location in Pennsylvania and New Jersey came from the early NJDEP-ENSP southern New Jersey program, which started in 2012. A total of 35 nest boxes were in place by 2015: 13 on NJDEP wildlife management areas, 7 on county/municipal land, 4 on private land, 5 on non-pastured farmland owned by a public utility, and 6 on a sprawling chemical plant property with landfills. The only successful box was on grazing land in 2013, 2014 and 2017 (Bill Pitts, pers. comm.). All these boxes have now been removed: replaced by Natural Lands installed boxes almost exclusively associated with grazing land, which subsequently corresponded with steadily increased kestrel production to the noted high count of 33 successful boxes and 139 young produced in 2022.

Hurley (2022) reports on ongoing Clifton Institute kestrel tracking research in Virginia utilizing backpack transmitters. A local participating farmer, Bruce Jones, notes that after converting his cow pastureland to meadow “bush-hogged only in small discreet areas”, his nine kestrel nest boxes that were once mostly occupied – 26 fledglings produced in 2015 – were reduced to one occupied box in 2021. The Clifton Institute’s research should shed light on the question of pastureland’s value to breeding kestrels in this area, and on other questions related to habitat preferences in both breeding and non-breeding seasons.

### **Discussion on the Role of Pesticides**

Pesticides may negatively affect egg/nestling development and adult health (Cirino 2016, Rattner et al 2011, Rattner et al 2019) and they certainly reduce – by design – prey populations. Insecticides like the neonicotinoids are a particular concern (Gibbons et al 2015). Testing for pesticides by O’Hare et al (2010) of single viable kestrel eggs from nests in a variety of Canadian farm systems found: “Overall, reproductive success did not appear to be associated with agroecosystem type in our study”. However, the complexity and range of pesticide types requires continual vigilance and study. Kestrel nest box productivity is being monitored on two farms a mile apart in our study area: one an organic cattle farm, the other an orchard with frequent pesticide use.

### **References**

- Battin J. 2004. *When good animals love bad habitats: ecological traps and the conservation of animal populations.* Conservation Biology 18:1482–14.
- Bloom PH and Hawks SJ. 1983. Nest box use and reproductive biology of the American kestrel in Lassen County, California. Raptor Research 17(1):9-14.
- Bolgiano N, Therrien JF and Grove G. 2015. *Pennsylvania’s Importance to American Kestrels: A Regional Context.* pp. 76-83 in Pennsylvania Birds. V29, N2.
- Buckley PA, Sedwitz W, Norse WJ and Kieran J (2018). *American Kestrel.* In Urban Ornithology: 150 Years of Birds in New York City (pp. 237-39). Ithaca and London: Comstock Publishing Associates.
- Carolina Bird Club. 2020. *Birds of North Carolina: their distribution and abundance (American kestrel).*
- Cirino E. 2016. *Are Kestrels the New Poster Species for Pesticides?* Auburn, April 22, 2016.
- Delibes M, Gaona P and Ferreras P. 2001. *Effects of an attractive sink leading into maladaptive habitat selection.* The American Naturalist 158:277–285.
- Demeyrier V, Lambrechts MM, Perret P and Gregoire A. 2016. *Experimental demonstration of an ecological trap for a wild bird in a human-transformed environment.* Animal Behaviour, Volume 118, August 2016, Pages 181-190.
- Gehlbach FR. 1994. *Nest-box versus natural-cavity nests of the Eastern Screech-Owl - an exploratory study.* Journal of Raptor Research 28:154–157.
- Gibbons D, Morissey C and Mineau P. 2015. *A review of the direct and indirect effects of neonicotinoids and fipronil on vertebrate wildlife.* Environmental Science and Pollution Research V22, pages 103-118.
- Giunta J. 2017, October 2. *Birds of Brooklyn: American Kestrel.*
- Gotschalk TK, Ekschmitt K and Wolters V. 2011. *Efficient placement of nest boxes for the Little Owl (Athene noctua).* J. Raptor Res. 45(1):1–14.
- Hurley B. 2022. *Keeping up with kestrels.* For Foothills Forum in Rappahannock News. August 14, 2022.
- Jacobs EA. 1995. *American kestrel reproduction and dispersal in central Wisconsin.* Journal of Raptor Research 29(2):135-137. The Raptor Research Foundation, Inc..
- Katzner, T., Robertson S, Robertson B, Klucsarits J, McCarty K and Bildstein KL. 2005. *Results from a long-term nest-box program for American Kestrels: Implications for improved population monitoring and conservation.* Journal of Field Ornithology 76(3):217–226.
- Klucsarits JR and Rusbuldt JJ. 2007. *A Photographic Timeline of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary’s American Kestrel Nestlings.* Zip Publishing: Columbus, OH.
- Lambrechts MM, Wiebe KL, Sunde P, Solonen T, Sergio F, Roulin A, Moller AP, Lopez BC, Fargallo JA, Exo KM, Dell’Omo G, Costantini D, Charter M, Butler MW, Bortolotti GR, Arlettaz R and Korpima E. 2011, December. *Nest box design for the study of diurnal raptors and owls is still an overlooked point in ecological, evolutionary and conservation studies: a review.* pp23-34 in Journal of Ornithology. V153.

Lee DS, Funderburg JB and Clark MK. 1982. *A Distributional Study of North Carolina Mammals*. Occasional Papers of the North Carolina Biological Survey 1982-10.

Mand R, Tilgar V, Lothmus A and Leivits A. 2005. *Providing nest boxes for hole-nesting birds - does habitat matter?* Biodiversity Conservation 14:1823.

Manske M. 2011, March. *American kestrel nest box management program in northern New York State*. pp 23-32 in *The Kingbird*; 61 (1).

Manske MA. 2012. *Possible American Kestrel Dump Nest*. *The Kingbird* 2012 December; 62 (4).

Morrow J and Morrow L. 2021. *Reproductive Parameters of American Kestrels (Falco sparverius) using Nest Boxes in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia 2008–2020*. *Maryland Birdlife* 70(1):7–25.

Muggeo VM (2008). “segmented: an R Package to Fit Regression Models with Broken-Line Relationships.” *R News*, 8(1), 20–25.

Mullican SD. 2018. *Breeding Ecology of American Kestrels on the Llano Estacado of Texas*. A Thesis in Wildlife, Aquatic, and Wildlands Science and Management Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of Texas Tech University.

Nagy AC. 1963. *Population density of Sparrow Hawks in eastern Pennsylvania*. *Wilson Bull.* 75:93.

O’Hare K, Martin P and Barrett G. 2010. *Reproductive Success and Banding Returns of American Kestrels in Agroecosystems in the Southern Ontario Landscape*. *Ontario Birds* April 2010, pp.20-31.

Peregrine Fund. 2020a. *Declines of American Kestrel Populations*.

- 2020b. Southeastern Coastal Plain Bird Conservation Region.
- 2020b. Piedmont Bird Conservation Region.
- 2020c. New England Mid-atlantic Coast Bird Conservation Region.
- 2020d. Appalachian Mountains Bird Conservation Region.

Rattner BA, Horak KE, Warner SE, Day DD, Meteyer CU, Volker SF, Eisemann JD and Johnston JJ. 2011. *Acute toxicity, histopathology, and coagulopathy in American kestrels (Falco sparverius) following administration of the rodenticide diphacinone*. *Environ. Toxicol. Chem.* 2011; 30:1213–1222.

Rattner BA, Voker SF, Lankton JS, Bean TG, Lazarus RS and Horak KE. 2019. *Kestrels (Falco sparverius) with Evidence of Increased Hazard on Subsequent Brodifacoum Toxicity in American Anticoagulant Rodenticide Exposure*. *Environ Toxicol Chem* in Volume 39, Issue 2, February 2020, pp. 468-481.

Shave ME and Lindell CA. 2017. *American Kestrels Occupying Nest Boxes In Michigan Cherry Orchards Show High Reproductive Rates and Tolerance of Monitoring*. *Journal of Raptor Research* 51(1):50-60.

Smallwood JA, Causey MF, Mossop DH, Klucsarits JR, Robertson B , Robertson S, Mason J, Maurer MJ, Melvin RL, Dawson RD, Bortolotti GR, Parrish JR, Breen TF and Boyd K. 2009. *Why are American Kestrel (Falco sparverius) populations declining in North American?* *Raptor Resource Foundation* 43(4):274–282

Toland BR and Elder WH. 1987. *Influence of nest-box placement and density on abundance and productivity of American Kestrels in central Missouri*. *The Wilson Bulletin* 99(4):712–717.

Touihri M, Seguy M, Imbeau L, Mazerolle M and Bird D. 2019. *Effects of agricultural lands on habitat selection and breeding success of American kestrels in a boreal context*. pp 146-154 in *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*. V272.

Varland DE and Loughin TM. 1993. *Reproductive success of American kestrels nesting along an interstate highway in central Iowa*. *Wilson Bull.*, 105(3), pp. 465-474.

Webster WD, Parnell JF and Biggs WC Jr. 1985. *Mammals of the Carolinas, Virginia, and Maryland*. *The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC*.

Wheeler AH. 1992. *Reproductive parameters for free ranging American Kestrels (Falco sparverius) using nest boxes in Montana and Wyoming*. *Journal of Raptor Research* 25(1):6–9.

#### Utility Pole vs Steel Pipe

Year	State	Utility pole			Steel pipe		
		#boxes	#young	average #per box	#boxes	#young	average # per box
2018	PA	1	5	5	11	43	3.9
	NJ	1	4	4	22	80	3.6
2019	PA	13	59	4.5	19	70	3.7
	NJ	3	5	1.7	18	65	3.6
2020	PA	36	153	4.2	44	159	3.7
	NJ	3	14	4.7	26	94	3.6
2021	PA	58	228	3.9	65	256	3.9
	NJ	2	10	3.3	27	84	3.1
2022	PA	70	296	4.2	82	334	4.1
	NJ	5	23	4.6	29	116	4.0
Totals		192	792	4.1	343	1301	3.8

**Twenty-seventh Report of the Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**  
**2020 Records**  
**May 2022**  
**Mike Fialkovich for the Committee**

The Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter “PORC” or “the committee”) evaluates and archives documentation it receives of any species, recognizable form or subspecies that is on the official Review List for Pennsylvania (<http://pabirds.org/records/index.php/review-list/>). In addition, the committee reviews documentation for species or subspecies that were previously unrecorded in the Commonwealth. This report covers submissions for 2020 that include 88 records of 50 species. The 79 accepted records represented a 90% acceptance rate. Reports were received from 31 counties.

**There were three documented first state records in 2020!** Highlights include: the first state record of Tundra Bean Goose, five records of Pink-footed Goose, Barrow’s Goldeneye, Clapper Rail, American Oystercatcher, first state record of Pacific Golden Plover, four Black-legged Kittiwakes, Sabine’s Gull, Least Tern, Royal Tern, fourth and fifth state record of Brown Booby, White-faced Ibis, Gyrfalcon, second state records of Vermilion Flycatcher and Gray Kingbird, second state record of Violet-green Swallow, two records of Northern Wheatear, first state record of Brewer’s Sparrow, five Lark Sparrows, two records of LeConte’s Sparrow, fourth record of Seaside Sparrow, Harris’s Sparrow, two Gambel’s White-crowned Sparrows, Swainson’s Warbler, an astonishing six Black-throated Gray Warblers and two Painted Buntings.

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

Documentation can be submitted on the PORC section of the PSO Website at this address <http://pabirds.org/records/> Click on **Submit A Report**.

### **The Committee**

Committee Members and terms for 2020 are as follows:

- Holly Merker – Chair 2<sup>nd</sup> term (2019 – 2021)
- George Armistead – 2<sup>nd</sup> term (2020 – 2023)
- Devich Farbotnik 4<sup>th</sup> term (2019 – 2022)
- Mike Fialkovich - 4<sup>th</sup> term (2019 – 2022)
- Ian Gardner – Secretary (2015 - July 2020)
- Greg Grove – 1<sup>st</sup> term (2018-2021)
- Tessa Rhinehart – Secretary (starting July 2020)
- Billy Weber -4<sup>th</sup> term (2019 – 2022)
- David Yeany II - 1<sup>st</sup> term (2020 – 2023)

The committee normally meets face to face annually to discuss committee activities, procedures, second round voting, etc. With the Covid pandemic restrictions in 2020, The Committee’s annual meeting was virtual. We continued working on ongoing business through email exchanges throughout the year as necessary.

### **Committee News**

In February 2021 Holly Merker, after seven years, and Greg Grove, after one term, rotated off the committee. Holly, who was a voting member since 2015, also ended her four years of as PORC Chair. Their positions on committee were replaced by Julia Plummer (Centre County) and Scott Stoleson (Warren County), each for three year terms. Also, at this time, David Yeany II was elected as the new and current PORC Chair through 2022.

In January 2022 Devich Farbotnik, Mike Fialkovich and Billy Weber rotated off the committee after serving three consecutive terms. They were replaced by Amy Davis (Philadelphia/Chester Counties), Annie Lindsay (Westmoreland County) and Corey Husic (Monroe/Pike Counties). The committee welcomes the new members and thanks them for their willingness to serve the birding community in Pennsylvania.

The committee would like to thank Holly for her commitment to advancing the mission of PORC and providing exceptional leadership to this committee. Holly put the committee back on schedule after falling behind for several years, worked with Billy Weber and Ian Gardner updating the Bylaws and reinstated feedback to observers submitting records. She also felt it was vitally important to increase outreach to the birding community of Pennsylvania with regular updates from the committee. We extend gratitude to Billy, Devich, and Mike for their dedication serving the maximum number of terms, and Greg for his one term. Devich and Billy took on the long overdue job of updating the Official List of Birds for Pennsylvania in 2018, adding status and abundance codes for each species. Mike wrote the PORC annual reports from 2012 – 2020 bringing the committee reports back on schedule following several years of inactivity.

### **Classification of Records**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Class I-Pe\*:** A record accepted through the eBird expedited review process.

## Format of This Report

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

### A Note Regarding Archived PORC Records

We are excited to announce all paper records including photographs (prints, slides, sketches) and recordings that have been housed with the PORC Secretary have been converted to electronic files that will be archived on the PSO Website. Special thanks to Frank Haas for taking on this monumental task of digitizing about 13 boxes of hard copies of PORC submissions.

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

## 2020 ACCEPTED RECORDS

### Black-bellied Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) (20)

Four in West Springfield, *Erie* 29 June – 3 July 2020 (Tessa Rhinehart (p), many observers; 102-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. The birds were frequenting a small pond in a backyard and were a first for *Erie*. There are numerous eBird entries for these birds. A photo of the group was published in PB V34:N3.

One at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 20 July 2020 (Paul Heveran (p); 102-02-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

### Tundra Bean Goose (*Anser serrirostris*) (1)

One at Crum Creek Reservoir and surrounding area, *Delaware* 16-20 December 2020 (Paul Pudde, Rob Fergus Jason Horn, many observers; 107-01-2020, Class I-P). 7/0. A solid documented first state record seen and photographed by many observers. The bird traveled around the area with Canada Geese and often went missing during the afternoon. One of the few records for North America. In the weeks prior a bird was reported from four locations in Ontario and Quebec (eBird) which could have been the same individual. Photo on the cover of PB V35:N1.

### Pink-footed Goose (*Anser rachyrhynchus*) (23)

One at Wood's Edge Park and Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, *Lancaster* 16 and 26 February and 8 March 2020 (Pamela Fisher (p), Randall Nett; 108-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. Photographed and seen by many observers. Photos were published in PB V34:N1 & N2.

One at Lower Mooreland Twp., *Montgomery* 11 January 2020 (Holger Pflücke (p); 108-02-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

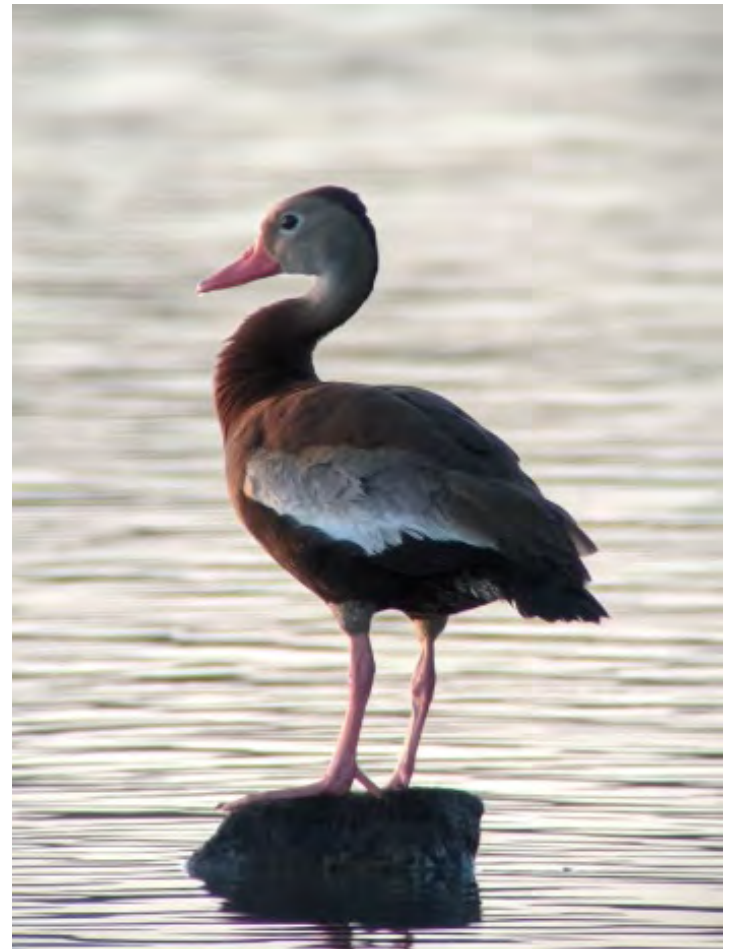


Image 1. Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Walt Road in Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* where it remained for the day. Photo by Paul Heveran.

One at Lower Mooreland Twp., *Montgomery* 11 January 2020 (Holger Pflücke (p); 108-02-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

One at Gotwals Pond, *Berks* 30 January 2020 (Mike Slater (p), Art Zdancewic, Russell Hoffman, Derek Price, Holly Hartshorne (p); 108-03-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

One at Fogelsville Quarry, *Lehigh* 10-11 January 2020 (Jason Horn (p), Adam Miller (p), Thomas Buehl Jr. (p), et al.; 108-04-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photographed and seen by many observers.

One at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 31 December 2020 (many observers; 108-05-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Numerous eBird checklists entered with good photo documentation.

### Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) (41)

One at Brenner Quarry, *Lancaster* 26-28 January 2020 (Zach Millen (p), Eric Witmer, Jason Horn, Mike Epler, Jonathan Heller (p); 115-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

### Common/King Eider (*Somateria mollissima/spectabilis*)

One flying past at Sunset Point, Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 1 December 2020 (Jerry McWilliams; 144a-01-2020, Class III). 7/0. It was snowing at the time of the observation which created

visibility limitations, so plumage details specific to species could not be determined.

**Harlequin Duck** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (36)

A female/immature at Bald Eagle State Park, *Centre* 20 January 2020 (Nick Kerlin, Susan Braun, Brian Schmoke (p), Eric Zawatski (p); 149-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photo published in PB V34:N1.

**Barrow's Goldeneye** (*Bucephala islandica*) (17)

A female on the Delaware River at East Stroudsburg, and at the Shawnee Inn Golf Resort and *Monroe* 5 and 26 January 2020, respectively (Jason Horn (p), Eric Zawatski (p), Jonathan DeBalko (p); 155-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photos show the steep forehead and completely yellow bill alongside Common Goldeneyes for a nice comparison. Probably the same female that wintered at this location the previous year.

**Calliope Hummingbird** (*Stellula calliope*) (4)

One in New Cumberland, *York* 26 October – 15 December 2020 (Sandy Lockerman (p), Gary Lockerman (p), many observers; 492-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Captured and banded at a feeder. The bird was an immature male and photos show a few gorget feathers growing in. Photo published in PB V34:N4.

**Clapper Rail** (*Rallus crepitans*) (5+)

One along the Delaware River Trail, *Philadelphia* 19 April 2020 (Adam Zahm (p); 234-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. The bird was first observed swimming to shore. It rested on a wooden rail at the water's edge where it was photographed.

**American Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus pallatus*) (12)

One at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, *Philadelphia* 29 March 2020 (George Armistead (p), Liam Hart; 266-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. The bird was spotted in flight and a few photographs were taken as the bird flew off.

**Pacific Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis fulva*) (1)

One at Wildwood Lake, *Dauphin* 20 July 2020 (Will Zook (p), Wilmer Zook; 255-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. This bird was observed and photographed by many observers and there were numerous eBird submissions with detailed descriptions and photos. This is a difficult identification that requires good views and a good description of the plumage, length of wings, bill size, etc. An exciting first state record and careful observation led to acceptance. A photo is published in PB V34:N3.

**Red Phalarope** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) (68)

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 26 August 2019 (August Mirabella (p); 331-01-2019; Class I-P). 7/0. Record submitted 18 August 2020. Photos show the thick bill and neck compared to Red-necked.

Two at Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks* 13 September 2020 (Bernie Carra Druckenmiller (p); 331-01-2020). Photos posted on a facebook page. Record submitted by August Mirabella.

One at Williamsport Dam, *Lycoming* 29 October 2020 (Bobby Brown (p), Deb Brown; 331-03-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photographed in flight.

One at DuBois Reservoir, *Clearfield* 2-6 November 2020 (Tim Schreckengost (p), Joe Verica (p), John Forcey (p), Carol Light (p), Matthew Schenck (p); 331-04-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

One at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 15-17 November, 2020 (Jerry McWilliams (p), Robert Scribner, Matthew Sabatine (p), Jason Horn; 331-05-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photographed on the water off Sunset Point 15 November and in flight off Vista One 17 November.

**Long-tailed Jaeger** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) (7)

One found dead at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 24 September 2020 (Robert Scribner (p); 334-01-2020; Class I-S). 7/0. The specimen was in good enough condition to be identified and the photos submitted show characteristics of Long-tailed Jaeger.

**Black-legged Kittiwake** (*Rissa tridactyla*) (21)

A juvenile at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 27 October 2020 (Jerry McWilliams; 357-01-2020, Class III). 6/1. Described well in eBird with comments regarding the wing pattern, black tipped tail, black ear spot and black collar. Also described as larger than nearby Bonaparte's Gulls.

A juvenile at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 16 November 2020 (Matthew Sabatine (p); 357-02-2020, Class I-Pe). 7/0.

A juvenile at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 2 December 2020 (Jerry McWilliams; 357-03-2020, Class III). 7/0. Similar description as above.

One at Bald Eagle State Park, *Centre* 13-14 December 2020 (Jordan Hillsley (p), Ryan Hillsley (p), Julia Plummer, Brian Schmoke (p), Allie Causey, many observers; 357-04-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

**Sabine's Gull** (*Xema sabini*) (18+)

One at Green Lane Park, *Montgomery* 10 October 2020 (Paul Heveran; 360-01-2020; Class III). 7/0. A juvenile described in the eBird checklist.

One at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 18 September 2020 (Eric Hall (p); 360-02-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. A juvenile discovered resting on the beach.

**Black-headed Gull** (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) (44)

A first cycle bird at Pennypack on the Delaware, *Philadelphia* 30 March 2020 (George Armistead (p); 344-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0.

**Least Tern** (*Sterna antillarum*) (31)

An adult at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* 1 September 2020 (Meredith Lombard (p); 372-01-2020; Class III). 7/0. Details were difficult to see in the photos submitted but the sighting was supported by a detailed description that included the yellow bill, white forehead and small size. This is a good example of the importance of a written description.

An adult at Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks* 4 August 2020 (Andrew Harrington (p); 372-02-2020, Class I-Pe). 7/0.

A juvenile at Pennypack on the Delaware, *Philadelphia* 4 August 2020 (George Armistead (p), Liam Hart (p); 372-03-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

**Royal Tern** (*Thalasseus maximus*) (17)

One at Governor Printz Park, *Delaware* 29 May 2020 (Al Guarente (p); 364-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. Photos show the orange bill, and the lack of black in the upper primaries was noted, separating from Caspian Tern.

One at Hog Island, *Delaware* 11 August 2020 (Al Guarente (p), Rob Fergus (p); 364-02-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

One at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, *Philadelphia* 21 October 2020 (Rebecca Syring (p); 364-03-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photo clearly shows the orange bill and underside of the primaries that separate this species from Caspian Tern.

**Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (17)**

One at Rose Valley Lake, *Lycoming* 21 May 2020 (Eric Hartshaw (p), Bobby Brown; 002a-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. One in breeding plumage with a few Common Loons for comparison. The photos show the gray head and neck, black chin and throat, thinner black bill and smaller size (compared to the Common Loons it was with). Rare to see one in this plumage in the state.

**Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) (5)**

An adult at Van Sciver Lake in Tullytown, *Bucks* 13 June 2020 (Steve Throne (p); 063-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. This bird was resting on the lake at close range, allowing for excellent photographs. Amazingly, this is the second record of this species at this location.

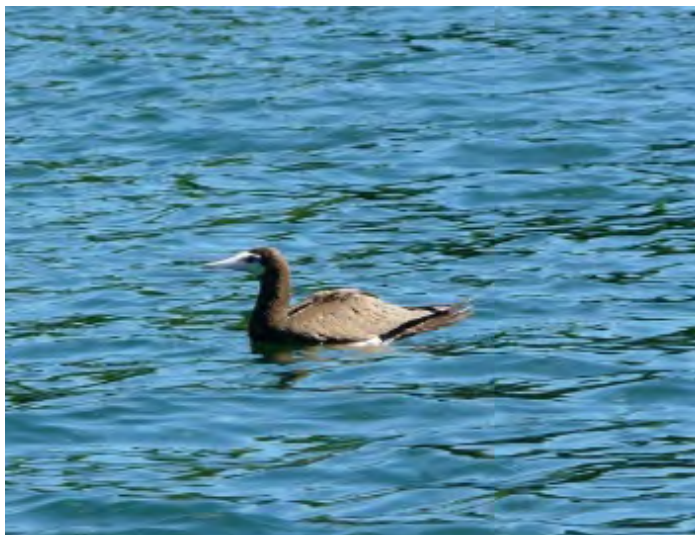


Image 2. Brown Booby, Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks* 13 June 2020. Photo by Steve Throne. A very cooperative rarity and undisturbed by nearby boats.

An immature at the Army Corps of Engineers Compound, *Philadelphia* 22 August 2020 (Liam Hart (p), Patrick McGill (p); 063-02-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. The bird was observed and photographed in flight.

**Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) (12)**

One in East Lampeter Twp., *Lancaster* 23 October 2020 (Pamela Fisher (p), Zachary Millen (p); 065-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. A juvenile found in a Con Agra Foods parking lot, following a foggy night and presumed to have crash landed due to disorientation. Workers moved the bird out of the parking lot to a nearby field to keep it safe from truck traffic. A wildlife rehabber was contacted to capture the bird.



Image 3. Northern Gannet, East Lampeter Twp., *Lancaster* 23 October 2020. Photo by Zach Millen. This juvenile rested in a field until captured by a wildlife rehabilitator.

**White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) (4)**

One at a retention pond on Nulton Avenue, *Northampton* 1 May 2020 (Bill Etter, many observers; 096-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. Photos clearly show the complete white border around the face and the description includes the eye color, facial skin and leg color.

**Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) (119)**

One at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, *Schuylkill* 12 May 2020 (David Barber; 171-01-2020; Class III). 7/0. A very good detailed description was submitted.

One in the city of Indiana, *Indiana* 15 May 2020 (Mike Fialkovich (p), many observers; 171-02-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. First discovered 5/13 perched in a tree in a yard, and seen by many observers for several days hunting over the neighborhood up to 5/16. Many photos taken of this cooperative bird were submitted to eBird. A photo was published in PB V34:N2.

**Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*) (9+)**

A dark morph at Keystone Aggregate Products Quarry and Seiple's Farm Pond, *Northampton* 7 and 17 January 2020 (Bill Etter (p), Ian Gardner; 200-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. Believed to be the same bird that spent the previous two winters in the area.

**Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) (2)**

One at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, *Philadelphia* 9 October 2020 (Daniel Kalamarides (p); 543-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photo published in PB V34:N4. The first state record was in 1991 so it's been a long wait for the second to be recorded.

**Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) (32+)**

One along Hog Island Road, *Delaware* 22 August – 19 September 2020 (Debbie Beer (p), Jason Horn (p), Al Guarente (p), Adrian Binns (p), Victoria Sindlinger (p), many observers; 557-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photo published in PB V34:N4. Initially seen 22-23 August but then relocated 19 September.

**Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) (2)**

One at Van Sciver Lake, *Bucks* 2 October 2020 (Mark Gallagher (p); 559-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Observed briefly and fortunately photographed before it flew off. Photo published in PB V34:N4. Only the second record in the state, unlike the first that remained for several days.

**Violet-green Swallow** (*Tachycineta thalassina*) (2)

One at Philadelphia International Airport, *Delaware* 29 October 2020 (Matthew Sabatine, Jason Horn; 571-01-2020, Class III). 6/1. The observers described the distinctive rump patch and noted the white cheek on the bird. Second state record.

**Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*) (13)

One at the Penn State University Arboretum, *Centre* 26 October 2020 (Joe Gyekis (p); 576-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photo published in PB V34:N4. The first state record was in August 1995 (McWilliams and Brauning).

**Northern Wheatear** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) (9)

One at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie* 18 September 2020 (Nathan Hall (p); 646-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. A first for *Erie*, this bird was seen only long enough for a few photographs to be taken and it was never relocated. Photo published in PB V34:N4.

One at Shoemakersville, *Bucks* 10 – 15 December 2020 (Joe Spilde (p), Mark Vass; 646-02-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. One of the few that lingered for a few days. There are numerous eBird entries with photographs. A photo is published in PB V35:N1. The last record in the state was 2012.

**Mountain Bluebird** (*Sialia currucoides*) (9)

Two (a male and female) in Karthaus, *Clearfield* 20 November 2020 (John Forcey (p); 649-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Photo published in PB V34:N4. First record in the state since 2015.

**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*) (17)

One at Caledonia State Park, *Franklin* 12 November – 27 December 2020 (Gavin Anderson (p), Chris Payne (p), Rebecca Payne (p), Zach Millen (p), Nina Wolf (p); 650-01-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. A very cooperative bird that spent over a month at this state park allowing many to enjoy it.

**Brewer's Sparrow** (*Spizella breweri*) (1)

One banded at Powdermill Avian Research Center, *Westmoreland* 4 September 2020 (Annie Lindsay (p), Mark Vass, Mike Fialkovich (p); 817-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. A completely unexpected first state record and a surprise find in the mist net by the banders. Documented in the hand as well as in the field by many birders following the discovery. There are only seven records in eastern North America (Birds Of The World Online). Photo on the cover of PB V34:N4.

**Lark Sparrow** (*Chondestes grammacus*) (33)

One in Manheim, *Lancaster* 1 January 2020 (Pamela Fisher (p)(v), many observers; 820-01-2020; Class I-P). 6/0.

One at Twining Valley Park, *Montgomery* 10 February 2020 (Michael David (p); 820-02-2020; Class I-P). 6/0.

One at Mill Hall Community Park, *Clinton* 22 August 2020 (Matt Schenck (p); 820-03-2020; Class I-P). 7/0.

One at Francis E. Walter Reservoir, *Luzerne* 31 August 2020 (Paul Nale (p); 820-05-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

One at Maple Knoll Farms, *Bucks* 24 September 2020 (Vicky Smith (p), Richard Smith (p); 820-06-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

**LeConte's Sparrow** (*Ammospiza leconteii*) (22)

One on the John Bartram Trail in Hamburg, *Berks* 9 March 2020 (Kerry Grim (p); 829-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. First seen by another observer 17 February 2020 but not submitted to PORC or eBird. This elusive species is always an exciting find. This individual was very cooperative for photographs.

One at Bradford Reservoir Recreation Area, *Bucks* 10 October 2020 (Dennis Hallman (p), Kevin Hallman (p); 829-03-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. Another of this species with excellent photographic documentation.



Image 4. LeConte's Sparrow, Hamburg, *Berks* 9 March 2020. Photo by Kerry Grim.

**Seaside Sparrow** (*Ammospiza maritima*) (10)

One at FDR Park, *Philadelphia* 9 May 2020 (Charles Homler (p), many observers; 831-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. A surprising find and the observer was fortunate to obtain good photographs. The bird was seen by several other observers the following day. Extremely rare away from the coast.



Image 5. Seaside Sparrow, FDR Park, *Philadelphia* 9 May 2020. Photo by Charles Homler.

**Harris's Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*) (38+)

One at a feeder in Bensalem, *Bucks* 15 February 2020 (Anne Edwards (p); 839-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. The bird remained through the winter.

**White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's)** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*) (13+)

One at Bucktoe Creek Preserve, *Chester* 15 January 2020 (Ian Stewart (p); 838a-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. Photographed in the hand at a banding site showing the orange bill and pale lores. Notes mentioned the bird was smaller in all dimensions measured compared to several eastern subspecies that were measured.

One at a feeder in McCandless Twp., *Allegheny* 6 May 2020 (Steve Gosser (p); 838a-02-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. Photo shows the pale lores.

One in Kennett Square, *Chester* 26 December 2020 (Ian Stuart (P); 838a-03-2020; Class I-P). 7/0.



Image 6. White-crowned (Gambel's) Sparrow, McCandless Twp., *Allegheny* 6 May 2020. Photo by Steve Gosser.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) (52)

One at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks* 17 August 2020 (August Mirabella; 859-01-2020; Class III). 7/0.

**Swainson's Warbler** (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*) (25+)

One in Conemaugh Twp., *Indiana* in June and July 2020 (Mike Fialkovich (p)(r), David Yeany II (p)(r); 756-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. This bird was present most of the summer following the discovery in early June and sang persistently along a bike trail. It was often visible when it would take a high perch to sing, sometimes right next to the trail. Seen and heard by many observers; numerous eBird entries.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler** (*Setophaga nigrescens*) (13+)

One on Clear Spring Road in Annville, *Lebanon* 4 January – 26 March 2020 (Ted Nichols II, Nate Felty (p), many observers; 737-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0.

One in Easton, *Northampton* 9 January 2020 (Arlene Koch, Jason Horn (p); 737-02-2020; Class I-P). 7/0.

One at FDR Park, *Philadelphia* 20 October 2020 (Jack Smallwood (p); 737-03-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0.

One at Marilla Reservoir, *McKean* 4 November 2020 (Tessa Rhinehart; 737-04-2020; Class III). 6/1.

One at Clear Spring Road, *Lebanon* 15 September – 5 November 2020 (Nate Felty (p), many observers; 737-05-2020; Class I-Pe).

7/0. Apparently the same individual that was present the previous winter (see above).

One in McConnellsburg, *Fulton* 4 November 2020 (Tracy Moseby (p); 737-06-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. This male was only seen for 30 minutes at a private residence.



Image 7. Black-throated Gray Warbler, Easton, *Northampton* 9 January 2020. Photo by Jason Horn.

**Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*) (50)

One in Hermitage, *Mercer* 9 May 2020 (Mimi Hoffmaster (p); 780-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. A first spring male was visiting a feeder.

One in Lower Merion, *Montgomery* 8 May 2020 (Rob Bierregaard; 780-02-2020; Class III). 5/2.

One at Green Lane Reservoir, *Montgomery* 12 September 2020 (Jason Hall (p); 780-03-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. A female with good photographic documentation.

One at Gettysburg National Military Park, *Adams* 16 September 2020 (Callan Murphy (p) (r); 780-04-2020; Class I-Pe). 7/0. A male photographed with a clear recording of the chattering calls.

**Painted Bunting** (*Passerina ciris*) (26)

One in O'hara Twp., *Allegheny* 20-21 January 2020 (Mark Vass, Michael David (p), many observers; 794-01-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. An adult male visited a feeder at a private residence daily where it remained to April 20.

One in Brecknock Twp., *Lancaster* 8 and 12 February 2020 (Michael David (p), Pamela Fisher (p), many observers; 794-02-2020; Class I-P). 7/0. Another adult male visiting a feeder. Photo published in PB V34:N1.

**RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED, identification not established.**

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

**Clark's Grebe** (*Aechmophorus clarkia*)

One at Lake Somerset, *Somerset* 2 November 1997 (010-01-1987; Class IV-A). 2/5. Record submitted in 2020. Some committee members thought the detailed description by the experienced observer was good to accept this record, while others thought the characters were not definitive for either grebe species, suggesting a possible hybrid. This record went through two rounds of voting with



extensive comments by the committee. The observer was uncertain regarding a definitive conclusion for either species of grebe considered due to the facial pattern, bill color that did not match either species and the flank color. Other concerns include the lack of a photo submitted (photos were taken at the time but did not show details—this was years before digital photography, and not in possession of the submitter) and the submission long after the observation for acceptance of a first state record. This record was discovered in the observer's files and submitted to add it to PORC's database.

**Black Rail** (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

One in Windslow Twp., *Jefferson* 5 June 2020 (232-01-2020; Class IV-A). 3/4. This submission went through two rounds of voting. A bird was seen briefly during a survey but details lacked in the description and some members of the committee felt more solid documentation was needed for an elusive and rare species such as this.

**Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

One at Merion Station, *Montgomery* 2 June 2020 (171-03-2020; Class IV-A). 1/6. The bird was observed overhead in flight. While this may have been identified correctly, details were lacking in the description for acceptance.

**Red-naped Sapsucker** (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*)

One at a private residence in Downingtown, *Chester* 7 April 2020 (511-01-2020; Class IV-C). 1/6. This bird generated a lot of discussion among the committee as well as the birding community in general. Photos were sent to those more familiar with this species and hybrids between this and Yellow-bellied. In the end an identification to species could not be determined due to the variation in the plumage characters between the two, namely the facial stripes, amount of red bleeding into the black malar, pattern of white spotting on the back, etc. The overall consensus is this individual showed characteristics of both species and is probably a hybrid.

**Crested Caracara** (*Caracara cheriway*)

One at Evanburg State Park, *Montgomery* 27 February 2020 (195-01-2020; Class IV-A). 4/3. Many committee members thought the identification was correct. One of the two observers is experienced with this species but hesitated to submit it to eBird due to the lack of a photograph for documentation. The observation was very brief and the bird was seen flying away from the observers.

**Prairie Falcon** (*Falco mexicanus*)

One in Karthaus Twp., *Clearfield* 16 May 2020 (201-01-2020; Class IV-B). 1/6. The observer came to a conclusion regarding the identification afterwards when consulting a field guide. It may have been a Prairie Falcon but the evidence was not sufficient for a second state record, unfortunately.

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

One at Bald Eagle State Park, *Centre* 11 October 2014 (829-02-2014; Class IV-C). 0/7. Record submitted 10/27/2020. The submission went through two rounds of voting and a lot of discussion among committee members. The main concerns were the quality of the photo that many committee members found inconclusive and the submission several years following the actual observation. The plumage characters and structure that could be seen in the photo were discussed in detail and some committee members felt the bird could have been a Nelson's Sparrow.

**Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco** (*Junco hyemalis oregonus*)

One at Raccoon Creek State Park, *Beaver* 1 April 2019 (840a-02-2019; Class IV-C). 2/5. Record submitted 17 February 2020. A photo was submitted showing a female or immature junco. Some committee members noted the lack of sharp contrast between the edges of the hood on the breast and mantle. Female juncos do show less contrast but on this bird the contrast did not appear to be enough for Oregon. Others felt the bird could be one of the *Cassiar* group, while some thought it was good for a female Oregon. This shows the difficulty of assigning some of these intergrade birds to specific subspecies with certainty.

**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

One at State Game Lands 156, *Lancaster* 11 November 2020 (782-01-2020; Class IV-B). 1/6. While committee members recognized the experience of the observer, the majority thought a description of the call was not enough documentation for a rarity.

**The PORC would like to thank all the observers for submitting rare bird documentation to the committee for review.**

**Now that I have rotated off the committee, this is my final PORC Report. I've learned a lot and enjoyed preparing the reports and look forward to reading future reports. Thanks for reading!**

**References**

Cornell University. Birds Of The World Online. Brewer's Sparrow. Accessed 12/29/21. <[www.birdsoftheworld.org](http://www.birdsoftheworld.org)>.

Cornell University. eBird. Accessed on various dates during the preparation of this report in December 2021 and January 2022. <[www.eBird.org](http://www.eBird.org)>.

McWilliams, Gerald M and Daniel W. Brawning. 2000. The Birds of Pennsylvania. Cornell University Press.

*Pittsburgh, PA*  
*mpfial@verizon.net*

# Pennsylvania Raptor Migration Summary - Spring 2022

David R. Barber

For the most part, the 2022 Spring count season was wetter and warmer than average, except for below average precipitation in March and cooler than average temperatures in April. Mostly favorable winds occurred the first half of March, but troughs of cold air pushing southward from Canada produced below average temperatures and unfavorable winds late March into April. A brief warm-up at the end of April with southerly winds produced season high flights for late migrating species included a particularly synchronous Broad-winged Hawk flight. However, while some species had above average counts across watchsites, most species had average or below-average counts.

## Migration Summary

Six Pennsylvania Spring watchsites counted an above-average 29,506 total hawks in 1349 hours during 228 days of counting between 16 February and 6 June for a rate of 21.7 raptors per hour (Table 1). Spring count hours were similar to the 10-year average of 1378 hours. Total spring raptors were 12% above the average of 26,348 and the number of raptors counted per hour was 13% above the average of 19.3 (Table 1). Twelve of 17 species had below average counts with notably low counts of Northern Harriers (82), 39% below the 10-year average of 135; Cooper's Hawk (103), 40% below the average of 171; and Red-shouldered Hawks (114), 57% below the average of 267 (Table 1). Black Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, and Merlin also had counts below their 10-year averages (Table 1).

Four species had above average counts, Turkey Vultures (20,447), 24% above the 10-year average of 16,439; Golden Eagles (293), 15% above the average of 254; Peregrine Falcon (19), slightly above the average of 17; and Mississippi Kite (9), 190% above the average of 3 (Table 1). Bald Eagle and Broad-winged Hawk had average counts (Table 1).

## Site Highlights

**Allegheny Front (Somerset/Bedford)** - Allegheny counters recorded 1569 hawks in 335.5 hours on 57 days from 16 February to 8 May, a rate of 4.7 hawks per hour (Table 1). The overall count was 49% above the 10-year average and effort was average. Counts of Bald Eagles and Broad-winged Hawks were 189% and 136% above average, respectively (Table 1). The Bald Eagle total of 90 was a new season high, smashing the old record of 44 set in 2017.

The count of Sharp-shinned Hawks, 135, was the largest in the last 10 years and Golden Eagle count of 105 was the second largest in Allegheny Front's 25-year history. Counts of Osprey, Northern Harriers, and Red-tailed Hawks, all were above average this spring (Table 1).

Season high counts of 33 Red-tailed Hawks and 21 Golden Eagles occurred on 5 March along with a dark morph Rough-legged Hawk, the only Rough-leg recorded at Allegheny Front this spring. Light southeast winds on 16 March produced a record flight of 24 Bald Eagles that included a kettle of 17. The season high count occurred 23 April with 630 raptors tallied, including 18 Ospreys, 3 Northern Harriers, 35 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 532 Broad-winged Hawks, all season high counts (Table 2).

**Delaware Nature Society Kite Watch at Bucktoe Creek Preserve (Chester)** - The fifth year for this late spring watch for kites and shorebirds. Bucktoe counters tallied 16 raptors in 194 hours over 21 days from 17 May to 6 June, a rate of 0.1 raptors per hour. A season high five Mississippi Kites was observed on 29 May. A total of nine kites were recorded, six of which were sub-adults. This was the only watchsite in Pennsylvania to record Mississippi Kites this spring.

**Hawk Mountain (Berks/Schuylkill)** - Hawk Mountain counters recorded 1105 hawks in 251 hours on 43 days from 21 March to 15 May, a rate of 4.3 hawks per hour. The total raptor count was 17% above the 10-year average of 948 and effort was average. Counts of Turkey Vultures (102) and Broad-winged Hawks (680) were 85% and 32% above average, respectively, and the second highest counts recorded in spring at Hawk Mountain (Table 1). Nine species had below average counts; most notable were counts of Northern Harriers, 71% below average, and Cooper's Hawks, 66% below average, the lowest counts recorded for both species in 24 years.

The largest Turkey Vulture flight of the season occurred on 21 March, the first day of the count, when 24 vultures streamed north in two and a half hours. Also tallied the first day was one Bald Eagle, 5 Red-tailed Hawks, and 4 American Kestrels. Accipiter flights peaked on 22 April with 12 Sharp-shinned and 3 Cooper's Hawks recorded. The largest flight of the spring occurred on 24 April with 366 raptors tallied, including season highs of 12 Black Vultures and 336 Broad-winged Hawks (Table 2).

**Jack's Mountain (Mifflin)** - Jack's Mountain hawkwatchers counted 736

raptors in 45 hours over 10 days from 1 March to 3 May, a rate of 16.5 birds per hour (Table 1). The high-count day was 24 April with 619 raptors, including 36 Turkey Vultures, 29 Ospreys, 18 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 8 Cooper's Hawks, 515 Broad-winged Hawks, 10 Red-tailed Hawks, and 2 Golden Eagles.

**Presque Isle (Erie)** - Presque Isle counters recorded 23,193 hawks in 152.5 hours in 42 days from 21 February to 31 May, a rate of 93.6 hawks per hour (Table 1). The total count was 7% above the 10-year average of 21,620 and effort was 19% below average. Turkey Vultures were the only species with above average counts; the total of 20,122 was 27% above the 10-year average of 15,858 and the highest count in Presque Isle's 15-year history (Table 1). Ten of 16 species had below average counts. The largest drop was seen in counts of Red-shouldered Hawks; the count of 55 shoulders was 70% below average and the lowest count since 2008. Other notable low counts include Broad-winged Hawk, 60% below average, and Cooper's Hawk, 59% below average (Table 1).

Three Rough-legged Hawks were spotted 17 March along with 947 Turkey Vultures. The largest flight of the season occurred on 31 March with 5324 raptors counted including season highs of 5261 Turkey Vultures and 11 Northern Harriers in just 3.5 hours. Strong south-southwest winds produced a banner flight on 13 April that included 1201 Turkey Vultures, 285 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 109 American Kestrels, a dark morph Rough-legged Hawk, and the first Broad-winged Hawks of the season. Broad-winged Hawk flights peaked 11 days later on 24 April with 496 (Table 2).

**Tussey Mountain (Centre)** - Tussey Mountain counters tallied 2887 hawks in 371 hours over 55 days from 16 February to 25 April, a rate of 7.8 hawks per hour (Table 1). The total count was 46% above the 10-year average and effort was slightly below average. The Broad-winged Hawk count of 1941 was 126% above average and the second highest count in Tussey's 22 years (Table 1). Counts of Bald Eagles (77) were 18% above the 10-year average. Six species had below average counts with counts of Northern Harrier (12) and Red-shouldered Hawk (24) both 40% below average. The Red-shouldered Hawk count was the lowest ever recorded at Tussey. Other species with below average counts included Turkey Vulture, 27% below average; Osprey, 11% below average; Cooper's Hawk, 21% below average; and Red-tailed Hawk, 36% below average.

Eight days in April had double-digit Golden Eagle flights with a peak of 18 on 11 March. Unfavorable winds during the last week in March and the first and third week in April slowed the flight, but a shift in winds on 23 April produced three days of steady flights. Overall 1680 Broad-winged Hawks were tallied from 23 April to 25 April, with a high of 817 recorded on 24 April, the second highest single day count recorded at Tussey (Table 2). The count ended on 25 April with 356 raptors including 244 Broad-winged Hawks, and season highs of 21 Osprey and 61 Sharp-shinned Hawks.

### Conclusions

Overall, the total counts were above average for all watchsites, but those above average counts were driven in most cases by increased counts of two or three species: Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, or Broad-winged Hawk. The exception was Allegheny Front which recorded above average counts for Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk. Allegheny Front also had average counts for Northern

Harrier and Red-shouldered Hawks, while other watchsites were below average.

Inter-year variation in counts is influenced by several factors, including weather, wind, previous year's counts, and effort. So, a single season with below average counts is not necessarily a cause for concern, rather it is the long-term trends that we should be concerned with. If we control for effort by looking at the number of individuals counted per hour, we find there are five species in Pennsylvania whose counts have decreased over the last 23 years: Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, and Red-tailed Hawk. Increasing abundance of Cooper's Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks on Christmas Bird Counts in northeastern states suggest they may have altered their migratory behavior and are wintering at more northerly latitudes. However, the same cannot be said for the other three species. Declines in counts of Osprey may be due in part to a significant increase in the Bald Eagle population, but the cause of decline in counts of Northern Harriers and Northern Goshawks is uncertain. Habitat loss, nest disturbance, climate change, and disease all

may play a part in the decline of harriers and goshawks, but more research is needed to discern the exact causes.

### 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](http://www.hawkcount.org) (accessed June 2022) 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 and the Pennsylvania State Climatologist.

This article is Hawk Mountain Conservation Science Contribution number 373.

*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 Bald Eagle and Broad-winged Hawk at selected Pennsylvania watch sites.**

Site	Bald Eagle		Broad-winged Hawk	
	Peak Count	Date	Peak Count	Date
Allegheny Front	24	3/16	532	4/23
Hawk Mountain*	4	4/17, 4/24	336	4/24
Jacks Mountain	4	3/11	515	4/24
Presque Isle	26	5/25	496	4/24
Tussey Mountain	9	4/25	817	4/24

\* Site begins count in April

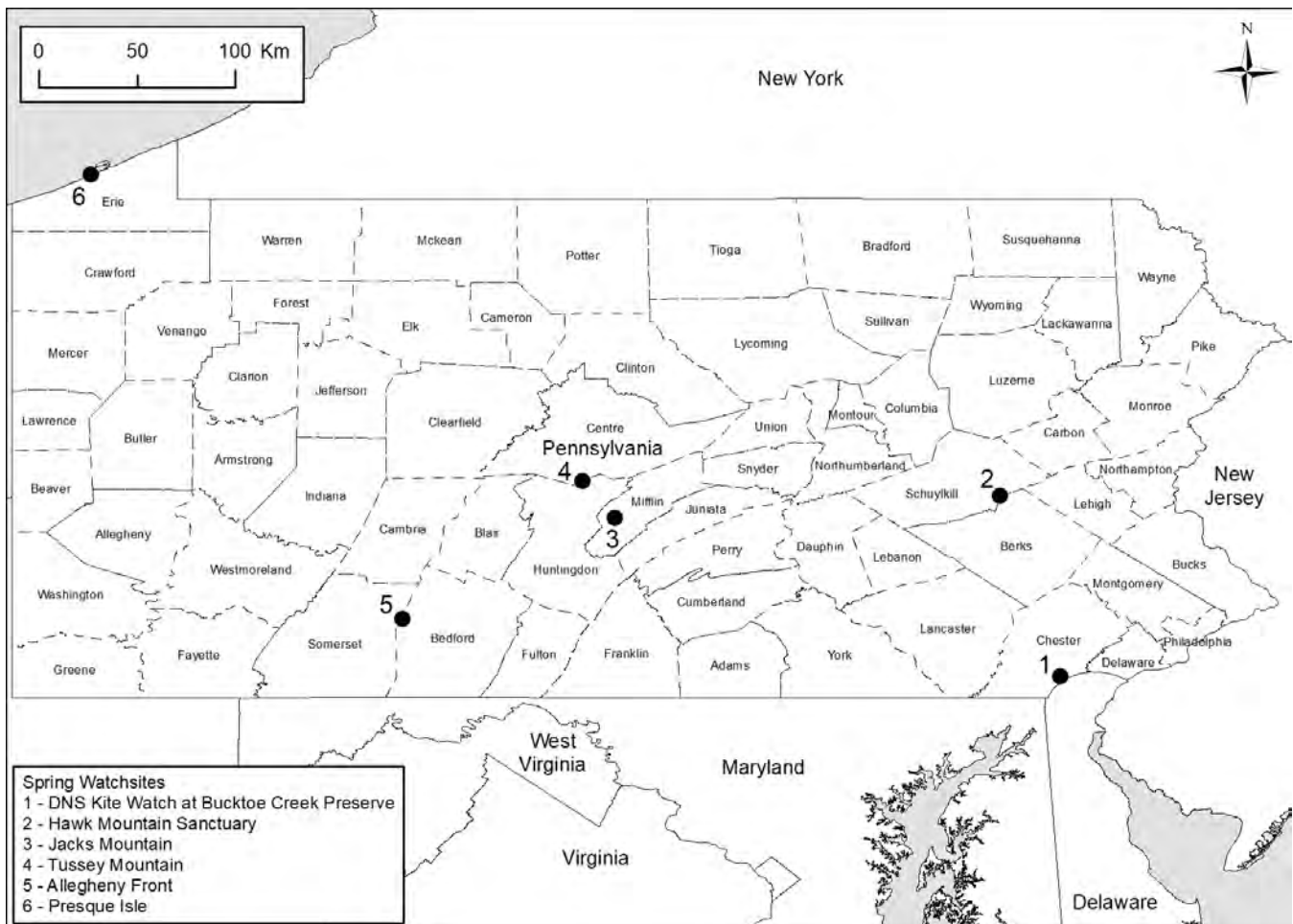


Table 1. Spring 2022 count results for Pennsylvania watchsites.

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
February	7	39.0	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	18
March	24	139.3	5	32	6	52	7	19	15	0	23	0	147	1	84	5	2	1	0	7	406
April	23	140.3	1	11	56	34	6	113	16	0	0	752	76	0	15	5	0	3	0	20	1108
May	3	17.0	0	0	11	2	0	3	1	0	0	5	10	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>335.5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1569</b>
Total per hr			0.02	0.15	0.22	0.27	0.04	0.40	0.10	0.00	0.07	2.26	0.71	0.00	0.31	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.08	4.68
% of flight			0.4	3.2	4.7	5.7	0.8	8.6	2.0	0.0	1.6	48.2	15.2	0.1	6.7	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.0	1.7	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	55.6	331.6	9.2	140.4	60.5	31.1	11.8	80.3	31.8	1.7	25.3	319.9	208.3	0.3	75.8	11.6	3.9	3.5	0.0	36.3	1051.7

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
May	15	157.3	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	15
June	6	37.0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>194.3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>
Total per hr			0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.11
% of flight			0.0	0.0	43.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	56.3	100.0
Average last 10 yrs																					

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

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
March	3	4.4	0	25	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	36
April	29	179.0	20	75	39	35	4	61	11	0	3	660	45	0	0	8	2	3	0	35	1001
May	11	67.3	2	2	8	4	2	11	1	0	1	20	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	10	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>250.7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1105</b>
Total per hr			0.08	0.39	0.18	0.15	0.02	0.28	0.05	0.00	0.02	2.62	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.18	4.25
% of flight			2.0	9.2	4.3	3.6	0.5	6.5	1.1	0.0	0.4	61.5	5.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.0	4.2	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	42.6	256.0	27.8	55.1	63.5	41.6	21.0	79.0	35.1	0.4	7.6	429.4	81.1	0.1	1.5	23.9	6.0	2.6	0.1	74.3	948.0

**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	5	19.5	0	0	0	5	0	2	6	1	5	0	15	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	44
April	4	21.5	0	36	39	2	1	26	10	0	1	547	19	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	685
May	1	3.8	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>736</b>
Total per hr			0.00	0.80	0.89	0.16	0.02	0.67	0.36	0.02	0.13	12.27	0.78	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	16.45
% of flight			0.0	4.9	5.4	1.0	0.1	4.1	2.2	0.1	0.8	74.6	4.8	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	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	1	2.0	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10
March	13	53.0	0	13887	4	23	20	20	14	1	51	0	162	7	0	61	8	3	0	30	14291
April	14	54.0	0	4905	26	25	21	489	9	0	4	891	189	2	0	226	6	3	0	9	6805
May	14	43.5	0	1328	21	90	7	79	0	0	0	497	55	0	1	8	0	1	0	0	2087
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>152.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20122</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1388</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>23193</b>
Total per hr			0.00	131.95	0.33	0.92	0.33	3.86	0.15	0.01	0.36	9.10	2.68	0.06	0.01	1.93	0.10	0.05	0.00	0.26	152.09
% of flight			0.0	86.8	0.2	0.6	0.2	2.5	0.1	0.0	0.2	6.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	55.3	187.3	1.2	15857.8	81.6	185.0	73.5	811.1	56.7	1.0	182.5	3472.0	520.1	10.6	0.9	308.4	14.6	8.1	0.1	39.9	21619.6

**TUSSEY MOUNTAIN (Centre) - Nick Bolgiano and Jon Kauffman, compilers**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total
February	6	36.8	0	31	0	10	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	16	0	0	0	0	1	64
March	27	193.3	0	68	5	39	5	22	9	0	20	0	112	0	145	18	4	1	0	18	466
April	22	141.0	0	38	69	28	5	140	10	0	3	1941	66	0	13	23	1	2	0	18	2357
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>371.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1941</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2887</b>
Total per hr			0.00	0.37	0.20	0.21	0.03	0.44	0.05	0.00	0.06	5.23	0.49	0.00	0.47	0.11	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.10	7.78
% of flight			0.0	4.7	2.6	2.7	0.4	5.6	0.7	0.0	0.8	67.2	6.2	0.0	6.0	1.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	1.3	100.0
Average last 10 yrs	55.1	388.0	10.0	187.3	82.9	65.1	20.1	153.4	25.4	0.6	40.3	857.5	282.2	2.7	175.4	40.4	6.3	2.2	0.0	26.6	1980.2

**2018 TOTALS FOR ALL WATCHSITES**

Month	Days	Hours	BLVU	TUVU	OSPR	BAEA	NOHA	SSHA	COHA	NOGO	RSHA	BWHA	RTHA	RLHA	GOEA	AMKE	MERL	PEFA	MIKI	Unid	Total**,**
February	14	77.8	0	40	0	14	4	0	1	0	3	0	10	0	18	0	1	0	0	1	92
March	72	409.4	5	14012	15	120	32	63	44	2	99	0	441	8	239	88	14	5	0	56	15243
April	92	535.7	21	5065	229	124	37	829	56	0	11	4791	395	2	31	262	9	12	0	82	11956
May	44	288.8	2	1330	47	96	9	95	2	0	1	524	71	0	5	8	2	2	9	11	2214
May	6	37.0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>1348.7</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20447</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>5315</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>29506</b>
Total per hr.			0.02	15.06	0.22	0.26	0.06	0.73	0.08	0.00	0.08	3.91	0.68	0.01	0.22	0.26	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.11	21.73
% of flight			0.1	95.3	1.4	1.7	0.4	4.6	0.5	0.0	0.5	24.8	4.3	0.0	1.4	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.7	137.5
Average last 10 yrs.	<b>240.9</b>	<b>1378.1</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>16439.2</b>	<b>335.4</b>	<b>351.5</b>	<b>135.3</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>171.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>266.9</b>	<b>5339.9</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>253.9</b>	<b>398.8</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>181.6</b>	<b>26347.8</b>

## BOOK REVIEW

### Mary Birdsong

**Learning the Birds: A Midlife Adventure** by Susan Fox Rogers. Hardcover, 320 pages, 9 x 1 x 6 inches. Published by Three Hills.

In *Learning the Birds*, Susan Fox Rogers takes the reader along for the ride as she moves through a mid-life journey that includes becoming a birder. Her story is not told in a straight timeline of development but rather in a collection of loosely related essays that, together, reveal her personal quest for meaning in a complex world, and how she discovers a missing piece of herself in the birds she finds.

Always a nature lover and serious outdoorsperson, Rogers finds herself unable to identify an ethereal bird song that she and her writing students hear together. As a nature writer, she was embarrassed to admit to not knowing. She committed to finding out and with the discovery of the song's maker, the Veery becomes her spark bird and she launches into a full-fledged immersion of committed birding.

Rogers textures her personal tale with a wide swath of scientific, historical, and literary references, from St. Augustine's *Confessions* to Franklin Delano Roosevelt's bird journal. In between are the names most birders would be familiar with – Audubon, Burroughs, Peterson – but she also weighs in with quotes from many female writers and ornithologists like Florence Merriam Bailey, Olive Thorne Miller, and the more widely-known Rachel Carson, to name a few. Don't skip the notes about each chapter at the back. They offer references to quotes in the chapter and give context and updates to each essay.

She also paints lovely pictures of the locations in which she birds. Besides her home in the Hudson Valley, she shares the landscapes of Arizona, Alaska, France, and Peru, weaving the terrain, weather, and scenery into the story to bring it alive. It would be easy to get out a map to see where she is, gaining a greater sense of being with her as she narrates.

Rogers' recounting of some of her birding milestones are a place where all birders reading the book can relive their own. On her first Christmas Bird Count, while looking for Northern Saw-

whet Owls, she writes about staring up into a cold, dark sky and feeling lucky to be alive, "In that moment, I was willing believe in anything: Saw-whets, God, or the holiness of the CBC. In that moment I became a convert to this annual tradition."

Her first twitch was a chase to Connecticut for a Fork-tailed Flycatcher where she sorts out whether she liked chasing or not, and where she meets some pushy photographers, a moment many of us can identify with. I was a bit puzzled that she did not mention "dipping," an unfortunate part of the twitch sometimes.

Favorite for this reader was when she found her first rarity by herself. Little Blue Heron is not expected in South Tivoli Bay, New York, but she found two white juveniles wading in a corner of an inlet. She took photos, called a friend to share the news and then hovered with hesitation over the send button to a listserve post. Her trepidation was palpable: of being called out, being told it was NOT a Little Blue, of feeling incompetent. In that moment she learned that the confidence she felt in other parts of her life was only developing as a birder. She felt tested but came out of it with a new sense of self-assurance. (Yes, they were Little Blues.)

And like her experience with the herons, there are many passages in the book where Rogers beautifully marries her thoughts on the birds with larger life lessons making this memoir about more than birds. It is also about discovery, fulfillment, finding one's peace. Rogers writes after a night spent camping and listening in the marsh that "on this soft dreamy day I understood that if birds were near, I would never be tired or bored or lonely; if birds were near, I would always have more to learn."

*Learning the Birds* is a great way to re-live being a new birder, especially if you started the adventure as an adult. Rogers spins a good tale - her adventures are relatable. A great winter read.

713 E 32ND ST  
ERIE, PA 16504-1222

[mary.birdsong@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.birdsong@yahoo.com)

## 25 Years Ago in Pennsylvania Birds



### Volume 10 No. 2

An article by Suzanne Butcher, Barb Dean, and Nancy Rodgers discussed breeding Wilson's Snipe in Lawrence and Mercer counties.

Karen Lippy discussed Common Raven behavior at the first nest in York County.

Barbara McGuinness and David deCalesta discussed the effects of White-tailed Deer on songbird diversity in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Rare birds reported included White-winged Dove (first state record!), Pacific Loon, Anhinga, Gull-billed Tern, and Harris's Sparrow.

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

# Where do birds get fat? A new application of stable isotope analysis on fat stores in migrating songbirds

Annie Lindsay -- Awardee of a PSO Student Research Grant

**This article is being repeated due to printing problems in the last issue.**

In early 2020, I began to prepare for the spring migration field season. I would be sampling fat from migrating songbirds at Powdermill Nature Reserve for stable isotope analysis as part of my dissertation research. Sampling fat in live songbirds in the field for stable isotope analysis had not yet been attempted and I was eager to start. However, like most spring 2020 field seasons, mine experienced covid-related stumbling blocks: the unknowns surrounding this new virus caused many organizations to shut down, and Powdermill's banding station had to suspend normal operations for the first time in 60 years. I was able to run the mist nets alone, releasing any bird that wasn't one of my focal species at the nets, but I had to figure out how to safely biopsy fat without a second person to assist. Fast forward to the end of May: the field season was a success and we transitioned into reopening the station for a normal summer season. Although I had to make adjustments to my original plan, I sampled fat from birds during three field seasons, completed laboratory work, and am in the data analysis phase of the project.

## Why sample fat from migrating songbirds?

Fat fuels migration. Prior to and during seasonal migration, birds enter a period of hyperphagia during which they increase food consumption and deposit fat in the furcular area, and on the abdomen and flanks, and use this fat for energy during migratory flights. These flights can be relatively short, perhaps a few dozen miles or so between suitable habitat patches, or quite long, as in species like Blackpoll Warblers that can fly for three days non-stop between the Atlantic coast of North America and their wintering grounds in northern South America.

Less is known about birds during their migration periods than during the breeding or wintering seasons. As birders, we may spot birds foraging during a stopover event, and banders catch and examine birds, but we usually don't know where they came from or how far they've traveled. Tracking technology can be expensive and detection is dependent upon birds flying near receiving towers, or upon recovering the transmitter. However, stopover habitat is critical for survival, efficient refueling, and successful migration, because migration is the period in a bird's annual cycle with the highest mortality rate.

With continued loss and fragmentation of suitable stopover habitat patches, migratory songbirds can be constrained by their ability to find high-quality food resources during stopover events. Those that have difficulty refueling must delay migration until they have gained enough energy to make another flight, which often delays breeding and can have repercussions throughout a bird's entire life. Conservation of appropriate habitat along migration pathways depends on a thorough understanding of how far a bird can migrate before requiring a refueling stop. Stable-isotope analysis of fat deposited during migration should reflect the isotopic signatures of refueling areas and therefore might indicate approximate distances individuals can fly between stopover sites. This information can be used to show the limits of migratory flights.

For the past few decades, ornithologists have used stable isotope analysis of various tissues sampled from birds and other wildlife to track movements, feeding origins, and habitat usage of these animals. This is possible because heavy stable isotopes have measurable abundances relative to lighter forms of these isotopes,

and isotopic signatures of the local environment are incorporated into growing tissue. Isotopic ratios vary predictably with latitude, altitude, and habitat and are present at the base of food webs so that isotopic signatures are passed up the food web to higher organisms. Analysis of isotopic ratios in tissues gives information



Swainson's Thrush

about where that tissue was grown. For example, stable hydrogen isotope analysis measures the relative abundances of deuterium, or "heavy hydrogen" that has one proton and one neutron, and protium, or ordinary hydrogen that has one proton and no neutrons. The ratio of deuterium to protium is present in local precipitation and varies roughly latitudinally, so stable isotope analysis of animal tissue reflects the geographic signature of where that tissue was

grown (Hobson and Wassenaar 1997). Additionally, isotopic analysis of other elements is regularly used to gain other information. For example, stable carbon isotope analysis measures the ratio of  $^{13}\text{C}$  to  $^{12}\text{C}$  in vegetation and represents a gradient of dry to wet habitat, and the carbon isotopic values in animal tissue reflect local vegetation types, diet, and habitat quality (Marra et al. 1998).

Isotopic signatures are assimilated into tissue as it grows and are reflected in both metabolically active (such as blood, muscle, bone, and breath) and inactive (such as feathers and claws) tissues. Knowing the turnover rate, or how quickly a tissue replaces itself, of the sampled tissue gives information about an animal's movements. Analysis of inert feathers reflects the isotopic signature of the area in which they were grown regardless of when they were sampled, whereas analysis of blood reflects the signature of the area a bird was in for a few days to weeks prior to sampling. Fat tissue is relatively inert once it has been deposited and should reflect the habitat and geographic region in which a bird refueled during a migratory stopover event, thereby indicating the relative migratory distance an individual flies non-stop, or at least without completely refueling, before arriving at stopover sites to refuel.

## How do we sample fat from live birds?

I sampled fat from migrating songbirds at Powdermill Nature Reserve in spring and fall 2020 and spring 2021. Nestled in the Laurel Highlands of southwestern Pennsylvania, Powdermill is Carnegie Museum of Natural History's environmental research station. Its long-term bird banding station has operated year-round since 1961, and its annual capture rate of 13,000-15,000 birds



each year makes it an ideal study site for science staff and visiting researchers.

Stable isotope analysis of fat sampled from birds has been attempted only in a laboratory setting, and never on live birds. Researchers in Europe developed a safe method to biopsy fat from small birds, and held them in captivity to monitor for adverse effects of the procedure. They found that the incisions healed within two weeks and most showed no signs of scarring, and there were no signs of stress during or after the biopsies (Rocha et al. 2016). I slightly modified their method to sample fat from birds after the normal bird banding process. Fat biopsy involves numbing the furcular area of a bird and making a small incision in the thin skin where there is visible fat. A small amount of fat is gently pulled through the incision with sterile forceps and snipped with sterile surgical scissors, then the incision is closed with veterinary adhesive. Post-biopsy, birds are placed in a clean cloth bag to recover for about 15 minutes, the incision is double-checked to be sure it's closed, then the bird is released. Like the birds in the European study, the birds I sampled at Powdermill did not show signs of stress and all flew strongly upon release. Additionally, I compared the recapture rate of fat-sampled birds to those of the same species that I did not biopsy. The sample size for some biopsied species is low, however, the recapture rate for both groups is comparable.

### The next steps

My objective for this project was two-fold: to determine whether stable-isotope signatures of fat collected in the field reflect the geographic location and habitat where the fat was assimilated, and to estimate the geographic origin where fat was deposited in migrating songbirds prior to their arrival at my study site.

The first step is local validation, that is, sampling fat from birds during a stopover event that definitely assimilated fat locally. To do this, I biopsied fat from migrating birds that had no fat at their initial capture but had gained fat when they were recaptured. The newly deposited fat should reflect local isotopic signatures. For additional local validation, I held Swainson's Thrushes with no fat reserves in temporary captivity and provided them with a known diet and local water for a few days until they deposited fat.

The second step is estimating how far individuals migrate between stopover locations, or more specifically where their stopover locations were prior to their arrival at Powdermill. To do this, I sampled birds with low fat scores the mornings after nights of heavy migration and relied on the assumption that this relatively depleted fat was unlikely to have been deposited locally.

At the end of the field seasons, with the fat samples stored safely in a -80 Celsius freezer, I began preparations for laboratory work at the University of Akron's Stable Isotope Facility. Although there are very few studies that have done stable isotope analysis on fat, each study seems to have a slightly different method of preparing the samples: some freeze-dry the samples to remove water, some extract lipids from the samples, and some do both or neither. Because my wild bird samples were so valuable, my collaborators and I decided to run experiments on chicken fat (from a chicken breast obtained from the local Giant Eagle!) first to determine if sample preparation technique affected isotopic signatures.

The chicken fat experiments showed several things: 1) there was a high degree of precision, that is, analysis of samples taken from the same specimen yielded very similar results, 2) surprisingly there was no significant difference in isotopic signatures between freeze-dried and non-freeze-dried samples, and 3) there was a significant difference in isotopic values between lipids extracted from samples and whole samples. Importantly, lipid extraction is necessary because whole samples

likely contain small quantities of other tissues that probably affect the isotopic signature of the sample.

Using the information from my chicken fat experiments, I freeze-dried my wild bird samples, then extracted the lipids, and performed stable hydrogen and stable carbon isotope analysis. Results show that Swainson's Thrushes held in captivity, and birds that assimilated fat locally as determined by examining fat accumulation in recaptured birds, have isotopic signatures more negative stable hydrogen isotope values than spring migrants presumed to have assimilated fat at a more southern location, which is a pattern that is consistent with the isotopic values of precipitation at different geographic locations (i.e., more negative values at northern latitudes and less negative values at southern latitudes). Stable carbon isotope analysis shows consistencies in isotopic signatures within species and within foraging guild.

My project lays a foundation to building a map of hydrogen isotopic signatures obtained from bird fat. Ideally, I would have liked to sample fat from birds at several banding stations across the continent at latitudes that would have different precipitation signatures. Although Covid prevented travel during the field work phase of my project, this will be the next step in exploring the relationship between isotopic signatures of diet and fat tissue, and in estimating previous stopover locations during migration.

This study was part of the requirements for a PhD in the Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio. Lindsay's advisor for the project is Dr. Henry M. Streby.



Fat Tissue in vial awaiting extraction

## Literature Cited

- Hobson, KA, and LI Wassenaar. 1997. Linking breeding and wintering grounds of neotropical migrant songbirds using stable hydrogen isotopic analysis of feathers. *Oecologia* 109: 142-148.
- Marra, PP, KA Hobson, and RT Homes. 1998. Linking winter and summer events in a migratory bird using stable-carbon isotopes. *Science* 282: 1884-1886.
- Rocha, AD, PM Araujo, FR Martinho, JA Ramos, and JA Masero. 2016. A non-lethal biopsy technique for sampling subcutaneous adipose tissue of small and medium-sized birds. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 87: 213-221.

*Powdermill Nature Reserve*  
1795 Route 381  
Rector, PA 15677  
*Andrea.Marie.Lindsay@gmail.com*



**Laboratory set-up for extractions**

## Summary of the Season: Spring - 2022

Mike Fialkovich

---

This spring Pennsylvania was part of an invasion of Arctic Terns due to a weather system along the coast coinciding with the birds' migration. The system had strong east winds that pushed the birds inland. The phenomenon was also noted in New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Spring waterfall fallouts were limited to a few counties, with two large flocks of Brant notable.

Single **Ross's Geese** were only reported in two counties: *Allegheny* and *Lebanon*. **Greater White-fronted Geese** were recorded in five counties, three of those in the western part of the state where uncommon. **Cackling Geese** were in twelve counties. Unexpected were flocks of several hundred **Brant** observed flying over *Bucks* and *Dauphin* the same day in late May.

The presence of **Trumpeter Swan** in the state is becoming an annual occurrence with breeding confirmed in a few counties in recent years. This spring, a pair returned to a breeding site in *Cumberland*. Time will determine if this swan becomes a permanent resident in the state as it has in neighboring Ohio. With reports from 15 counties this spring, it seems to be well on its way. **Mute Swans** were in nine counties including one paired with a Trumpeter Swan.

Waterfowl fallouts were noted in *Butler*, *Clarion*, *Fayette*, and *Jefferson*. Timing differed with *Butler* and *Clarion* fallouts occurring April 12, *Fayette* further to the south March 3, and *Jefferson* beginning mid-March. Weather systems that produce these conditions can be localized as the differing dates of occurrence illustrate. The male **Cinnamon Teal** in *Centre* was the first in the state since Dec 2020. This bird remained for quite some time and was centrally located, providing a good opportunity for those who wanted to see it. **Eurasian Wigeons** were found in *Dauphin*, *Erie*, *Mercer*, and *Northumberland*. Impressive triple digit totals of **Northern Pintail** were in *Montour* March 2.

The exciting **Tufted Duck** in *Lancaster/Lebanon* continued from Feb to mid-March. **Surf Scoters** were only in five counties, **Black Scoters** were in four, and **White-winged Scoters** were in 20 counties. **Long-tailed Ducks** were in 26 counties. An interesting variety of hybrid ducks were found this spring. Surprisingly, two **Mallard X Northern Pintail** hybrids were discovered with single birds in *Cumberland* and *Lawrence*. A **Northern Shoveler X American Black Duck** was in *Butler*, a **Tufted Duck X Scaup sp.** was in *Montour* and a **Redhead X Ring-necked Duck** was in *Erie*.

**Northern Bobwhites** were reported in *Allegheny*, *Centre*, *Indiana*, *Lehigh*, *Monroe* and *Snyder*. Certainly, all released birds but interesting to track. **Ruffed Grouse** were in

19 counties, up three from last year. **Red-necked Grebe** was scarce with reports in only eight counties and the only **Eared Grebe** of the season was in *Berks*.

**Eurasian Collared-Doves** were at the usual locations in *Berks* and *Franklin*. One in *Clarion* was out of the usual range in the state. **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted by compilers as scarce in many counties. None were reported in *Adams*, only one report came from *Beaver*, a few were in *Montgomery*, and only two reports came from *Potter*. Given those observations, a search of eBird shows entries widely across the state.

Unfortunately, nightjars are in decline so every report is important for population tracking. **Common Nighthawks** were found in 19 counties. A **Chuck-wills-widow** was recorded in *Crawford* on a single evening but was not heard again. **Eastern Whip-poor-will** reports came from 20 counties including a nice double figure count in *Bedford*. Unfortunately, they were absent from a traditional location in *Chester* this spring. Interestingly the total counties reporting nighthawks and whip-poor-wills are the same as last year.

A **Clapper Rail** was found in *Montgomery* with good photographs in eBird. **King Rails** in *Chester* and *Delaware* were detected by nocturnal flight call recorders and one was seen in *Philadelphia*. Another rail detected by a nocturnal flight call recorder in *Montgomery* was listed as **King/Clapper Rail**. **Common Gallinules** were in 13 counties, down five from recent years and **Sandhill Cranes** were in 20 counties, seven less than last year.

There were only two **American Avocet** reports: a flock of 13 in *Allegheny* and one in *Lancaster*. An **American Oystercatcher** was a surprise in *Bucks* in late March. Of the 15 state records, seven have been in early spring. Considered rare in spring four reports of **American Golden Plover** were unexpected. Checking past records, this species has been nearly annual in spring but still is rare during this season. A **Snowy Plover** in *Erie* provided the fourth record for that county, the sixth for the state, and the second spring record in the state. **Piping Plovers** returned to Presque Isle State Park and one was along the Delaware River in *Philadelphia*.

**Upland Sandpipers** were only reported from *Chester*, *Clearfield*, *Crawford*, *Philadelphia*, and *Somerset*. **Whimbrels** were in three counties including two large flocks flying over Bucktoe Creek Preserve in *Chester*. **Ruddy Turnstones** flew over *Bucks* in large numbers and two were in *Erie*. A large flock of **Sanderlings** was also noted flying over Bucktoe Creek Preserve, eight was the high count in *Erie*, and three were "inland" in *Clearfield*. **White-rumped**

**Sandpipers** were in seven counties and a rare **Western Sandpiper** was nicely photographed in *Erie*.

**Short-billed Dowitcher** is another shorebird more expected in fall but there were reports in eleven counties this season. Even less common in spring is **Long-billed Dowitcher**. There were a few reports from *Franklin*. Early **Spotted Sandpipers** were in *Bucks* and *Fayette*. **Willetts** were in *Clearfield*, *Huntington*, and *Northampton*. All three species of phalaropes were reported this spring. A **Wilson's Phalarope** was in *Monroe*, three **Red-necked Phalaropes** were in *Bucks* and one was in *Philadelphia*, and a **Red Phalarope** was in *Bucks*.

Gulls were notable with a few first county records, rare visitors in several counties, and returns after a year or two of absence. A **Black-legged Kittiwake** in *Dauphin* provided just the third spring record in the state. The other spring records include one in *Bedford* in April 2001 and one in *Erie* in March 2013. A **Black-headed Gull** in *Dauphin* and another in *Mercer* were the first reports in the state in two years. **Little Gulls** made a triumphant return to *Lancaster* following a single report last year. This species went unreported in *Erie* this year. Observers in *Berks* recorded the fourth county record, *Delaware* observers secured a second record, and birders in *Mercer* documented a first. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found in 12 counties including rare visits to *Mercer* and *Somerset*. The seventh record was found for *Lycoming*.

**Laughing Gulls** were most numerous in *Berks*, *Delaware*, and *Philadelphia* as usual with the proximity to the coast. *Indiana* birders were excited to find a third for the county and two birds in *Lycoming* provided the third and fourth county records. Other counties reporting this species include *Lancaster* and *Montgomery*. The only **Franklin's Gull** was in *Mercer*. *Mercer* had quite a season for gulls; see the county report for details. Two **California Gulls** were in *Erie* about a month apart, identified as two different individuals by age. **Iceland Gulls** were in *Bucks*, *Dauphin*, *Erie*, *Lycoming*, *Montgomery*, and *Philadelphia*. **Glaucous Gulls** were only in three counties: *Bucks*, *Chester*, and *Erie*. **Great Black-backed Gulls** were in five: *Berks*, *Chester*, *Erie*, *Montgomery*, and *York*. A probable **Herring X Great Black-backed Gull** and a **Herring X Lesser Black-backed Gull** were in *Erie*.

The notable tern event this spring was an amazing invasion of **Arctic Terns** that were in nine counties mainly the southeastern part of the state due to a weather system along the coast that pushed migrant birds inland. One made it to *Dauphin*, the furthest report inland. *Berks* recorded a second county record, *Chester* and *Montgomery* first county records. A **Least**

**Tern** was in *Philadelphia* in mid-May, **Black Terns** were a welcome site in nine counties, and **Common Terns** were found in 17 counties, just one less than last year.

**Red-throated Loons** were reported in ten counties, a bit below the last ten year average of 16 and the lowest county total during that time (2013-2022). There were two reports of **Pacific Loon**: one in *Bucks* for a day providing the fourth county record and one in *York* that stayed for about a week, providing a second county record. A few **Great Cormorants** lingered in *Bucks* to mid-April and the last in *Delaware* was April 9.

**American White Pelicans** were in two counties. A single bird was in *Clearfield* and a flock of 13 were in *Lycoming*, one of the largest totals ever recorded in the state (see Table 1).

**Table 1. High Counts of American White Pelican in Pennsylvania: 1992 – May 2022**

Total	County	Month/Year
35-40	Indiana	September 2016
35	York	September 2016
21	Lycoming	September 1996
20	York	July 2019
14	Erie	May 2021
13	Lycoming	May 2022

Source: *Birds of Note in Pennsylvania Birds*.

**American Bittern** reports are consistent from year to year with reports from 29 counties. The same can be said for **Least Bittern** with reports generally averaging around 8 counties during the spring over the past 15 years. This year they were slightly above average with reports from 12 counties.

**Snowy Egrets** were in six counties and **Little Blue Herons** were in *Berks* and *Bucks*. **Cattle Egrets** were in five counties including a second record for *Venango*. **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were in 19 counties. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** returned to the Harrisburg area where they continue to nest in small numbers. Other counties with reports include *Bucks*, *Chester*, *Lancaster*, *Montgomery*, *Philadelphia*, and *York*. A **White Ibis** was in *Bucks* in late March and **Glossy Ibis** were in *Chester*, *Delaware*, *Erie* and *Montgomery*.

**Black Vulture** continues to increase in the southwest and was found for the first time in *Lawrence*. Statewide there were reports in 14 counties. **Swallow-tailed Kites** were in four counties including a third county record for *Cumberland*. It was a good spring for **Mississippi Kites** with reports in five counties that included multiple reports in *Bucks*, *Chester*, and *Philadelphia*. **Golden Eagles** were in 13 counties.

There were several **Northern Goshawk** sightings in *Elk* and one was seen at the Erie Hawkwatch. **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen at hawkwatches in *Bedford* and *Erie* and others were reported from *Clarion*, *Crawford*, *Sullivan* and *Tioga* prior to leaving for the season. A **Red-shouldered X**

**Red-tailed Hawk** from the winter continued in *Montgomery* to early March.

**Barn Owls** were only reported from five counties. Single **Snowy Owls** were in *Chester*, *Crawford*, *Erie*, and *Lycoming*. **Long-eared Owls** were in five counties and **Short-eared Owls** were in ten. **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were reported in six counties. Several were in *Clarion* including an ill-fated breeding pair; see the county report for details.

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** were in 23 counties, down a bit from last year's 30. **Merlins** were observed mating in *Clarion* but a nest site was not located. Breeding behavior was observed in *Clearfield*.

Our least common empid, **Alder Flycatchers** were in 19 counties. A **Loggerhead Shrike** in *Huntingdon* provided a second county record. **Northern Shrikes** remained from the winter in *Clearfield*, *Erie*, *Lawrence*, and *Tioga*. Much more common in fall, **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported in ten counties. **Common Ravens** were noted as increasing in *Clarion*, now regular in *Erie*, and confirmed nesting in *Philadelphia*. **Fish Crow** continues to increase outside of the historic range in the southeast and the first confirmed recording of a bird was made in *Erie*.

**Marsh Wrens** were in 13 counties including birds wintering in *Montgomery* for the third year. A **Sedge Wren** was in *Lackawanna* for a day. An overwintering **Brown Thrasher** in *Montgomery* remained to early March and early **Gray Catbirds** were also noted in that county. **American Pipits** were in 17 counties.

There was surprisingly a number of **Red Crossbill** sightings, with reports from eight counties. They were noted with young in *Forest*, a pair was in *Warren* during the season, and several were in *Somerset* and *Westmoreland* through the season. There were numerous ebird reports to the north in New York as well. Another surprising northern finch species this spring was **Pine Siskin**, reported in 13 counties.

A few lingering **Lapland Longspurs** were reported in four counties and one **Snow Bunting** was reported in *Susquehanna*. Both species are hit or miss in the spring reporting period depending whether any linger into March.

**Clay-colored Sparrows** were in four counties. A pair in *Clarion* was a welcome site in an area that held a population of this rare breeder but where they have declined in recent years. The pair remained through the season. Two reports of the impressive **Harris's Sparrow** were both from feeders, in *Juniata* and *Westmoreland*. A **White-throated Sparrow X Dark-eyed Junco** was in *Philadelphia* in May. This hybrid combination has been documented a few times in the state.

**Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were in four counties including a first record for *Clarion*. A **Bullock's Oriole** was at a feeder in *Crawford* and a female **Brewer's**

**Blackbird** spent three days in *Erie*. **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported in 28 counties.

**Prothonotary Warblers** continue to do well in the state with reports in 16 counties. Once again, nest boxes at Presque Isle State Park were monitored during the breeding season. **Orange-crowned Warbler** is uncommon in spring but made a good showing with reports from ten counties. **Golden-winged Warblers** were in 18 counties. Both hybrids were reported widely this spring. **Brewster's Warblers** were in ten counties and **Lawrence's Warblers** in seven. The **Swainson's Warbler** that spent the past two summers in *Indiana* returned for a third season this year. **Connecticut Warbler** is rare in spring and was only reported in *Allegheny* (where one was banded) and *Westmoreland*.

**Summer Tanager** has been a regular spring overshoot migrant in recent years. This spring *Philadelphia* observers reported several. There were three reports of **Western Tanager**, all visiting feeders in *Butler*, *Fayette*, and *Montgomery*. The bird in *Fayette* was a county first and the one in *Butler* a second for the county.

**Blue Grosbeaks** were reported in 13 counties including a rare visitor to *Fayette* and a returning bird to *Allegheny*. A **Painted Bunting** visited a feeder in *Erie*, one that overwintered in *Lancaster* remained to early March, and one visited a feeder in *York* providing a third for the county. **Dickcissels** returned to their usual locations in *Cumberland*. Two were in *Adams* and *Berks*, birds were detected by nocturnal recording devices in *Blair* and *Centre*, one was in *Crawford*, one in *Erie*, four in *Franklin*, and single birds in *Lancaster* and *Luzerne*.

Reports were received from 55 counties.

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

## Birds of Note –March through May 2022

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** – *Butler*: one in Cranberry Twp. 4/29-5/12 (Mark Vass, m.ob.); *Lebanon*: one at Middle Creek WMA 3/5 (Jason White).

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – *Berks*: one at Peter's Creek 3/6 (Rudy Keller); *Crawford*: 9 at Miller Ponds 3/9 (Katie Wicker); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 3/1-3 (Michael Hartshome, Rick Koval); *Washington*: 4 near Cross Creek County Park 3/25 (Roy Ickes); *Westmoreland*: one continued from Feb. at St. Vincent Lake and Retention Ponds 3/4 (Richard Chirichiello, Mike Fialkovich) and one at Mammoth Park 3/7 was likely the same bird (Richard Chirichiello).

**Brant** – *Bucks*: 250 flew over Nockamixon SP 5/24 (Paul Heveran); *Dauphin*: 4 flocks of 70, 45, 80, and 95 flew over Wildwood Park 5/24 (Steve Schmidt).

**Trumpeter Swan** – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 3/4-5 (Dawn Denner); *Chester*: 2 at Coatsville Res. 3/28 (Rick Robinson, m.ob) and the following day at Chambers Lake and again 4/13 (Barry Blust). One at Struble Lake 5/7 (Larry Lewis, m.ob.) remained to the end of the reporting period; *Crawford*: one at Erie NWR 4/2 (Joseph Miller), one at SGL277 on 4/16 (Regina Zook, Kendall Zook) and 2 in Pageville Area 5/13 (George Linz); *Cumberland*: pair returned to Creekview Road Marsh 3/27 (Vern Gauthier); *Erie*: a pair continued at SGL191 to 3/20 (John Campbell), 2 at SGL109 on 3/24 (Bob Scribner); *Franklin*: 4 at Letterkenny Res. 3/22-29 (Bill Oyler, Bob Koontz, Dave Ebbitt, Kyle Rambo, Bob Keener), one remained to the end of the period (Bob Koontz, Bill Oyler), 2 near upper Strasburg 4/4 and on Burnt Mill Road 4/9 (Bob Koontz); *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek SP 3/21 (Damaris Stoddard, Sam Stoddard); *Lycoming*: 2 near Montgomery Boat Launch 3/16 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown, Rebecca Brown); *Monroe*: one in Pocono Summit paired with a Mute Swan (date and observer not listed); *Somerset*: one at Somerset Lake 5/9 (Suzanne Enos); *Tioga*: reported at the usual locations; *Warren*: one at Akeley Swamp 3/15 (Travis Suckow); *Wayne*: one at Hankins Pond 4/17-5/19 (m.ob.); *Westmoreland*: 2 at Mammoth Park 3/1-3 (Richard Chirichiello, Steve Wagner, m.ob.); *York*: 2 at Gifford Pinchot SP 3/1-4/22 (Chuck Berthoud, Jady Conroy, m.ob.).

**Cinnamon Teal**\* – *Centre*: one at Penn State 4/1-22 (Joe Gyekis, m.ob.), *doc submitted*.

**Eurasian Wigeon** – *Dauphin*: one at SGL290/Haldeman Island 3/16 (Scott Bills, Stephanie Bills); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 3/14 (Sam Meigs, Don Snyder); *Mercer*: one at Shenango Res. 3/5-16 (m.ob.); *Northumberland*: one on Susquehanna R at McKee's Half Falls Rest Area 3/7 (Evan Houston) and at Sally's Landing 3/8 (Andy Keister).

**Green-winged (Common) Teal**\* – *Delaware*: one at the Delaware River/Hog Island Road 3/4 (Rob Ferguson).

**Tufted Duck**\* – *Lancaster*: continued from Feb. to 3/11 (m.ob.); *Lebanon*: same bird as *Lancaster* last seen at Middle Creek WMA 3/11 (Ted Keen, Chad Kauffman, Timothy Becker, Kathy Becker, Mark Vass, Tia Offner, m.ob.). First county record.

**Surf Scoter** – *Butler*: 3 at Moraine SP 4/12 (Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke); *Chester*: one at Marsh Creek SP 4/1 (CH, m.ob.); *Lycoming*: one at Rose Valley Lake 4/16 (Eric Hartshaw, et al.); *Perry*: one along Rte 15 (Ed Bernot, eBird); *Somerset*: 4 at Quemahoning Res. 4/26 (Linda Greble).

**Black Scoter** – *Dauphin*: a male on the Susquehanna River at Wormleysburg and City Island 4/2-4 (m.ob.); *Clearfield*: 4 at Curwensville Lake 3/20 (John Forcey); *Fayette*: 3 at Greenlick Run Lake 3/19 (EJ Regula, Alex Busato, Kerry Bell); *Philadelphia*: 2 at the Philadelphia Naval Yard 4/7 (Holger Pflücke).

**Mallard X Northern Pintail** – *Cumberland*: one at Dykman Road Pond 4/15-5/1 (Bob Koontz, Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne, Perry Yingling); *Lawrence*: one photographed at New Galilee 3/26 (Martin Carlin).

**Northern Shoveler X American Black Duck** – *Butler*: one at Lake Oneida 3/17 (Kimberly Berry).

**Tufted Duck X Scaup sp.** – *Montour*: one at Montour Preserve 3/18 (Melissa Holland).

**Redhead X Ring-necked Duck** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 3/2-30 (Mark Suckow, Sam Meigs).

**Eared Grebe**\* – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee Water Street 5/19 (Rudy Keller).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** – *Berks*: present in Shartlesville during season; *Clarion*: one in Strattanville 5/29 (Ron and Tracy George-Snyder); *Franklin*: present during season.

**Chuck-will's-widow**\* – *Crawford*: one heard and recorded in Fairfield Twp. 5/12 (S. Gormley).

**Clapper Rail**\* – *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 4/26 (Michael Lyman, m.ob), *doc submitted*.

**King Rail**\* – *Chester*: one detected by nocturnal flight call recorder at private residence 4/26 (Zach Baer); *Delaware*: one detected by nocturnal flight call recorder over Wallingford 5/14 (RF); *Philadelphia*: one at Army Corps of Engineers 5/1 through May (Ed Edge, Holger Pflücke, et al.).

**King/Clapper Rail**\* – *Montgomery*: one recorded by a nocturnal flight call recorder over Franconia Twp. 5/15 (Scott Godshell).

**American Avocet** – *Allegheny*: flock of 13 at Point in Pittsburgh 4/26 (Ryan O'Rourke); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 5/6 (Steve Ferreri, et al.).

**American Oystercatcher** \* – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 3/25 (Linda Hamp).

**American Golden-Plover** – *Centre*: 2 at Tadpole Road 5/14-15 (Roana Fuller, et al.); *Elk*: one near Kersey 4/16 (Chelsea Beck); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 3/26-30 (Andrew M.); *Fayette*: one at Duck Pond Road 3/29 (fide Matthew Juskowich, m.ob.).

**Snowy Plover\*** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 4/25 (Mary Birdsong), fourth county record.

**Piping Plover\*** – *Erie*: first reported at Presque Isle SP 4/25 and present through May (m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: one at Delaware River mudflats at Glen Foerd 5/14 (Shane Murphy, et al.).

**Upland Sandpiper** – *Chester*: one flushed from roadside between Parkesburg and Cochranville 4/30 (Kevin Fryberger); *Clearfield*: one along Sandy Ridge Road 5/11-19 (m.ob.); *Crawford*: one 5/21 (Andrew Hurst, Eric Hall, Kendall Zook, Regina Zook) and two 5/29-31 at Wilson Road (Craig Holt, Debora Kalbfleisch, Thomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow); *Philadelphia*: one detected by nocturnal flight call recorder over South Philadelphia 5/2 (Holger Pflücke); *Somerset*: one at Babcock SF 5/29 (Jeff Payne).

**Whimbrel** – *Centre*: one at Bald Eagle SP 5/27 (Jon Kauffman); *Chester*: 50 flying over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/18 (Larry Lewis, m.ob.) and 100 there 5/25 (Larry Lewis, m.ob.); *Erie*: 5 at Presque Isle SP 5/21 (Mary Birdsong) and one there 5/26 (Mary Birdsong) and 5/30 (Jim Flynn).

**Ruddy Turnstone** – *Delaware*: 2 flocks totaling 140 birds flew over Marcus Hook 5/25 (Al Guarente); *Erie*: 2 at Presque Isle SP 5/13 (Katie Fallon), one 5/16-21 (Jerry McWilliams, m.ob.) and 6 on 5/27 (ebird).

**Sanderling** – *Chester*: 100 flew over Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/30 (Larry Lewis, Michael Hartshorne, Brian Quindlen, Amanda Williams, Jeff Kenny); *Clearfield*: 3 at Curwensville Dam 5/1 (John Forcey, Jerod Skebo); *Erie*: present at Presque Isle SP 4/26-5/28 (Sam Meigs, m.ob.) with a high count of eight 5/28 (Eric Hall).

**White-rumped Sandpiper** – *Allegheny*: one at Imperial 5/26 (Adrian Fenton); *Centre*: one at Tadpole Road 5/23 (Julia Plummer, Jon Kauffman); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle 5/21-22 (Mary Birdsong, Roger Donn) and two 5/28-29 (Mary Birdsong, Roger Donn); *Juniata*: 2 at Pine Grove Road 5/19-20 (Michael Petersheim, Jason Petersheim, Chad Kauffman); *Lancaster*: 4 at the Conejohela Flats 5/29 (Bruce Carl, Tom Garner, Eric Witmer); *Montour*: one at Montour Preserve 5/5 (Andrew Keister); *Washington*: one at Canonsburg Lake 5/27 (Sayre Greenfield); *Westmoreland*: one at Mammoth Park 5/25 (Steve Wagner).

**Western Sandpiper** – *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 4/20 (Sam Meigs).

**Long-billed Dowitcher** – *Franklin*: 3 near Upper Strasburg 5/6 (Bill Oyler, Bob Koontz, Gavin Anderson, Bob Keener, Jefferson Shank) and 2 along Back Creek between Chambersburg and St. Thomas 5/7 (Bill Oyler, Bob Koontz, Gavin Anderson, Bob Keener, Jefferson Shank).

**Willet** – *Clearfield*: one at Curwensville Dam Recreation Area 5/20 (John Forcey, Jerod Skebo); *Huntingdon*: 6 at Raystown Lake and one at Raystown Lake Dam 5/6 (Mathew Schenck), third and fourth county records; *Northampton*: one at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area 5/15 (Guy de Bruyn, eBird).

**Wilson's Phalarope** – *Monroe*: one at Mt. Pocono Airport 5/18 (Bruce Johnson, June Smith, Adam Miller, Jason Horn).

**Red-necked Phalarope** – *Bucks*: 3 at Penn-Warner Tract 5/14 (Devich Farbotnik); *Philadelphia*: one on Schuylkill R. 5/15 (JK, et al.).

**Red Phalarope\*** – *Bucks*: one at Peace Valley Park 4/14 (Tom Fahie).

**Black-legged Kittiwake\*** – *Dauphin*: first winter bird on Susquehanna R. at the H.C. Shrauder Park Access 3/19 (Steve Schmidt).

**Black-headed Gull\*** – *Dauphin*: one at Tourist Park Boat Landing 3/25 (Stephanie Bills, Scott Bills); *Mercer*: one at Maurice Goddard SP 4/3-6 (Shannon Thompson, m.ob.), second county record.

**Little Gull\*** – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/15 (Russell Hoffman), fourth county record; *Bucks*: one at Bensalem Twp. 4/11-12 (Eric Zawatski, Andrew Harrington), one at Penn-Warner Tract 4/17-5/14 (Dawn Denner, Mark Gallagher, Devich Farbotnik); *Dauphin*: up to 2 reported in eBird at various locations on Susquehanna R. from Dauphin Narrows to West Fairview 3/19-4/3 (m.ob.); *Delaware*: one on Delaware R. at Hog Island Road 4/19 (Jason Horn, m.ob.), second county record; *Lancaster*: numerous reports on Susquehanna R. at Lake Clarke 3/16-4/9 (Jason Horn, Meredith Lombard, m.ob.); *Mercer*: one at Maurice Goddard SP 4/2-5 (Kendall Zook, m.ob.), first county record; *Philadelphia*: 2 on Delaware R. at Glen Foerd 4/11-12 (Christopher Hinkle); *York*: one at Codorus SP 4/4 (Nicolas Minnich).

**Laughing Gull** – *Bucks*: 600 arrived at Penn-Warner Tract 4/25 (Andrew Harrington), 3 at Nockamixon SP 3/13 (Jeff Vinosky, Christopher Mortensen) and one at Penn-Warner Tract 5/13 (Jeff Vinosky, Christopher Mortensen, Jeff Vinosky); *Delaware*: numerous eBird reports for the season; *Indiana*: one at Yellow Creek SP 5/7 (Ed Donley, Margaret Higbee, et al.), third county record; *Lancaster*: one on Susquehanna R. at Lake Clark 3/16 (Jason Horn); *Lycoming*: one at Williamsport Dam 5/26 (Bobby Brown, et al.) and a different individual there 5/30 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown); *Montgomery*: 3 at Green Lane Park 4/26 (Paul Heveran), one at King of Prussia 4/30 (W. Brian Henderson, Katie Henderson), 5 at Lorimer Park 5/5 (Jason Fehon, Mike Grubb), one at Green Lane Park 5/15 (Dave Belford) and 5/28 (Jeff Hopkins); *Philadelphia*: numerous eBird reports for the season.

**Franklin's Gull\*** – *Mercer*: one at Maurice Goddard SP 3/29-4/10 (Jerry Stanley, m.ob.).

**California Gull\*** – *Erie*: adult at Presque Isle SP 3/25 (Jerry McWilliams) and second year individual at Gull Point in Presque Isle SP 4/26 (Sam Meigs, Tim Lenz).

**Iceland Gull** – *Bucks*: one at Morrisville 3/1-13 (Richard Smith, David Dorini, Bill Pitman, Alex Wiebe), one at Peace Valley Park 3/20 (Ian Baldock), one at Penn-Warner Tract 4/25 and 5/14 which could have been same individual (Devich Farbotnik), at least 6 different individuals were at Nockamixon SP 3/1-14 (m.ob.); *Dauphin*: a third cycle on Susquehanna R. at Heritage Park Access 3/21 (Steve Schmidt); *Erie*: first cycle at Presque Isle SP 3/8-10 (Sam Meigs), present 3/10-4/4 at Presque Isle with a high of eight 3/28 (Jerry McWilliams), two 3/22-23 at Presque Isle SP (Sam Meigs), adult at Presque Isle Downs and Casino 4/3 (Jerry McWilliams), one at Presque Isle SP 4/3 (Sam Meigs); *Lycoming*: one at Williamsport Dam 3/1 (Bob Brown, Deb Brown, Rebecca Brown, Bobby Brown); *Montgomery*: a Thayer's subspecies at Green Lane Park 3/1 (Paul Heveran) and a Kumlien's there 3/5 (Walter Stutz, m.ob.); *Philadelphia*: one at John Heinz NWR 3/19 (Liam Hart, et al.), one at Glen Foerd on Delaware R. 4/3 (Liam Hart, Patrick McGill).

**Glaucous Gull** – *Bucks*: immature at Penn-Warner Tract 3/23 (Mark Gallagher), single birds at the same location 4/23 (Devich Farbotnik) and 4/25 (Andrew Harrington); *Chester*: immature at the Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority 4/1 (Kevin Fryberger); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 3/17 (Sam Meigs), 3/22-23 (Sam Meigs, Jerry McWilliams), two 3/28 (Sam Meigs), one 3/31 (Jerry McWilliams, Sam Meigs), and three 4/2 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Great Black-backed Gull** – *Berks*: one at Lake Ontelaunee 3/13 (Todd Underwood), 5 flew over Brandon 3/7 (Aaron Shirk); *Chester*: 3 at Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority 3/2 (Michael Gardner) and 2 at Struble Lake 3/13 (Larry Lewis); *Erie*: present at Presque Isle SP the entire season; *Montgomery*: one

flew over Bryn Athyn 4/29 (Robin Cooper); *York*: 2 at Shanks's Mare 3/1-6 (Mary Creager, Chad Ehrhart, Evan Vaeth), one over Wrightsville 3/20-21 (Jessica Coss, Bob Reiter).

**Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull** – *Erie*: probable adult at Presque Isle Bay 3/30 (Sam Meigs).

**Herring Gull X Lesser Black-backed Gull** – *Erie*: one at Niagara Boat Launch at Presque Isle 3/27 and 3/31 (Jerry McWilliams).

**Least Tern\*** – *Philadelphia*: one flew along Delaware R. at Glen Foerd 5/14 (Martin Dellwo, Liam Hart, Patrick McGill, Michael Walter).

**Arctic Tern\*** – *Berks*: 2 at Lake Ontelaunee 5/15 (Rudy Keller), second county record; *Bucks*: 7 at Peace Valley Park 5/13 (Jeff Vinosky, Christopher Mortensen, Eric Zawatski, Devich Farbotnik, m.ob.) with one remaining 5/14 (August Mirabella, m.ob.), 3 at Penn-Warner Tract 5/13 (Mark Gallagher, Dawn Denner) with 2 there 5/14 (Devich Farbotnik), one at Nockamixon SP 5/14 (Andrew Harrington); *Chester*: 2 at Marsh Creek SP 5/13-17 (Mike DeFina, m.ob.), one at Struble Lake (Zach Millen), first county record; *Carbon*: one at Beltzville SP 5/14 (Edward Komito, m.ob.); *Dauphin*: one on Susquehanna R. at the HC Shrauder Park Access 5/13 (Steve Schmitt); *Delaware*: 2 along Delaware R. at Hog Island Road 5/14 (Kristy Eleftheriou, Tom Johnson, Rob Fergus); *Lehigh*: one at Alburis Road Retention Ponds 5/13 (Jason Horn, m.ob.); *Montgomery*: one or possibly 2 at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve and 3 same day at Green Lane Park 5/13 (Andrew Dolan, Edward Dolan, m.ob.), first county record; *Philadelphia*: 3 along Delaware R. between Pennypack on the Delaware and Glen Foerd 5/3-16 (Tanya Burnett, Ben Filreis, Patrick McGill, et al.).

**Pacific Loon\*** – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon SP 5/28 (Andrew Harrington, Devich Farbotnik), fourth county record; *York*: one at Codorus SP 5/19-25 (Karen Lippy, et al.), second county record.

**Great Cormorant** – *Bucks*: 3 at Penn-Warner Tract 3/1 (Richard Smith) and 3/13 (Dawn Denner), one at Churchville Park 3/15 (Sharon Marciniak), and one at Morrisville 4/16 (Richard Smith); *Delaware*: reported 3/19-20 (m.ob.) and 4/9 (Jim McConnell) at Delaware River/Hog Island Road.

**American White Pelican** – *Clearfield*: one at Curwensville Lake 4/24-25 (John Forcey, Jerod Skebo); *Lycoming*: flock of 13 at Williamsport Dam 5/18-19 (Maddi Dunlap, et al.), second county record.

**Snowy Egret** – *Bucks*: one at Nockamixon SP 5/2 (David Brandes), 2 at Morrisville 5/15 (Mark Gallagher); *Clearfield*: one at Curwensville Lake 4/26 (John Forcey, Dan Richards, Jerod Skebo); *Dauphin*: one at Wildwood Lake 4/17 (m.ob.); *Delaware*: one at John Heinz NWR 4/14 (Rich Ziegler); *Lancaster*: one at Conejohela Flats 5/15 (Steve Schmitt); *Montgomery*: one at Green Lane Park 5/21 (Adam Miller, Michael Schall).

**Little Blue Heron** – *Berks*: one at Bernhart's Dam 4/29 (Joe Beatrice); *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 5/3 (Dawn Denner) and a second bird there 5/14 (*vide* Diane Allison).

**Cattle Egret** – *Carbon*: one at Beltsville SP in April (date and observer not listed); *Chester*: a flyover near Downingtown 4/21 (Zach Baer); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 4/24 (Tim Lenz); *Lancaster*: one at Middle Creek WMA 4/28-29 (Anon., Joe Wolf); *Venango*: one near Kahle Lake 4/21-27 (Jerry Stanley), second county record.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – *Bucks*: one in Tinicum Twp. 4/30-5/7 (Betsy Townsend); *Chester*: one at Exton Park 4/26 (Eric Hughes); *Cumberland*: one at West Fairview Park/Boat Launch (Joseph Kavanagh); *Dauphin*: up to 3 in the Harrisburg area Apr-May; *Lancaster*: one at Wood's Edge Park 5/2 (Randall Nett); *Montgomery*: one at Norristown Dam 4/1 (Pete Donnelly, Scott Godshall); *Philadelphia*: 3 at East Park Res. 5/7-8 (Leigh

Altadonna, et al.); *York*: one at Gifford Pinchot SP 4/25 (Jon Dale).=

**White Ibis** – *Bucks*: one at Penn-Warner Tract 3/23 (Dawn Denner).

**Glossy Ibis** – *Chester*: 7 flew over Waterloo Mills Preserve 4/23, 12 flew over Struble Lake 5/1 (Larry Lewis); *Delaware*: 11 flew past Hog Island Road along Delaware R. 5/1 (John Zygmunt), 4 were at same location 5/13 (John Zygmunt, Al Guarente); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/2-6 (Tara Dodge); *Montgomery*: 2 flew over Dublin Twp. 4/24 (Andrew Albright).

**Swallow-tailed Kite\*** – *Blair*: one flew over Plummers Hollow 4/24 (Marcia Bonta, Mark Bonta); *Crawford*: one flew over Titusville area 4/28 (Jeff Jamieson); *Cumberland*: one near Lisburn 4/25 (Annette Mathes), third county record; *Fulton*: one in Belfast Twp. 4/24 (Chuck Fullmer).

**Mississippi Kite\*** – *Bucks*: one in Solebury Twp. 5/19 (Devich Farbotnik), flyovers at Silver Lake Park 5/21 (Mark Gallagher), Richland Twp. 5/23 (Cody Peters) and at Nockamixon SP 5/31 (Paul Heveran); *Chester*: one at Bucktoe Creek Preserve 5/17 (Larry Lewis), 5 there 5/29 (Larry Lewis), one at the Schuylkill R. Trail 5/20 (Ann Williams), single birds in flight at ChesLen Preserve, Okehocking Preserve and at private residence near Downingtown (observers not listed), one at private location 5/30 (Jeff Kenney); *Franklin*: one at Creekside Nature Trail Menno Haven 5/19-20 (Ron George, Tracy George-Snyder, Kyle Rambo); *Montgomery*: one over Wyndmoor 5/17 (James Funk) and one over Lorimer Park 5/18 (Linda Widdop, et al.); *Philadelphia*: at least 11 eBird reports of up to 2 birds over the Northwest section of Philadelphia, most from in and near Wissahickon Valley Park 5/17 (m.ob.), one over South Philadelphia 5/18 (Gabriel Galson).

**Northern Goshawk** – *Elk*: several sightings during the season (locations and observers not listed); *Erie*: one at Erie Hawkwatch 3/14 (Jerry McWilliams, Don Snyder).

**Rough-legged Hawk** – *Bedford*: one at Allegheny Front Hawkwatch 3/5 (David Poder); *Clarion*: one near Marble 3/10 (Ann Kline, S. Kaye), one near Snydersburg 3/14, one near Lucinda 3/12 and 3/17 (Eric Schill); *Crawford*: last report for season was at Miller Ponds 4/3 (Eric Hall); *Erie*: recorded at Erie Hawkwatch in March and April (Jerry McWilliams, et al.); *Huntingdon*: one in Stone Valley 3/6 (Luke Fultz); *Sullivan*: 2 in the Kinsley's Corner area 3/19 (observer not listed); *Tioga*: last of the season was at SR660 Middle Ridge Swamp 3/6 (Sean Mlnnick).

**Red-shouldered X Red-tailed Hawk** – *Montgomery*: one continued from last season in Worcester to 3/3 (Douglas Baird).

**Barn Owl** – *Adams*: one called at Virginia Mills 5/30 (Tony Arnold); *Franklin*: up to 2 in St. Thomas-Edenville area during the season; *Lancaster*: one at SGL220 on 5/26 (Jeff Kenney, Angela Romanczuk, Liz Pettit); *Mifflin*: one in flight along Front Mt. Road 5/6 (Rob Dickerson); *Montgomery*: calls recorded over Franconia Twp. 3/22, 4/3, 4/25 and 5/20 (Scott Godshall).

**Snowy Owl** – *Chester*: one near Oxford 3/12 (Patrick Millar); *Crawford*: one in the Candahota Lake area 3/3 (Emily Smith); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 4/3-13 (Roger Donn, Sam Meigs); *Lycoming*: one north of Williamsport present for a week in late March (*vide* Steve Pinkerton).

**Long-eared Owl** – *Chester*: one at Unionville 3/1 (Michael Halley), one at undisclosed location 3/3-14 (Jeff Kenney, et al.), one in Doe Run area 4/2-10 (Joe Sebastiani); *Clarion*: one at Mt. Zion 3/29 (Eric Schill); *Delaware*: one at undisclosed location 4/23 (Sheryl Johnson); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 4/3-9 (Roger Donn); *Northampton*: 5 at Martin's Creek Environmental Preserve 3/6 (Michael Schall, Adam Miller).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** – *Clarion*: one north of Fisher 3/1-10 (Don DeWolf, Ron Smith, Carole Winslow), one outside of

Strattanville 3/1-10 (Larry Towse), one near Shippenville 3/1 through the season with evidence of nesting (Gary Edwards, Mal Hays, Mike Leahy, Larry Towse, Carole Winslow); *Elk*: one near East Branch Clarion River 3/18 and 4/5 (Brendyn Baptiste); *Erie*: present at Presque Isle SP 3/5-4/9 (Roger Donn); *Montgomery*: one at North Wales since Feb. last seen 3/4 (m.ob.); *Schuylkill*: one heard at Tuscarora SP 4/2 (Dave Krueel, Beverly Rockovich, Thomas Buehl Jr.); *Tioga*: one heard near Hills Creek Lake Road 3/2 (Lisa Doud); *Warren*: heard on Economite Rd. 3/17-4/23 (Carole Winslow); *Westmoreland*: one at Powdermill Nature Reserve and Banding Station 5/12 (Annie Lindsay).

**Loggerhead Shrike\*** – *Huntingdon*: one at Old Crow Wetland 4/23 (Patrick McElwee, ph.), second county record.

**Northern Shrike** – *Clearfield*: one at Karthaus Elk Refuge 3/5 (Jerod Skebo, John Forcey); *Erie*: one continuing from winter in Waterford Twp. last reported 3/5 (Bob Scribner); *Lawrence*: one at Black Swamp 3/2 (anonymous), one at Shaner Road Marsh 3/22-24 (Sandi Diehl); *Tioga*: one at Tioga-Hammond Lakes 3/18 (Sean Minnick).

**Sedge Wren** – *Lackawanna*: one at Archbald SP 5/1 (D. Schreck).

**Red Crossbill** – *Clearfield*: one along Chipper Road 3/11 (Chapin Czarnacki); *Clinton*: 2 at Kettle Creek SP 3/16 (Sarah Lindgren); *Elk*: present in East Branch Clarion R. Lake vicinity 3/14-5/26 with a high count of 13 on 5/3 (Brendyn Baptiste), reported at Rasselas Road 3/18 (Matthew Schenck) and 4/9 (Brendyn Baptiste), 4 in Wilcox 5/10 (Michael David); *Forest*: present at several locations 3/4-5/24 with a high of 27 near Sheffield 3/22 with recently fledged young (Travis Suckow); *Somerset*: 3 at Black Spruce Bog 3/5 (Patience Fisher), 2 at Hidden Valley 4/8 (Andrew Smith); *Tioga*: several photographed along Sullivan Road 3/29 (Lisa Doud); *Warren*: a pair in Heart's Content Natural Area in Allegheny National Forest during the season; *Westmoreland*: 3 on Laurel Summit 3/5 (Patience Fisher, m.ob.) and 2 at that location 4/29 (David Yeany II).

**Lapland Longspur** – *Berks*: one in Lyons 3/13 (Todd Underwood), one in Heidelberg 3/13 (Brian Lineaweaver); *Indiana*: 2 near Conemaugh Dam 3/23 (Michele Carlson); *Lycoming*: one in Nisbet 3/12 (Bobby Brown, Deb Brown, Bob Brown); *Mifflin*: one on Knepp Road in Big Valley 3/12 (Jon Kauffman).

**Snow Bunting** – *Susquehanna*: one at intersection Rte. 374 and 171 on 3/10 (Chris Fischer).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** – *Clarion*: 2 at Mt. Zion 5/24 (Don DeWolf, Carole Winslow) and reported through the season (Steve Gosser, Deborah Kalbfleisch); *Cumberland*: one at Winding Hills Nature Trail 4/15-23 (Brett Matlock, et al.); *Elk*: one at Kersey 4/29 (Chelsea Beck); *Erie*: one banded by Erie Bird Observatory 5/11 (*fide* Shannon Thompson), one at Erie Bluffs SP 5/21 (Sam Meigs).

**Harris's Sparrow\*** – *Juniata*: one at residence near Mifflintown 3/12-5/8 (Chad Kauffman, m.ob.); *Westmoreland*: one near Latrobe 5/3-5 (*fide* Shannon Thompson).

**White-throated Sparrow X Dark-eyed Junco** – *Philadelphia*: one at Franklin D. Roosevelt Park 5/4 (Ben Filreis).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** – *Chester*: one south of Pottstown 3/22 (Jennifer Faraschon); *Clarion*: one near Knox 4/8-10 (Paulette Colantonio, Gary Edwards, Mike Leahy), first county record; *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 4/28 (John Campbell); *Montgomery*: one at Palm/Hosensack Farmland 4/12 (Paul Heveran).

**Bullock's Oriole\*** – *Crawford*: one visited a feeder in Meadville area 4/26-27 (Isaac Field, Brian Miller, Thomas Nonnenmacher, Ken Pinnow, Steve Rotkovecz).

**Brewer's Blackbird\*** – *Erie*: female at Presque Isle SP 4/25-28 (Sam Meigs, Roger Donn, Jerry McWilliams, m.ob.).

**Brewster's Warbler** – *Blair*: one at SGL#278 North 5/31 (Mark Nale); *Centre*: one along West Gatesburg Road at Scotia Barrens 5/9 (Jeff Hapeman) and perhaps another a few miles to the north 5/15-21 (m.ob.); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/18 (Sam Meigs); *Fulton*: one at Buchanan SF Knobsville Tract (date and observer not listed); *Lackawanna*: one at Lackawanna SP 5/7 (David LaVerne); *Luzerne*: one at Hunlock Creek Boat Launch 5/8 (Alan Yuscavage, Bonnie Yuscavage); one at Nescopeck SP 5/12 (Jonathan DeBalko); *Mifflin*: one in Tuscarora SF 5/3 (Jay Zook); *Montgomery*: one at Lorimer Park 5/11 (Jason Fehon, m.ob.); *Pike*: one at Delaware SF 5/24-29 (Jeff Hopkins, m.ob.); *Westmoreland*: one at Hunter's Lane 5/18 (Tammy Colt, et al.).

**Lawrence's Warbler** – *Adams*: one at Cunningham Road 5/2 (Michael S.); *Blair*: one at SGL#278 North 5/31 (Mark Nale); *Centre*: one at Penn State Arboretum 5/2 (Joe Gyekis), one along West Gatesburg Road at Scotia Barrens 5/9 (Jeff Hapeman); *Huntingdon*: one in Trough Creek Valley 5/14 (Deb Grove, Greg Grove); *Lackawanna*: one at Lackawanna SP 5/8-26 (Tony DeSantis, m.ob.); *Perry*: one at Little Buffalo SP 4/30-5/15 (Tom Buehl Jr., m.ob.); *Washington*: one at Washington Park 5/12 (Sayre Greenfield).

**Swainson's Warbler\*** – *Indiana*: one along the West Penn Trail 4/26 (Richard Chirichiello), third consecutive year at this site.

**Connecticut Warbler** – *Allegheny*: one banded in Hays section of Pittsburgh 5/18 (Nick Liadis); *Westmoreland*: one at Westmoreland Heritage Trail from Delmont to Trees Mill 5/8 (Ken Byerly).

**Summer Tanager\*** – *Centre*: one in Stormstown 4/19 and 4/21 (Jon Kauffman), one at Sunset Park 5/12 (Gabriel Urso); *Chester*: one in East Fallowfield 4/24 (Michael Niven); *Cumberland*: one at SGL230 on 5/14 (Karen Johnson, Doris Brookens, Peter Lusardi); *Delaware*: one at Houston Park 5/24 (Rob Fergus); *Philadelphia*: reported at Franklin D. Roosevelt Park 5/4 (Angelo DelloMargio), Wissahickon Valley Park 5/5 (Patrick McGill), Lemon Hill 5/6 and 5/20 (Connor Smyth, et al.) and Rittenhouse Square 5/20 (Martin Dellwo); *Westmoreland*: one at Powdermill Nature Reserve and Banding Station 4/27 (Laetitia Desbordes, Alexandre Terrigeol).

**Western Tanager\*** – *Butler*: one visiting a feeder for a few days in Slippery Rock (*fide* Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke), probable second county record; *Fayette*: one at feeder near Ohiopyle 4/18-19 (Nichole Simons), first county record; *Montgomery*: one in Willow Grove 5/27 (Brian and Shaun—surnames withheld by request), sixth county record.

**Painted Bunting\*** – *Erie*: one at feeder in Erie 4/11 (Rose Miada, *fide* Bonnie Ginader); *Lancaster*: the bird that overwintered in Bowmansville was last reported 3/3; *York*: one at feeder in Shrewsbury Twp. 4/14 (Ralph Perrone), third county record.

**Dickcissel** – *Adams*: 2 at Gettysburg National Military Park 5/25 (Jay Mager); *Berks*: 2 at Rodale Experimental Farm 5/24 (Jeff Vinosky); *Blair*: one recorded by nocturnal call recording device at Plummer's Hollow 5/14 (Mark Bonta, Joe Gyekis); *Centre*: one during nocturnal flight count in State College 5/21 (Joe Gyekis); *Crawford*: one in Conneautville area 5/19 (Steven Miller); *Cumberland*: 2 at Clover Hill Road 5/23-24 (Bob Koontz, Vern Gauthier, Bill Oyler), one at Mud Level Road 5/28 (Chris Payne); *Erie*: one at Presque Isle SP 5/14 (Asher Whitney); *Franklin*: 2 at Mowersville Road 5/26 (Bob Koontz, Bill Oyler, Kyle Rambo), 2 along Wegner Road 5/28 (Dave Cooney); *Lancaster*: one at Noel Dorwart Park continued to 4/3 (Dan Keener, Sammy Keener, Seth McComsey, m.ob.), *Luzerne*: one at Plymouth Flats 4/28 (Rick Koval).





**Ross's Goose** in Cranberry Twp., *Butler* 8 May, about 5th or 6th county record. (*Mark Vass*)



**Lesser Scaup** at Lock Haven, *Clinton* 20 April. (*Wayne Laubscher*)



**Long-tailed Duck** at Boalsburg, *Centre* 28 March. (*Debra Rittelman*)



This **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Howard, *Centre* 29 May may have been attracted by an outbreak of Spongy Moths (the new proper name for Gypsy Moth). (*Bob Snyder*)



A very slightly early **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at East Stroudsburg, *Monroe* 26 April. (*Nancy Tully*)



**Common Gallinule** at Fort Indiantown Gap, *Lebanon* 21 (here 21) April – 2 May. (*Jarrod Derr*)



**Virginia Rail** at Dreibelbis Birding Area, Centre 22 April. (Daniel Hannon)



**Sora** at Dreibelbis Birding Area, Centre 30 April. (Bob Snyder)



Providing the fifth known Bucks record, an **American Oystercatcher** was found at Peace Valley Park 25 March, later relocated that day at Pine Run Dam. (Linda Hamp)



**Piping Plover** found at Glen Foerd, Philadelphia 14 May on a good shorebird day, with low clouds and dense fog; rare in Pennsylvania away from Lake Erie. (Martin Dellwo)



**Pectoral Sandpiper** at Mifflinburg, Union 15 April; second county record in eBird. (Andrew Hurst)



**American Woodcock** at Tatamy, Northampton 11 March. (Dave DeReamus)



A nice comparison of **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**, such as bill length and thickness, at Green Pond, *Northampton* 17 May. (Dave DeReamus)



**Franklin's Gull** at Maurice Goddard SP, *Mercer* 29 March –10 April. (Jeffrey Hall)



A **Common Tern** found at Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve, *Montgomery* 13 May, brought birders and resulted in finding of an Arctic Tern there later that day. (Kristen Johnson)



Mid-April weather conditions over the Atlantic likely sent many **Arctic Terns** inland, with reports from at least 9 southeastern Pennsylvania counties, as far west as Harrisburg; this Arctic Tern was at Marsh Creek SP, *Chester* 13 April. (Barry Blust)



**Forster's Tern** at Victory Park, *Mifflin* 6 April; second county record. (Rob Dickerson)



**Great Blue Heron** taking off at Boiling Springs, *Cumberland* 17 December 2021. (Keith Spangler)



Thirteen **American White Pelicans** dropped in to the Williamsport Dam on the west branch of the Susquehanna R., *Lycoming* 18-19 (here 19) May; second county record. (*Bobby Brown*)



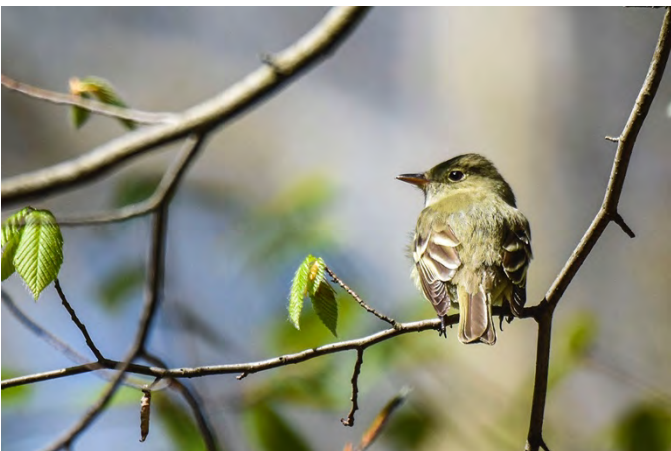
First documented nesting of **Northern Saw-whet Owl** in *Clarion*, at SGL 63, seen here 5 March; unfortunately, not a good outcome for the nestlings as described in the *Clarion* report. (*Carole Winslow*)



**Black Vultures** at Summit Station, *Schuylkill* 9 May. (*Rich Rieger*)



**Osprey** on a snowy day at Center Hall, *Centre* 19 April. (*Debra Rittelman*)



**Acadian Flycatcher** at Roaring Run bike trail, *Armstrong* 9 May. (*Tom Kuehl*)



**Eastern Kingbird** hawking insects from a snag along Quemahoning Reservoir, *Somerset* 5 May. (*Tom Kuehl*)



**Pileated Woodpecker** close-up at Churchville Nature Center, *Bucks* 17 April. (Linda Hamp)



Seen only one day and by one observer, this **Loggerhead Shrike** at Old Crow wetland, *Huntingdon* 23 April provided the second county record; one had lingered at village of Cottage, apparently unpaired, in 1988 during BBA 1. (Patrick McElwee)



Our earliest returning swallow, these **Tree Swallows** huddled for warmth at Lake Redman, *York* in the cold of 28 March. (Bob Reiter)



Leucistic **American Robin** in Wells Twp., *Fulton* 26 March, present for a few days. (Tracy Moseby)



**Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, *Bucks* 20 May. (August Mirabella)



**Swainson's Thrush** at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia* 16 May. (Bill Moses)



Moving north, this **Purple Finch** was in Sygan Hill, *Allegheny* 23 April. (Dean Newhouse)



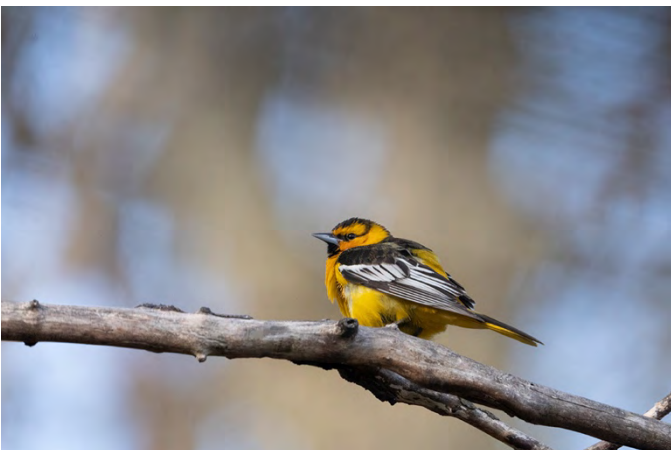
**Harris's Sparrow** near Port Royal, *Juniata* 12 March (here 12) – 13 April and possibly into May; second county record. (Chad Kauffman)



**Lincoln's Sparrow** at Seneca, *Venango* 10 May. (Meg Kolodick)



**Bobolink** on Mountain Rd., *Centre*, a likely nesting location, 8 May. (Bob Snyder)



**Bullock's Oriole** in Meadville, *Crawford* 26-27 (here 27) April; first county record. (Brian Miller)



**Orchard Oriole** at Seneca, *Venango* 3 May. (Meg Kolodick)



**Blue-winged Warbler** at Knobsville Tract, Buchanan SF, *Fulton* 23 May. (*Tracy Mosebey*)



**Prothonotary Warbler** on the Northwest River Trail, *Lancaster* 24 May. (*Rick Carlson*)



**Black-throated Blue Warblers** are common spring migrants at John Heinz NWR, *Philadelphia* where this male was found 8 May. (*Bill Moses*)



**Prairie Warbler** at Lake Redman, *York* 14 April. (*Bob Reiter*)

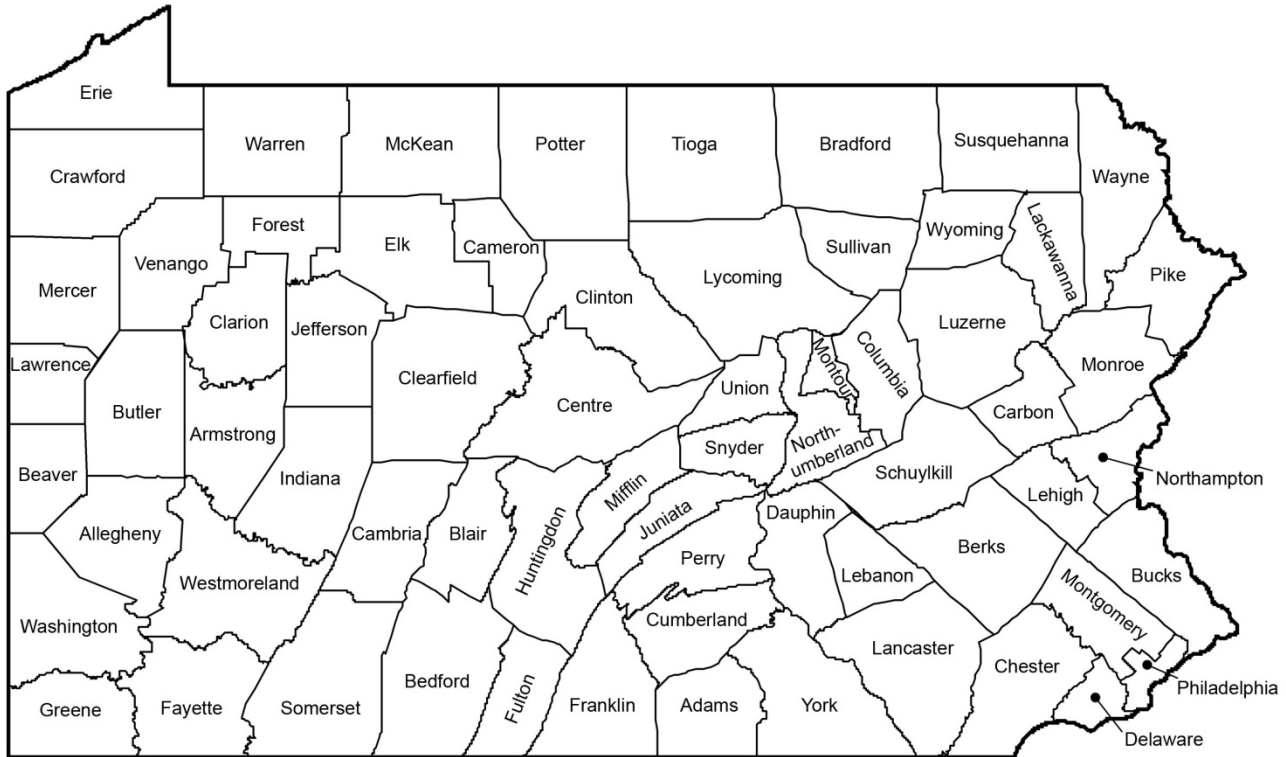


**Scarlet Tanager** in Lynn Twp., *Lehigh* 22 May. (*Liz Brensinger*)



**Western Tanager** at Slippery Rock, *Butler* 27-28 (here 27) April; second county record. (*Glenn Koppel*)

# Local Notes – March 2022 through May 2022



## ABBREVIATION

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

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

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

### Adams County

Locations: Freedom Township Grasslands (FREE), Gettysburg College (GC), Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Lake Heritage (LH), Long Pine Run Reservoir (LPRR), Mountain Rd (MTN).

Temperatures in South Central Pennsylvania were near historical averages for the period. Rainfall was 2.5" above normal due to a wet May. Species count of 191 plus a hybrid was on the high side versus the prior five years. *Adams* was the benefactor of the PSO Birding Spotlight initiative 4/22-25 that produced 121 species.

In a repeat of last spring, waterfowl had a weak showing. Variety was low along with generally low flock sizes. A pair of **Northern Shovelers** at SGL 249 on 4/14 (DT) produced the only report. Unusual for the period, American Black Duck was a miss. A single **Canvasback**

was at GC 3/5 (TA), while **Redheads** were found at four locations with a high of 6 at L. Kay 3/2-5 (BK, HL, SW). A lone **Greater Scaup** was at L. Kay 3/3 (BK) and a 5/22 **Lesser Scaup** at LPRR (RM) was late. A **Common Goldeneye** was found at GC 3/2-5 (TA).

Singles of **Pied-billed Grebe** 3/24-4/12 (BK, DR, SW) were at three sites and single **Horned Grebes** 3/3-27 (BK, R&TG-S) were at two locales. Four reports of **Common Loons** 3/24-5/6 (m.ob.) were paced by 3 at LH 4/10 and 5/6 (CM). A **Ring-necked Pheasant** was found along Wenschcoff Rd 4/13 (RK). High **Wild Turkey** count was 21 at MTN 3/24 (R&DS). Seven sites reporting **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** were within normal range while Black-billed Cuckoo was a miss. **Common Nighthawks** were found at three sites 5/14-27 (TA, BM, CM). Earliest reported **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was 4/17 (R&DS) at MTN.

A nice find, **Sandhill Crane**, was at Crooked Creek Wetland 3/15 (SW). High water levels over a number of years have continued to limit shorebirding opportunities in a county when even in dry years shorebirding can be a challenge. The more common species were found in limited numbers, and there were no surprises. Four sites produced



**American Woodcock** reports 3/2-4/13 (m.ob.) paced by a nice 6 count at SGL 249 on 3/8 (DT). **Wilson's Snipe** was found at three locales 3/19-5/3 (m.ob.) with a 4 count 4/24 (PSO) along Camp Gettysburg Rd leading the way.

**Bonaparte Gull** put in appearances at three sites 4/10-24 (BK, CtM, PSO) but no count exceeded 3 birds. A pair of **Herring Gulls** was over Ridge Rd in Cumberland Twp 5/11 (CM). The lone **Caspian Tern** sighting was at LH 4/10 (CM), and the same lake produced 17 **Forster's Terns** 5/6 (CM). High count at the established **Great Blue Heron** colony along Knoxlyn Rd was 13 birds. A **Black-crowned Night Heron** was along the Conewago Cr. near Zeigler Mill Rd 5/18 (LR).

**Northern Harriers** put in a nice showing at GNMP with an 8-bird high count 3/13 (EV). As is normal, **Short-eared Owls** opted to occupy the same hunting grounds, but their high count was limited to 3 birds 3/2-14 (m.ob.). A nice spring period kettle of 30 **Broad-winged Hawks** was seen over LPRR 4/23 (PSO). A **Barn Owl** was calling at Virginia Mills 5/30 (TA). **Eastern Screech Owl** was limited to a single report 4/22 (PSO) along Mummasburg Rd. **Great Horned Owl** and **Barred Owl** showed well with nine and 15 sites reporting, respectively. Twenty sites reporting **Red-headed Woodpecker** reflected a strong distribution across the county. A **Merlin** was found at GC 3/2 (TA), and **Peregrine Falcon** singles were at LPRR 4/22 (PSO) and GNMP 4/23 (BB).

Flycatcher notables included an **Alder Flycatcher** voice recording at SGL 249 on 5/26 (DT) and single **Least Flycatchers** along Knoxlyn Rd and Sam's Lane 5/5 (SW). Highlight of the vireo family was a **Philadelphia Vireo** at Liberty Twp 5/19 (MH). Nice counts for **Horned Lark** included 16 along Hostetter Rd 3/19 (MD) and 30 along Table Rock Rd 4/22 (PSO). Knoxlyn Rd provided a **Bank Swallow** sighting 4/22 (DR), and a pair were at East Berlin Community Park 5/12 (RM).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found at seven sites with longest stay going to 5/14. Three areas reported **Winter Wren** 3/5-4/23 (m.ob.). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at GNMP 5/17 (JH) was a good find. Nice **American Pipit** movement through the county 3/6-5/5 (m.ob.) resulted in nine sites reporting them with a high of 33 along Rentzel Rd 4/23 (PSO). Six reports of **Purple Finch** 3/28-4/16 (m.ob.) were limited to a 4-bird max count at FREE 4/1 (TA). A single **Pine Siskin** at SGL 249 on 4/20 (DR) produced the only report.

Eight sites held **Grasshopper Sparrow** with a nice 12 count at GNMP 5/30 (CM). Although limited to a single report, 10 **American Tree Sparrows** at MTN 3/3 (R&DS) was a nice count. **Fox Sparrow** was limited to three reports 3/7-20 (BK, DT, SW). Always a nice spring find, single **Vesper Sparrows** were at GNMP 4/23 (PSO) and Rentzel Rd 4/24 (PSO). Eleven sites holding **Savannah Sparrow** and 12 sites producing **Swamp Sparrow** were nice showings.

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was seen at GNMP 5/10-23 (AA, JHo, JM). **Bobolinks** were found at eight sites 4/22-5/31 (m.ob.) and **Eastern Meadowlark** reporting was widespread. **Orchard Orioles** and **Baltimore Orioles** both produced strong showings with 12 and 26 reporting sites, respectively. Eight locales held **Rusty Blackbird** 3/1-4/24 (m.ob.) with a 25-high count along Knoxlyn Rd 4/5 (SW).

There were a number of highlights in the warbler group with 32 species counted. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was at GNMP 5/3-5 (ANON, MS). Rare for the county, a **Lawrence's Warbler** was along Cunningham Rd 5/2 (MS). Recent springs have seen **Prothonotary Warbler** reports and this trend continues. FREE produced one 5/28 (CA), and sightings at GMNP 5/20-23 (JM, SW) were of a single bird. **Tennessee Warbler** was found at GNMP 5/2-14 (ANON, CB, SW). A 4.25-mile hike in good habitat along Kepner's Knob Lane 3/5 (IC) produced an impressive 11 **Hooded Warblers** and a 7 **Cerulean Warblers**. A dramatically early pair of **Palm Warblers** were at GC 3/13 (DR). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found along Goldenville Rd 5/1 (LR). Similar to the positive trend with Prothonotary reporting, **Wilson's Warbler** had three reports of single birds 5/3-19 (KE, DM, DR, DV).

Fifteen sites reporting **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were led by a 5 count at MTN 5/5 (R&DS). Singles of **Blue Grosbeak** were at MTN 5/14 (R&DS), at FREE 5/15-28 (CA, TA), at GNMP 5/17-30 (FH, SW) and at Virginia Mills 5/28 (TA). Up to 2 **Dickcissels** were at GNMP 5/25-30 (EK, CM, JM).

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, 717-259-9984, Pittche74@yahoo.com**, Anonymous (ANON), Andrew Albright, Chas Argent, Tony Arnold, Chuck Barnes, Janice Botterbusch, Brian Byrnes, Ian Clarke, Matt Cote, Mike DeWispelaere, Kevin Eberhardt, Vern Gauthier, Ross Geridien, Don Gilbert, Joe Gyekis, Jim Hanna, Rebecca Hart, Frank Holmes, Jenny Hook (JHo), M Huston, Caroline Jones, Chad Kauffman, Ron Ketter, Emily Kissner, Bob Koontz, Kelly Krechmeir, Herbert Lerner, Cat M (CtM), Brian McGee, Jay Mager, Dean Mahlstedt, Steve Manns, Linette Mansberger, Annette Mathes, Rob Monaghan, Callan Murphy, PSO Birding Spotlight (PSO), Ann Pettigrew, Kyle Rambo, Lynn Rebert, David Rice, Michael S, Deb Siefken, Ralph & Deb Siefken, Ron & Tracy-George Snyder, Danny Stoner, David Taylor, Evan Vaeth, Dave Votta, Tiffany Willow, Andy Wilson, Scott Wood.

### **Allegheny County**

Locations: Boyce-Mayview Park (BMP), Brunots Island (BRU), Chapel Harbor (CHA), Collier Township (COL), Dashields Dam (DD), Deer Lakes Park (DLP), Duck Hollow (DH), Frick Park (FRI), Harmar Township (HRM), Harrison Hills Park (HHP), Imperial (IMP), Indiana Township (IND), North Park (NOR), Point State Park (PSP), Squirrel Hill (SQU), Verona (VER), Wingfield Pines (WIN).

March featured unusually warm weather, but by the end of the month winter returned with snow and wind. April started cold and wet. The third week in April featured blustery conditions with snow showers followed by a weekend with summer-like temperatures in the 80s with sunshine. That was followed by the passage of a cold front that dropped in a flock of American Avocets, Forster's Terns and Caspian Terns. There was a big push of migrants the first week of May, and the second week was very migrant heavy, then it fizzled out quickly.

Two **Mute Swans** were on the Ohio R. near Neville Island 4/2 (EPH, EHo). A flock of 25 **Tundra Swans** flew over Oakland 3/5 (AP). An **American Wigeon** was at HRM 3/5 (AH, PM) and 3 were at BMP 3/14 (DNe, NN); a late bird was photographed at WIN 5/5 (JH, JLH). Single **Northern Shovelers** were at IMP 3/4 (AF, MV) and in West Deer Twp. 3/14 (LC). A few **Gadwalls** were reported through Mar with a high count of 12 in West Deer Twp. 3/14 (LC).

Seven **Northern Pintails** were at DH 3/3 (TC). High count for **Greater Scaup** was 13 at BRU 3/1 (DNe, NN, JF). Single **Canvasback** reports were in eBird from BRU 3/2, Southside Riverfront Park 3/5 and at DH 3/12. Four **Redheads** were at Highland Park 3/1-5 (JM, m.ob.). A raft of 13 **Long-tailed Ducks** were at DH during a rainy day 3/12 (MC).

Small numbers of **Horned Grebes** were on the rivers in Mar and the first half of Apr (m.ob.) with a high count of 6 at DH 3/9 (JF). A **Northern Bobwhite** was in South Fayette Twp. 3/18 (DNe, NN), and one was recorded calling in Mt. Lebanon 4/15 (BSP, eBird). One was photographed in West Deer Twp. 5/25 (LC). Periodic releases have continued to result in occasional reports.

There were quite a few shorebird highlights. A flock of 13 **American Avocets** were swimming in the river off PSP 4/26 (RO). The birds drifted downriver and then flew downriver where they were seen at BRU and DD. This is the second time a flock landed on the river and did not come ashore. A **Semipalmated Plover** was at IMP 5/22 (MV), and 2 were at DD 5/26 (MV).

A **Dunlin** was at IMP 5/1 (MV). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was great find at IMP 5/26 (AF) where it was photographed. Unfortunately, it did not stay long but was the first report of this species since 2008! An early **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at Janoski's Farm in Findlay Twp. 3/28-4/6 (MV, m.ob.). A great count of 18 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at CHA 5/27 (AH, PM). Six **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at NOR 5/19 (DNe, m.ob.). High count of **American Woodcock** came from NOR 3/14 when 11 were counted displaying (MKu). A max count of 27 **Wilson's Snipes** were at IMP during a rainy day 4/16 (MV), harkening back to the days prior to development of the area when flocks of 50-plus were not uncommon in early spring. Contrary to their name, **Solitary Sandpipers**

gathered at WIN 4/10-5/19 with a high count of 34 during that time (DNe, m.ob.). The max count of **Greater Yellowlegs** for the season was 8 at NOR 5/19 (DY, DNe).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported in small numbers this spring. Single birds were at VER (MD) and NOR (AF) 4/3, 4 at Sharpsburg 4/11 (SK), one in HRM 4/16 (AH, PM), one in Aspinwall 4/17 (AF), 4 in Kilbuck Twp. 4/26 (KSJ), and one at BRU 4/26 (AP). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at Emsworth Dam 3/11 (PB).

Three **Caspian Terns** were spotted flying over FRI 4/24 (TR) and 3 at PSP 4/26 (m.ob.). These birds continued down the Ohio R. and were reported at BRU (AF, et al.) and DD (DBe). One was seen at the Kilbuck Boat Launch (KSJ) which is between the other two locations on the Ohio R. A **Common Tern** was at DD 5/22 (MV). Three **Forster's Terns** were in VER 4/16 (MF), one at CHA 4/21 (JVo), 3 at PSP 4/26 (BC, m.ob.), 7 at DD 4/26 (DBe), and 2 in Lawrenceville 5/15 (AB, CB). A **Common/Forster's Tern** was at VER 5/20 (SK), unidentified due to distance.

There are several **Great Blue Heron** rookeries in the county; a summary follows. The rookery on the Allegheny R. at Lock and Dam No. 3 in HRM continues to grow with 49 nests this year (AH, PM, m.ob.). A rather new rookery on the Allegheny on Six Mile Island has five nests (SK, MF). A few nests are at NOR (m.ob.) and the long-established rookery in COL has around 30 nests this year (PB, ST, MF). **Great Egret** reports include single birds at DH (TC) and NOR 3/24 (EPH, EH), one in HRM 3/30 (m.ob.), one flying over Bridgeville 4/6 (JO), 2 flying over Hilltop Park in COL 4/12 (JSa), and one at NOR 4/14 (AF).

Seven **Black Vultures** were in Fox Chapel 3/7 (BS), one was in IND 3/24 (DY) and 2 were in Millvale 4/6 (JVo). One was photographed at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve 4/28 (PBt). An interesting very pale **Red-tailed Hawk** was photographed flying over WIN 4/10 (eBird). It was entered as a Krider's but was later thought to be leucistic. Another pale bird was at FRI 4/30 (MK).

There were a surprising number of **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports. One was at FRI 4/46-28 (MK, RB), one in Bethel Park 5/3 (JP) and Baldwin that same day (LK); 2 were photographed in Wexford 5/20-24 (JVt), and one was photographed in Shaler Twp. 5/24 (MN). A **Merlin** was in IND 3/13 (BS). Two were at Chatham University in SQU 4/26 and one 4/28 (MKu) where they continued to May and are suspected of nesting (MKu). If confirmed, it would be a first for *Allegheny* and for southwestern Pennsylvania.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** reports include single birds at WIN 5/8 (IF), Sewickley Heights Park 5/10 (LG), DLP 5/14 (m.ob.) and Hartwood Acres 5/19 (LK, LG). Two were at FRI 5/21 (NH, m.ob.). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** has been uncommon in spring. One was photographed at DLP 5/14 (AF, et al.), one was photographed at HHP the same day (DBe), and one was in Upper St. Clair 5/15 (NL). An **Alder Flycatcher** was recorded at WIN 5/13 (TC), 2 were recorded singing at FRI 5/19 (DY, et al.), and one was at HHP 5/28 (eBird, vr.). **Philadelphia Vireo** has been uncommon in spring, but several were found this year. Single birds were at FRI 5/3 (SB, JVo), DLP 5/8 (DY), Hays Woods 5/11 (NL), WIN 5/13 (JF, JP) and NOR 5/16 (DN).

High counts of **Fish Crows** included 39 in SQU 3/6 (MKu), 32 in Mellon Park 4/1 (MKu), 19 in SQU 4/21 (MK) and 10 in VER 5/21 (MF). Four **Bank Swallows** were at DD 4/26 (MV), 2 at DH 5/7 (MF) and one at DD 5/28-29 (AF, AK). A **Cliff Swallow** was in Clinton 4/18 (MV). There were 2 late **Winter Wrens** reported: one at Barking Slopes 5/18 (EH, MS) and one at NOR 5/20 (RB). A **Marsh Wren** was photographed at WIN 4/27 (JVo, SV).

There were only 2 **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reports. Single birds were in Upper St. Clair 5/14 (MT) and FRI 5/17 (KSJ, CK). An **American Pipit** was a nice find at NOR 3/27 (CD, m.ob.), and 10 were at WIN that same day (JF, JO). A **Purple Finch** visited a feeder in HRM 3/21 (JVt). Two males and a female were observed during Apr in Pine Twp. (PL, SL). There were numerous eBird reports from various locations during Apr. There was an eBird report of two **Pine Siskins** visiting a feeder in Fox Chapel 4/12, and one was at FRI 4/13 (MK). Following last season's **American Goldfinch** high counts comes another, this season with 64 at Sygan Hilltop Park in COL 3/28 (DNe, NN).

**Vesper Sparrow** is rarely reported during migration. Two were photographed at Latodimi Nature Center in NOR 4/10 (DBe), and one was in the fields above Latodomi 4/12 (AF). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was discovered in a grocery store in COL 5/7 and was lured out of the building by playing its song outside an open door (JM). A **Dark-eyed "Cismontanus" Junco** continued visiting a feeder in IND 3/12 (DY). Two late birds were in Mt. Lebanon 4/23 (SSn).

A **Rusty Blackbird** was in Gibsonia 3/5-30 (KP), one in Schenley Park 3/11 (KSJ), 2 in Findlay Twp. at the Strouss Farm 3/12 (MV), 3 in FRI 3/13 (AF, JVo, SV, IF), one in IIND 3/21 (DY), and one remained at Strouss Farm 3/27 (MV). One was at HHP 4/14 (PH, JS, SS).

A total of 35 species of warblers were reported this spring. Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were counter singing at HHP 5/2 (EH), a regular breeding site. They continued to be heard and seen through May. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was photographed at Boyce Park 5/2 (KZ) and another was photographed in Schenley Park 5/4 (KSJ). A female was at FRI 5/5 (DY) and one was at BMP 5/9 (HJ, JF). A male **Prothonotary Warbler** was photographed at Peter's Cr. in Jefferson Borough 4/24 (LK).

Rare in spring an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was a good find at Walker Park in Sewickley 4/30 (LN), one was photographed at Boyce Park 5/5 (Abu), one was in FRI 5/3 (SB, MC), 5/5 (DY) and 5/7 (MK). A local bird bander captured and banded a **Connecticut Warbler** in Hays 5/18 (NL), a very rare find in spring. A **Mourning Warbler** in West Mifflin 5/7 (KB) was the only report. A very early **Blackpoll Warbler** was at WIN 4/23-27 (m.ob.). **Prairie Warblers** are rarely encountered during migration. There were two reports this season. One was at CHA 4/24 (RB, et al.) and one was at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve 5/3 (BS).

A male **Blue Grosbeak** was at IMP 5/14 (MV). With the continued development, time will tell if they remain in the area for the season.

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich**, [mpfial@verizon.net](mailto:mpfial@verizon.net), Ken Behrens, Al Borek, Carole Borek, Paul Brant (PBt), Dave Brooke, Paul Brown, Stephen Bucklin, Ron Burkert, Michele Carlson, Thomas Connor, Ben Coulter, Linda Croskey, Ian Cruickshank, Michael David, Casey Davidson, Adrian Fenton, Ian Fitzgerald, John Flannigan, Lynn Goldbach, Eric Hall, Jeanne Haury, Amy Henrici, Paul Hess, Ed Hogan (EHo), Elizabeth Pagel-Hogan, Frank Izaguirre, Hannah Jones, Lisa Kaufman, Charity Kheshgi, Michelle Kienholz, Andrew Kingfisher, Scott Kinzey, Lucy Klimko (LKI), Malcolm Kurtz (MKu), Jessica LaHurd, Nick Liadis, Oliver Lindheim, Pat Lynch, Sherron Lynch, Jeff McDonald, Pat McShea, Lauren Nagoda, Matt Nelson, Dean Newhouse (DNe), Dick Nugent, James Offaus, Ryan O'Rourke, Joe Papp, Kevin Parsons, Aidan Place, Tessa Rhinehart, James Scracco (JSa), Brian Shema, Sam Sinderson (SSn), Mike Smith, Jack Solomon, Sue Solomon, Beth Spindler (BSp), Douglas Spindler, Kate St. John, Molly Toth, Jim Valimont (JVt), Mark Vass, Jodi Vasalani, John Vassallo (JVo), Samuel Vassallo, Zach Vaughan, David Yeany II, Kristin Zagorac, Anna Zizak.

### **Armstrong County**

Location: Armstrong Trail north of Dam 8 (AT8).

The species detected during the period did not differ much from previous years, but there were divergent patterns in the migratory species' arrivals in spring 2022. One pattern was the early departure of numerous waterfowl for presumably their breeding grounds up north. Over the last 10 years it has been common for the following species to persist in *Armstrong* into the month of April: **Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, and Horned Grebe**. However, in 2022, all these species were observed in March but gone by April. That doesn't mean their numbers were lower. A record high count of 18 **Green-winged Teal** was seen during a 2.7-km traveling survey on 3/18 along AT8 (TR).

Three **Buffleheads** persisted late into May during their migration. On repeated visits to AT8, groups of 2-3 were found 5/2-19 (TR, ph.); the

latest observations of Bufflehead ever recorded in the county, according to eBird.

Notable observations this spring included an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** along Stone House Road 4/24 (AB). An **American Coot** was seen on Keystone L. 3/17 (MH, RH). The Solitary Sandpiper was notably absent this spring. The species has been detected during spring migration in seven of the last 10 years, but to date, it has not been observed in *Armstrong* since 8/8/2021.

**Great Horned Owls** were heard throughout the period at a single location along Saybertown Road (TA). A **Barred Owl** was found at Crooked Creek L. on two occasions (JB, TR). A **Peregrine Falcon** was observed on the Rte. 422 highway bridge over the Allegheny R. south of Kittanning in mid-Mar (DB). Perhaps the same bird was seen in downtown Ford City 4/20 (AB).

Two uncommon species were detected this spring. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was photographed in SGL 137 west of Rte. 66 on 5/15 (MS). This is only the tenth time this species has been found in *Armstrong*, according to eBird. The last time was in 2019. A group of 5 **Fish Crows** was seen, also on 5/15, along Market Street in Freeport (CK, JKo). This species is not rare in neighboring counties, but for *Armstrong*, this was only the third observation recorded on eBird. Freeport is along the Allegheny R. where a healthy population of Fish Crows lives further south in and around Pittsburgh. The population is moving north every year at a rate of 2.5 km annually since 2017. The observation on 5/15 was the most north along the river that the species has ever been seen. Sometime soon, observations of the Fish Crow may be commonplace.

In contrast to the early departures and early arrivals, there was one species that arrived late according to my review of eBird records. The **Ovenbird** has had a consistent arrival date over the last 10 years, between 4/28 and 4/30. In 2022, the earliest *Armstrong* record was on 5/2 (TR), and while this is only a few days later than normal, the bulk of Ovenbirds did not settle into the county until the middle of the May. Meanwhile, many Ovenbirds had already arrived in surrounding counties. This may be random noise or it might suggest a decline in habitat quality for the area [see: Johnson, J. (2021). *Factors influencing bioacoustically derived arrival timing of three migrant bird species in the western boreal forest*. M.S. Thesis. Dept. of Biol. Sci., Univ. Alberta].

Along with the early departures of waterfowl, there were some early arrivals of migrants. **Louisiana Waterthrush** began arriving during the last week of Mar. The first was heard singing on the Butler-Freeport Trail near Laneville, east of Rte. 28 on 3/26 (PB). This was the earliest this species has ever been reported for this county via eBird. In the following days, other waterthrush were found a little way north along the same recreational trail, plus Johnston Road in Worthington. An **Indigo Bunting** was spotted much earlier than normal this spring at a birdfeeder on Craig Lane in Templeton. It visited the feeder 4/14-15 (PW).

Observers: **Jim Kellam, Dept. of Biology, Saint Vincent College, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650, 724-805-2171, james.kellam@stvincent.edu**, Tammy Arnold, John Bobak, Dave Brooke, Alan Buriak, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Chrissy Kolakowski, Justin Kolakowski (JKo), Theo Rickert, Mark Strittmatter, Pam Walaski.

### **Beaver County**

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

Two somewhat late **Tundra Swans** were at AR 3/18-22 (MV) and another was at RCH 3/21-22 (DZ). Small numbers of **Blue-winged Teal** were noted at IND on many dates from 3/18-4/25 (JM, et al.), and up to 10 were at EV 3/19-4/23 (MV). Three **Northern Shovelers** hung around IND 3/5-20 (MV). Top count of **Gadwall** was 9 at EV between 3/19-4/23 (MV). EV also held the top count of **American Wigeon**, with 7 birds 3/19-21 (MV). Three were also at RCH 3/3 (DZ) and one was at IND 3/6-20

(DZ). Two **American Black Ducks** were at RCSP 3/3 (JM) and another 2 were at AR 3/18-29 (MV). A nice count of 8 **Northern Pintails** was made at IND 3/5 (MV) with 5 remaining to 3/17 (JM).

Bay ducks were rather poorly reported. Two **Canvasback** at AR 3/29 (JM) and one **Redhead** at RCH 3/12 (DZ) represented the only reports of either species. Somewhat better was the top count of 42 **Ring-necked Ducks** at EV 4/2 (MV), and the max of 30 **Greater Scaup** at RCH 3/12-17 (DZ) was also a fair tally. A **Common Goldeneye** was at AR 3/19 (JM), 3 were at RCH 3/20 (TJ), and 2 were at RCSP 3/22 (JM), with the RCSP birds remaining to the late date of 4/12 (JM). A **Common Merganser** was at RBNP 5/2 (DZ), 2 were at IND 5/5-15 (DZ), and 2 were at the wildflower reserve at RCSP 5/15 (eBird); all of these areas are recently new or potentially new breeding areas for the species. The count of 21 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at RCH 3/30 (DZ) was a respectable season max.

Top count for **Horned Grebe** was 5 at RCH 4/12 (DZ). The only report of **Black-billed Cuckoo** was one at RCSP 5/3 (JM). Still rare in *Beaver*, but probably expected to soon become more common, especially in the northwestern corner, was a **Sandhill Crane** at EV 3/19 (MV), near where a pair attempted to nest in 2020 and were one was seen in March last year.

Shorebirds and gulls were sparse. **Least Sandpiper** was noted at RCSP (JM) and IND (DZ) on 5/9, and one **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at RCSP 4/12 (JM). Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at RCSP 5/22-23 (JM). Even yellowlegs were hard to come by. Seven **Lesser Yellowlegs** at IND 5/1 (DZ) was the top count of just a handful of reports, and **Greater Yellowlegs** was reported at IND just three times 4/12-5/12 (DZ). Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at RCH 4/1 (DZ), and a **Caspian Tern** was noted at RCH 5/19 (DZ).

A **Common Loon** staged at AR 4/15-25 (DZ, JM). Reports of **Great Egret** were limited to one at RCSP 4/3-13 (MV) and one at IND 4/30-5/12 (JM, DZ). **Black Vulture** was found again this spring in Hanover Twp. near RCSP 4/2 (JM) but there were no reports thereafter. **Osprey** was found at nine locations beginning 3/20, and **Bald Eagle** at 10 locations from the beginning of the season. Both species were still true rarities in *Beaver* just 20 years ago.

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** appeared at a Monaca feeder 4/26 (AG) and in Beaver Falls 4/28 (SG *fide* TJ). An **American Kestrel** remained at RBNP to at least 5/25 (DZ) suggesting it summered (and possibly bred) in the area. Reports of **Merlin** included one at Ambridge 3/11 (MV)—probably the wintering bird that has been seen there sporadically for a number of years now—and one at RCSP 4/19 (JM). **Peregrine Falcons** were seen around their nesting areas at RCH and Aliquippa only a few times each, but regularly into May (MV, et al.).

A late **Blue-headed Vireo** was at AR 5/23 (DZ), suggesting a possible nesting attempt. The only report of **Philadelphia Vireo** was one at RCSP 5/21 (SM, RH). **Common Raven** was reported from five locations away from the Ohio River, as well as from a few spots along the river too (m.ob.). An early returning **Purple Martin** was noted at Fombell 3/6 (DF *fide* MV). They were also noted on four dates at RCSP from 4/19-5/23 (JM). **Bank Swallow** was also at RCSP on four dates from 4/19-5/9 (JM).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** was found with great frequency at the RCSP wildflower reserve in the second half of Apr (m.ob.), but was seen only sporadically elsewhere in early Apr. Two **American Pipits** were in Independence Twp. 5/1 (MV). Reports of **Yellow-breasted Chat** included one at IND 5/4 (DZ) and one at RBNP 5/21-30 (DZ); they probably breed at the latter location. Four **Bobolinks** were found at the former Little Blue Lake site (now a spectacular grassland) 5/25 (MV). Up to 16 **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted at IND on many dates 3/8-5/9 (JM, et al.).

A **Northern Waterthrush** frequented IND 5/1-9 (DZ), and a **Prothonotary Warbler** was there 5/12-14 (DZ), the latter providing an excellent record for the marsh. Another Prothonotary was at Brush Creek County Park 5/16 (BK). A **Kentucky Warbler** was found at the grossly under-birded SGL 285 on 5/24 (JP), and a **Cerulean Warbler** was there 5/28 (JP).

Two **Bay-breasted Warblers** were at Hanover Twp. 5/13 (JM),

representing one of only two records in the county this season. In fact, it was a rather poor showing for transit migrants overall; for example, there were just four reports of **Magnolia Warbler** made to eBird for the entire season. This was probably a combination of general lack of coverage by birders and what some observers described as a season marked by few days with favorable fallout conditions for migrants. A **Pine Warbler** was at RCSP 3/15 (JM), early enough that it was probably wintering in the area. Four **Prairie Warblers** were at SGL 285 from 5/24-28 (JP), indicating that these game lands still remain the best place in the county for this species. A **Canada Warbler** at IND 5/12 (DZ) and a **Wilson's Warbler** at RCSP 5/9 (JM) each represented the only report for their kind.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Doug Falk, Ariana Gnas, Scott Gregg, Rebecca Hart, Tim Johnson, Barb Kiester, Steve Manns, Jeff Moore, Joel Postema, Mark Vass, Dante Zuccaro.

### **Bedford County**

Locations: Belden (BL), Dutch Corner (DC), Fam Farm (FF), Mountain Meadows (MM), Shawnee State Park (SSP), Whitetail Wetlands (WW).

There were 187 species reported to eBird for *Bedford* during Spring 2022. Two storms dumped over 6 inches of snow on 3/12 and 3/13 and a similar amount on 4/19 (Easter Monday), resulting in major fallouts for waterfowl and songbirds. May weather was milder but soggy, since precipitation was recorded for 19 days yielding almost 8 inches of rain for the month.

The Allegheny Front Hawk Watch compiler, Bob Stewart, noted that the spring watch was the 25th anniversary of this effort. The total migrant raptor count was 1569, which was second highest since 2005. Noteworthy were the 90 **Bald Eagles**, a new season high. The count of 757 **Broad-wing Hawks** was the second highest, and the **Golden Eagle** count was 105, second only to 124 recorded in 2003. Brian Wargo was the counter on 4/23 when the daily count of raptor migrants was 630, surpassed only by 735 on 4/24/2009. Of concern was the **Red-shouldered Hawk** count of 25, much lower than flights of 10 to 15 years ago. The **Red-tail Hawk** count of 238 was near the 10-year average. More details are available at the Allegheny Front Hawk Watch's website.

An influx of **Tundra Swans** dropped into *Bedford* 3/3, with 93 observed at SSP (ST). The last two Tundra Swans departed the county from WW 3/19 (m.ob.). Of the 29 species of ducks found in the United States, 21 species were observed in the county, at SSP unless otherwise noted: high counts were 40 **Wood Ducks** at WW 3/13 (m.ob.), 18 **Blue-winged Teals** 4/10 (EB), 10 **Northern Shovelers** 3/13 (AB), 65 **Gadwalls** 3/13 (ST), 158 **American Wigeons** 3/3 (ST), 100 **Mallards** at Woodbury Res. 3/11 (EB), 8 **American Black Ducks** at Younts Road 4/2 (AB), 140 **Northern Pintails** 3/3 (ST), 4 **Green-winged Teals** 3/10 (JT), 33 **Canvasbacks** 3/3 (ST), 88 **Redheads** 3/3 (ST), 65 **Ring-necked Ducks** 3/12 (AB), 30 **Greater Scaups** 4/7 (AB), 45 **Lesser Scaups** 3/6 (AM), 5 **Long-tailed Ducks** 4/19 (AB), 46 **Buffleheads** 4/9 (AB), 5 **Common Goldeneyes** 3/3 (ST), 58 **Hooded Mergansers** 3/1 (ST), 103 **Common Mergansers** 3/1 (ST), 70 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 4/1 (J&SD), and 60 **Ruddy Ducks** 4/9 (AB). A high of 22 **Pied-billed Grebes** was reported at SSP 4/3 (AM), and a high of 24 **Horned Grebes** there 4/7 (AB).

West Nile Virus has taken a terrible toll on **Ruffed Grouse**, which was reported from just 3 locations in *Bedford*, with a high count of 2 at Blue Knob SP 5/4 (ES, AS).

The first **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were reported 5/14 in multiple locations in the county, with a high of 4 at MM 5/14 (M&LJ), while the first **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted at SSP 5/13, with a high of 2 there 5/19 (MD). The only report of a **Common Nighthawk** was at SSP 5/28 (m.ob.) The first **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard at Artemus 4/23 (PW), but

the high was 23 at SGL 48 on 5/12 (AK). A high count of 8 **Chimney Swifts** was observed at Fort Bedford Park 5/27 (EB). There were numerous sightings of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, but the earliest was at MM 4/23 (M&LJ).

**American Coots** were observed at SSP throughout the spring, with the first report 3/1 (ST). Just one **Greater Yellowlegs** was at SSP 5/22 (AB), and only one **Lesser Yellowlegs** was seen in DC 5/14 (AB). One **Caspian Tern** was seen at SSP 4/7 (AB) and 2 on 5/19 (MD). **Common Loons** made frequent appearances at SSP, with a high of 50 on 4/21 (AB); the last reported sighting of 2 was 5/15 (Anon).

A great find was an **American Bittern** at WW 5/8 (EB) and 5/13 (AK). **Great Egrets** stopped by SSP for just 4 days, 2 on 5/15 (Anon) and one on 5/19 (MD). An earlier sighting of a Great Egret was at Mowrys Mills Road 4/30 (RK).

**Red-headed Woodpecker** sightings increased, with regular reports from BL and a high of 4 on 5/29 (AB). A high of 4 **Acadian Flycatchers** was reported at SSP 5/13 (JC), while 14 **Willow Flycatchers** were seen at WW 5/13 (AK). Three **Least Flycatchers** were reported at SSP 5/13 (JC).

**Fish Crows** were reported along Rt. 30 from Bedford to Everett, with a high of 4 at Allegheny Front Hawk Watch 4/2 (Anon). A high count of 60 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** was reported at SSP 5/8 (BP). A high of 30 **Purple Martins** was reported at Down River GC 5/14 (EB), while only one sighting of 8 **Bank Swallows** was reported at SSP 5/19 (MD). A high of 70 **Cliff Swallows** was reported at Stein Rd 5/10 (EB).

Five **Swainson's Thrushes** were seen at Pinewood Ave. 5/14 (BY). Three **Hermit Thrushes** were reported 3/24 at Rural Home Site (B&JC). There were multiple reports of **Wood Thrushes** in *Bedford*, with a high of 12 reported twice on 5/13 (JC) and 5/20 (AB). Just 2 **American Pipits** were seen 5/5 along Bennett Rd. (PW). The only **Pine Siskin** was reported at MM 4/6 (M&LJ).

**Fox Sparrows** were reported from just three sites, with a high of 13 at MM 3/12 (M&LJ). **Dark-eyed Juncos** were last reported 5/20 when one was seen at BL (AB). **White-crowned Sparrows** were reported in just a few areas of *Bedford* with a high of 8 at WW 3/19 (m.ob.). A high of 23 **Swamp Sparrows** was reported at WW 5/13 (AK). A high of 16 **Eastern Towhees** was reported at Big Run Rd. 4/16 (EB).

**Yellow-breasted Chats** were reported at just 2 sites: a single at L. Gordon 5/12 (B&JC) and one at FF 5/30 (AB). **Bobolinks** were seen at scattered locations with a high of 20 at West Cypher Rd. 5/14 (EB). **Eastern Meadowlark** numbers were highest in DC with a high of 22 on 5/14 (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 found at WW, with a high count of 12 on 3/13 (m.ob.).

Warbler diversity increased by 3 from last year, with 32 species reported. A high count of 28 **Ovenbirds** was reported at SSP 5/13 (JC). **Worm-eating Warblers** were reported from three locations, with a high of 7 at SSP 3/13 (AK). **Golden-winged Warblers** were reported from four sites, with a high of 4 at SSP 5/22 (AB); and one **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen at SSP 5/20 and 5/22 (AB). Just one sighting of a single **Mourning Warbler** was reported, from SSP 5/22 (AB). A high of 2 **Kentucky Warblers** was reported at MM 5/14 (M&LJ). There were scattered reports of **Hooded Warblers**, with a high of 4 at FF 5/30 (AB).

One **Cape May Warbler** was reported from the county at MM 5/14 (M&LJ). Three locations yielded **Cerulean Warblers**, with a high of 3 at FF 5/30 (AB). **Blackpoll Warblers** were reported at two sites, with a high of 3 at SSP 5/19 (MC). **Pine Warblers** were consistently reported from SSP, with a high of 5 on 4/24 (KL). A high of 9 **Prairie Warblers** was reported at SGL 48 on 5/12 (AK). A single **Canada Warbler** was seen at SSP 5/13 (JC). Just one **Wilson's Warbler** was seen at SSP 5/13 (AK).

Observers: **Mike and Laura Jackson, 8621 Black Valley Road, Everett, PA 15537, 814-652-9268, jacksonlaura73@gmail.com**, Tom B, Aimee Benitez, Anonymous Birder (Anon), Erika Bowman, John Carter, Brent and Jan Chippendale, Sandy Cline, Michael David, Josh and Susan Donaldson, Andy Keister, Rick Koval, Karen Lucas, Andrew Mack, Chris Payne, Jeff Payne, Rebecca Payne, Brett Probert, Andy Stepniewski, Ellen Stepniewski, John Taylor, Shannon Thompson, Paul West, Brad Yoder.

## Berks County

Locations: Blue Marsh Lake (BML), Exeter River Trail (ERT), French Creek State Park (FCSP), Hamburg Commerce Park (HCP), Kernsville Dam Recreation Area (KDRA), Lake Ontelaunee (LO), Lake Ontelaunee Bailey's Creek (LOBC), North Kill Gap (NKG), Peter's Creek (PC), Sacony Creek Kutztown (SCK).

In what has become the norm, the greater portion of the north-bound migrants moved along the eastern coastal regions and the ridges to the west of Berks. The satellite images showing clouds of birds headed north over those two areas also displayed the empty night skies over Berks. Two weather events, March 6-7 and April 18-19, produced thunderstorms that brought heavy rains and left behind rain pools, which forced waterfowl to seek refuge on the largest lakes — Blue Marsh Lake and Lake Ontelaunee.

The only report for **Greater White-fronted Goose** was one that kept company with a flock of **Canada Geese** at PC 3/6 (RK). The greatest **Snow Goose** numbers arrived during the first week of April with 10,000 **Snow Geese** monitored on LO 3/5-6 (RK). Smaller flocks of these vocal geese were noted in the fields of northern *Berks*, such as the 400 in a Shartlesville corn field 3/5 (MW). Single **Cackling Geese** mixed with **Canada Geese** at EJ Breneman's Quarry 3/4 (AZ), at KDRA 3/7 (KG) and at Gotwal's Pond 3/26 (AS).

The greatest number of **Tundra Swan** was 500 at BML's State Hill Boat Launch 3/3 (JS). There were 175 **Tundra Swans** at LO 3/4 (PW, JW), and 220 **Snow Geese** were counted on LO 3/3 (MW), while another 110 **Snow Geese** swirled overhead. Eighty **American Widgeons** took cover during the storm on LO 3/7 (MW). **Blue-winged Teal** are not usually common migrants, but this quarter they were scattered in small numbers throughout *Berks*. Twelve **Blue-winged Teal** surprised birders on LO 3/29 (JSp, RH, RK, SF). The high number for **Northern Pintail** was 40 at LO 3/6 (AS). Twenty-three **Redheads** hid in the more secluded water at LOBC 3/16 (KD). Flocks of 150 **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen at LO several times: on 3/4 (JW, PW), 3/7 (MW) and 3/15 (m.ob.).

The thunderstorms of early Mar pushed 10 **Greater Scaup** and 50 **Lesser Scaup** to the safety of LO 3/7 (MW). Rare **White-winged Scoters** were seen on LO after storms with one 4/19 (MW) and an unusual high number of 12 on 5/19 (RK). Eleven **Long-tailed Ducks** were found near the **White-winged Scoters** 4/19 (MW). The large rafts of **Bufflehead** that usually appear at LO were missing this quarter; the high count this quarter was 28 **Bufflehead on Lake Ontelaunee's West Shore Drive** 3/14 (RK).

**Common Merganser** raft numbers were lower and less frequent this quarter. On 3/6, 875 **Common Mergansers** were counted at LO (EK) and 800 at LO 3/14 (RK). Ten **Red-breasted Mergansers** roamed LO 3/31 (MW). A lone **Red-throated Loon**, the usual number, made a short appearance BML 4/28 (JS). Large **Common Loon** rafts were not seen this quarter. Three **Common Loons** at BML 4/6 (JS) was the highest count.

A rare **Eared Grebe** was a cooperative comparison with a close **Horned Grebe** at Lake Ontelaunee's West Shore Drive 5/19 (RK). This was only the third record for this western grebe. An Eared Grebe was seen 4/10/1999 at Carr's L. (KL, MW, et al.). On 4/11/04, a lone Eared Grebe was on LO (RK). The high count for Horned Grebe migrants was 6 at LO 3/7 (MW). The same day, a lone **Red-necked Grebe** was at LO (MW).

**Double-crested Cormorant** numbers grew to 80 at LO 3/29 (RK) with small numbers dropping in. Eighty-one **Double-crested Cormorants** were counted as they headed northeast over KDRA 4/14 (KG). **American Bitterns** have made rare appearances in *Berks*; one was in Kutztown's North Park 4/28 (TU). A Henningsville yard list grew when an American Bittern stopped by 4/13 (PS). An early **Great Egret** was found hiding along the LO shoreline on 4/4 (MW). Three **Great Egrets** were found at SCK 4/12 (JW, PW). A **Little Blue Heron** in the process of a plumage change was at Bernhart's Dam 4/29 (JB). The first report of **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at Daniel Boone Homestead 5/14 (DH).

An **Osprey** reported flying along the Schuylkill R. at ERT 3/26 was an early find (JW, PW). **Bald Eagles** made almost daily appearances in *Berks* with eight nests found to be active. Other nests may exist. The "Rutter's Nest" along Route 61 in Hamburg entertained shoppers and was expected to fledge 2 birds this summer. For the weeks of 3/15 and 4/22, birders made 44 reports of **Bald Eagles**.

**Golden Eagles** have historically been known as ridge migrants. On 4/25, a birder was alerted by a **Common Raven** to a Golden Eagle soaring overhead (RK). The raven harassed the eagle as it made its way above Lutz Road. A **Turkey Vulture** watched the proceedings from a safe distance until the eagle was out of sight. The winds were calm, skies overcast and the temperature 55° F. Golden Eagles have normally been seen along the Kittatinny Ridge in winter-like conditions.

Shorebirds have had few choices for stopping to rest and refuel in *Berks*. Spring storms have created rain pools along the usual rural roads. A single **Black-bellied Plover** fed in such a pool on Evansville Road 5/8 (RH). **Solitary Sandpipers** have been early arrivals on farm ponds; one was found at HCP 4/30 and 2 at HCP 5/2 (MW). Four **Greater Yellowlegs** fed at LOBC 4/8 (KD). Five **Lesser Yellowlegs** fed at LOBC 5/1 (JR). The rain pool at Evansville Road has usually been a good spot for shorebirds, and 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were there 5/2 (RK).

**Dunlins** have been one of the rarer spring shorebirds, and there were three reports of single birds: BM 4/9 (JSp), HCP 5/3 AW, and Evansville rain pool 5/28 (DJ). First report for **American Woodcock** was 5 along River Road 3/5 (MW). Three **American Woodcocks** performed at SGL 110 at NKG Shartlesville 4/4 (LZ, LI, JW and PW).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** have preferred the larger *Berks* lakes, and the high count was 66 at LO 4/19 (MW). The same day 44 were at BML (JSp). **Little Gulls** have been known to migrate with flocks of **Bonaparte's Gulls**. A **Little Gull** was photographed 3/15 (RH) as it flew with 30 **Ring-billed Gulls**. This is only the fourth **Little Gull** record for *Berks*. The first record was at Carr's L. 4/24/1995 (KL, JH, MW) as it flew with 90 **Ring-billed Gulls**. A **Great Black-backed Gull** lingered at LO 3/13 (TU). A good number for this large gull, 5 were seen flying over Blandon near LO 3/7 (AS).

Five **Caspian Terns** wandered around BML 4/10 (RH). **Common Terns** are not common in *Berks*. A lone **Common Tern** was reported at BML 5/4 (JW, PW). Two rare **Arctic Terns** were found foraging at LO along with one **Common Tern** 5/15 (RK). This was only the second record for *Berks* with the first being at BML 9/18/2018 (KL). The **Arctic Terns** were cooperative as they made close-by passes for identification and comparison with the **Common Terns**.

The **Eurasian Collared-Doves** have not expanded their range, with most sightings being made in Shartlesville with their numbers varying. Four **Eurasian-collared Doves** were found along the main street 3/13 (AWm, AD). During the winter quarter, **Short-eared Owls** were rare; hence, it is ironic that one would be found dead due to a collision with a vehicle in Leesport 3/7 (KH).

The first report of a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was from Bern Twp. 4/24 (JS). The known **Red-headed Woodpecker** nesting areas are still active. The first report from Bastian Road in Lyons was 03/19 (MW). The first report from Allendale Road in Shoemakersville was 4/6 (MW). After an unsuccessful breeding season in 2021, the **Peregrine Falcons** changed mates, and the 2022 fledging was successful with 3 birds surviving.

**Acadian Flycatchers** arrived in Nolde Forest 5/10 (MS). An uncommon **Alder Flycatcher** stopped along SCK 2/21 (TU). A migrant **Least Flycatcher** was located in KDRA 4/24 (KG). **Fish Crows** have become more numerous in northern *Berks*, rummaging through trash bins and fields. A roost of approximately 200 **Fish Crows** was active along Hex Hwy. in Hamburg 05/31 (MW). An early report for **Purple Martins** came from Bern Twp. 4/18 (JS).

With scarce numbers during winter, **Red-breasted Nuthatches** headed north through *Berks* in small numbers. Two were found along Bartrum Trail 3/19 (KG). The conifers in PC provided suitable habitat for the 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** found 3/27 (AW). A rare wren in migration, a **Marsh Wren** was heard and seen at the Moselem Springs access to LO 5/31 (DB).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found in the dense conifers at Nolde Forest 5/23 (RC). On a morning walk, 8 **Swainson's Thrushes** were counted at SGL 110 at NKG 5/16 (KG). During a Red Moon Lunar Eclipse the evening of 5/16, numerous flight calls were counted of both Gray-cheek Thrush and Swainson's Thrush (MW).

Usually found in single numbers, **Fox Sparrows** were seen in light concentration during migration. Four Fox Sparrows were in SGL 110 at NKG 3/5 (MW), and 5 were along Bartrum Trail 3/19 (KG). A nice sparrow in migration, one **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found at SCK 5/18 (GA).

**Orchard Oriole** pairs were found at PC 5/9 (MW) and at LOBC 5/24 (AW). At both locations, there were several **Baltimore Orioles** and **Warbling Vireos**. Two **Rusty Blackbirds** in transitional plumage were found under a bird feeder on Scenic Drive in Hamburg 3/13 (MW). At FCSP, 3 **Rusty Blackbirds** were flushed 4/9 (AB, MS). Two late **Lapland Longspurs** were noted 3/13. On the same date, one was found in the reliable area of Mertz Road in Lyons (TU) and a Lapland Longspur was in the farmland of Heidelberg Twp (BL).

Thirty-one species of warblers were tallied in *Berks* this migration. The satellite images were accurate when displaying the lack of blips indicating neo-tropical migrants. These are some of the warbler highlights which are noted to be single birds: **Prothonotary Warbler** at ERT 5/5 (LI, RH); **Mourning Warbler** at KDRA 5/21 (AS); 2 **Kentucky Warblers** at FCSP 5/20 (TU); **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Union Meadows Park 5/16 (MSL, LI); **Wilson's Warbler** at KDRA 5/14 (KG) and Hamburg Res. 5/3 (AW, JR); **Yellow-breasted Chat** at SGL 106 on 5/30 (MW).

**Blue Grosbeaks** were present at SCK 5/15-24 (GA). The farmland surrounding Rodale Experimental Farm is excellent habitat for grassland birds, where 2 **Dickcissels** were seen 5/24 (JV). Five **Bobolinks** flew over BML 5/1 (JS) on their way to breeding grounds. Monument Road is excellent habitat for grassland birds with the hazard of multiple hay cuttings. Eight Bobolinks on Monument Road were counted 5/29 (RH).

Observers: **Matt Wlasniewski, 191 Scenic Drive, Hamburg, PA 19526, 610-463-8845, martind28@comcast.net**, Gary Angstadt, Ed Barrell, Ann Becker, Joe Beatrice, Dan Brennan, Sarah Busch, Lucy Cairns (LCr), Liz Cates, Michael Cox, Angela Detweiler, Kevin Dougherty, John Driscoll, Cheryl Faust, Caroline Fegley (CFe), Steven Fordyce, Steven Gautier, Laurie Goodrich & HMS Volunteers/Staff, Mary-Therese Grob, Kerry Grim, Bert Harris, Holly Hartshorne, Paul Heveran, Russell Hoffman, Kate Houlne, Jason Horn, Matt Hunter, John Hutchinson (JHu), Linda Ingram, Dean Johnson, Rudy Keller, Dave Kozlovsky, Edward Komito, Katrina Knight, Ken Lebo, Brian Lineaweaver, Sandy Lockerman, Andy Matsko, Holly Merker, Dennis Miranda, Sandra Moroney, Derek Price, Barbara Ritzheimer, John Ruggles, Troy Sabocheck, Peter Saenger, Aaron Shirk, Joan Silagy, Mike Slater, Michael Sokowsky (MSo), Jo Spilde (JSp), Jaime Thomas, Todd Underwood, Bill Uhrich, Jeff Vinosky, Ron Wagner, Ken Walsh, Nelson Weber, Matthew White (MWh), Chris Whitely (CWh), Amanda Williams (AWm), Claudia Winters, Andy Wlasniewski, Jane Wolfe, Peter Wolfe, Art Zdancewic.

### **Blair County**

Locations: Canoe Creek State Park (CC), Frosty Hollow (FH), Lower Trail Mount Etna (LTE), Plummer's Hollow (PH).

The spring weather fluctuated with above-average amount of rain during this period, with a few days that were seasonably hot. There were 196 species reported. Information was obtained primarily from eBird data.

A few major highlights included the first county record of a **Dickcissel** which was observed during a Nocturnal Flight Call (NFC) operation at PH 5/14 (MB, JG). A single **Swallow-tailed Kite** soared over PH at an 800- to 1000-foot distance. It was in a small kettle of 3 **Red-tailed Hawks** and one **Broad-winged Hawk**. The bird circled several times over the ridgetop, moving northeast, then disappeared 4/24 (McB,

## **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**

MB).

**Tundra Swans** were accounted for across the area including flyover flocks. Twenty-six waterfowl species were documented. Uncommon ducks included 2 **White-winged Scoters** at Bellwood Res. 4/3 (JC) and 7 more at CC 5/6 (JC, SH, BS). Two **Northern Pintails** were observed at CC 3/2 (MD). Two **Northern Shovelers** were photographed at Henry's Pond 3/5 (LP). There were many reports of 2 to 3 groupings of **Blue-winged Teals** and **Green-winged Teals** and of several sightings of **Great Scaups** and **Lesser Scaups** scattered on the lakes and ponds.

A few single reports of **Ruffed Grouse** drumming were documented. The first report of a single **Common Nighthawk** was in Altoona 5/19 (MK). **Wild Turkeys** and **Chimney Swifts** were reported across the county with a high count of 128 **Chimney Swifts** in the town of Tyrone. More reports of **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were heard. Two **Virginia Rails** were calling at SGL 278 North 4/2 through May (JC), and a single Virginia Rail called at Moorhen Marsh near Pinecroft 4/15 (MK). A high count of 3 **Soras** were found at Moorhen Marsh 4/29 (MK).

Shorebirds during this period included 6 uncommon **Least Sandpipers** and one **Pectoral Sandpiper** foraging along with 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** at Watts Farm Field, which was flooded from a heavy thunderstorm 5/6 (JC), and interestingly there were similar species exactly one year ago at this location. Nine **Wilson's Snipe** probed the mud at Watts Farm Field 4/12 (JC).

Gulls included a high count of 60 uncommon **Bonaparte's Gulls** at Bellwood Res. 4/18 (JC). There was a high count of 150 **Ring-billed Gull** at CC 3/5 (NT) and a high of 4 **Herring Gulls** at PH 3/6 (MB). A lone **Forster's Tern** was at CC 5/7 (JC, SH, BS). A high count of 10 **Common Loons** was at CC 4/2 (JC), and a **Red-throated Loon** was there 2/22 (MK). Two **Great Egrets** foraged around Tipton Wetlands 4/30 (JC).

A lone **Golden Eagle** was observed migrating in PH 4/28 (MB). **Black Vultures** were routinely seen at PH through the period with a high of 9 (MB). Single **Northern Harriers** were scattered across the area. **Ospreys** and **Bald Eagles** were consistently observed at CC, with a high count of 6 Ospreys 4/30 (LN). The high count of **Broad-winged Hawks** was 36 migrating over PH (MB). Two reports of lone **Merlins** were in Altoona 5/19 (MK) and PH 4/6 (MB).

Two uncommon spring **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were seen at LTE 5/17 (MN), and single reports of **Philadelphia Vireo** were in LTE 5/14 (JC) and at FH 5/21 (LB). There were two reports of a lone **White-eyed Vireo**. There were 2 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** at FH photographed 5/21 (LB), and 2 **American Pipits** were recorded during an NFC operation 5/14 (MB, JG).

A strong number of warbler species were spread across *Blair* as 31 species were reported. The most notable uncommon warblers included 3 reports of a single **Golden-winged Warbler**. Single hybrid **Brewster's Warbler** and **Lawrence's Warbler** were photographed at SGL 278 North 5/31 (MN). A single **Mourning Warbler** popped up at CC 5/7 (JC, SH, BS), and one at FH 5/12 (LB). A high count of 10 **Black-throated Green Warblers** were observed at PH, along with 17 **Nashville Warblers**, 5 **Cape May Warblers**, 11 **Worm-eating Warblers**, 8 **Blackburnian Warblers**, 12 **Black-and white Warblers**, 42 **American Redstarts** and one **Canada Warbler** 5/8 (MB). Sixty **Cerulean Warblers** were documented along the LTE 5/5 (NB).

Observers: **John Carter, 335 Bell-Tip Road, Tyrone, PA 16686, 814-933-7426, carter0206@aol.com**, Tina Alianiello, Nick Bolgiano, Marcia Bonta (McB), Mark Bonta, Lowell Burket, Michael David, Brian Freiwald, Deborah Grove, Greg Grove, Joe Gyekis, Sean Herrmann, Jason Hilling, Michael Kensingler, Linderale Nale, Mark Nale, Laura Palmer, Brian Schmoke, Nash Turley.

### **Bucks County**

Locations: Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve (BOW), Bradford Dam (BRD), Churchville Park (CVP), Delaware River (DELR), Lake Towhee County Park (LTOW), Maple Knoll Farms (MKF), Morrisville (MOR),

Neshaminy State Park (NESP), Nockamixon State Park (NOSP), Peace Valley Park (PVP), Penn-Warner Tract (PWT), Pine Run Dam (PRD), Quakertown Swamp (QTS), Silver Lake Park (SLP).

The month of March was a little warmer than average (+2.1°F) and a bit on the dry side (-1.28"). April featured almost-normal temperatures (-0.9°F) and above-average precipitation (+2.02"). May featured near-average temperatures (+1.2°F), but the weather was very damp overall (+3.45"). In total, 231 bird species were reported, better than last year but still somewhat below the 10-year average of 236. March was fairly quiet overall. A series of storms in April and prevailing easterly winds in May brought some high-quality waterbirds down to the area's lakes. The other side of this was that a lack of warm southerly winds in May seemed to dampen passerine migration in May.

The best from this spring included **American Oystercatcher**, **Red-necked Phalarope**, **Red Phalarope**, **Little Gull**, **Arctic Tern**, **Pacific Loon** and **White Ibis**. Thanks to August Mirabella for compiling general notes and observations from long-time birders. Ken Kitson's 1998 *Birds of Bucks County*, as well as this journal, were referenced for historical information such as early dates, late dates, and county records. Almost all of this spring's early dates pertained to warblers and other passerines, while few notable late dates were documented. Although no statewide compilation occurs for the Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) anymore, an effort is still made in *Bucks* to keep compiling the data each year (DA). This year's count on 5/14 went well overall, with 10,049 birds of 151 species. Five high counts were either tied or surpassed this year.

It has become normal for **Snow Geese** to move on before the spring season. This year's high count of 300 were at Delaware Canal SP 3/6 (KR). This compiler had a shock when, on 5/24, a muffled barking sound heard in the woodlands at NOSP turned into a northbound flock of at least 250 **Brants** (PH). This is one of few spring records for the county, and a new high count for any season. The only later county spring date consists of one at PVP on 5/31/1983 (AM). **Cackling Goose** reports were light. Three were at PRD 3/14 (KI), with an injured bird noted at SLP 4/17 (RN). Resident **Mute Swans** were at seven locations, with a high of 17 in the PWT area 4/16 (RS). An immature **Trumpeter Swan** arrived at PWT 3/4 (DD); it was seen the next day (MG) but not afterwards. **Tundra Swans** were reported at four sites and in numbers not seen since 2014. High counts included 30 at PVP 3/3 (TH), 44 at CVP 3/4 (MGr), and 33 more at PVP in a snowstorm 3/9 (KRi). These were part of a fallout of thousands of swans at water bodies large and small across the state in early Mar.

Twenty-two duck species were found this spring, which seems to be the "magic number" nowadays. **Blue-winged Teal** were at 10 sites (m.ob.); the high count of 17 were at PWT 4/24 (DF). **Northern Shovelers** were at five locations, with a high of 18 at PWT 3/13 (DD). **Gadwall** numbers stayed low, with 14 at SLP on several dates (m.ob.) as well as 14 at PWT 3/1 (RS). **American Wigeons** fared a bit better, with birds seen at 10 sites (m.ob.); the high was 34 at PWT 3/1 (RS). **American Black Ducks** almost always peak at LTOW, with this year's max of 67 on 3/4 (JH). **Northern Pintails** migrated early, with few birds seen after the peak of 13 at PWT 3/6 (AH). **Green-winged Teal** reports topped out at 30 at PWT 3/21 (AH), not an exceptional number.

One **Canvasback** was at PVP 3/3 (AM), while NESP hosted 10 on 3/9 (DB). Dedicated searches on the lower DELR here should produce decent spring numbers, based on neighboring county reports. Three locations had **Redheads** (m.ob.), with a flock of 12 at PWT 3/1 in terms of numbers (RS). **Ring-necked Ducks** topped out at 167 at SGL 56 - Wildcat Lake 3/15, a seasonally average tally (AM). At PVP, one **Greater Scaup** stopped in 3/13 (JM) and 2 on 3/20 (AG). The typical location for these scaup is at NOSP, where the peak count was 9 on 4/19 (DF). After a run of several exceptionally poor springs, **Lesser Scaup** numbers exceeded 10 birds at three locations. The largest raft was of 22 at CVP 4/3 (SM).

**White-winged Scoters** graced NOSP during each month of this reporting period. A pair was present 3/4 (PH), plus 2 on 4/19 (DF) and another 2 on 5/19 (DF). **Long-tailed Ducks** were seen in decent numbers, mostly due to a strong nor'easter storm 4/19. The high count

at PVP was 15 (DF, HD), and at NOSP there were up to 17 (DF, AH, KRi). **Common Goldeneye** reports stayed on the lower side, with a high of 17 on the DELR in MOR 3/6 (AM, JMj).

For several years, the number of **Common Mergansers** fishing at PVP had dwindled a bit. This spring, an estimated 2850 on 3/4 were closer to historical peak counts (KI). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were widely spread over five locations, with high counts of 5 at PVP 4/9 (BB) and 5 at NESP 4/13 (JZ). **Horned Grebes** trickled through in small numbers, with higher counts of 5 at PWT 3/4 (MK) and 7 at NOSP 3/20 (RS). A **Red-necked Grebe** treated many observers at NOSP 3/6-4/10 (PC, m.ob.).

Although **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** had an average showing with 22 sites reporting (m.ob.), **Black-billed Cuckoos** were almost missed for the spring. One at NESP 5/16 (DB) was the only report, which is concerning given that an average year sees reports at 5 to 15 sites. **Common Nighthawk** reports continued to be in low numbers, with a peak of 11 at NOSP 5/16 (AH). A daytime **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was photographed at CVP 5/5 (SM), furnishing only the third spring eBird record in 10 years. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at flowers in Furlong 4/15 set a new early date by one day (*fide* CF).

Often a tricky bird to catch up with in *Bucks*, a **Virginia Rail** was detected at QTS sometime in Apr (KRi) and also at an undisclosed location 4/16 (AM). **Sora** could be seen (or at least heard) at PWT and QTS on several days (DF, DD, JH), as well as at an undisclosed location 4/16 (AM). The highest number confirmed at one site was 5 at PWT 5/1 (DF). Although the highest number of **American Coots** reported at PWT was just 4 on 3/13 (DD), the use of eBird's "X" designation might hint at larger numbers earlier in the season (RS). The annual pair of **Sandhill Cranes** at PRD stayed until 3/19 this year (m.ob.). Single flyovers were at PVP 4/9 (TF) and at PWT 5/16 (AH).

This spring's shorebird list began with a bang. The county's fifth known **American Oystercatcher** was found at PVP 3/25 (LH ph.) but was flushed by an eagle and ended up at PRD by day's end (m.ob.). The original finder's photos showed an improbable scene, with this clownish bird waddling among the geese in the grass at the lake's edge. Based on a few records from the lower DELR in adjacent counties, there has been a precedent for spring migrants to overshoot their coastal breeding grounds in late Mar and early Apr. Surprisingly, **Black-bellied Plover** was missed this spring. **Semipalmated Plovers** included 12 birds at BRD on three dates in May (m.ob.). The high count of 20 was at PWT 5/14 (DF), and 4 were in a small retention pond in Warrington Twp. 5/15 (IB).

As far as "peeps" go, a single **Dunlin** was at PWT 5/14 (DF). **Least Sandpipers** topped out at 76 at PWT 5/14 (DF). Single **Pectoral Sandpipers** at BRD 4/21 and 5/14 were the only spring records (HD, VP, BK). Somehow, **Semipalmated Sandpiper** nearly went unreported. Two were seen near Tullytown sometime in May (DF), but no other reliable reports were received. Dedicated **American Woodcock** surveys in Mar resulted in three counts of 10 or more in good habitat in the area of NOSP (DF). Single-digit counts of **Wilson's Snipe** were widely scattered across 11 locations, more than usual (m.ob.).

Three **Red-necked Phalaropes** joined other weather-related goodies at PWT 5/14 (DF). A rare **Red Phalarope** was an excellent find at PVP 4/14 (TF), the 12th known *Bucks* record. At least one observer obtained decent photos (WC). The rest of our common *Tringa* sandpipers - **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and **Solitary Sandpiper** - featured average or below-average numbers (m.ob.). A **Spotted Sandpiper** at BRD 4/4 matched the county's early arrival date (GJ). The total of 15 shorebird species for the period was far below average.

Gulls and terns balanced the shorebird scarcity by putting in an all-star performance, however. Nine gull and five tern species were seen, including multiple rare and scarce species. **Bonaparte's Gulls** showed in some numbers at several sites. Top counts were 47 at NOSP 4/19 (KRi), 26 at NOSP 4/6 (TF), and about 50 at PWT 4/23 (DF). It is not entirely clear if one or 2 **Little Gulls** were observed along the DELR. One was seen 4/11-12 in Bensalem Twp. (EZ vt., AH). Farther upriver, one was reported at PWT 4/17-5/14 (DD, MG, DF). This bird(s) represented at least the 19th record of this truly little gull in *Bucks*.

Resident **Laughing Gulls** fully arrived at PWT by 4/25, where 600 were estimated on that day (AH). More unusual were 3 at NOSP 3/13 (JV, CM) and one at PWT 5/13 (JV, CM, IB). **Iceland Gulls** were in above-average numbers. One was at MOR 3/1-13 (RS, DDo, BP, AW), and one was at PVP 3/20 (IB). Singles at PWT 4/25 and 5/14 may have been the same individual (DF). The best location for seeing white-winged gulls was NOSP, where at least 6 different individuals were identified 3/1-14 (m.ob.). One immature **Glaucous Gull** was photographed at PWT 3/23 (MG). One was seen again 4/23 (DF) and 4/25 (AH), with the large gap between sightings suggesting 2 different birds.

The sum of high counts from four **Caspian Tern** locations totaled 11 birds (m.ob.), with a high of 5 at NOSP 4/9 (DF). Two **Black Terns** at PWT 5/14 (DF) were part of an incredible two-day tern event across the eastern half of the state. The year's first **Common Tern** report came in at NOSP 5/6 (DF). The other reports were both on 5/13, with one each at PVP (AM, KRi, AH, EZ) and NOSP (JV, CM). **Forster's Terns** added a bit of spice to the events of 5/13. One was at PVP (IB, m.ob.) and one at NOSP (JV, CM), both in the company of Common Terns. An additional Forster's had been seen at PVP 5/6 (IB).

This was a day where it could be said that one good tern deserved another... and another! On the morning of 5/13, a group of terns at PVP was alerted as Common Terns. It wasn't until later in the morning that news came in of an unprecedented **Arctic Tern** invasion in Pennsylvania! More terns were carefully studied here and even more arrived until 7 (yes, 7) Arctic Terns fed together at the park (JV, CM, EZ, DF, m.ob. ph.). As word spread, birders rushed to other sites to get their Arctic fix. Three more were found at PWT 5/13 (MG, DD). The next day 2 remained at PWT (DF) and one at PVP (AM, m.ob.). Yet another was confirmed at NOSP 5/14 (AH). Five terns on the DELR at New Hope 5/14 were too far to identify conclusively, but according to the observer, "at least two looked good for Arctics" (BC). Prior to this event, *Bucks* had 8 known Arctic Tern records, mostly in Jun and Sep. The epic two-day 2022 event featured at least 11 Arctic Terns at three locations, all well documented. Apparently, the timing and scale of the oceanic weather systems (plus a thick fog bank) were such that hundreds of Arctic Terns chose to fly inland and at lower altitudes than normal. Birders could hardly do more than admire these circumpolar fairies, knowing that we may never see something like this again.

After several poor seasonal showings, **Red-throated Loons** made themselves known throughout the spring. Singles were at NOSP 3/19 (JF, AM, Rich Rehrig) and 5/16 (DF), as well as one at PWT 4/28 (MG) and a late bird there 5/26 (DD). A one-day wonder **Pacific Loon** in non-breeding plumage was at NOSP 5/28 (AH, DF ph.). Multiple birders enjoyed this fourth county record, the first one since 2015. **Common Loons** were widely reported but in low numbers, with a high of just 8 at PVP 4/9 (DL, KI). Small numbers of **Great Cormorant** were reported in Mar along the lower DELR, with counts of 3 at the PWT area 3/1 (RS) and 3/13 (DD). One at MOR 4/16 was the last report of the spring (RS). Very surprising was a single Great Cormorant at CVP 3/15, eight miles inland from the river (SM). Higher **Double-crested Cormorant** counts included about 150 at PVP 5/8 (DM) and multiple flocks totaling 225 birds over MKF 4/20 (RS).

Monitoring for **American Bittern** at QTS produced 12 birds on eight nights 4/2-5/3 (DF). Most of these were departing at sunset. Further reports from QTS indicated that one to 3 additional bitterns stayed 5/2-5/13 (ML, JV, JH, CP). At least one bittern was at SLP 4/2-5/1 (DD, m.ob.), and 2 were at PWT 5/1 (DF). A good bird for the spring season, one **Least Bittern** delighted a select few at SLP 4/30 and 5/5 (ML, BK, KK). Three more were heard at PWT 5/1 (DF).

**Great Egrets** were found at 10 locations, with a high of 4 flying over SLP 5/1 (JF). Never common in spring, a **Snowy Egret** was well photographed in flight at NOSP 5/2 (DBr). Two more were along the DELR at MOR 5/15 (MG). A molting immature **Little Blue Heron** was found at PWT 5/3 (DD), and a second bird joined it to set a new PAMC high count at 2 on 5/14 (*fide* DA). At least one **Black-crowned Night-**

**Heron** was at SLP 4/15-5/14 (DD, m.ob.), lower numbers than usual for this annual location. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** can sometimes settle in odd places. One chose to stay in a quiet yard in Tinicum Twp. 4/30-5/7 (BT), making itself at home in the mulch and perched on a swimming pool.

One rarity that was not enjoyed by the crowds was an adult **White Ibis** at PWT 3/23, seen by one birder in an active dredging area (DD ph.). This was just the county's fourth White Ibis, the first one in 10 years and on the early side of spring arrivals. Birders should watch for this species in the coming years, as numbers in neighboring New Jersey have exploded.

One species birders have been detecting better is **Golden Eagle**. One was well described at PWT 3/4, likely a subadult bird (MK). Nobody is complaining about increased kite sightings, either. Four **Mississippi Kites** were seen in May, starting with one in Solebury Twp. 5/19 (DF, *no doc.*). This was followed by flyovers at SLP 5/21 (MG, *no doc.*), Richland Twp. 5/23 (CP, *no doc.*), and briefly at NOSP 5/31 (PH, *no doc.*). Keep in mind that the first known record in this county's rich birding history was only in 1988. Since then, there have been 25-plus records, including multiple in the last several years. This southern favorite has been expected in small numbers during peak season.

**Bald Eagles** are now common in all seasons here. New nests pop up each year. One example is at PWT, where numbers have built up to five active nests this year (DF). Hundreds of **Broad-winged Hawks** surely pass overhead every spring, but few birders put forth a dedicated effort with so many colorful arrivals in the trees. Nevertheless, 23 were seen over BRD 4/30 (VP). On 4/30, pellets and feathers were found at a private location that indicated historical presence of a Barn Owl, but no live bird was found (DF). In a similar vein, a half-eaten Long-eared Owl at PVP sometime in the spring season could have been the one found there in the winter season (KI). Unfortunately, neither species counts for the spring species total given the circumstances.

One to 2 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen at seven locations, seemingly a mix of three resident sites and four migrant detections (m.ob.). Two **American Kestrel** band recoveries/sightings were noted. Unfortunately, one of last year's banded offspring was found dead on the road at the border of Bedminster and Plumstead Twps., not too far from its birthplace in Tinicum Twp. (JC *fide* DF). Another was found for the second year with a blue wing-tag in New Britain Twp. 5/22 (DF). This indicates that it came from a northeastern New Jersey program.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at PVP 5/24 was a fine sighting (AH ph.). No Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were detected this spring. Multiple recordings of **Alder Flycatchers** were made, an encouraging documentation effort. One observer who recorded a bird at PVP 5/16 just couldn't seem to get away from them (ED vr.). Singles were heard on four dates at NOSP: one each on 5/16 (SS vr.), 5/20 (DF), 5/22 (EK), and 5/30 (SS vr.). It's quite possible that some of these observations were of the same bird. An additional Alder was at SGL 157 on 5/21 (DF). **Least Flycatchers** were at 10 sites this reporting period (m.ob.), better than last year's

Early Apr brought a fallout of at least 25 **Eastern Phoebes** to Tyler SP 4/4, a new *Bucks* high count (MGr). At CVP 4/16, an **Eastern Kingbird** was early, but still two days after our historical arrival date (CF). This scenario was exactly the same with a **Blue-headed Vireo** at LTOW on a sunny day, 4/12 (PH). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was photographed at NOSP 5/17 (KF), a tough bird to see in the spring here.

While **Common Raven** reports continue to be abundant, a bit of unfortunate news came from Haycock Twp. when one of a nesting pair was found dead on the nest (DL *fide* AM). Only one **Black-capped Chickadee** was reported in the spring season, this one in Lower Southampton Twp. 3/1 (KK). The low max count of 21 **Horned Larks** at MKF 3/6 indicated little snow in the early spring (RS). One lark stayed on through at least 5/18 there, a fairly good clue to breeding intentions (RS).

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued their surprise showing from the winter, with quantities of one to 3 at 15 locations until 5/14 (m.ob., AH). The timing of most sightings suggested birds staying from the winter as opposed to migrating in May. A late **Brown Creeper** in West Rockhill



Twp. 5/14 was a bit out of the ordinary (CC). **Marsh Wrens** passed through quietly in small numbers, with one at PVP 5/1 (JM, ES) and one at SLP on 5/4 (DD) and 5/8 (PJ).

Patient observers found quiet **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** at three locations: one was at SLP 5/12 (DD), one at NOSP 5/17 (KF), and 2 at BOW 5/20 (GJ, AM, JMi). It's fun to see how **Swainson's Thrush** numbers have changed from year to year. This year's sum of high counts from 21 locations totaled 38 birds, a good tally (m.ob.). The highest count at one location was of 6 at BOW 5/20 (AM, JMi). Only four locations hosted **American Pipit** (m.ob.), with the final and highest report being 3 at MKF 5/10 (RS). **Purple Finches** were the only nomadic species to show up this spring, and like Red-breasted Nuthatches it was clear that most were winter holdovers. Reports lasted only until 5/1, at SLP (DD), with birds at 15 locations and a top tally of 11 at SGL 196 on 3/13 (AH).

Migrant **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at MKF 5/6 and 5/9, not a typical location (RS). Up to 4 could be seen at Van Sant Airport starting 5/14 (WC), with another found on the PAMC in Tincum Twp. 5/14 (PH, DA). Single **American Tree Sparrows** at PVP 3/3 and 3/11 (SP, LH), then at QTS 3/18-20 (JP, AH) continued a dead winter for the species in *Bucks*. A **Vesper Sparrow** was well photographed in Buckingham Twp. 4/22 (MT). Two were at the traditional MKF location 4/11, then another 4/30 (RS). A singing **Savannah Sparrow** in Bedminster Twp. 5/22 was likely trying to breed, which doesn't happen much here anymore (DF). **Lincoln's Sparrows** rarely announce their presence, making birders search for them in spring. Singles were at three locations in May (m.ob.), and one or 2 were consistent at MKF 5/3-15 (RS).

Vocal **Yellow-breasted Chats** in Solebury Twp. 5/3 (RR) and PVP 5/29 (MF) were likely just passing through. Look for updates on breeding **Bobolink** and **Eastern Meadowlark** in the summer report. Tallies of 67 and 6, respectively, were made on the PAMC. This compiler thought that the Tincum Twp. fields had above-average Bobolink numbers that day, 5/14 (PH). Three early birds in Plumstead Twp. 4/26 matched our known arrival date (BG). Numbers of **Rusty Blackbirds** were consistently in double digits at QTS, but the high count of any location was an average 50 birds at QTS 3/16 (AH).

Warbler variety was not too bad, with 32 species found. Misses included Golden-winged Warbler and Orange-crowned Warbler. Single male **Prothonotary Warblers** showed up at PVP 5/2 (TH), Solebury Twp. 5/12 (JBH), and in Riegelsville 5/23-24 (EB). Three **Mourning Warblers** were at SGL 157 on 5/21 (DF). Another was closely photographed at SLP 5/22 (DD). There was a whole pile of **Kentucky Warbler** detections, at least compared to the last several years. One was heard at LTOW 4/29 (VM), and one at BRD 5/16 (GJ). A male at PVP 5/24-28 attracted tons of attention, good and bad (ED, VM). Likewise for 2 males at NOSP 5/28, the birds were being audio-lured within an hour of their being reported (KF, SG vr.). These are the kinds of situations that cause birders to weigh the benefits of reporting rare and sensitive breeding birds. **Hooded Warblers** were at eight locations during migration (m.ob.). At least 2 **American Redstarts** had returned to the Kintnersville area 4/24, setting a new arrival date by one day (JBH, VP, NK).

A singing **Cerulean Warbler** at BOW 5/12 was carefully listened to, but never seen (AM, JMi). A new early date was set for **Yellow Warbler** by one day with 2 at SLP 4/14 (DD). Likewise, a new arrival date set for **Black-throated Blue Warbler** with an early female at PVP 4/19 (HD). **Yellow-throated Warblers** and sycamore trees go together like peanut butter and jelly. Six were seen in sycamores, 3 of those along the DELR. Inland records included one in New Britain Twp. 5/5 (KJ) and one at NOSP 5/23-29 (AH, JF). Riverside birds included 2 in Kintnersville 4/23 (EB), one in MOR 5/14 (WK), and one in Riegelsville 5/24 through the end of the month (MGr, EB). Yet another one-day record-setter came with a **Prairie Warbler** singing in Doylestown Twp. 4/14 (NG). Our only reported sighting for **Blue Grosbeak** was of one at NESP 5/20-31 (DB, MGr); apparently breeders at MKF were late in arriving.

Observers: **Paul Heveran, 1012 Andrews Ln, Pennsburg, PA 18073, 267-272-9225, birdmeister.paul@gmail.com**, Diane Allison, Ian Baldock, Jane Barker-Hunt, Dave Belford, Barbara Bennett, Erich

**PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**

Boenzli, David Brandes (DBr), Brian Cenker, Clifford Cole, Jen Conway, Paul Cooper, William Culp, Henry D'Alessandro, Dawn Denner, David Dorini (DDo), Edward Dolan, Tom Fahie, Connie Fairchild, Devich Farbotnik, John Finch, Carol Fitzpatrick (CFT), Mike Fournier, Kevin Fox, Mark Gallagher (MG), Angie Geiger, Mike Grubb (MGr), Scott Godshall, Nickie Goldstein, Barbara Graham, Linda Hamp, Andrew Harrington, Trish Harrington, Jason Horn, Karin Isett, Gail Johnson, Paul Johnson, Kelly Joslin, Nishad Karthik, Marjorie Keefe, Bill Koch, Kris Koch, Edward Komito, Will Krohn, Dave Long, Daniel Loss, Mike Lyman, Vicky Mahmoud, Joel Marciniak, Darrin Menzo, Sharon Marciniak, August Mirabella, Judy Mirabella (JMi), Christopher Mortensen, Ryan Neuman, Vinobha Pannerselvam, Samuel Perloff, Cody Peters, Bill Pitman, John Puschock, Rick Radis, Kriss Replogle, Kenneth Rieker (KRi), Susan Sherman, Richard Smith, Ellen Stepniewski, Betsy Townsend, Marguerite Turley, Jeff Vinosky, Alex Wiebe, Eric Zawatski, John Zygmunt.

### **Butler County**

Locations: Lake Arthur (LA), Lake Oneida (LO), Moraine State Park (MSP), South Shore (SS).

Not often reported in *Butler*, a **Ross's Goose** was discovered in Cranberry Twp. grazing with **Canada Geese** near a housing development (MV). This is the fifth or sixth known county record of this species with the first occurring in 1999 in the same township where this Spring's bird was found.

Four "Lesser" **Canada Geese** rested at Thorn Res. 3/3 (KB), and 2 were seen at Porter's Cove 3/20 (OM). Anticipating possible Cackling Geese, close inspection revealed that the birds did not display the short stubby bill. Two well-described hybrid **Graylag x Canada Geese** accompanied Canada Geese at Cranberry Twp. 3/7 (AH). **Tundra Swans** moved through 3/2-22 highlighted by a maximum count of 112 at SS 3/4 (GK, MAK).

An overnight rain event 4/12/2022 caused an amazing fallout of waterfowl on Lake Arthur. At approximately 9:45 a.m. There were 584 Ruddy Ducks and 286 Bufflehead counted at the South Shore of Lake Arthur (GK, MAK). About an hour later I counted close to 800 Ruddies there. Just as I was leaving the South Shore, I heard that there was a Surf Scoter there, so I turned around and made another loop of the SS hoping to find the bird. When I got back to SS, all the Ruddies were gone! Where had they gone? They had been there no more than thirty minutes prior. I went over to the North Shore and found a huge flock out from Watt's Bay, so I concluded that perhaps those I'd seen had been pushed by fishing boats. Originally they were far out, but then I realized that fishing boats across the lake by Bear Run Boat Launch were slowly pushing them closer and closer toward me. I got excellent views so I could get a reasonable estimate counting by tens, resulting in a estimate of 1730 Ruddy Ducks and 200 Bufflehead. Consistent with my count, totals of 1500 Ruddies were tallied at North Shore by at least three other birders. If we consider over 300 Ruddy Ducks seen in Porter's Cove and the fact that three major eastern arms of the lake were not included in anyone's reports, there may have been well over 3000 ducks gathered that day: 2000 Ruddies, 400 to 500 Bufflehead, 300 Greater Scaup and Lesser Scaup, and 198 Red breasted Mergansers tallied by reliable observers as well as smaller totals of other species. In addition, Long-tailed Ducks, 3 Surf Scoters, a Red-necked Grebe and 29 Horned Grebes treated viewers. I did not find the Surf Scoters that day, but the next day I returned and the lake seemed to be deserted. Most of the birds had departed for parts north. It was a one-day event (DB, MC, MD, MAK, GK, OM).

It was an above-average spring for ducks as 22 species and 2 hybrids were noted, with some species seen in very impressive numbers:

**Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser and Ruddy Duck.** In an eBird report, one of the hybrids was described as a **Northern Shoveler x Mallard** at LO 3/17 (KB), despite the opinion of the observer that it was more likely a Northern Shoveler x American Black Duck, which was not possible to enter into eBird. The bird showed a blue/black speculum of a Black Duck, not green like Shoveler, nor the blue/white of Mallard.

Some very impressive tallies were submitted. Among the most frequently reported species, a flock of 350 **Ring-necked Ducks** were at Barkley Road 3/6 (KB) and 625 **Buffleheads** visited SGL 95 Dam 4/12 (GK, MAK), the same day thousands of ducks put down at LA during a fallout described above. An estimated 1200 **Scaup species** rested on LA 4/3 with 550 **Bufflehead** and 400 **Ruddy Ducks** (EH).

**Ring-necked Pheasants** survived the winter and predators in three widely scattered locations: near Buffalo Cr., SGL 95 and Reichert Road (m.ob.). Likewise, **Ruffed Grouse** were seen in three different locations. The **Wild Turkey** population seems stable with numerous reports. A **Chukar** was photographed near Bonniebrook Road 3/22 (TB). The observer noted that locals have raised the birds, which sometimes escaped.

**Pied-billed Grebes** were present in small numbers through the season with a high count of 9 at SS 4/12 (GK, MAK). **Horned Grebes** arrived 3/3 and were last reported 4/17. High counts included 19 at SGL 95 and 20 at SS 4/12, part of the great fallout noted earlier (GK, MAK, DB). Not often seen, a **Red-necked Grebe** was also put down by the overnight rain (GK, MAK).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports were down while **Black-billed Cuckoo** numbers remained consistently low. A nice flight of 19 **Common Nighthawks** at SGL 95 marsh 5/17 was among only three May sightings (GK, MAK). **Virginia Rail, Sora, and Common Gallinule** continued to be detected at SGL 95 where all three species have nested. However, no recent confirmation of young has been reported. **American Coots** were observed in small numbers at SGL 95 and LA with the exception of 61 tallied at SS 4/15 (GK, MAK). Coots frequently number in the hundreds in the fall season. **Sandhill Cranes** treated viewers through the season at SGL 95 and Muddy Creek Wetlands. A few were observed on nest.

Shorebird migration was clearly underwhelming with 12 species reported, all expected: **Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Dunlin, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs and Lesser Yellowlegs.** Notable was an early **Greater Yellowlegs** which arrived at SGL 95 Hilliards 3/19 (CB, ph.) and a nice tally of 20 **Least Sandpipers** foraged at Stoughton Road 5/14 (MC).

Up to 200 **Ring-billed Gulls** and up to 6 **Herring Gulls** were seen at LA, but most sightings of Herring Gulls were of single birds. Small numbers of **Bonaparte's Gull** graced LA 3/8-4/20, and an extraordinary total of 95 was seen at Bear Run Boat Launch 4/1 (GK, MAK). Another notable report included photos of a flock of **Bonaparte's Gulls** foraging along Halston Road 4/3, several miles from SGL 95, with no water in sight (KB). **Caspian Terns** visited LA four times with a high count of 4 at McDanel's Boat Launch 4/21 (MC). A **Forster's Tern** was at LO 4/12 (KB), and a nice tally of 11 graced North Shore 5/19 (MC).

The majority of **Common Loon** sightings consisted of one or two birds, but 17 were seen with a large raft of scaup species at LA 4/3 (EH). High double-digit flocks of **Double-crested Cormorants** moved through 3/29-4/21 including 120 at McDanel's Boat Launch 4/21 (MC). A few will summer at LA, but no indication of breeding has been reported. An **American Bittern**, not seen annually in *Butler*, appeared on North Washington Road 5/14 (CB). A new heronry has been discovered at SGL 95 (GK, MAK). Single **Great Egrets** briefly stopped at five locations (m.ob.), and a **Black-crowned Night Heron**, uncommon in *Butler*, stopped at the Wildlife Observation Area 4/16 (DR).

**Ospreys** returned to their traditional nest sites at LA and SGL 95. One, a bit early, perhaps a migrant heading farther north, stopped near Rte. 528 on 3/19 (KB). **Northern Harriers** hunted at their regular haunts around West Liberty and SGL 95 through the season. **Bald Eagles** were reported on nest at LA and SGL 95. In addition, LO hosted a little-known nesting pair, only visible from viewing areas before emerging leaves hid the nest (KB).

Nesting **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continued in Clay Twp. (BB) and others were spotted near Boyers and Cabot. One was enjoyed at a feeder in Butler Twp. 5/7. The bird returned for three days 5/28-30 (GK, MAK). The only **Merlin** was one near Slippery Rock 4/9 (MC). **Common Ravens** continued to be seen in many widely scattered locations.

**Bank Swallow** reports have been increasing the last few years, and a small nesting colony has been re-established at LA. The **Cliff Swallow** colony at Route 528 Boat Launch continues to thrive with several estimates of over 100 birds. At LA, there is another group nesting on the Route 422 bridge over LA, but the number of nests was lower than at Rte. 528, probably because of much higher traffic volume and noise, especially from large trucks. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** lingered with 20 feeding with chickadees 3/1 at MSP, 11 there 3/10, and 12 seen 3/24 (m.ob.). A few remained through Apr, and a very late individual was spotted near Portersville 5/18 (MC).

The **Swainson's Thrush** movement occurred 5/5-24 (m.ob.) and featured 6 seen at MSP 5/17 (GK, MAK). An amazing flock of 70 **American Pipits** stopped at Stoughton Road 3/21 (GK, MAK), and 2 were spotted at Miller Road 4/30 (MV). An interesting "orange" variant **House Finch** was photographed at Seven Hills Road 3/2 (KB). **Yellow-breasted Chats** have been more visible in the last few years with eight reports from SGL 95. **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen 3/8-4/30 featuring a nice tally of 50 at Seven Hills Road 3/27 (KB).

Just after the waterfowl migration was winding down the last week of Apr, two days in the 80s brought a swarm of warblers that was enjoyed across the county. Overall 31 species of warblers were reported including one not-often-seen **Golden-winged Warbler** seen at Christie Road 5/7 (CB). The most frequently reported species included **Yellow-Warbler**, followed by **Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Ovenbird and Hooded Warbler.** A rare **Western Tanager** was discovered visiting a feeder in Slippery Rock Borough for several days (*fide* GK, MAK). The bird was the second known *Butler* record.

Observers: **Oscar Miller aoscarmiller3@gmail.com, 412-855-0483, Brendyn Baptiste, Corey Bellis, Kimberly Berry, Terri Bookman, Dave Brooke, Martin Carlin, Eric Hall, Amy Henrici, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn Koppel, Richard Nugent, Debra Rittleman, Mark Vass, Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm.**

**Cambria County**  
*No report submitted*

**Cameron County**

Locations: Emporium (EMP), Sinnemahoning State Park (SSP), Sterling Run Mines (SRM),

There were 162 species found this season. With the early ice melt on George B. Stevenson Res., this area once again became a popular area for waterfowl. Twenty-one species were found by many observers, mostly in early March. A table of those species with high counts is at the end of this account.

Ten **Wilson's Snipes** were at SRM 4/12 (ES). Five **Spotted Sandpipers** were at SSP 5/14 (SS). Over one hundred **Ring-billed Gulls** were at a parking lot in EMP 3/12 (m.ob.). A single **Great Egret** spent the day in EMP 4/14 (AS). A **Merlin** was found at SSP 5/16 (MS). Six **American Pipits** were at SRM 4/2 (AS).

Two **Pine Siskins** were seen at Wykoff Run 5/2 (MH). At SRM there

were 4 **Vesper Sparrows** 4/12 (ES), 9 **Savannah Sparrows** 5/9 (AS), 7 **Bobolinks** 5/8 (MJ), and 12 **Eastern Meadowlarks** 4/12 (ES). Thirty **Ovenbirds** were found at Quehanna Wild Area 5/29 (BH). Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at SSP 5/14 (SS).

Species	Date	Number
Canada Goose	3/10	61
Tundra Swan	3/12	107
Wood Duck	3/22	7
Northern Shoveler	3/7	5
Gadwall	3/2	4
American Wigeon	3/2	31
Mallard	3/2	17
American Black Duck	3/10	3
Northern Pintail	3/2	9
Green-winged Teal	3/7	13
Ring-necked Duck	3/7	67
Lesser Scaup	3/12	35
Long-tailed Duck	3/12	4
Bufflehead	3/12	10
Common Goldeneye	3/6	6
Hooded Merganser	3/4	8
Common Merganser	3/6	98
Ruddy Duck	4/26	1
Pied-billed Grebe	3/24	1
Horned Grebe	3/12	9
Common Loon	5/14	1

Observers: **Mark Johnson, 72 Mason Grove, Driftwood, Pa 15832, 814-546-2886, luckybirder@gmail.com**, Bill Hendrickson, Matt Hunter, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck, Andrew Sidelinger, Eric Stafford.

### Carbon County

Locations: Beltsville State Park (BSP), Hickory Run State Park (HRSP), Mauch Chunk Lake (MCL), Penn Forest Reservoir (PFR), Strohl's Valley Road (SVR), Wild Creek Reservoir (WCR).

There were 147 species recorded through March, April, and May thanks to the many birders out and about. **Snow Geese** were the most numerous: 400-plus at BSP 3/6 (RR), then another 125 there 3/9 (RR), approximately 225 at Phifer's Ice Dam Park 3/18 (PN), and over 8000 at SVR 3/5 (RR). A single **Cackling Goose** was spotted at BSP 3/4 (BW). Seventy **Tundra Swans** showed up at BSP 3/4 (BW) and 14 at PFR (RR).

Ducks came in many flavors but sometimes in low numbers. **Wood Ducks** were at BSP, MCL, and SVR with the high count of 9 at MCL. One **Gadwall** made the list at BSP 3/7 (RR). Eighteen **Black Ducks** along with one **Mallard x Black Hybrid** were the highest count for black ducks in the area, and that was at Perryville Dam 3/6 (PN). Only 2 **Mallards** were submitted for BSP, both on 3/10 (RR) for some reason. Is it because they are so common? Three **Northern Shovelers** were sighted at PFR 4/9, a single **Pintail** was at BSP 3/5, **Green-winged Teals** were at BSP 3/8, and 3 were at PFR 3/6 (RR), as well as one lone **Canvasback** at BSP, a **Redhead** at MCL, and up to 10 **Ring-necked Ducks** at many locations. **Greater Scaups** came in at 6 on 3/8 (RR) and 11 **Lesser Scaups** at BSP 3/24. Up to 5 **Long-tailed Ducks** were at BSP 4/9 and at PFR 3 were seen 4/3. **Bufflehead** numbers topped out at 11 at BSP 3/10 (RR). Four **Common Goldeneyes** were also at BSP 3/8 (RR). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were at SVR 3/6 (PN) and another 2 at BSP 3/10 (RR), 4 **Common Mergansers** at PFR 3/10 (RR) and one **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen at BSP 4/7 (RR).

**Ruffed Grouse**, one each, were spotted at 4/3 at PFR (BS) and at HRSP 5/24 (SE, KJo). Three **Wild Turkeys** wandered around WCR 5/3 (RR). **Common Loons** were last spotted at PFR as late as 5/14 (MS). Four **Double-crested Cormorants** were viewed at PFR 4/3 (BS), and another 28 were seen at WCR 5/20 (RR). A **Great Egret** was reported in mid-May (AM), a **Cattle Egret** in mid-Apr (RR), and up to 3 **Green Herons** in May (RB, PN, RR) which all appeared at BSP as well as several other sightings in May (m.ob.).

One lone **Osprey** was seen at BSP 5/13, and one was at MCL 3/27 (BW). Three **Bald Eagles** were spotted but only at PFR 3/10 (RR). A **Northern Harrier** appeared at BSP 4/5 (JGD). A single **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was reported from BSP and PFR in Apr and SVR 5/9 (BW). **Cooper's Hawks** showed up at various locations, as well as **Red-shouldered Hawks**, **Broad-winged Hawks** and **Red-tailed Hawks** appearing in single numbers over the area. A **Merlin** was at BSP 4/16 (BW). It was good to note that **American Kestrels** have shown up at BSP, PFR, SVR, and Yoo's Sanctuary as early as 3/6.

There were nice sightings of singles of an **American Coot** at BSP 3/10, **Semipalmated Plover** at BSP 5/14 (SK), **Spotted Sandpiper** at WCR 5/3 (RR), **Solitary Sandpiper** at BSP 5/9 (TM), and **Greater Yellowlegs** BSP 5/8 (BW). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were seen 5/6 (RB), and 4 **Least Sandpipers** were at BSP 5/14 (JH). Gulls seen included a **Bonaparte's Gull** at BSP 5/6 (RB), and **Ring-billed Gulls** at numerous locations with 14 at PFR 4/9 (MG). Four **Herring Gulls** were reported at BSP 3/3 (RR), and 3 **Caspian Terns** were seen at BSP 4/9 (BW).

About 85 **Rock Pigeons** were counted 3/6 (PN), then 25 were sighted at SVR 4/4 (RR). Single **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** on 5/12 (JHa) and **Black-billed Cuckoos** on 5/14 (KJ) made their presence know at HRSP in the Hawk's Falls /Mud Run area. Chimney Swifts were at two sites: BSP 5/14 (JH) and HRSP 5/24 (SE). There were numerous reports of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** seen (m.ob.). The **Peregrine Falcon** seen at SVR 3/5 (RR) was a positive!

**Eastern Wood Pewees** were at numerous locations: BSP, HRSP, PFR, and WCR, with the earliest date of 5/2 at BSP. An **Arcadian Flycatcher** caught someone's eye at WCR 5/25 (RR). An **Alder Flycatcher** was at BSP 5/19 (RB). One **Willow Flycatcher** was recorded at both BSP and SVR in May then, to top it off, a **Least Flycatcher** was at BSP the same month on 5/6 (RB).

Vireos had a nice showing in May with a **White-eyed Vireo** at HRSP 5/1 (TF), **Yellow-throated Vireo** at BSP and HRSP by 5/19 (LH) and at PF, **Blue-headed Vireo** at WCR 5/14 (MS), a **Warbling Vireo** at BSP 5/14 (SK) with **Red-eyed Vireos** common throughout the area. At the Hickory Run Service Plaza 3/3, 2 **Horned Larks** were spotted in the parking lot (SM).

Of the swallows: 40 **Tree Swallows** were at BSP 4/4 (BS), 3 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were at BSP 5/14 (JH), and 4 at WCR 5/3 (RR), 3 **Bank Swallows** at BSP 5/15 (JH), 2 **Cliff Swallows** at BSP 5/14 (EK), and 4 **Barn Swallows** at BSP 5/14 (SK) with 3 at PFR 5/14 (MS). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were reported at HRSP as late as 5/1 (TF). **Veerys** were noted at several locations as of 5/22. One **Swainson's Thrush** was at BSP 5/25 (RB) as well as **Hermit Thrushes** and **Wood Thrushes**. Single sightings of **Tennessee Warbler**, **Nashville Warbler** and **Palm Warbler**, all at BSP, and **Yellow-throated Warbler** at HRSP were reported for May (m.ob.).

One **American Tree Sparrow** was counted at BSP in Apr. Eleven **Chipping Sparrows** flocked at HRSP 5/24 (ES). One **Field Sparrow** was reported at HRSP 5/5 (KD). A single **Savannah Sparrow** showed up at BSP 5/14 (JH). Six **Fox Sparrows** were around at PFR as late as 4/3. Six **Song Sparrows** and 3 **Swamp Sparrows** were seen at Carbon County Environmental Education Center 3/25 (TY). Seven **White-throated Sparrows** were at BSP 3/10, with 6 there 5/13 (RB) and a lone **White-crowned Sparrow** 5/9 (TM).

In May both **Orchard Orioles** and **Baltimore Orioles** were sighted at BSP starting 5/14 (SK). Four **Purple Finches** were counted at PFR 4/3 (BS). Common birds of the area were spotted but due to the number of species, the listing would go on for a while.

Observers: **Ellen Davis, POB 516, Swiftwater, PA 18370, 570-517-**

**4778, belle45@ ptd.net**, Dan Altif, Rob Bergstresser, Josie Bonham, Kayley Dillon, JG Dooley, Steven Esrey, Megan Fedor, Caroline Fegley, Todd Fellenbaum, Maricatherine Garr, Linda Hamp, Jeff Hapeman (JHa), Jason Horn, Diane Husic, Kristen Jensen, Kelly Johnson (KJo), Stephen Kloiber, Edward Komito, Rick Koval, Suzanne Kuzminski (SKu), Shelly LaBarre, Adam Miller, Tara Muffley, Shane Murphy, Paul Nale, Wendy Novak, Rich Rehrig, Matthew Sabatine, Michael Schall (MSc), Bill Shupp, Kelly Silerio, Billy Weber, Michael Yoo.

### Centre County

**Locations:** Bald Eagle State Park (BESP), Dreibelbis Birding Area – formerly known as Julian Wetlands (JUL), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (MMNC), Scotia Barrens and Pond (SCO), Toftrees pond and gamelands (TOF).

The following rare species were observed in five or more locations and will not be discussed further: **Snow Goose**, **Virginia Rail**, **Great Egret**, **Warbling Vireo**, and **Yellow-throated Warbler**. 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).

A few **Cackling Geese** stopped by BESP 3/1, where 8 were spotted (JGy), and one was reported on Old Gatesburg Rd. 3/6 (JV, et al.). Up to 4 were present at SCO 3/14-26 (KK, MR).

Centre's first **Cinnamon Teal** wow'd birders 4/1-22 as it paddled around the stormwater retention pond below Penn State's baseball stadium. It was an adult drake in breeding plumage and was accompanied by a small flock of **Blue-winged Teals** (JGy, et al.). This was the sixth Pennsylvania report. According to eBird, earlier sightings were near Donegal (1985), at Octoraro Reservoir in Lancaster (1994), Moraine SP (1996), John Heinz NWR (2006), and Harrisburg (2014).

One **Northern Bobwhite** was heard and seen when it flew onto a patio in State College 5/19 (JG). This species is extirpated in Pennsylvania (B&G, 2010) and was probably an escapee. **Common Gallinules** were spotted at JUL 4/22-5/9. Most observers saw one bird (JC, et al.), but 2 were spotted 4/24 (MH) and 4/29 (DH).

At least one **Sandhill Crane** was present at the Haugh Family Preserve 3/15-5/22 (RFu, et al.). Because of the proximity of multiple reports, this may also have been seen at SCO 3/18-5/14 (JP, et al.), at Circleville Park/Scotia 3/20 (MS), on the Circleville Bike Path 3/27 (JL), and on Circleville Rd. 4/1 (JH). There were two other reports in this same period from slightly more distant locations. On 5/3, at least one was observed in Port Matilda (JT), and one was spotted at MMNC 5/12 (AH).

Tadpole Rd. was "the place" for rare shorebirds. A casually occurring **Black-bellied Plover** was present 5/14-16 (DW, et al.), and 2 **American Golden-plovers** were also spotted (RFu, et al.). Two American Golden-plovers were reported at Fairbrook Wetlands 4/13 (NK, MB, NW).

An accidental **Whimbrel** was spotted at BESP 5/27. It vocalized as it was repeatedly disturbed by the presence of up to 4 **Bald Eagles** (JK). This was the fifth county record for this species. One was spotted in 1948 on Orchard Rd., as was a flight of 81 birds in 1984 and one bird in 1992, both sightings at BESP. At least one was heard during a Nocturnal Flight Count in Bellefonte in 2018 (B&G, 2010 and eBird).

Other Tadpole Rd. sightings included up to 4 **Dunlin** 4/23-5/27 (JC, et al) - one was also present at the Bernal Rd. ponds 5/1-7 (DO, et al.) - a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/23 (JP, JK), and a casually occurring **Short-billed Dowitcher** 5/15-20 (JK, et al.). A **Black Tern** was spotted at BESP 5/6-7 (JK, JP). Two **Red-throated Loons** reports were observed: one at JUL 3/3 (MN) and another at BESP 4/22 (JC, L., MN).

**Black-crowned Night-herons** were reported in two locations. This casual occurring species was heard in State College 5/5 during a Nocturnal Flight Count (JGy). On 5/11, one was seen flying in Toftrees (CG).

**Northern Harriers** are not rare, but they did set a new county record; 28 were seen flying over the fields along South Filmore Rd. before landing to roost for the night (KE, et al.). The high count for Pennsylvania of 31 was set at the Presque Isle Hawk Watch in 2021 (eBird).

Rare **Short-eared Owls** also set a record. Most observers saw them in the fields along S. Fillmore Rd., although 2 birds were seen off Alexander Dr. near the intersection with S. Fillmore Rd. 3/4 (SC). The owls were first sighted in late Feb. Up to 12 were present along S. Fillmore Rd. 3/1-4/2 (JV, et al.). The high count of 12 was first reported 3/2 (JL) and was tied 3/16 (KT, RFu, JL). The owls were last seen 4/10 when 5 birds were observed (JKe, AR, AW).

Nocturnal Flight Counts accounted for most of the **Gray-cheeked Thrush** observations; up to 20 were reported in State College 4/26-5/25 (JGy). Five were also heard in Bellefonte 5/21 (JP), and at least one was noted on Dug Rd. near Strawband Beaver Rd. 5/22 (JGy). One was spotted at SCO 5/21 (SM, JM).

Described as a "golden beacon," a casually occurring **Prothonotary Warbler** was spotted along Sinking Cr. 5/28 (LR). Other single birds were seen at the Benner Spring State Fish Hatchery 5/14 (HD, RF), and another was heard singing at BESP 5/17 (JK). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were also reported. A continuing bird visited a suet feeder in State College 3/3-6 (CM). The other was reported at BESP 4/28 (KD). Rare **Mourning Warblers** were also present at SCO, with one observed 5/16-19 (JP, et al.) and 5/27 (AM). A third was seen on Little Marsh Cr. 5/27 (MN).

A **Summer Tanager** showed up in Stormstown during a snowstorm 4/19 and in the rain on 4/21 (JK). A female was spotted "in the treetops" at Sunset Park 5/12 (GU). A casually occurring **Dickcissel** was heard in State College 5/21 during a Nocturnal Flight Count (JGy).

**Observers:** N. Butkovich, njbutkovich@verizon.net, Margaret Brittingham, Stephanie Canich, John Carter, Heather Desorcie, Kayley Dillon, Kurt Engstrom, Robert Frantz, Roana Fuller (RFu), Jeff Gallo, Chet Gottfried, Joe Gyekis (JGy), Dan Hannon, Jordan Hillsley, Audra Hixson, Mark Holt, Jon Kauffman, Jeff Kenney (JKe), Nick Kerlin, Karen Kottowski, Jen Lee, Linder., Alan MacEachren, Calista McRae, Jack Meyer, Sophia Mucciolo, Mark Nale, Dan Ombalski, Julia Plummer, Larry Ramsey, Ashley Rathman, Matthew Rockmore, Mogan Stum, Joanna Taylor, Kenneth Tucker, Gabriel Urso, Joe Verica, Nathan Weyandt, Amanda Williams, Daniel Winstead.

### Chester County

**Locations:** Bucktoe Creek Preserve (BCP), Chadds Ford Westland (CFW), Chambers Lake (CL), ChesLen Preserve (CLP), Coatesville Reservoir (CR), Downingtown (DOW), Exton Park (EP), Glenville Farm Pond GFP), Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens (GH), Great Marsh (GM), Homestead Road (HR), Marsh Creek State Park (MCSP), Octorara Reservoir (OCTRES), Rushton Farm Banding Station (RFBS), Schuylkill River Trail (SRT), South East Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA), Upper Uwchlan Township-Route 100 Wastewater Treatment Plant (UUT), Westtown Lake (WL), West Vincent Township Sewage Pond (WVT).

It was a typical spring with weather events that greatly impacted these migrating birds. Most momentous were easterly winds that brought off-shore migrants into our area.

Who doesn't get a thrill from hearing, then seeing, flocks of migrating **Snow Geese** high overhead? Right on schedule, a majority of birds were on their way north by mid-Mar. Concurrently, **Tundra Swans** were leaving, although 2 birds were observed in the company of 2 **Trumpeter Swan** at CR 3/28 (RR, m.ob.), and reported the following day at CL, very likely the same birds, then again 4/13 (BB). A single bird was found at Struble L. 5/7 (LL, m.ob.), staying through the end of the reporting period.

**Canvasback** was reported from two locations, with a single bird at CL 3/28 (LL), and another single at Coventry L. Estates 4/14-15 (PW, JW, SS). **Redheads** were observed at four different locations during Mar, with a high count of 4 at Honey Brook WTP 3/19 (DB, DK). A pair of long-staying **Greater Scaups** was at CL 3/3-4/4 (LL, m.ob.); single birds were reported from CR and MCSP. Birders going to Oxford Walmart Wetlands had the opportunity to pick up milk, bread, and a Greater Scaup.

Thunderstorms during the night of 3/31 were followed by wind on 4/1, bringing the birders out and the birds down. At MCSP, a female **Surf Scoter**, one of the so-called "sea ducks," was reported (CH, m.ob.) hanging out with 2 **Long-tailed Duck**, and several more common species of diving ducks, including one **Common Goldeneye**. A check of other lakes resulted in a single **Long-tailed Duck** at CR 4/1 (RR); later in the day back at MCSP, as many as 9 **Red-breasted Mergansers** dropped in (LL). On 4/9, 4 Long-tailed Ducks were found (FH, SS). First reported on 3/3 (LL, m.ob.), a max of 4 **Horned Grebe** was reported from CL through 5/1; similarly, MCSP hosted up to 4 (KB) 3/4-4/9, and SL had 3 birds 3/3 (MH). The period's lone **Red-necked Grebe** was at MCSP 4/9 (SS, m.ob.)

Both cuckoo species in our area are great to find, and even easier to hear, but **Black-billed Cuckoo** typically are reported as they migrate north, unlike **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** that routinely stays to breed. Single birds of the black-billed variety were found 5/6-23. Not unexpected, the high count for **Common Nighthawks** was tallied at BCP 5/18 (LL, HM), when 8 birds were observed. Additional sightings from *Chester* were of one to 2 birds. Missing so far this year is Eastern Whip-poor-will. Last year reported as early as 5/8, no reports have been made yet despite visits being made to GH, the most reliable location in *Chester* for this species. Spring report would not be complete without some comment on **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. First sighting that could be determined was 4/15; highest weekly total was 174.

First reported at CLP 3/22 (BB), **Virginia Rail** was seen and heard through 5/21 (m.ob.). For this and other marsh species, attachment of audio recordings to eBird reports is becoming more frequent, as is the use of Merlin to identify or confirm vocalizations. Another Virginia Rail was heard at EP 4/28, during the weekly Thursday morning walk. This bird was heard through 5/10 (m.ob.). A single bird was heard at GM 4/10 and 4/24. But the surprise find of Virginia Rail belonged to the bird found at Connie Batdorf Park 3/20 (SS ph.) but not reported again, despite visits over the next week or so. This location is "down the road" from Daisy Point Rd. Wetland, where another rail sighting was made 3/7 (SS). Worth noting is that a Virginia Rail was also reported from Daisy Point Rd. last year.

The "whinny" of the **Sora** was heard at CLP 4/19- 5/23 (m.ob.), with 3 birds being heard on occasion. Single Sora were heard at CFW, EP, MCSP and GM. A **Common Gallinule** was heard at a personal residence near DOW 5/20 (ZB). Likely the same 2 birds that stayed all winter at Mt Eden Rd in *Lancaster* and nearby in *Chester* territory were found 3/8 (MG) and 4/2 (PM). A single **Sandhill Crane** was at CLP in the evening 5/17 (JK, LP).

Spring shorebird reports in *Chester* are typically reported either from various marshes, wetlands and flooded fields or from BCP, where an annual vigil is conducted to document migrating birds leaving the Delaware Bay and heading to their breeding grounds in the north. Then there is the occasional report from NFC efforts, which is how the lone **Black-bellied Plover** report was made 5/20 (ZB). A single **Semipalmated Plover** was at GFP 5/14-15 (RR, m.ob.), then again 5/20. A most uncommon shorebird in *Chester*, an **Upland Sandpiper**, was flushed from the roadside between Parkesburg and Cochranville 4/30 (KF). The last spring-period report of an "uppie" was made in 2010, from the same general area. **Whimbrels** were reported only from BCP (LL, m.ob.) with 50 birds 5/18 and 100 on 5/25. Sightings have provided an opportunity to characterize the "flight patterns" of the entire flock, making distant identifications more credible, although some flocks remain unidentified as to precise species.

On 5/30 at BCP, a mixed flock of 100 **Sanderlings** was identified with 5 **Dunlins** and 50 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**. A Dunlin on the ground was at GFP 5/14 (RR, m.ob.) and 5/15. **Least Sandpiper** reports

were widespread, while **Pectoral Sandpiper** was limited to four reports, all single one-day birds. GFP was also the site for Semipalmated Sandpiper, where between 4 to 7 birds were present 5/10-22 (m.ob.). Go stand in an open field in Mar, adjacent to some wetlands, at dusk mostly, and listen, and maybe see, the flight of the **American Woodcock**. While widespread, most reports were made at MCSP 3/2-24. **Wilson's Snipe** may be found in any moist area; a group of 18 birds was at GFP 4/5 (RR).

Earliest **Bonaparte's Gull** report came from Kimberton Ponds where 2 birds were found 3/28 (EH); last report was of a single bird at SL 5/14 (m.ob.). In between these dates, good-sized flocks were noted: 30 birds at CL 4/9 (LL) and an impressive 66 birds that circled over MCSP in the early morning 4/19 but never landed (CH). Birds at SECCRA can be viewed from the recycling area, outside of the main landfill. From there, 11 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were seen 4/9 (JS) amongst the other gulls. Three were also noted 4/1 (KF), the same day and location that the only **Glaucous Gull** of the period was reported (KF), an imm. bird. Could this be the same individual that was reported 2/11? **Great Black-backed Gull** was reported twice; again, SECCRA produced 3 birds 3/2 (MG), while SL hosted 2 on 3/13 (LL). **Caspian Tern** was reported from the larger county lakes with a max of 4 at MCSP 4/14 (AC, m.ob.).

Several days of strong easterly winds from a low-pressure system set the stage for a remarkable influx, a virtual invasion, of **Arctic Terns** to the interior of several mid-Atlantic states and a first, then second, *Chester* record. Found, photographed, and reported 5/13 (MD, m.ob.), two birds were at MCSP through the morning of 5/17. After watching the MCSP birds, another single bird was discovered at SL, also 5/13 (ZM); unlike the birds at MCSP, this bird was not reported the next day. In Pennsylvania, Arctic tern was reported from *Montgomery, Bucks, Berks, Lehigh, Carbon, Philadelphia* and as far west as *Dauphin*, near Harrisburg, along the Susquehanna R. The MCSP birds foraged all around the lake, often coming quite close to shore, allowing for superb photo opportunities and identification.

Data from eBird in Chincoteague and then Cape May on May 9 and 10 showed large numbers of medium-sized *Sterna* terns were already being seen along the coast, in unusually high numbers...a forecast of what was to come!

While the high count for **Common Loon** in *Chester* was 25, there were zero reports of Red-throated Loon. Not long after a human "pumpalump" was given, **American Bittern** flushed at EP 4/12 (JK, m.ob.), seen here again 4/22 (KC) and 5/26 (WS). On 4/19, another American Bittern was found at Black Rock Sanctuary (KC), then observed during an outing of the Valley Forge Audubon Society. One bird, maybe 2, was at CLP 4/20 (CH) and was reported through 4/27 (m.ob.), while another was seen at GM the same day (JK, DK). Latest report was of a flying bird at CFW/marshlands 5/19 (KF). At CLP, **Least Bittern** was seen and heard for the second year in a row 5/14-21 (m.ob.).

A flyover **Cattle Egret** was reported 4/21 (ZB) from a personal residence near DOW. During the weekly EP bird walk 5/26, 21 attendees saw an early imm. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**. An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was found also at EP 4/26 (EH), and was seen by others during the one-day stay. Flying over Waterloo Mills Preserve 4/23 was a small flock of 7 **Glossy Ibis**, and a report came from SL 5/1 of another flyover flock of 12 birds. (LL). Two long curved-bill birds were photographed in flight at Ellis Woods Park 4/16 (EH).

Raptor migration had its best day 4/13. Max numbers of **Broad-winged Hawk** reported were 117 in DOW (ZB), and 96 from CL (LL). Accipiters, buteos, harriers, and eagles were also seen to be on the move. The first sighting of **Mississippi Kite** was at BCP 5/17 (LL). The last period report from the Kite and Shorebird Watch was 5/29 when up to 5 kites were observed (LL, m.ob.). At SRT 5/20, a bird flew in and perched, providing great looks (AW). Three separate reports were made 5/21 of a single kite in flight. Without specific sight times, it couldn't be determined if these sightings constituted one, 2 or 3 individuals.

Locations were CLP, Okehocking Preserve and a residence near DOW. Last report came from a private location 5/30 (JK).

Unusual and within historical time frames, a nocturnal **Snowy Owl** was reported near Oxford 3/12 (PM). Consistent with prevailing protocol, specific locations for **Long-eared Owl** were not identified. Three different birds were reported: one from Unionville 3/1 (MH), one photographed in *Chester* that was on location 3/3-14 (JK et al.), and one from Doe Run area 4/2 and 4/10 (JS). Apparently there had earlier been as many as 3 birds in this roost, but only one seen on these visits. While out looking/listening for displaying woodcocks, a **Short-eared Owl** was seen hunting over fields near Ashbridge Preserve 3/3 (AC).

**Red-headed Woodpecker** were reported from several locations in the southern half of the county; the long-staying family continued along Beaver Dam Road throughout the period (m.ob.). **American Kestrel** sightings were widespread with multiple nest boxes in use; **Merlin** were off to the north by the end of Apr, and **Peregrine Falcons** were consistently viewed at SRT.

Considered the rarest of the flycatchers to pass through Pennsylvania, **Olive-sided Flycatcher** is also one of the latest, so the two reports this period were right on schedule. A single bird was at Waterloo Mills Preserve 5/26 (KF), and the other noted at BCP 5/29 (LL et al.). This year, there were no reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Another late migrant, **Alder Flycatcher**, was also reported two times only. On 5/18, following up an earlier report, a bird was heard then seen at Ashbridge Preserve (JK); the second report came from CLP 5/21 (m.ob.), with this bird staying until at least 5/23. The more common **Willow Flycatcher** typically migrates a bit earlier than Alder and can be an aid to separating the two. There were quite a few reports of **Least Flycatcher**, the earliest of the empids to migrate through *Chester*, the latest report made 5/9.

**Cliff Swallow** is reported several times every year; 3 birds were at MCSP 5/7 (ZB), and another 2 at CL 5/9 (LL). Last report noted one bird at CFW/marshlands 5/19 (KF). From 3/5-5/8 (AC, m.ob.), a walk around the phragmites of CLP was the only place to see/hear **Marsh Wrens**. Majority of **Gray-cheeked Thrush** reports were concentrated into a short time span of 5/16-18. Interestingly, an NFC report from 5/21 (ZB) "heard" 26 Gray-cheeked Thrush flying by. On that same night, 107 **Swainson's Thrushes** were overhead, while a night earlier 103 were recorded. A period high count of 15 **American Pipits** was a nice find during a rainy afternoon at Ellis Woods Park (EH).

Following a winter with low numbers of species from the north, a single **Pine Siskin** was seen at a feeder 3/3 (AC), in East Fallowfield Twp. Small numbers of **Purple Finch** were reported from multiple locations/feeders. One of four **Vesper Sparrow** reports was a nice find for a group of 21 birders on a Natural Lands Trust tour at Crows Nest Preserve 4/10. **Lincoln's Sparrow** typically does not sing during its spring migration through *Chester*, so a bird found doing just that at SRT 5/4 (AW) was quite unusual. The only additional report of was a bird seen at CL 5/14 (LL).

If there is a **Yellow-breasted Chat** in the vicinity, you will know it! And then feel obligated to go find it! These were reported from 10 locations with a high count of 4 at GH 5/27 (JK). Only the fourth spring record in the last 10 years, a male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was photographed south of Pottstown 3/22 (JFa), present for one day only. **Bobolinks** joined the already present **Eastern Meadowlarks** during the week of 4/22; many locations have offered birders a chance to see both of these grassland species. **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported from many areas, with a max of 28 at GM 3/20, a reliable location (m.ob.).

A spring highlight for many birders is the arrival of the wood-warblers. Discounting **Pine Warbler** and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** that overwinter in small numbers, the search began with **Palm Warbler** with the first report submitted 3/22. Following are observations of note: A female **Golden-winged Warbler** that was found at Pickering Cr. Trail 5/8 (AW), then photographed by others later in the day, was the only report for this sought-after species. **Prothonotary Warblers** were reported from seven locations, one to 2 birds; a single was heard at SGL 43, on the exact same day and same general area as one heard the previous year – site loyalty.

A well-defined **Mourning Warbler** was at a location near Phoenixville 5/21 (VS), the only sighting of the period. **Hooded Warblers** continued in good numbers at SGL 43, along with **Worm-eating Warbler** and **Black-and-White Warbler**. These same Game Lands provided one of the two reports for **Cerulean Warbler**, a singing male 5/8 (KF); the other came from Coventry Woods Park 5/5 (PW, JW). Lastly, a Kerr Park **Yellow-throated Warbler** returned to DOW, with first report 5/7. A bird that did not return was the **Summer Tanager** that spent its spring and summer at GH. Or maybe it did? This year it decided to go to a personal residence and was photographed in East Fallowfield 4/24 (MN).

Observers: **Rick Robinson, 114 Mallard Drive, Coatesville, PA 19320, 610-639-0114, birder18@verizon.net**, Josh Auld, Zach Baer, Adam Bartles, Katie Bartling, Dorothy Bedford, Debbie Beer (DBr), Anne Bekker (ABk), Claire Binkley, Adrian Binns (ABI), Barry Blust, Timothy Boyd, Bel Broadley (BBd), David Brown, Sharon Burke, Sara Busch (SBs), Brian Byrnes (BBn), Richard Candler, Kayann Cassidy, Brian Chilcote, Evan Coates, Aaron Coolman, Robin Cooper, Angela Cote, Steve Cottrell, Mike Coulter, John Daniel, Hank Davis, Mike DeFina, Joey Della Penna, Angela Detweiler, Paul Dietz, Ed Edge, Andy Ednie, Jennifer Faraschon, Jason Fehon (JFe), Rob Fergus, Nikki Flood, Judy Ford (JFd), Steve Fordyce, Kevin Fryberger, Melissa Gallardy (MeG), Ross Gallardy, Michael Gardner, Steve Gautier, Peter Gibb, Josh Graham, Al Guarente, Frank Haas, Michael Halley, Linda Hamp, Jeff Hapeman, Denice Hardtmann, Michael Hartshorne (MHt), Katie Henderson, W. Brian Henderson, Marylyn Henry (MHe), Jason Horn (JHo), Lou Horwitz (LHo), Eric Hughes, Chad Hutchinson, Luc and Theresa Jacobs, Kristen Johnson, Mark Johnson, Lou Jacobs, Sheryl Johnson, Joanne Karkosak, Dave Karkosak, Jeff Kenney, Rick Keyser, Donna Kiphorn, (DKi) Carol Kuniholm, Andrew Larson, Larry Lewis, Christian Long, Sandy Lockerman, Dave Luning, Carol Majors, Ron Majors, Andrea Martin, David McLaughlin, Doris McGovern (DMv), Michael McGraw, John McNamara, John Mercer (JMe), Holly Merker, Patrick Millar, Zach Millen, Jim Moffet (JMf), Hudson Moore, Rob Murray, Michael Niven, Kelly Nunn, Ellen Nunn, Liz Pettet, Pamela Powell, Brian Quindlen, Brian Raicich, Ashley Rathman, Charlie Reese, Laura Reilly, Ian Russel, Christian Scheibe, Joe Sebastiani, Win Shafer, Kathy Shattuck, Vincent Smith, Tim Sterrett, Ian Stewart, Scott Stollery, Brian Storey, Wendy Sykora, George Tallman, David Taylor, Gerry Tieg (GTi), Andrew Trumpp, Tim Uhler, Andy Urquhart, Patty VanLandeghen, Jason Vassallo, Patricia Verbosky (PVe), Laura Wagner, Jeff Wahl, Elizabeth Walshe, John Werth (JWe), Patty Werth, Ann Williams.

#### **Clarion County**

Locations: Armstrong Trail (AT), Beaver Creek Nature Area (BC), Clarion (CL), Curlsville (CV), Fisher (FI), Kahle Lake (KL), Lawsonham (LA), Mount Zion/Piney Tract/State Game Lands 330 (MZ), Mount Airy (MA), New Bethlehem (NB), Redbank Valley Trail (RVT), Sarah Furnace (SF), Snydersburg (SB), Strattanville (ST).

**Blue-winged Teal** had a good showing this year with sightings from multiple areas. One was first seen at SGL 63 on 3/26 (MS), then up to 7 birds at KL 4/10-22 (JH, DK, ES). A single bird was also at NB 4/12 (J&AK), one at BC 4/24 (ES), and 2 in CL 4/27 (ES). A **Northern Pintail** that overwintered in NB was still present 3/1 (J&AK). At the same location a **Long-tailed Duck** was found 3/15 (J&AK), a less common location for this diving duck usually found on deeper waters. After severe weather, an excellent waterfowl fallout occurred at KL 4/12. This event included up to 20 **Northern Shovelers**, 15 **Gadwall**, 30 **Canvasbacks**, 250 scaup sp., 10 **Long-tailed Ducks**, 600 **Bufflehead**, 400 **Ruddy Ducks**, and 90 **Horned Grebes** (JH, ES, JS). A single lingering **Redhead** was found at KL 4/24 (MD).

**Ruffed Grouse** have continued to be sparsely reported, with one found near SB 4/22 (ES), and one heard at Clear Creek SF 5/18 (ES, CW). The **Eurasian Collared-Dove** first reported last year in ST continued and was seen at the same location 5/29 (R&TG-S). Four

**Common Nighthawks** were sighted at SGL 72, flying together in the evening 5/19 (ES). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported in increased numbers, with the first near Millcreek 5/5 (ES), and then 2 calling at a known nesting area outside of ST 5/8, continuing through the end of the season (MH). One was also heard near Marianne 5/20 (ES) and one was found perched on a porch railing in the early morning in FI 5/24 (DK).

A single **Wilson's Snipe** was found in a tiny pocket of habitat at the busy I-80 interchange in CL 4/13, and then 4 in more typical habitat at BC 4/24 (ES). One was also reported fairly late into spring along Rail 66 Country Trail near SB 5/11 (SS). A single **Solitary Sandpiper** report was received of one at BC 4/24 (ES). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was seen at KL during the fallout there 4/12 (ES), and 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were found in recently burnt fields near Lucinda along with 4 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 5/4 (ES). Bonaparte's Gulls were also present during the fallout at KL, with 19 reported 4/12 (JH, ES), and up to 5 still seen through 4/22, then 2 at BC 4/24 (ES). Two **Common Terns** were seen at KL 5/6 (JS), and one **Forster's Tern** was seen there, also during the 4/12 fallout (ES).

Sporadically reported in spring, a **Red-throated Loon** was seen at KL 4/17 (ES, JS). At this same location, a **Least Bittern** was found, calling from phragmites habitat along the northeast shore 5/31 (BK). This sighting would be the first known record for *Clarion*, an exciting addition to the list of species here at KL. A second species also adds another great record for this lake, a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** that likely stopped due to heavy rain 5/6 (ES, JS).

**Golden Eagles** are seen sporadically in spring, and this year 2 were seen near SB (ES), and one seen on a deer carcass in FI 3/8 (DK). **Northern Harriers** were again reported from multiple areas. Significantly, a pair was seen at MA 4/15 (MH), and then a female going to a possible nesting area 5/23 (CW). At MZ single birds were reported on 6 occasions 4/1-5/24 (KB, KBK, TB, KH, TrS). Near SB, they were seen in 4 separate locations on 5 occasions 3/11-4/8 (ES). In fields near KL, they were reported 3/13, 3/21 and 4/12 (ES, MS, JT).

**Bald Eagles** are now so commonly reported that only nesting records will be noted typically. Two adults feeding 2 young were seen at a long-standing nesting area along the Clarion R. near Callensburg 4/27 (DD, CW). A new nesting area was found this year near Lickingville, and one adult was seen with one young in the nest 5/12 (ES). **Rough-legged Hawks** continued into the season, with one noted near Marble 3/10 (AK, SK), a light phase near SB 3/14 and a dark phase near Lucinda 3/12 and 3/17 (ES).

A species that is rarely reported, despite there being many areas of seemingly appropriate habitat, has been **Long-eared Owl**, so it was excellent news to have one spotted roosting in thick Scots pine stands at MZ 3/29 (ES). It was not relocated after the initial sighting, but pellets present under the roost tree showed that it had likely been using that area for multiple days. A second owl species had a great season in *Clarion* as well, that being the **Northern Saw-whet Owl**. The first bird noted was heard calling in forest north of FI 3/1-10 (DD, RS, CW). One was also heard calling regularly at a home outside ST during the same time period (LT). The best sighting was that of a bird found in a screech owl box on SGL 63 near Shippenville. It was first seen at the nest box entrance 3/1, and continued to be seen periodically through the season, with evidence of a bird bringing food to the box based on trail-cam footage (GE, MH, ML, LT, CW). There was continued activity and sightings through mid-Apr, but very sadly, a trail cam captured footage of a weasel entering the box the night of 4/26. The next day the box was checked, and the remains of three young saw-whet owls were found. Based on the remains and extent of feather development, the age of young was estimated at 10 to 14 days. This is the first known documented nesting of this species in *Clarion*.

**Merlins** continued a regular presence in CL, though a nest site or fledglings have still not been completely documented. They were first noted 4/5, with a pair displaying and calling to each other (TS). They were seen regularly after that day, including copulation noted 4/14 (ES), and last reported with the pair still together and calling to each other 5/19 (TS). **Common Ravens** showed continued increase in presence through the county, with a possible nesting site found in a large white pine near SB 4/25 (ES). Further south, 2 adults were found feeding fledged young

in a hemlock beside cliffs along the RVT near Redbank 5/2 (ES).

Becoming less reported over the years, it was good to have one sighting of a **Horned Lark** singing in breeding habitat at MA 5/17 (ES). **American Pipits** have been sporadically reported but were seen in larger numbers this year. Three were at KL 3/10 (JH); single birds were seen at 2 areas near SB 3/18 and 3/21 (ES), and one at NB 3/27 (ES). One was also noted at MZ 4/1, and finally 2 noted a little late at KL 5/6 (JS). The only finch report of note was of 2 **Pine Siskins** seen at a feeder near CV 3/25 (CW).

For sparrows, the first species to mention is **Clay-colored Sparrow**, first reported back at a known nesting area on Stockdill Rd at MZ 5/24 (DD, CW). Two were seen and heard singing on that date, and they were reported regularly there through the season (SG, DbK). **Vesper Sparrow** has been the least reported grassland sparrow, and just one was noted in fields near Ninevah 4/9 (ES). **Lincoln's Sparrows** are less common in spring, and single birds were seen at SF and near CV, both 5/11 (ES, CW). Another remarkable sighting for the county was that of a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** near Knox 4/8, which provided the first known record of this species for *Clarion* (PC, GE, ML). It was found at feeders at a home with large surrounding fields, and remained for just two days, last noted 4/10 (m.ob.)

There are five warbler species to mention this season, with the first being **Worm-eating Warbler**. It was first noted on the AT near Redbank 5/2 (ES), and on the RVT near LA with up to 3 singing males 5/2-25 (ES, CW). It was also reported at SF with up to 3 birds 5/9-22 (KA, YL, TR, ES, CW), and on the RVT towards Climax with 3 singing males 5/29 (ES). These locations are in traditional habitat of wooded south-facing slopes with thick understory along creeks and rivers. **Northern Waterthrush** is not often found in any season, so two sightings are of note. A singing male was found early in migration at BC 4/24 (ES), and another near SB 4/26 (ES).

**Kentucky Warbler** is a regular breeder, but in only limited locations where there is not much birder activity to document them. One was found at the AT at Redbank 5/22 (KA, YL), one was heard singing near Sligo 5/24 (KBk), and one was singing near LA 5/25 (CW). **Yellow-throated Warbler** is another species with a very limited range, and one was found at NB 5/2, where there is habitat but not often reported (J&AK). A singing male was found at a known breeding area again at LA 5/2 and 5/8 (ES, CW). Lastly, an infrequently reported species in spring, **Canada Warbler**, was reported in just one location, near MZ 5/14 (DS).

Observers: **Carole Winslow**, [cjwinslow94@gmail.com](mailto:cjwinslow94@gmail.com), KM Andersen, Timothy Becker, Kimberly Berry, Kyle Brock (KBk), Paulette Colantonio, Michael David, Don DeWolf, Gary Edwards, Ron and Tracy George-Snyder, Steve Gosser, Deborah Grove, Greg Grove, Jeffrey Hall, Mal Hays, Katie Hess, Margaret Higbee (MHi), Roger Higbee, Deborah Kalbfleisch (DbK), Danette Karls, S Kaye, John and Avis Keener, Barbara Kiester, Ann Kline, Yianni Laskaris, Theo Rickert, Matthew Schenck (MSc), Susan Schenck, Eric Schill, Tabassam Shah, Debbie Shirey, Ron Smith, Jerry Stanley, Mark Strittmatter, Travis Suckow (TrS), John Taylor, Larry Towse, David Yeany II.

### Clearfield County

Locations: Curwensville Lake (CL), Karthaus Elk Refuge (KER).

A **Cackling Goose** was seen with a flock of **Canada Geese** on Treasure L. 3/8 (DR). A **Mute Swan** was seen along the Bee Line Hwy in DuBois 4/15 (DK). A **White-Winged Scoter** was seen at CL 4/3 (JF), and a **Black-Winged Scoter** was seen there 3/20 (JF). A **Red-Necked Grebe** was seen at CL 4/9 (JF, JS). A **Common Gallinule** was seen at Falls Creek Marsh 5/13 (DR). Two **Sandhill Cranes** were photographed in Curwensville 5/6 (JF, JS). An **Upland Sandpiper** was seen along Sandy Ridge Road 5/11-19 (m.ob.). A single migrating **White Pelican** was photographed at CL 4/24-25 (JF, JS).

A pair of **Osprey** were once again occupying a nest at the Shaggers Inn Shallow Water Impoundment 3/31 (JF). **Great Egrets** were seen at

the Beaver Meadow Walkway in DuBois 3/31 (BM), in the Philipsburg Swamp 4/8 (JF), and along the Ammerman Trail near Curwensville 5/2-3 (JS). A **Snowy Egret** was photographed at CL 4/26 (JF, DR, JS).

**Merlin** reports in the *County* continued to increase with reports of breeding behavior at a location in Curwensville 4/16 (CG, JS). **Peregrine Falcons** were seen at CL 4/3 (JF) and KER 5/3 (JS). A **Northern Shrike** was seen at KER 3/5 (JF, JS). **Red Crossbill** was seen and heard along Chipper Road 3/11 (CC). Personal communication was supplemented by information from the PABirds listserv and eBird for this report.

Observers: **Diane K. Bierly, 143 W. Lytle Ave., State College, PA 16801, 814-238-8183, dkb246@usa.net**, Chapin/Czarnecki, Diane Drobka, John Forcey, Barbara Garrison, Chris Grecco, Tom Johnson, Darlene Kearney, Michael Lyman, Kathy Mele, Bill Mendat, Dan Richards, Jerod Skebo, Craig Wilcox, Nick Winograd.

### Clinton County

Locations: Kettle Creek State Park (KCSP), Lock Haven (LH), Mill Hall (MH), South Avis (SA).

A few **American Wigeons** were seen in a mixed flock that included **Mallards** and **American Black Ducks** 3/14 at SA (DR). Three **White-winged Scoters** were found at KCSP 4/19 (SL, LS, MS, SS). A large flock of **Tundra Swans** along with one **Snow Goose** were observed on 3/14 at SA (DR). A large kettle of **Broad-winged Hawks** was spotted over SA on 5/2 (DR). **Ospreys** returned to previous nesting sites at Beech Creek and MH during the period (m.ob.). A pair of **American Kestrels** returned to their usual nesting location in Swissdale (WL).

At KCSP, one **Sandhill Crane** was seen 3/3 (TL). A **Great Egret** was observed at the Central Mountain High School in MH 5/7 (DR). A **Semipalmated Plover** was seen east of LH 5/14 (CCH). At the same location, one **Black-bellied Plover** was observed 5/7-8 (CCH, TS, MS). Another was reported at SA 5/7 (CCH). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was found at the previous location east of LH on 5/14 (CCH). Three **Short-billed Dowitchers** were discovered east of LH on 5/19 (CCH).

Two **Red Crossbills** were located at KCSP on 3/16 (SL).

Observers: **Wayne Laubscher, 749 E. Croak Hollow Road, Lock Haven, PA 17745, 570-748-7511, wnlaubscher@comcast.net**. Carol & Charles Hildebrand, Tom Lace, Sarah Lindgren, Dave Rockey, Lauren Shaffer, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck, Tom Shervinskie.

### Columbia County

No report submitted

### Crawford County

Locations: Conneaut Marsh (CM): Custards (CUS), McMichael Road (MMR); Meadville (MDV), Pymatuning State Park (PSP): Causeway (CAU), Miller's Ponds (MP), Spillway (SPL).

The spring season had three species documented for the first time. A **Chuck-will's-widow** was recorded singing in the Fairfield Township area 5/12 (SG), a **Swallow-tailed Kite** was photographed flying over the Titusville area 4/28 (JJ), and a **Bullock's Oriole** was photographed coming to a suet feeder at a private location in the Meadville area 4/26-27 (IF, BM, TN, KPi, SR).

**Snow Geese** were in the Pymatuning area 3/2-7 (EH, MK, SS, GS, KW), with high counts of 45 at SPL 3/2 (EH) and 58 with a notable number of 53 blue phase at MP 3/5 (KZ, RZ). Another good count of 41 birds were seen flying over Fairfield Twp. 3/2 (SG). Notably, 9 **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at MP 3/9 (KW). **Mute Swans** included singles at Candahota L. 5/22 (JA) and at a pond in the Townsville area 5/25 (TN, KPi). **Trumpeter Swans** included one at Erie NWR-Deer Run

Trail 4/12 (JMi), one at SGL 277 on 4/16 (RZ, KZ), and 2 in the Pageville area 5/13 (GL). A high count of 260 **Tundra Swans** was at SPL 3/2 (EH).

Due to the presence of Pymatuning and Conneaut Lakes, as well as the extensive Conneaut Marsh area, spring waterfowl migration is usually notable both for rare species occasionally observed as well as notable high counts. Late **Gadwalls** included up to 20 at MP 5/8 (PF, CN) and 12 there 5/9 (CHo). Two late **American Wigeons** were at MP 5/9 (CHo). **American Black Ducks** were in their usual numbers and locations (m.ob.). Notable high counts included 400 **Northern Pintails** at MMR 3/1 (ME, LS), 250 **Redheads** at Conneaut L. 3/13 (TN, KPi), 800 **Ring-necked Ducks** at CUS 3/13 (TN, KPi), 500 **Lesser Scaups** at CAU 3/8 (JM), 150 **Buffleheads** at Conneaut L. 4/ 3 (CN), 85 **Common Goldeneyes** at PSP's Hulbert Road pull-off 3/21 (EH), 250 **Common Mergansers** at SPL 3/5 (BW), 750 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at CAU 4/3 (EH), and 2000 **Ruddy Duck** at SPL 4/16 (IF).

A late **Canvasback** was at SPL 4/17 (RZ, KZ). There were several late Ring-necked Ducks, including one at PSP 5/8 and 5/28 (GS) and one at CAU 5/18 (CS). **Greater Scaups** were in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). Observations of **White-winged Scoters**, notable for *Crawford*, included a single at SPL 4/3 (JL) and a long-staying bird at CAU 4/9-28 (m.ob.). **Long-tailed Ducks**, included one at SPL 3/2 (EH), 2 at Conneaut L.-Marina 3/13 (TN, KP), and 4 at SPL 4/3 (EH).

**Ruffed Grouse** were in the wooded portions of the eastern half of *Crawford* (m.ob.). **Black-billed Cuckoos** and **Common Nighthawks**, a declining bird throughout *Crawford*, were as expected (m.ob.). A single **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was calling in the Saegertown area 5/15 (RBh), as in past years. An early **Virginia Rail** was at MMR 3/23 (IF), otherwise as expected (m.ob.), as were **Soras** and **Common Gallinules** (m.ob.). A good count of 12 **Soras** were at MMR 4/24 (AL). Similar to the winter season, **American Coots** were below average (m.ob.). **Sandhill Crane** was as expected (m.ob.).

**Upland Sandpipers**, a notable breeding bird in *Crawford*, were at PSP - Wilson Road area, including one 5/21 (AHu, EH, KZ, RZ), and up to 2 birds 5/29-31 (CH, DK, TN, KPi). Notably, there were no observations of Short-billed Dowitchers this season. An early **Solitary Sandpiper** was at MP 4/13 (KW). **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Greater Yellowlegs** were in their expected staging grounds at MP, with respective high counts of 31 on 4/11 (RHo) and 63 on 4/26 (CA, KA, NA). Up to 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** were at MP 3/10-19 (m.ob.), slightly early dates for this species.

**Bonaparte's Gulls** at SPL were 5 birds 5/18 (CS), 2 on 5/20 (CN), and a single 5/21 (AHu, EH, RZ, KZ), representing late dates for this species. The only report of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was 2 at PSP - Dam 3/24 (KW). A **Black Tern** was at SPL 5/8 (BW). The only **Common Terns** were a single bird at SPL 4/16 (IF) and 2 at the same location 4/17 (KZ, RZ). **Forster's Terns** were in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). A **Common Loon** at SPL 3/5 (KC, KS), and up to 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** were at SPL 3/10-3/12 (KD, BG, RP, TaW), early dates for these species.

**American Bittern** reports included one at SGL 122 on 4/25 (AL), one in the Saegertown area 5/10 (RK), 2 flying over I-79 in the MDV area 5/15 (ST), and one at MMR 5/18 (CS). A **Least Bittern** was seen at MMR 5/18-19 and 5/28-29 (m.ob.). The last date for **Rough-legged Hawk** was of one at MP 4/3 (EH), an expected departure date. A single **Snowy Owl** was in the Candahota L. Area 4/3 (ES). **Short-eared Owls** were all at MP, including one seen 4/1, 4/28-29 (KW, BM).

**Red-headed Woodpeckers**, increasingly being reported, were observed as usual primarily around the PSP and CM areas (m.ob.). **Merlins** included a pair heard calling back and forth in the MDV area throughout May (RHo, KPi). **Peregrine Falcons** included one at MP 3/20 (TN), 4/17 (BM, TN, KPi), 4/18 and 4/23 (KW), one in the PSP area 4/15 (KZ), one at PSP - Orchard Boat Ramp 4/16 (EH), and one at SGL 122 on 5/1 (AL).

Early **Eastern Wood-Pewees** included a single at MP 4/28 (KW) and one at Hemlock Hill Station 5/6 (RHR). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was at Greendale Cemetery in MDV 5/11 (KPi). **White-eyed Vireos** included an early one at the Ernst Bike Trail in MDV 5/5 (IF), one at SGL 214 on 5/15 (BM), and one at Erie NWR 5/21 (TN) and 5/26 (TN, KPi).



**Philadelphia Vireos** were as expected (m.ob.).

**Common Ravens** notably included one at PSP - Railroad Grade 4/18 (KW), a location further west than is expected. **Horned Larks** were as expected (m.ob.). Notable counts of swallows included 200 **Tree Swallows** at CUS 4/10 (AN), a common staging ground for them in the spring, and 100 **Barn Swallows** at Conneaut L. 5/3 (RB). **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **Marsh Wrens**, and **Northern Mockingbirds** were in their usual numbers and locations (m.ob.).

Two **Vesper Sparrows** were in the Erie NWR - Sugar L. area 4/4 (RE). An early **Savannah Sparrow** was in a farm field in the Rundletown area 3/12 (BM). Slightly early observations of **Fox Sparrow** included one at a private residence in the Townville area 3/3 and 3/8 (AL). The only report of **Lincoln's Sparrow** was of one seen at Lincoln Avenue Park in MDV 5/18 (BM). There were several **White-crowned Sparrows** in Mar and Apr (m.ob.), with a high of 7 at a private location in the Springboro area 3/28 (CN). It seemed likely these were birds that overwintered, as migrants haven't usually shown up until early May.

**Bobolinks** were seen in their expected low numbers, primarily in the PSP area (m.ob.). Overall numbers of **Rusty Blackbirds** were below average (m.ob.), with a high count of 20 at Geneva Marsh 4/16 (EH).

A good count of 9 **Northern Waterthrushes** were at SGL 122 on 4/25 (AL). A single early **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Erie NWR 4/20 (YL). There were several early observations of **Prothonotary Warblers**, including a single at Pymatuning Res. area 4/24 (GS), 2 at MMR 4/24 (AL, KW) and 4/26 (CA, KA, NA), and one at PSP - Wilson Boat Launch 4/28 (MW). A good count of 24 **Tennessee Warblers** were observed at CM - Shafer Road 5/15 (TN, KPi). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was in the Fairfield Twp. area 5/9 (SG). **Mourning Warblers** were in their expected frequency and locations (m.ob.); a good count of 10 were at SGL 144 on 5/25 (TN, KPi), a known breeding location.

Early warblers included a **Cape May Warbler** in the Fairfield Township area 5/2 and 5/4 (SG), one at MMR 5/3 (ToW) and 5/4 (CN, VT) a **Northern Parula** in the Townville area 4/24 (AL), and a very early **Blackpoll Warbler** photographed at CUS 4/28 (BK). **Cerulean Warblers** were observed in their expected numbers and locations (m.ob.). A good count of 55 **Yellow Warblers** were at SGL 277 on 4/24 (RH). **Palm Warblers** were reported in higher frequency and abundance than normal, especially in the last week of Apr (m.ob.). A single **Yellow-throated Warbler**, rare in *Crawford*, was Woodcock Creek Park's Dam area 5/9-12 (BM, TN, KPi). A **Wilson's Warbler** was in the Saegertown area 5/12 (RK). A **Dickcissel** was at a private location in the Conneautville area 5/19 (SM).

Observers: **Rob Hodgson (RHo)**, 709 Alden Street, Meadville, PA 16335, 515-708-0603, robhodgson888@gmail.com, Julie Aiken, Casey Andersen, KM Andersen, Nancy Andersen, Kimberly Boal, Ron Burkert, Randall Burkholder (RBh), John Campbell, Michelle Carlson, Kathleen Clark, Brittany Davis, Karyn Delaney, W. Dwayne DelGrande, Atlee Detweiler, Barbara Drennen (BDR), Rich Eakin, Alex Eisenagart, Elias Erb, Lyndon Erb, Mary Eyman, Mike Fialkovich, Isaac Field, Patience Fisher, Brain Friewald, Jayme Glover, S Gormley, Barbara Griffith, Joe Gyekis (JGy), Eric Hall, Jeffrey Hall, Mark Hanneman, Robert Hass, AC Hassall, Jodie Hassall (JHs), Barbara Henninger, Chuck Herrold, Margaret Higbee (MHl), Roger Higbee (RHl), James R. Hill III (JHi), MiMi Hoffmaster (MHo), Craig Holt (Cho), Dawn Holzer, Robert Horton (RHr), Andrew Hurst (AHu), Erika Hurst (EHu), Jeff Jamieson, Chuck Jones, Deborah Kalbfleisch, Colin Keith, Dave Keith (DKe), Michelle Kienholz, Barbara Kiester, Ripley Kindervater, Robert Krajewski (RKj), Yianni Laskaris, Judy Lesso, Alejandra Lewandowski, George Linz, Patrick Lister, Eileen Luba, Lydia Machczynski, Jim McConnor, Brian Miller, Joseph Miller (JMi), Steven Miller, Robert Morton, Alyssa Nees, Claire Nicolls, William Nolt, Tomas Nonnenmacher, Kim Nordquist, Kevin Parsons, Ken Pinnow (KPi), Rachel Pitzer, Joe Popma, R Roth, Steve Rotkovecz, Chris Sayers, Robert Scribner, Mark Shaver, Kate Siegrist, Emily Smith, Shawn Sowers, Liz Spence, K Springer (KSp), Kate StJohn (KSJ), Thomas Stevenson, Mark Strittmatter (MSt), Jill Stoddard, Gavin Svenson, John Taylor, Valarie Tarkowski, Shannon Thompson, Andy Troyer, Marcus

**PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**

Troyer, Grace Vesho, Tate Weber, Tom Wescott (TWs), Katie Wickert, Bill Wilkinson, Michael Williams, Pam Williams, Carole Winslow, Barbara Woolson (BWo), Kendall Zook, Regina Zook.

### **Cumberland County**

Locations: Brackbill Pond (BP), Clover Hill Road (CH), Creekview Road Marsh (CM), Dykman Road Pond (DP), Elk Hill Road (EH), High Mountain Road Ponds (HM), Horners Road (HR), King's Gap SP (KG), Kuhn Lake (KL), Laurel Lake (LL), McCormick Park (MC), Mud Level Road (ML), Messiah University (MU), Opossum Lake (OL), Pine Hill Arboretum (PH), South Middleton Township Park (SM), Stoughstown Pond (SP), Winding Hills Nature Trail (WH), Yellow Breeches Creek (YB), Zion Road Pond (ZP).

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 River 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.

Our resident **Trumpeter Swan** pair returned to CM 3/27 (VG), and by 4/10 one of them was standing on a nest with one egg in the nest (TJ). The swans were gone 4/12 with **Canada Goose** sitting on this nest instead (DK). After a month-long stay at nearby KL, the pair was back at CM 5/1 with one sitting on the nest 5/9 (TC, RK). Six eggs were confirmed in the nest 5/17 (MB), with incubation continuing through the season.

Other notable waterfowl included a **Mallard x Northern Pintail** hybrid at DP 4/15-5/1 (BK, CP, ReP, PY). Two **Canvasbacks** were at BP 3/13-17 (KM, AD, NT). Four **Long-tailed Ducks** dropped into a small farm pond along Myers Rd near SGL169 following a storm with snow and high winds 3/12 (TJ), and one at OL provided a rare May record 5/4 (VG, DB, SB, NT). Single **Common Goldeneyes** were found at DP 3/3 (BK), and ZP 3/4 (RiP). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were sparse, with just 2 seen at LL 3/31 (IG), and one at OL 4/16 (NT, TJ).

**Virginia Rail** was found at SM, a new location for them, with one to two 4/16-21 (DB et.al) and two 5/22 (AD). One was also present at CM 5/9 and 5/29, where they were confirmed breeding last year. **Sora** was at a private marsh along Pine Road 5/9-13 (RM), as well as one heard at CM 5/29 (CP, ReP).

It was a rebound spring for shorebirds with scattered rarities mixed in with better numbers of common species than last spring. **Semipalmated Plover** was found reliably at HM with up to 5 present 5/20-24 (VG, TJ, DW, DB, SB), as well as at WH with up to 5 present 5/19-26 (BM, JR, DG). Three **Black-bellied Plovers** were photographed in Mechanicsburg 5/21 (AML). Up to 2 **Dunlins** were found in a retention pond in Mechanicsburg 5/17-18 (DG, IG). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were in short supply with the only reports being 3 at SP 4/1 (CP), and one along PA-233 just north of Newville 4/10 (TJ). The drought of **Semipalmated Sandpiper** sightings was broken with a single bird at HR 5/8 (DK), marking the first *Cumberland* record since 2019 for this formerly reliable species. Numerous additional sightings were also added at HM and WH 5/19-30 (m.ob.). A single **Short-billed Dowitcher** made a brief visit to the same location as the Dunlin sightings 5/20 (DG).

The most notable bird observation of the season was a flyby **Swallow-tailed Kite** along the YB near Lisburn 4/25 (AM). The third record for *Cumberland*, this was part of a good spring for them in Pennsylvania, with 4 records reported to eBird throughout the state. A strong push of **Broad-winged Hawks** occurred 4/23, with a backyard count of 539 made in 3 hours in Plainfield (KJ, TJ).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found just once, a single at SGL230 5/24 (DB, SB). **Alder Flycatcher** was heard twice, with singles at SGL230 5/15 (AM, RK) and a private location a couple miles east of there

5/16 (PL). **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found 3 times, with 2 birds at EH 5/16 (VG), one at PH 5/18 (TC), and one at KG 5/19 (ReP). A singing male **Clay-colored Sparrow** was present at WH 4/15-23 (BM et.al). Interestingly, a Clay-colored Sparrow was also present in the same field at WH 11/28/21.

Warbler migration was overall slow with a few brief bursts of activity and a few notable birds. The second week of May was particularly slower than normal due to persistent winds from the northeast. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was found at EH 5/5 (RS, NW, WW). The only **Mourning Warbler** was at SGL230 5/29 (CP, ReP). It was an excellent spring for **Kentucky Warblers** with birds detected at 7 locations and several present for multiple weeks, including up to 2 males on separate territories at SGL230 on 5/5-29 (PL, m.ob.).

**Yellow-throated Warblers** were in good supply along YB, with birds found at MU 4/30 (PL, AM), MC 5/4 and 5/11 (TC, RK, AM), and 2 in Lisburn 4/25 and 4/30 (AM, RK, KK, PL). Elsewhere in the county, another was at SGL169 4/24 (RTGS). The only **Wilson's Warbler** was found at SGL230 during an excellent warbler migration day 5/14 (KJ, DW). The same visit at SGL230 yielded a **Summer Tanager** (KJ, DB, PL). While still quite a rarity for *Cumberland*, this species has now been found in 4 of the last 6 years. **Dickcissel** returned to some of its typical haunts, this spring including up to 2 at CH 5/23-24 (BK, VG, BO), and one at ML 5/28 (CP).

Observers: **Tim Johnson, 334 Greason Road, Carlisle, PA 17015, (717) 409-4805. tj359@sbcglobal.net**, Marcus Burkholder, Doris Brookens, Steve Brookens, Troy Corman, Andrew Dapkins, Ian Gardner, Vern Gauthier, David Gibson, Ron and Tracy George-Snyder (RTGS), Karen Johnson, Dave Kerr, Bob Koontz, Ramsay Koury, Kathy Kuchwara, Amy Mae Lebo, Peter Lusardi, Rodney Martinez, Annette Mathes, Brett Matlock, Kevin Mock, Bill Oyler, Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne (ReP), Richard Paone (RIP), John Runkle, Rosemary Spreha, Nathan Tiday, Don Weidemann, Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf, Perry Yingling.

#### **Dauphin County**

Locations: Fort Indiantown Gap west corridor (FIG), Highspire Reservoir (HR), State Game Lands 290-Haldeman Island (SGL290HI), Susquehanna River Front St (SRFS), Susquehanna River Schrader Park (SRSP), Susquehanna River West Fairview (SRWF), Wildwood Lake (WL).

A quite unexpected and exciting sighting of **Brants** was made at WL 5/24 with 4 separate flocks of 70, 45, 80, and 95 observed flying over the lake (SS). The last sighting reported in *Dauphin* was in 2010. A lone drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was spotted on SGL290HI 3/16 (SB, Sbi). In addition, a **White-winged Scoter** was at SRFS 3/24 (IG) and then found again at SRWF (SS) the same day. An **Arctic Tern** was photographed on the Susquehanna River at SRSP 5/13 (SS) and a **Black Tern** was observed at SRWF 5/27 (RK).

Eleven sightings of arriving **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were reported throughout *Dauphin* between 4/24 and 4/30 (m.ob.). **American Bitterns** were seen in three locations: WL 4/4 (JM), HR 4/4 and 4/10 (DH, DS), and SGL290HI 5/2 (JD, JG). A **Least Bittern** was found and photographed at SGL290HI 5/8 and 5/14 (AB, SB, StB). The first **Great Egret** was spotted at WL 3/21 (m.ob.) and a **Snowy Egret** was observed and photographed at WL 4/17 (m.ob.).

Three nests of **Ospreys** are now active along the SR near Steelton 4/20 (EC). A pair of **Bald Eagles** made an attempt at nest building and mating along Linglestown Road in Harrisburg 3/12 but failed to complete the nest. (SH, SL).

An interesting observation of a pair of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** was made at WL in late April. After building their nest, they tore it apart and carried the material elsewhere (LI). A **White-throated Sparrow** was still visiting a Hummelstown home feeder at the end of this reporting period (AM).

Warbler variety was good this season at 32 species. Of special note

were a **Mourning Warbler** in the Hershey area 5/12 (TM) and a **Kentucky Warbler** at FIG 5/31 (JDu, CT). **Blue Grosbeaks** were seen in 3 areas, 1 at FIG 5/4 (JD, CT) - 2 on SGL290HI 5/12 (JG) and 1 in the Halifax area 5/18 (m.ob.).

Observers: **Sandy Lockerman, 3830 Lexington Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109, (717) 329-8040, sandylockerman@yahoo.com**. Scott Bills, Stephanie Bills (Sbi), Andy Brought, Ed Chubb, Jarrod Derr, Joe Duris (JDu), Ian Gardner, Jennifer Gray, Joe Gyekis, Shirley Hamilton, David Hooper, Larry Imes, Ramsay Koury, Sandy Lockerman, Annette Mathes, Joshua Moritz, Tara Murphy, Steve Schmit, Darla Shark, Cassidy Titus

#### **Delaware County**

Locations: Barrett's Meadow (BM), Delaware River/Hog Island Rd (DRHIR), Harvey Run Trail (HRT), Haverford Reserve (HR), Hildacy Preserve (HILD), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Lester FedEx Complex Wetlands (FEDEX), Marcus Hook (MH), Bridle Trail (BT) at Ridley Creek State Park (RCSP), Springton Reservoir (SR); NFC = nocturnal flight call.

March temperatures broke 70°F as early as the 7th and again on the 18th and 19th with a couple inches of snow in between on the 12th. April 13-14 brought temperatures to 80°F, while May 21 broke 90°. Overall precipitation was below normal in Mar with about 2.25" but then rose above average for both Apr and May, with 6-6.7" and 5.5-5.9" respectively.

Significant **Snow Goose** movement was reported 3/6 from Wallingford (RF), RCSP (CS) and Garnet Valley (EK). A single **Cackling Goose** was found at Smedley Tract 3/4-8 (AG, AB, BS). Unusual on SR 3/3 were about 2 dozen **Tundra Swans** (JZ).

Three **Blue-winged Teals** visited Brinton L. 3/20 (MM, SB), and a few were found at JHNWR 3/15 (AG), 3/24 (JZ), 4/13-15 (AG, DO) and 4/25 (GG). This species also was sighted at DRHIR 4/16 (DB) and 5/1 (JZ), representing more sightings than for **Northern Shoveler**, which were only found 3/11 and 3/16 at JHNWR (DH). **Gadwalls** were reported from four locations in Mar (m.ob.) while 2-10 **American Wigeons** found the Delaware County Community College area to their liking 3/2-21 (m.ob.). For the third year running, **Green-winged Teal** reports were numerous, so this species will probably not be mentioned here again; however, a **Eurasian** individual was among a flock at DRHIR 3/4 (RF).

Two **Canvasbacks** at JHNWR 3/4 (MS, AD, JK) were nice. That location held **Greater Scaup** 3/5 (DO) and 3/21 (AG), while **Lesser Scaup** were reported more than a dozen times from various locations (m.ob.). Six **White-winged Scoters** flew downriver 4/19 (JHo) following the passage of a Nor'easter. A **Long-tailed Duck** was hanging out with **Mallards** in Darby Cr. at JHNWR 4/16 (NB) while others were noted on the DRHIR 4/9 (AG) and 4/19 (JHo et al.). Several **Common Goldeneyes** fished SR 3/3-7 (AB et al.) while one was at DRHIR 3/19 (AG, DO). After two years of many reports, **Red-breasted Mergansers** at DRHIR fell back to a more usual four dates from 3/19-4/19 (m.ob.). **Ruddy Ducks** were noted at SR 3/4 (AB), 3/11 (JZ, AB, DB) and 4/5 (RF).

**Pied-billed Grebes** were reported multiple times from six locations. **Horned Grebes** were found at SR on six dates (m.ob.) as well as at DRHIR on four dates (m.ob.) and at JHNWR 4/16 (KE, AG). A **Red-throated Loon** hanging out with a **Common Loon** was a surprise on SR 5/29-5/31 (JZ et al.); one also appeared at DRHIR 4/3 (JHo) and 5/14 (AG, RF).

As last year, there were a dozen reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** in May (m.ob.), but only one **Black-billed Cuckoo** was recorded as an NFC from Wallingford 5/21 (RF). A **Common Nighthawk** was also reported from that station 5/16 (RF), calling after 1 AM. Based on reports, passage dates for this migrant were 5/15-25 with more than a half-dozen sightings (m.ob.). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** called in Cobbs Cr. 5/5 (RH) during a cloudy portion of the afternoon, and another individual was heard 5/6 in the early morning and then located that evening sitting on a

log on the ground at Haverford College (KJ, ph. SJ). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrived in Chadds Ford 4/18 (MF) and appeared to be looking for a feeder that was not yet up.

An NFC rail recording over Wallingford 5/14 (RF) was likely a **King Rail** migrant. **Virginia Rails** were first reported in the 4th Ave and FEDEX area 4/2 (JZ, DO) and then noted sporadically there through 4/15 (m.ob.). There was also one recorded at DRHIR 4/26 (JZ). **Sora** reports from FEDEX were 4/18 (NS), 4/20 (JM, DH), and 4/21 (AG, DB, RF).

Fifteen shorebird species were reported during the period. **Black-bellied Plovers** were recorded at DRHIR 5/13, 5/21, and 5/27 (m.ob.) with **Semipalmated Plover** there 5/14-15 (m.ob.) and 5/30 when there were 8 (RF), as well as from JHNWR 5/15 (GP) and 5/20 (JW). Two flocks of migrant **Ruddy Turnstones**, an estimated 140 birds, flew over MH 5/25 (AG). **Dunlins** were on river mudflats 5/14-15 (AG, RF, JZ). A dozen **Pectoral Sandpipers** were counted at JHNWR 4/15 (AG), while a small puddle in a field in Radnor attracted one 5/3 (RH,) and one was at DRHIR 5/6 (RF et al.). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen at DRHIR 5/14 (RF, AG) and 5/30 (5, RF). **Short-billed Dowitchers** were recorded with several NFCs over Wallingford 5/21 (RF); 2 were seen at DRHIR 5/16 (AG, JZ) and 5/27 (JZ, DH, JM).

Two **American Woodcock** were reported from Tinicum Twp 3/3 (AB) and BM 3/5 (BB), 3/18 (KE), and nearby 3/7 (HD). A **Wilson's Snipe** was nicely photographed foraging at Smedley Park 3/13 (JD); singles were at JHNWR 3/22 (AS) and 4/7 (JZ) and reports at DRHIR ranged from 3/4-4/23 (m.ob.) with an exceedingly high count of 54 on 3/25 (JM, DH) and 40 on 4/5 (RF).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were regularly sighted at DRHIR 3/26-5/15 (m.ob.) with a high count of 100 to 160 foraging between Governor Printz Park and LaGrange access on 4/19 (m.ob.). A **Little Gull** was also found at DRHIR 4/19 (JHo, m.ob.), foraging in the same stretch of river as the flock of Bonapartes. This represents the second record but the first photographed of this species in *Delaware*. Two individuals were seen at MH 4/29/93 (NP) for the first county record; those birds were with a small group of **Laughing Gulls**. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were spotted at DRHIR on five dates mid-Mar to mid-May with 9 counted 5/14 (AG, RF).

**Caspian Terns** began showing up along the river 4/2 (m.ob.) and were seen sporadically throughout the period as were **Forster's Terns**. Two **Black Terns** were sighted floating upstream on a log at DRHIR 5/22 (AG, DB) while **Common Terns** were noted 5/4, 5/6 and 5/14 (m.ob.). At least 2 **Arctic Terns** seen at DRHIR 5/14 (KE, TJ, RF) were part of an event that dropped that species in unexpected places across the Middle States and New England over the span of a few days.

**Great Cormorant** reports were limited to 3/19-20 (m.ob.) and 4/9 (JM), all at DRHIR. The only **Snowy Egret** was at JHNWR 4/14 (RZ). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was reported along Darby Cr. in Drexel Hill 5/18 (TS). Eleven **Glossy Ibis** flew past DRHIR 5/1 (JZ), and 4 were seen there 5/13 (JZ, AG).

Owls fared well in *Delaware* this year. **Eastern Screech-Owl** reports came from about 10 locations and included a pair that raised a brood in a nest box at HILD on camera. The live cam showed various prey items from insects and frogs to rodents, birds and bats. Those 4 young fledged 5/11-12. Thanks to NLT (MC) for the live-cam. **Great Horned Owls** were seen or heard in more than a dozen locations; HR had at least 2 breeding pairs (SR, m.ob.). In addition, HR also hosted a photogenic family of **Barred Owls** (m.ob.); reports of this species also came from the usual RCSP (m.ob) and Pennock Woods Park in Lansdowne (SG, WR). A **Long-eared Owl** was photographed 4/23 (SJ).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** visited a suet feeder in a Chadds Ford yard 5/13 (SW). **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were reported from the BT 5/23 (JZ) and 5/25 (AG) and from Smallbrook Sanctuary 5/25 (BB). On 5/20 **Alder Flycatcher** was at both HRT (AG, JZ) and CFM (RF). Another individual was heard and seen at RCSP 5/26 (JM), and an NFC was recorded from Wallingford 5/31 (RF). There were three reports of **Least Flycatcher**: in Newtown Square 5/5 (MD), at HRT 5/20 (JZ) and at Clayton Park 5/23 (BB).

An early **White-eyed Vireo** sang softly at JHNWR 4/14 (JZ), and an early **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was among a group of **Tree Swallows** at 4th Ave 3/10 (JM, DH). A **Cliff Swallow** was spotted at BM

5/3 (JH). **House Wren** was early to a Wayne yard 4/2 (GM). An **American Pipit** visited DRHIR 4/3 (JHo, AG), 4/29 (DB et al.) and 5/3 (RF). **Purple Finches** were widespread in Mar and Apr, but Pine Siskins were absent this year.

**American Tree Sparrow** dropped back to just two reports: HRT 3/4 (JMr) and RCSP 3/26 (KE). **White-crowned Sparrow** reports were also just two: DRHIR 5/1 (JZ) and BT 5/6 (AG). A **Vesper Sparrow** was seen at HILD 4/4 (BB), and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at 4th Ave 4/16 (DB). **Grasshopper Sparrow** was recorded as an NFC over Wallingford 4/24 (RF).

**Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Smallbrook Sanctuary 5/15 (EK), DRHIR 5/21 (DB, JZ), BT 5/25 (AG) and First State National Historic Park 5/28 (JM). Seven male **Bobolinks** were at the latter location 5/5 (BB). Nocturnal flight calls were heard over Wallingford 5/15-16 (RF), diurnal over Garnet Valley 5/18 (HM), and birds were seen at DRHIR 5/1 (AG) and in Newtown Square 5/14 (TB). No large flocks were reported this year. **Eastern Meadowlarks** returned to their usual DRHIR/Philadelphia Airport location as of 3/4 (BB, RF). As usual, **Rusty Blackbird** reports were regular from JHNWR 3/4-4/27 (m.ob.), but about 10 other reports came from locations across the county (m.ob.).

Thirty-one warbler species were reported during the count period with numbers of individuals even lower than last year's low numbers. **Prothonotary Warbler** was photographed at Swarthmore College 4/24 (DM) and was singing in CFM 5/19-20 (KF et al.). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was at 4th Ave 3/10 (JM, DH) and 4/11 (JM, DH) while another was heard and seen in a Bryn Mawr yard also 4/11 (KB, RH), and 3 were at DRHIR 4/9 (JM). **Mourning Warbler** was found at JHNWR 5/11 (BF). **Yellow-throated Warbler** returned to its breeding location at RCSP 4/9 (AG et al.) and was also seen at DRHIR 4/15 (JZ).

A **Summer Tanager** was heard singing at Houston Park 5/24 (RF). **Blue Grosbeak** was seen in Chadds Ford 4/25 (MF) and at HILD 5/9 (BB).

Observers: **Sheryl Johnson, 453 Duck Pond Lane, Haverford, PA 19041, 610-649-4621, sbjohnso@haverford.edu**, Debbie Beer, Adrian Binns, Steve Brezinski, Teresa Brown, K Browngoehl, Nicole Bye, Brian Byrnes, Mike Coll, Hannah Deputy, Angela Detweiler, Matt Doyle, John Drake, David Eberly, Kristy Eleftheriou, Rob Fergus, Ben Filreis, Martha Frost, K Fryberger, Sean Gallagher, Gabriel Galson Al Guarente, Deborah Hansen, Jeff Hapeman, Jason Horn (JHo), Rich Horwitz, Karl Johnson, Tom Johnson, Ethan K, Jeff Kenney, Jim McConnell, Gavin McMonigle, Darshan Mehta, John Mercer (JMr), Hudson Moore, Mary Murrell, Damon Orsetti, Geoff Pawlikowski, Nick Pulcinella, Brian Quindlen, Walter Randall, Sarah Ryan, Matthew Schenck, Nate Sharp, Alan Simon Cindy Steven, Bob Suter, Timothy Swartz, Jason Waanders, Susan Worteck, Rich Ziegler, John Zygmunt.

### **Elk County**

Locations: East Branch Clarion River Lake Vicinity (EBL), East Branch Lake's Dam (EBD), Kersey (KER), Quehanna Wild Area (QW), Rasselas Marsh (RM), St. Mary's (SM).

There were 170 species submitted to eBird for *Elk* in Spring. Six **Northern Shovelers** were in EBL 4/12 (BB). **Gadwalls** were reported eight times, including 2 at West Cr. Wetland Learning Center 3/16 (MM), 18 at EBL 4/12 (BB), and 7 at EBD 4/22 with a **Northern Pintail** (MS). **Green-winged Teals** had five reports, with a high of 3 at RM 3/20 (CB).

Five **White-winged Scoters** were at Elk SP 4/30 (SL) with 2 there 5/6 (BB, CB). Three **Common Goldeneyes** were at EBL 3/26 (BB), as were 27 **Ruddy Ducks** 4/12 (BB) down to 2 seen there 4/16 (CB). There were five reports of single **Pied-billed Grebes** in the first 10 days of April at three locations (BB, CB, MS). The high count for **Horned Grebes** was 16 at EBL 3/20 with "most in non-breeding plumage" (BB).

The only season report for **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was of one near Benezette 5/25 (AS). Several **Chimney Swifts** were seen in five locations with six reports in May (BB, CB, JC, MD, MK, TK, CN).

**American Coots** were seen at EBL with 3 on 4/12 (BB) and 6 on 4/13 (CB). An **American Golden-Plover** was photographed near KER 4/16; a **Semipalmated Plover** and a **Dunlin** were there 5/16 (CB). **Wilson's Snipes** were "consistently here in spring" with a high count of 12 near KER 3/7 (BB, CB).

At EBL, 2 **Herring Gulls** were seen 3/5, 2 **Forster's Terns** on 5/2, and a **Golden Eagle** was photographed 3/7 (all BB). There were several sightings of one and 2 **Northern Harriers** at RM 3/7-5/6 (BB, CB, AS) and at EBL 3/6-4/10 (BB, MS, SS), including one photographed while kiting. The only report of an **Eastern Screech-Owl** was one near Kane 3/25 (GF). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was near EBL 3/18 and 4/5 (BB). A **Merlin** was near Wilcox 4/2 (CB), and 2 were in SM 4/21 (SR).

There were only a few sightings of these: **Alder Flycatcher** near James City 5/18 and 5/23 (SS), in QW 5/30 (BH), and in Buzzard Swamp 5/30 (PP); **Great Crested Flycatcher** in Kane 5/26 (DG); **Warbling Vireo** at EBL 5/10 (MD), **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** with 10 at Ridgway 4/16 and 5 at SM 4/25 (CB); **Cliff Swallow** with one at RM 5/10 (MD) and 5/17 (BB); **Northern Mockingbird** with one photographed near EBL 4/26 (AS) and one at Johnsonburg 5/22 (CB); and **American Pipit** with 2 audio-recorded near EBL 3/27 (BB).

**Red Crossbills** were seen consistently near EBL 3/14-5/26 with a high count of 13 on 5/3 (BB). They were also reported at Rasselas Road 3/18 (MS) and 4/9 (BB), with 4 in Wilcox 5/10 (MD). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at KER 4/29 (CB). A **White-crowned Sparrow** was near SM 5/9 (SR) and near EBL 5/10 (MD). One **Lincoln's Sparrow** was photographed near EBL 5/10 (MD). **Rusty Blackbird** reports included 8 near KER 3/7 (CB), an "evening flyover group" of 20 at EBL 3/16 (BB), and one photographed near SM 3/24 (MM).

A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was near Driftwood 4/6 (ES) and 2 were in QW 5/12 (DR). The only report of a **Blue-winged Warbler** was from Ridgway 5/8 (JC). A **Cerulean Warbler** was in Elk SP 5/10 (MD). A **Pine Warbler** was in EBL 4/14 (DG, GG), and 4 were seen with one photographed in QW 4/22 (LG). A **Canada Warbler** was in Bendigo SP 5/19 (MS), in Marion Brooks NA 5/21 (MH), near Loleta 5/22 (MS), with two in Marion Brooks NA 5/30 (BH).

Observers: **Carol Light, PO Box 6, Benezette, PA 15821, 717-964-2324, lightpc2@gmail.com**, Brendyn Baptiste, Chelsea Beck, Jeremy Castle, Michael David, Greg Fleming, Lori Gerthoffer, Daniel Grossi, Deborah Grove, Greg Grove, Bill Hendrickson, Marsha Hendrickson, Michael Kensinger, Taylor Kooker, Sarah Lindgren, Melinda Marconi, Coy Naugle, Paul Pisano, Dan Richards, Suzanne Riddle, Matthew Schenck, Andrew Sidelinger, Eric Stafford.

## Erie County

Locations: Erie Bluffs State Park (EBSP), Fry's Landing (FL), Gull Point (GP), Presque Isle Bay (PIB), Presque Isle Hawk Watch (PIHW), Presque Isle State Park (PISP).

It was a warm start to the spring; then, as we got deeper into the season, a lake chill dominated the rest of the period. However, observers commented on the abundance of Passerines arriving just in time for the Festival of the Birds event. Except for **Purple Finches**, there was a noticeable lack of northern finches. Even **Pine Siskins** were almost absent, with just singles and small groups mentioned at feeding stations. There were some notably rare finds this spring including a couple **California Gulls**, the fourth county record of **Snowy Plover**, **Glossy Ibis**, the first fully documented **Fish Crow** for the county, **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, **Brewer's Blackbird**, and **Painted Bunting**. Details are below; the following birds of note were reported from PISP unless noted otherwise.

**Snow Geese** were reported in Millcreek Twp. and at PISP through Mar (AM, JB). Up to 6 **Cackling Geese** were in the Beach 11 parking lot 3/3-5 (SM), and one passed over PIHW 3/6 (JM). A continuing pair of **Trumpeter Swans** was at SGL 191 to at least 3/20 (JC). There were also 2 Trumpeter Swans at SGL 109 on 3/24 (BS). A male **Eurasian**

**Wigeon** was a nice find in Thompson Bay 3/14 (SM, DS). A **Redhead x Ring-necked Duck** was nicely photographed at Leo's landing 3/2-30 and at the head of PIB (MS, SM). The only **Red-necked Grebe** was photographed in PIB 4/16 (GS).

An **American Golden Plover** was an unexpected spring find at GP 3/26-30 (AM). An exceptional find was a **Snowy Plover** at GP 4/25 for a first Apr record and a fourth county record (MB). Up to 5 **Whimbrels** (MB, et al.) were at GP 5/21 followed by one 5/26 (MB) and again 5/30 (JF). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was at GP 5/21-22 (MB), and 2 were there 5/28-29 (RD). Very rare in spring was a breeding-plumaged **Western Sandpiper** at GP 4/20 (SM).

An adult **California Gull** was photographed off Vista 3 on 3/25 (JM), and a second-year bird was at GP 4/26 for a first Apr record for the county (SM, TL). A probable adult **Herring Gull x Great Black-backed Gull** was at the head of PIB 3/30 (SM). An **apparent Herring Gull x Lesser-Black-backed Gull** was at the Niagara boat launch and at the head of PIB 3/27 and 3/31 (JM). As many as 21 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were scattered throughout the western half of PIB 3/27-30 (JM).

A **Cattle Egret** was seen with **Great Egrets** at Duck Pond, then later that evening in Niagara Pond 4/24 (TL). A **Glossy Ibis** was well photographed at close range in Thompson Marsh 5/2 (DG) with likely the same bird photographed again over Long Pond 5/6 (TD).

The only **Black Vulture** reported this spring, and not even at the hawk watch, was at EBSP 5/21 (SM). An immature **Golden Eagle** was spotted passing over the PIHW 5/6 (SM, JM). A **Northern Goshawk** passed over the PIHW 3/14 (JM, DS). This bird has become so rare in the county that the only place where one is likely to be seen is at the hawk watch.

A nearly all-white **Snowy Owl** was at GP and later at the north pier 4/3-13 (RD, SM). Two **Long-eared Owls** were in the pines 3/20 and possibly 2 different birds 3/24 (RD). A single Long-eared Owl was in the pines 4/3-9 (RD). A **Short-eared Owl** was at GP 3/6 and again 3/26 (RD). Single **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were in the pines 3/5-4/9 with up to 3 present 3/24-26 (RD). The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** reported was on eBird at PISP 5/14 (DM). The **Northern Shrike** reported during the winter season in Waterford Twp. was present to 3/5 (BS).

The first fully documented **Fish Crow** was photographed along with the call recorded near Breakwater 54 on 5/15 (SM). This species has been reported several times in the past few years, but a voice recording has never been made. Many visiting birders have often believed that any crows along the lake have been Fish Crows. Since most reports are in Apr and May, it is likely that for now Fish Crows have been vagrants or perhaps migrants. It will be interesting to see if they eventually become established in the Erie area.

**Common Ravens** have now become regular in the county, even as transients on PISP. They have been confirmed breeding in the southern portion of Erie and are regularly seen in some of the larger game lands in the central and eastern portion of the county. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was banded by the Erie Bird Observatory 5/11 (*fide* ST) and another was at EBSP 5/21 (SM).

The only **Yellow-breasted Chat** reported was at EBSP 5/20-21 (DS, SM). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen briefly over Niagara Pond 4/28 (JC). The female **Brewer's Blackbird** that was well photographed was an excellent find in Beach 11 parking lot 4/25-28 (SM, RD, JM, et al.). This is the first county record in more than three decades. Single **Golden-winged Warblers** were seen at FL 5/13, 5/18 and 5/20 (RH, SM).

A **Brewster's Warbler** was photographed at FL 5/18 (SM). The **Prothonotary Warblers** have returned to nest for the third year in a row, where they have been successful in artificial nesting boxes placed along the head of PIB by the observer (JH). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was near Perry Monument 5/13 (ST), and another was reported from PISP 5/16 (SM). Not annual in Erie, a **Kentucky Warbler** was described along Pine Tree Trail 5/14 (DP).

A male **Painted Bunting** made a brief stop at a feeder in west Erie 4/11 (RM *fide* BG). A **Dickcissel** was spotted and well described at FL 5/14 (AW).

Observers: **Jerry McWilliams, 3508 Allegheny Rd., Erie, PA, 16508-2129, jerrymcw@aol.com**, James Baxter, Mary Birdsong, John Campbell, Tara Dodge, Roger Donn, Jim Flynn, Bonnie Ginader, Darla Graff, Jamie Hill, Rob Hodgson, Tim Lenz, Doug Massey, Sam Meigs, Rose Miada, Andrew M, Donald Pendleton, Bob Scribner, Don Snyder, Mark Suckow, Gavin Svenson, Shannon Thompson, Asher Whitney.

### Fayette County

Locations: Deer Lake (DLK), Duck Pond Road (DPR), Greenlick Run Lake (GRL), Heritage Scout Reservation (HSR), Jacob's Creek Wetlands (JCW), Ohiopyle State Park (OSP), Spring Valley (SPV).

Mild weather in March ended by the middle of the month with winter-like conditions that persisted into early April. A raft of 36 **Tundra Swans** was at GRL 3/10 (MF). Four **Cackling Geese** were at DPR 3/1 (MA). There was a fallout at GRL 3/3 with 70 **American Wigeons**, 35 **Gadwalls**, an impressive count of 45 **Northern Pintails**, 3 **Nothorn Shovelers** and 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** (AB, KB, MS). **American Black Duck** reports include 2 at GRL 3/12 (MS), 3 at HSR 4/2 (DB), one at GRL 4/7 (MA) and one at DLK 4/9 (DBu). Eight **Blue-winged Teal** were at JCW 4/7 (EH). Max count of **Ruddy Duck** was only 24 at GRL 3/12 (AB, MS). Rain, snow and wind put down 3 **Black Scoters** on GRL 4/19 (EJR, AB, KB). Other than that, there wasn't a major fallout despite the conditions.

There were three eBird reports of **Ruffed Grouse**. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were widespread with numerous reports in eBird; however, there were only four locations reported for **Black-billed Cuckoo**. A **Common Nighthawk** was reported in eBird at Connellsville 5/21 (ST, MW). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was near Farmington 5/12 (MDo), and 3 were at HSR 5/21 (TB). A **Virginia Rail** was a good find at JCW 4/26 (KB), 2 were there 4/27-28 (AB, EJR) and one continued to 5/24 (KB). I can't recall the last rail report in the county.

Rare anywhere in the state in spring, an **American Golden Plover** at DPR 3/29 was a notable shorebird (*vide* MJ, m.ob.). Two were there 3/30-31 (m.ob.). There are few records for the county. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at DPR 3/29 (KB) was a bit earlier than expected. Four were there 3/30 (AB, m.ob.), and 5 on 4/2-8 (IW, AB). An early **Spotted Sandpiper** was at GRL 4/7 (MF). **Solitary Sandpiper** reports included single birds at DPR 4/9 (KB, EJR), at Mill Run Res. 4/23 (KB), at JCW 4/26 (KB, EJR), at GRL 5/2 (AB) and at DPR 5/10 (CT). Three were at Mill Run Res. 5/2 (EJR), and one was there 5/21 (DB).

There were 3 **Bonaparte's Gull** reports, all single birds, at GRL 4/7 (MF) and 4/27 (EJR) and at DPR 4/9 (KB). Two **Forster's Terns** were at HSR 4/24 (DBu), and 2 were at GRL 5/2 (EJR, AB); 4 were there 5/6 (MF). An **American Bittern** was a nice find at JCW 4/29 (AB). A **Great Egret** was seen at DLK 3/31, 4/3 and 4/29 (JC, AD).

**Black Vulture** reports include one at SPV 3/4 (DB), one at Hutchison Park 3/26 (EJR), one at OSP 4/24 (AW), and one near Brownfield 5/16 (EJR). Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at HSR 5/9 (CT), and one at DLK 5/15 (JC). A **Merlin** was at DLK 4/29 (JC).

Rare for the county, a **Marsh Wren** was a nice find at JCW 5/1 (MD). Two **Pine Siskins** were at DLK 3/19 (JC). Two **Henslow's Sparrows** were near Blue Barn 4/30 (BW, DW, TW); 6 were there 5/12 (MD). A **Rusty Blackbird** was at Virgin Run L. 3/13 (KB), 6 were at JCW 3/12 (KB), and 4 there 4/14 (AB).

A total of 33 species of warblers were reported. Single **Northern Waterthrushes** were at SPV 5/4 (MDo) and 5/15 (DBu), and a **Cape May Warbler** was there 5/18 (MDo, DBu). There were several eBird entries for **Cerulean Warbler** at OSP. A **Prairie Warbler** was near Quebec Run 5/10 (TC), up to 3 were at Fort Necessity National Battlefield in May (JC), and one was in SPV 5/15 (MDo). A **Wilson's Warbler** was at OSP 5/21 (DB).

A male **Western Tanager** was photographed at a feeder near Ohiopyle 4/18-19 (NS), providing a first county record. Unfortunately for birders, the homeowner did not want visitors. A **Blue Grosbeak** was

reported in eBird at Friendship Hill Historic Site, but there were few details.

Observers: **Mike Fialkovich, mpfial@verizon.net**, Mark Alt, Kerry Bell, Dwight Blough, Trip Bondi, David Burleson (DBu), Alex Busato, Michele Carlson, Jane Clark, Tammy Colt, Michael David, Matthew Domer (MDo), Alexander Donley, Eric Hall, Matthew Juskowich, EJ Regula, Nichole Simons, Mike Smith, Carl Thompson, Simon RB Thompson, Adam Webster, Mark Welford, Ian Winter, Brandon Woolson, Duncan Woolson, Timothy Woolson.

### Forest County

Locations: Beaver Meadows Recreation Area (BEA), Buzzard Swamp Recreation Area (BUZ), Cook Forest State Park - Cooksburg (CK), Lighthouse Island (LI), Marienville (MAR), Sheffield (SHF), Tionesta (TIO), Tionesta Lake and Dam (TL), West Hickory (WH)

Species totaled 148 from Spring eBird reports for *Forest*. There were 85 **Tundra Swans** photographed during a flyover north of MAR 3/4 (TSu); one was at LI 3/13 (JS, KS). Two **Blue-winged Teals** were at MAR 4/13 (SK, AK) with one near WH 4/24 (KS). Several **Gadwalls** were seen at LI in early Mar, and 4 were near MAR 4/12 (SK, AK). Five reports of **Buffleheads** included 45 near MAR 4/12 (SK, AK). A **Common Goldeneye** was at WH 3/12 (KS). Three **Ruddy Ducks** were near MAR 4/12, but only one was spotted there the next day (SK, AK).

Of the six reports of single **Ruffed Grouse**, one encounter near BEA 3/12 (JS, KS) included several photographs of a grouse resting in the snow; however, it was described this way: "We thought we heard snow falling off of the back of the car, but the grouse literally attacked the back window two times. It was chasing our car through the snow, running on the ground, and flying to chase the car."

Thirty **Horned Grebes** were near MAR 4/12 (SK, AK). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** arrived before the Pennsylvania Game (JC); one was seen there again 5/22 (MS), on Queen Road 5/25 (SS), and at TL 5/29 (CW). The only report of a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at TL 5/29 (CW). BUZ 5/16

The four reports for **American Woodcocks** were for one heard peenting at WH 3/11 (JS, KS), one in BUZ 3/11 (TC), and 3 in the MAR area 4/9 (MD). A **Wilson's Snipe** was photographed in the ice and snow at WH 3/13 (KS). Two **Spotted Sandpipers** were at Tionesta Cr. Road 4/23 (KM), 3 photographed at BEA 4/30 (TSu), one at CK 5/15 (ES), and 3 at TL 5/29 (CW). One **Greater Yellowlegs** was reported this season at BUZ 4/22 (TC).

A **Bonaparte's Gull** was at CK 4/12, and 4 were seen near MAR that day, with 3 at MAR the following day (SK, AK). Five **Ring-billed Gulls** were in BEA 3/12 (JS, KS); later that day 18 "were flying up the river together" at WH (KS). Three reports of **Common Loons** included 8 at TL 4/2 (JS, KS). A **Great Egret** was in TIO 4/15 (ES). A **Great Horned Owl** was heard near MAR 4/90 (MD) and again at WH 4/24 (KS). The only report of a **Barred Owl** was from WH 4/24 (KS).

Two **Warbling Vireos** were at LI 5/11 (MD), with one at CK 5/17 (JM) and one near TIO 5/21 (ES). Two **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were near WH 4/23, with one seen there 4/24 (KS). Two were near KEL 4/23 at the same time 5 **Barn Swallows** were seen (KM). The only report of a **Brown Thrasher** was near WH 4/23-25 (KS). Only one **Northern Mockingbird** was reported; it was near KEL 4/24 (KM). Two **Veeries** were near Kellettsville 5/19 (SS), and 2 were on Minister Cr. Trail two days later (YL). A **Swainson's Thrush** was near MAR 5/16 (JC). For the third consecutive year, an **American Pipit** was reported in *Forest*. It was near WH 3/12 with "tail bobbing along the shoreline," and seen again the next day in the same spot (KS).

**Red Crossbills** were seen in several locations 3/4-5/24 with a high count of 27 near SHF 3/22 and "recently fledged young included" (TSu). Of the two reports of **Pine Siskins**, 33 were photographed near SHF

3/22 (TSu), and 3 were photographed there 3/26 (RH, SM). **Fox Sparrow** reports were of 2 at WH 3/13 (JS, KS), 9 near SHF 3/26 (RH, SM), and 3 at CK 3/28 (SK, AK). The only report of **White-crowned Sparrows** was 2 at LI 5/11 (MD). The high count for **Rusty Blackbirds** was of 9 at WH 3/14 (KS).

A **Northern Waterthrush** was photographed and recorded at WH 4/23 (JS, KS). Two **Blue-winged Warblers** were near WH 4/25 "foraging in some low scrubby area" (KS); and one was there 5/4 (KH, AR). A **Nashville Warbler** was near WH 5/3-4 (KH, AR) and at BUZ 5/16 (JC). A **Cerulean Warbler** was photographed near WH 4/24 and seen again the next day (KS).

A **Blackpoll Warbler** was "foraging in high canopy of hemlocks" near CK 5/5 (TS), and one was at TL 5/29 (CW). Two **Palm Warblers** were photographed near WH 4/23 as were 7 the next day (KS). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was photographed near WH 5/3-4 (KH, AR). A **Canada Warbler** was audio-recorded in TIO 5/29 (CW).

Observers: **Carol Light, PO Box 6, Benezette, PA 15821, 717-964-2324, lightpc2@gmail.com**, Jeremy Castle, Thomas Curry, Michael David, Kelsey Harris, Rebecca Hart, S Kaye, Ann Kline, Yianni Laskaris, Steve Manns, Keith Michalski, Joseph Miller, Alex Rhina, Matthew Schenck, Eric Schill, Tabassam Shah, Jim Springer, K Springer, Emily Stevenson (EST), Scott Stoleson, Travis Suckow (TSu), Carole Winslow.

### **Franklin County**

Locations: Antrim Commons Ponds (ACP), Buchanan State Forest-Broad Mountain Eastern Slope Trails (BME), Creekside Nature Trail Menno Haven (CNTMH), Fulfilling Mill Trail at Wilson College (FMT), Keefer Road Farm Pond (KEEF), Letterkenny Reservoir (LERE), State Game Land 235's Upper Horse Valley (UHV), Upper Strausburg (UST).

The slow-moving coastal storm that impacted Pennsylvania with a two-day rain event May 5-6 resulted in highlight birds in *Franklin* for the period. Late afternoon on 5/6, 4 dowitchers were found at a mostly drained farm pond near UST (BO, BKO, GA, BK, JS). Three of the birds were **Long-billed Dowitchers** which had their westward migration journey interrupted by the bad weather. The ID of the fourth bird which was smaller and lighter was less certain. Since it was travelling with the others, there was reason to believe it could be same species, but bird size, bill length, extent and depth of color on underside, and spotting on neck and sides of breast seemed to lead to a possible ID of **Short-billed Dowitcher**. Photos were sent to others outside of the county more experienced with identifying dowitchers, and the responses confirmed 3 Long-billed Dowitchers and one Short-billed Dowitcher; per input received, likely a midwestern *hendersoni* subspecies also heading west). The next day 5/7 continuing heavy rain began to cause some flooding over stream banks. In a flooded pasture along Back Creek between Chambersburg and St Thomas, two more Long-billed Dowitchers were found, photographed and observed for several hours (BO, KR, GA, BKO, BK, JS).

As the out-of-its-banks Back Creek began to flood more expanse of the pasture, a **Black Tern** showed and began feeding back and forth over the pasture (KR, BO, GA, BKO). Later other birders found a **Forster's Tern** feeding and resting there (BK, JS). One good sighting led to another good sighting which led to another good sighting during the flooding rains of 5/6-7.

The five Long-billed Dowitchers seen at two separate locations 5/6 and 5/7, likely not the same birds, were the only reports of the species in Pennsylvania during 2022 as of the end of the spring reporting period. The only other non-coastal report in the east of this species was of a single bird north of Syracuse, New York, 4/23-25. Previous to these two Long-billed Dowitcher reports, there had been one eBird historical record in *Franklin*, a bird in fall migration 10/30-31/2021 at KEEF (BO).

Following a winter reporting period that was good in waterfowl variety but low in numbers, the spring period was mostly unexciting. A sub-adult **Mute Swan** visited a pond near UST 4/27-5/12, then moved

on (BO, BKO, GA, KR, KS). **Trumpeter Swan** reports were more frequent than at any previous recent time. Four birds were found at LERE 3/22-29, which were suspected to be a family including immature birds (BO, BKO, DE, KR, BK). The birds dispersed from this location, except for one that remained through the end of the reporting period (BKO, BO). Two birds were also reported from a pond near UST 4/4 (BKO) and at a pond on Burnt Mill Road 4/9 (BKO). These birds were probably 2 that were at LERE. It was not believed that these birds were those that have nested in neighboring *Cumberland*. The only notable duck reports were a male **Canvasback** at KEEF 3/13-15 (BO, BKO) and a female **Common Goldeneye** at a pond near UST 3/14 (BO).

Difficult to come across, a **Ruffed Grouse** was reported drumming in SGL 076 on 4/30 (DC), and one was observed along Ridge Road in Michaux SF 5/4 (KR). **Eurasian Collared-Dove** reports were less frequent than in other periods and low in numbers, as this established population in south-central *Franklin* was dispersed and in nesting mode.

Other than the rarity of both dowitcher species noted in the opening paragraphs, it was an unexciting spring for other shorebirds. Nonetheless, 14 species were reported including a **Dunlin** at ACP 4/18-19 (BO, BKO, KR) and a **Semipalmated Plover** at a pond near UST 5/3 (BO, KS). Otherwise, the normally expected birds showed at their normal times.

Gull and tern species made a good showing. **Ring-billed Gull** continued in Mar and Apr with many reports. **Bonaparte's Gulls** were expected, and notable was a high count of 40 from ACP 4/11 (KR, CW). **Herring Gull**, not an easy get in *Franklin*, had 2 reported at a farm near UST 3/7 (BO, CB); one was reported at ACP 4/25 (KR). In addition to the Black Tern and Forster's Tern noted above, a **Caspian Tern** was observed at Mt. Parnell Fisheries' ponds 4/26 (BO).

**American Bittern** has been an annual spring migrant but difficult to come across. Reports were from a farm near UST 4/28-29 (BO, KR), a flyover at Fort Loudon 5/1 (BO), and a flyover at ACP 5/11 (KR). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** returned to the Shippensburg rookery where large numbers of **Great Blue Herons** nested. Up to 6 night-herons were observed 4/29-5/3 before leaf-out became too far along for viewing into the trees of the rookery on the *Franklin* side of Middle Spring Cr. (BO, BKO, KR, KS). Included in the rookery were nesting **Bald Eagles** and **Great Horned Owls**.

During this reporting period, however, *Franklin* did enjoy its first eBird report of **Mississippi Kite** (I am aware of one or two other likely legitimate sightings not reported to eBird). A bird was found perched and was photographed at CNTMH 5/19 (RG, TGS). The bird remained on its perch for an hour or more before moving out of view. It was seen again early the following morning 5/20 (KR) in the same area before apparently moving on. The likelihood of the species being in *Franklin* has increased due to isolated nesting in recent years in Maryland and northern Virginia. Also, neighboring *Cumberland* has had a few sightings in recent years.

Up to 2 **Barn Owls** continued to frequent a barn in the St Thomas-Edenville area. The location was not disclosed due to the sensitive status of the species. The only **Merlin** was in a late report from FMT 5/10 (BK). The only report of **Peregrine Falcon** was from Geibs Road 3/5 (JF). One did not hang around Chambersburg this winter into spring as in the past several years.

An **Alder Flycatcher** was observed and heard calling near UST 5/9 (BO). Based on past experience, this was a week or more early. More likely in fall migration, the only **Philadelphia Vireo** report was from Antietam Meadow Park 5/15 (GA). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was reported at CNTMH 5/2 (BKO) and at FMT 5/8-9 (BO, BKO). It was a winter nearly without reports of **Pine Siskin**, and the only spring reports were of a single bird at a Greene Knolls feeder 4/4 and 5/6 (VB). A species more likely seen in fall migration, the only report of **Lincoln's Sparrow** was along Ebenezer Road 5/14 (BK).

There were 33 warbler species reported during spring migration. Two **Golden-winged Warblers** were found at UHV 5/4 (BO, KS), and

singles were reported from UHV 5/11 (BKO) and near Doylestown 5/19 (SK). A **Prothonotary Warbler** was found singing often and boldly along the Conococheague Cr. near Rice Hollow Road 5/17 and 5/26 (BO, KR). Another report was from a property on Scar Hill Road directly on the other side of the creek 5/23 (TC, RC). It was likely the same bird moving from one side of the creek to the other, and is only the third accepted eBird record of this species in *Franklin*. With breeding successes in neighboring *Cumberland* and with the proximity of *Franklin* to the Potomac R., it is hoped that reports of this species will become more frequent in coming years.

The only report of **Tennessee Warbler** was at BME 5/7 (RG, TGS). A **Mourning Warbler** was singing at FMT 5/16 (BO). Up to 2 **Kentucky Warblers** were reported from BME 5/4-19 (BO, KS, RG, TGS). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** sang along the Conococheague Cr. at Caledonia SP 4/24 (KR). This species has had a scarce history of reports in *Franklin*, and this is only the sixth accepted eBird record. The only report of **Wilson's Warbler** was from a yard at Greene Knolls 5/12 (VB). Reports of this species were light in neighboring counties as well.

**Blue Grosbeaks** were reported from seven locations with the first report 5/4. The only **Dickcissel** reports were of a male and female copulating at Mowersville Road 5/26 (BKO, BO, KR) and of a male and female along Wenger Road 5/28 (DC). The Wenger Road field was mowed after the sighting. There were fewer sightings and at fewer locations this May for this species than in recent years.

Observers: **Bill Oyler, 1216 Wilson Ave, Chambersburg, Pa 17201, 717-360-5191, oylerbill@gmail.com**, Gavin Anderson, Val Barnes, Chris Blazo, Rob Cahill, Tara Cahill, Dave Cooney, Dave Ebbitt, Jamie Fahnestock, Ron George, Tracy George-Snyder, Stefan Karkuff, Bob Keener, Bob Koontz (BKO), Kyle Rambo, Jefferson Shank, Kevin Shannon, Christina Whiteway.

### **Fulton County**

Locations: Blairs Hill Road (BHR), Haines-Seville Wetlands (HSW), McConnellsburg (MC), Meadow Grounds Lake (MGL), Wells Tannery (WT).

There were 161 species reported on eBird in *Fulton* during the spring period, including one first county record.

The species of waterfowl reported only once or twice during this time included the following: There were 80 **Trumpeter Swans** on the water at MGL 3/4 (VG, TM, VG), 2 **Blue-winged Teals** at Forbes Trail Road Ponds 3/31 (TM), and 2 **American Wigeons** found at MGL 4/7 (TM). There was also one **Lesser Scaup** seen at Cowan's Gap SP 3/14 (KR) and 3/19 (VG). Two **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported at MGL 4/3, 10 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at MGL 4/1 (BK) with another 2 seen on the Geronimo Trail along Little Tonoloway Creek 4/27 (CF), and 2 **Ruddy Ducks** at BSR 3/31(TM).

One **Ruffed Grouse** was reported on South Hixon Rd. in Warfordsburg 5/14 (LC, JC). One **Horned Grebe** was at MGL 3/5 (VG, BO), while one **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported at WT 5/8 (TM), and another at the I-70 Warfordsburg Rest Area 5/19 (CT).

The **Common Nighthawk** hotspot of BHR produced 9 on 5/18 (CF), and one other was reported at Harrisonville 5/17 (AR). There was a very good sighting of one **American Coot** at MGL 4/2 (JS) as the last prior eBird report of coot in *Fulton* is 4/14/2013 at the same location. In

A first county record **Swallow-tailed Kite** was seen at BHR in Belfast Twp. 4/24 (CF). The bird according to the eBird report was traveling east to west. This sighting was in the evening. The morning of the same day a Swallow-tailed Kite was reported approximately 50 miles north of this location at Plummer's Hollow, Tyrone Twp., *Blair* (MB). Photos were submitted with the report that confirmed the species. On 4/25 a Swallow-tailed Kite was reported along the Yellow Breeches Cr. in *Cumberland* near Lisburn (AM). This is approximately 65 miles northeast of the BHR sighting.

a county where it is hard to get shorebirds, there were 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** seen in WT 5/8 (TM). The only other shorebirds reported in the period were **Killdeer**, **American Woodcock**, and **Spotted Sandpiper**. Additionally, there were two reports of a **Bonaparte's Gull** at MGL 4/1 (BK) and 4/7 (TM).

Flycatchers of note included one **Alder Flycatcher** at Buchanan SF's Big Mountain Overlook/Tower Rd. 5/29 (AW), and one **Least Flycatcher** at WT 5/5, 5/8, and 5/14 (TM) and at HSW 5/11 (EB, VG, TM). The only **Swainson's Thrush** reported was in MC 5/18 (AR), and the only **Rusty Blackbird** was at HSW 4/23 (EB).

In a fairly light songbird-migration season, there were no warbler species of note reported. If anything, the lack of numbers reported is what stood out. As usual, **Golden-winged Warbler**, **Blue-winged Warbler**, and the **Brewster's Warbler** hybrid were all reported at Buchanan SF's Knobsville Tract where they annually breed. One **Blue Grosbeak** was singing on Rockhill Rd. in MC 5/21-23 (EB, VG, TM).

Observers: **Vern Gauthier, verngauthier14@gmail.com**, Mark Bonta, Erika Bowman, Larry Chen, Jeremy Collison, Chuck Fullmer, Marianna Horowitz, Bob Koontz, Annette Mathes, Tracy Mosebey, Bill Oyler, Kyle Rambo, Anna Rose, Joel Springer, Clark Teeman, Amber Wingert.

### **Greene County**

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

Among ducks **Wood Duck** was in EV 3/16 (MH), **Gadwall** in FT 3/6 (MJ), **American Wigeon**, and **Lesser Scaup** at GRT 3/6 (MJ), **Redhead** and 92 **Ring-necked Duck** in FT 3/4 (MH), **Hooded Merganser** in Whiteley Twp. 3/6 (MJ), **Common Merganser** in EV 3/24 (MH) and in Perry Twp. with 12 young 5/10 (MLP), and **Horned Grebe** in Washington Twp. 4/14 (NR).

**Chimney Swift** was sighted in Waynesburg 5/1 (MH). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was first sighted in Cumberland Twp. 4/22 (VG). **American Woodcock** was heard in MT 3/6 (KK). **Spotted Sandpiper** was found in EV 4/26 (MH) and **Solitary Sandpiper** at EF 4/27 (KSJ). **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at RSP 4/24 (AC, JC).

A **Common Loon** was at GRT 3/6 (TB). **Green Heron** was at SY 4/21 (AC, JC). **Osprey** was at RSP 4/24 (JC, AC). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was in Monongahela Twp. 4/15 (ZT). **Eastern-screech Owl** was at EV 4/4 (JH), **Great-horned Owl** was at EF 5/5 (SB), and **Barred Owl** was at SY 4/5 (AC, JC). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard in EV 5/29 (MH).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in EV 5/6 (JH). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was in Monongahela Twp. 4/15 (ZT). **Eastern Kingbird**, **Eastern Wood-Pewee**, **Acadian Flycatcher**, and **Great Crested Flycatcher** were at Bell Farm 5/28 (m.ob.). **Eastern Phoebe** was heard at Bell Farm 3/5 (CDB). **White-eyed Vireo** was found in Morgan Twp. 5/14 (KK, MH) while **Yellow-throated Vireo** and **Red-eyed Vireo** were found at EF 5/1 (m.ob.). **Philadelphia Vireo** was found in Gilmore Twp 5/23 (NR). **Blue-headed Vireo** was found at EF 4/27 (KSJ) and in Aleppo Twp. 5/27 (NR).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** arrived at EV 4/5 as did **Tree Swallow** at the same location 4/13 (MH). **Barn Swallow** was seen in Wayne Twp. 4/22 (KK, MH). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was sighted at EV 4/2 (MH) and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at EF 5/5 (SB). Twenty-two **Cedar Waxing** were found in SY 4/21 (AC, JC). **Brown Creeper** was last sighted 3/13 and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 3/17 at LCR (MLP).

**Gray Catbird** 4/24 and **Brown Thrasher** 4/5 were first sighted in SY, and **Wood Thrush** was heard at EV 4/22 (MH). Forty-five **American Goldfinch** were on a feeder at LCR 3/14 (MLP). **Purple Finch** was sighted in SY 3/26 (JC) and last reported 4/19 at LCR (MLP).

**Chipping Sparrow** was first sighted in EV 4/9 (MH); **Field Sparrow** was spotted in Wayne Twp 4/22 (MH, KK). **Dark-eyed Junco** was last reported in EV 4/15 (MH). **Vesper Sparrow** was found in Jackson Twp.

5/30 (RL). **White-crowned Sparrow** was last observed in MT 4/20 (KK). **White-throated Sparrow** was last reported in EV 4/26 (MH). **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found in MT 5/14, and at the same location **Eastern Meadowlark** was heard calling 3/26 (KK). **Orchard Oriole** was found at SY 4/22 (JC). A **Bullock's Oriole** remained since January and was last sighted at LCR 4/10 (MLP). **Baltimore Oriole** was sighted in FT 4/22 (PL).

Among warblers: **Ovenbird** was in MT 4/22 (MH, KK), **Louisiana Waterthrush** at LCR 4/8 (MLP), **Northern Waterthrush** at EF 5/3 (NR), **Tennessee Warbler** at EF 5/5 (SB), **Common Yellowthroat** and **American Redstart** at SY 5/8 (JC), **Cerulean Warbler** at EF 5/1 (m.ob.), **Northern Parula** at EV 4/21 (MH), **Bay-breasted Warbler** at EF 4/27 (KSJ), **Blackburnian Warbler** at EF 5/2 (NR), **Yellow Warbler** at SY 4/22 (JC), **Blackpoll Warbler** at EF 5/18 (DW), **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at EV 4/17 (MH), **Yellow-throated Warbler** at SY 4/14 (JC), and **Black-throated Green Warbler** at EF 5/5 (SB).

**Scarlet Tanager** and **Indigo Bunting** were found in SY 5/8 (AC, JC). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** arrived early in Jackson Twp. 3/26 (CH, MiH).

Observers: **Marjorie Howard**, 149 Preachers Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, (724) 852-3155, [rkbirdclub@yahoo.com](mailto:rkbirdclub@yahoo.com), David Argent, Lyn Argent, C. David Bell (CDB), David Bell, Trip Bondi, Steve Bowes, Steve Bucklin (SBU), Larry Chen, Teri Chuprinko, Al Churney, Jan Churney (JC), Jeremy Collision (JC), Vicki Greene, Mary Grey, Larry Helgerman, Chase Howard, Jerry Howard, Mike Howard (MiH), Matt Juskovich, Kathy Kern, Rosanna Lane, Mary LaPlante (MLP), Patty Lippencott, Carol McCullough (CMc), Fred McCullough (FMc), Nathan Rees, Kate St John (KSJ), Zachary Turner, Gale VerHague, Dan Williams.

### Huntingdon County

Locations: Aitch Access at Raystown Lake (AA), Baker-Henry Peace Chapel at Juniata College (BH), Brumbaugh's Access at Raystown Lake (BA), Entriaken Overlook at Raystown Lake (ENT), Huntingdon (Huntingdon), Juniata River (JR), Lake Perez (LP), McAlevys Fort (MF), Old Crow wetland (OC), Petersburg (PET), Raystown Lake (RL), Rothrock State Forest (RSF), 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. hawk watch (TMHW).

The spring season in *Huntingdon* seemed defined by disappointingly (alarming?) low numbers of species formerly more common (for example: **American Black Duck**, **Common Nighthawk**, **American Coot**, grassland sparrows). This was not for lack of birding effort, as there seem to be more people in the field than ever, if eBird reports are an indication.

For the season, 202 species were recorded in eBird, a bit below average for recent years; highlighted by the second county record of **Loggerhead Shrike**. March and May were warm, both more than 2F above average; April was near normal. Dry weather in March and April was balanced by a wet May, with some flooding around May 7, when over two inches of rain fell.

Waterfowl migration was below average, especially in the lack of good numbers of most species. Alarming is indeed the word to describe the paucity of reports of **American Black Duck** in recent years. This spring there were a total of only four reports, with no number higher than 2 birds. The only scoter report was of 5 at LP 5/6 (m.ob.). **Long-tailed Ducks** seem lower in number – the single report in eBird was of 9 at RL 4/9 (TK, DK). Among a few high counts were 100 **Ring-necked Ducks** at BA 3/4 (KT) and peaks of 69 **Common Mergansers** at BA 3/5 (KT) and 89 at AA 3/17 (TK, DK).

There were over a dozen eBird reports of **Ruffed Grouse**, which is encouraging; however, every report was of just a single bird, except one count of 2 (m.ob.). Less than annual, a **Red-necked Grebe** was near Hesston 4/8 (AP). Cuckoo numbers were higher than normal. There were

numerous reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and an above-average total of 7 reports of **Black-billed Cuckoo** (m.ob.). Only 2 **Common Nighthawks** were reported: one at HU 5/10 (DK) and one at Pine Swamp Rd 5/14 (NW).

A **Sora** was at OC 4/24 (Ni). A grand total of just 2 **American Coots** were recorded. One was at OC 5/4 (TK, DK), and one stayed for weeks at LP (m.ob.). Two **Sandhill Cranes** flew over TMHW 3/27 (NB) and another 4/2 (GM). Two cranes were seen near HU 4/24 (RL).

Shorebirds were also below average. The highlight was the third and fourth records for the county of **Willet**. On 5/6, the same observer saw 6 at ENT and then photographed a lone bird at the RL dam, about 15 miles from the other location (MS). A very early **Lesser Yellowlegs** was photographed at OC 3/26 (Ni). Highest counts of **Bonaparte's Gull** occurred 4/11 with 120 over the TMHW (NB, GM) and 100 at RL (KT). Single **Caspian Terns** were at OC 5/2 (KT) and RL dam area 5/7 (DW). A **Common Tern** was sighted near the village of Cottage 5/7 (DW). The most commonly seen tern in *Huntingdon* is **Forster's Tern**, of which there were at least a half-dozen reports, with a high of 4 (m.ob.).

High count of **Double-crested Cormorant** was 71 at the James Creek boat launch 4/4 (MO). Most **American Bittern** reports came from OC, where singles were reported at least seven times, except for 3 on 4/26 (KT, m.ob.); one was at SCEC 4/12 (DW). A **Least Bittern** was found near PET 5/6 (MS). There were only three reports of **Great Egret**, fewer than usual; a very early bird was near OC 3/25 (TK, DK). A heronry in Big Valley, off Rte. 655, has been active for over a decade, with a fairly constant number of nests and birds; on 4/2, at least 25 adults were present and at least 14 nests could be seen (GG, DG). Very unusual was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** found at a vernal pool deep within RSF 4/14 (GC).

The **Golden Eagle** count at TMHW was 174, about average; the high daily count was 18 on 3/22. **Broad-winged Hawk** flights at the watch were excellent, topped by 623 on 4/23 and 817 the next day (GM, NB). An early **Osprey** passed by TMHW 3/19 (NB). Elsewhere, a **Rough-legged Hawk** was found in SV at the slightly late date of 3/6 (LF). **Merlins** were reported 10 times from HU and OC, and **Peregrine Falcons** were recorded at various locations (m.ob.).

*Huntingdon's* second **Loggerhead Shrike** was nicely photographed at OC 4/23 (PE), but was not reported again. The previous record was from summer 1988 during the first Breeding Bird Atlas, near Cottage. **White-eyed Vireos** are presumed nesters here, but still very uncommon. There were five reports from AA (m.ob.). Single **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported from AA 5/14 and HU 5/20 (CM) and SCEC 5/18 (JM). **Cliff Swallows** were reported widely as has been their trend. The high count at the long-established colony at the bridge over the JR at Ardenheim was 75 on 4/24 (KT, m.ob.).

A **Marsh Wren**, rare but annual, was in TCV 4/23 (GG, DG). Forty-five **American Pipits** was the top count among many reports, seen at Donation 3/18 (KT). **Purple Finch** was widespread, with counts of over 50 frequenting a few feeders in March gradually dwindling to zero by second week of May. **Pine Siskin** was conspicuous by its near complete absence; only 3 were reported, one at SCR 4/23 (GG) and one 5/4 and 5/8 at LP (KB, NG).

There were only 5 reports of **American Tree Sparrow**, all of one-two birds, with the latest date being 4/6 (KT, DW, DaW). **Fox Sparrow** was reported in eBird over 20 times, but no count was higher than 3 birds. Six reports of **Vesper Sparrow** were all of singles except one report of 2 (m.ob.). Five scattered reports of **Savannah Sparrow** totaled only 7 individuals (KT, DG, JK, AB). Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were at PET 4/26 (JK), BH 5/2 (DO), and SCEC 5/11 (m.ob.). Numerous **Swamp Sparrow** reports were topped by a nice count of 6 at Lorry Rd. in TCV 5/14 (GG, DG). A perhaps positive sign, there were double-digit reports of **Yellow-breasted Chat**, from at least nine locations.

Longhorn Rd. in TCV is the best location for **Bobolink** in the county, with birds staying through the summer, helped no doubt by normally-late mowing there. A good count of 20 was made there 5/14 (DG, GG). Also encouraging were a few dozen reports of **Eastern Meadowlark**, from many locations around the county (m.ob.). By far the best count of **Rusty Blackbird** was 46, at MF 3/12 (JK).



Thirty-one warbler species were recorded in eBird. Exceptional was a **Cape May Warbler** photographed at a suet feeder near HU 4/12-13 (TK, DK); the earliest report ever for the county. Partly the result of directed surveys, there were over a dozen reports of **Golden-winged Warbler**, at many widely scattered locations.

Observers: **Greg Grove, gwg2@psu.edu**. Nick Bolgiano, Ken Bowman, Alex Busato, George Conrad, Patrick McElwee, Luke Fultz, Nathan Goldner, Deb Grove, Jon Kauffman, David Kyler, Trudy Kyler, Renee Lubert, Gillian Martin, Crystal McNeal, Jeffrey Musser, Nico (Ni), Desmond O'Donovan, Marilyn Ogof, Alicia Palmer, Mathew Schenck, Ken Tucker, Navin Viswanathan, Doug Wentzel, Daniel Winstead.

### Indiana County

Locations: West Penn Trail (WPT), Yellow Creek State Park (YC),

A single **Trumpeter Swan** was photographed at YC 3/21 (DS, SS); this is the 5th county record. First arriving **Tundra Swans**, numbering 426, appeared at YC 3/1 (SD, ED, CH, MH, RH, KT). First 2 **Blue-winged Teal** were seen 3/23 (MH, RH) at YC where numbers remained low all season. Two **Northern Shovelers** arrived 3/20 (JaP, JP) and also remained in single digits throughout the spring migration.

Unusual were 4 **White-winged Scoters** that visited YC 4/12 (SD, ED *et al.*); two weeks later on 4/26 (SD, ED, MH, RH, DK, GL, DM, HR, KT) 5 were present. Single **Long-tailed Ducks** were sighted at Hemlock Lake 3/7 (AK, JK) and at YC 4/12 (SD, ED *et al.*).

Single **Ruffed Grouse** at four locations (LF, TH, MS, JT, GT) this season were a definite improvement over the past several years. Two **Common Nighthawks** flew over a yard near Lewisville 5/23 (MC), the lone report. Single **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were noted at White's Woods 5/10 (HR), near Penn Run 5/21 (HL), and at SGL 5/29 (DL). Four **Sandhill Cranes** flew over the WPT 4/23 (DL); this is the 10th county record, but only the 7th spring record for Sandhill Cranes.

Shorebirds were in short supply. Single **Semipalmated Plovers** were at West Lebanon 5/18 (MH, RH) and at YC 5/28 (JP). May 18 (MH, RH) also yielded a **Dunlin** at West Lebanon. The season's lone **Least Sandpiper** stopped on the beach at YC 5/24 (SD, ED, CH, AM, DM, TR, HR, JT, KT). The only 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** popped up at YC 5/28 (JP). A **Wilson's Snipe** was sighted at IUP 3/22 (JT) and 3/31 (MS, JT). Hemlock Lake hosted the first **Spotted Sandpiper** 4/28 (AK, JK). Two **Solitary Sandpipers** at YC 4/18 (JaP, JP) were first arrivals while 4 appeared there 5/7 (ED, MH, RH, TM, JT); last noted was one at YC on 5/17 (ED, PF, CH, MH, RH, JT). First **Greater Yellowlegs** was found at YC 4/5 (SD, CH, MH, RH, DK); last was one at IUP 5/14 (ED, JT). Six **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present at YC 5/7 (ED, MH *et al.*); a singleton was at West Lebanon 5/18 (MH, RH).

A **Laughing Gull** on the beach at YC 5/7 (ED, MH *et al.*) was a surprise; this was a 3rd county record but the first spring record. A flock of 272 **Ring-billed Gulls** descended on YC 3/1 (SD, ED, CH, MH, RH, DK, KT), the largest flock since the 292 counted in a field near SH 3/28/2002 (RH). **Herring Gulls** are only occasional at YC and don't occur every year, so it was surprising to see one 4/26 (SD, ED, MH *et al.*) and 3 on 5/7 (ED, MH *et al.*). One to 3 **Caspian Terns** stopped at YC on six dates – 4/5 (SD, CH, MH, RH, DK) through 5/24 (SD, ED *et al.*). Five **Common Terns** landed on the YC beach 5/7 (ED, MH, RH, TM, JT) where they were photographed (RH); 3 **Forster's Terns** were present on the beach at the same time for comparison and photos.

A nice raft of 56 **Common Loons** dotted the water at YC 4/12 (SD, ED *et al.*). The only **Great Egret** reports mentioned single birds 4/16 (BS) at YC and 5/1 (HR) at Margus Lake.

**Black Vulture** reports continue to increase with reports of 2 along the WPT 3/30 (DL) as well as singletons near Lewisville 4/13 (MC), along the WPT at Saltsburg 4/15 (MCa), at Blacklick 5/9 (MS), at YC 5/24 (SD, ED *et al.*), and between stops on the Parkwood BBS 5/30 (MH, RH).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at SGL 262 on 5/24 (MS) was the season's lone report. An **Alder Flycatcher** at YC 5/15 (MH, RH) was an

apparent migrant this year as it could not be relocated later in the season. **Philadelphia Vireos** were noted at only two locations this spring – one near Shelocta 5/11 (KL) and 3 at YC the following day (KL).

A single first-year **Purple Martin** appeared at the martin box at Blue Spruce Park 5/31 (JT); this was the first record for the park. Single **Bank Swallows** were noted at YC 5/7, 17, 19 (m.ob.), and 5/24 (CH) when one was photographed. Two Lick Reservoir is the only known nesting location for **Cliff Swallows** in the county; 3 were present there 5/14 (MH, RH).

Two **Lapland Longspurs** near Conemaugh Dam 3/23 (MCa) were nice finds. Two **Grasshopper** and 3 **Henslow's Sparrows** at SGL 262 on 5/14 (MH, RH) were the only ones noted. Two **Vesper Sparrows** between Plumville and Smicksburg 5/14 (MM) were encouraging as this previously common-in-the-county species has become much more difficult to find in recent years. The only **Savannah Sparrows** found were one at YC 3/13 (JP) and 3 near Hillsdale 5/14 (MH, RH).

Single **Yellow-breasted Chats** were reported at three locations – Conemaugh Floodlands 5/8 (DL) and 5/20 (MH, RH), Blacklick Valley N.A. 5/22 (GT), and near Jacksonville 5/26 (MH, RH).

Thirty-one warbler species were sighted in the county this spring. Highlights include the returning **Swainson's Warbler** 4/26 (RC); this is its third year in residence along the WPT. Two **Mourning Warblers** were noted, one at Blue Spruce 5/13 (MH, RH), seen again the following day (JT), and another at YC on 5/19 (JT). Only two **Canada Warblers** were listed, both 5/14, one at Blue Spruce (RW) and another at Blacklick Valley N.A. (MS). YC yielded the season's lone **Wilson's Warbler** 5/7 (SM).

Observers: **Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Rd, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, (724) 354-3493, bcoriole@windstream.net**, Michele Carlson (MCa), Richard Chirichiello, Marcy Cunkelman, Sue Dickson, Ed Donley, Judy Emigh, Patience Fisher, Brian Freiwald, Luke Fultz, Court Harding, Roger Higbee, Tyler Hodges, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Gloria Lamer, Hunter Lieb, Karen Lucas, Steve Manns, Avi Marshall, Donna Meyer, Trent Millum, James Pumford (JaP), Joseph Pumford, Theo Rickert, Henry Rummel, Becca Sands, Damaris Stoddard, Sam Stoddard, Mark Strittmatter, John Taylor, Gregory Tomb, Ken Truitt, Ray Winstead.

### Jefferson County

Locations: Annie Spring (AS), Belltown Bridge (BB), Clarion-Little Toby Trail (CLTT), Clear Creek State Forest (CCSF), Deerfield Road (DFR), Fairview Road (FR), Five Bridges Trail (FBT), Fordham Lake (FL), Galusha Road (GR), Kyle Lake, (KL), Mahoning Shadow Trail (MST), Mosquito Creek Road (MCR), Old Grade Road (OGR), Wilson Road (WR), Woodbury Road (WBR), Worthville Cemetery (WC), Worthville Road (WVR).

The 2022 spring season kicked off with a healthy waterfowl fallout on *Jefferson* lakes. Kyle Lake in particular, hosted an impressive raft of mixed diving ducks from mid-Mar through late Apr, including 21 **Tundra Swans** 3/10 (DR) and a lone **Blue-winged Teal** 4/16 (Dark). Four **Northern Shovelers** were located along MR 4/5 (DK). Six **Gadwall** were discovered at KL 3/12 DR, and 3 **American Wigeon** were documented at KL 4/16 (Dark). Dozens of **Canvasbacks**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Greater Scaup** and **Lesser Scaup** mingled together on KL 3/12 (DR). At least three dozen **Buffleheads**, six **Common Goldeneye**, and two dozen **Hooded Mergansers** were also present there the same day (DR).

Other notable encounters included a drumming **Ruffed Grouse** along MCR 4/30 (DR), a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** discovered near DFR 5/21 (DR), and a **Black-billed Cuckoo** documented along CLTT 5/21 (DR). A **Common Nighthawk** was observed at GR 5/15 (DK), and an **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard calling on SGL-244 on 5/11 (DR).

Shorebird habitat is limited in the county; however, a few species showed up during migration. Highlights included a **Pectoral Sandpiper** along WVR 4/17 (JAK), and an impressive 26 **Wilson's Snipe** along WR 4/19 (DR). Although gulls and terns are rather infrequent, a half-dozen

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were present at KL 4/17 (Dark), and a lone **Black Tern** and a **Common Tern** were hunting over KL 5/7 (DR). Wading birds of interest this season included an **American Bittern** DFR 5/21 (DR), and a pair of **Great Egrets** at FL 4/13 (JAK).

Noteworthy birds of prey included an **Osprey** at KL 5/12 (TG), and a **Northern Harrier** along OGR 4/19 (DR). A pair of **Barred Owls** were vocalizing near DFR 5/21 (DR), and a **Merlin** scattered a mixed flock of swallows KL 4/19 (DR).

Various passerine highlights included a trio of **Alder Flycatchers** FBT 5/23 (MH), a **White-eyed Vireo** MST 4/26 (JAK), a **Philadelphia Vireo** AS 5/14 (JAK), a singing **Warbling Vireo** CLTT 5/21 (DR), a **Fish Crow** WC 5/5 (JAK), a **Northern Mockingbird** FR 5/29 (MH), 2 **Swainson's Thrushes** DFR 5/21 (DR), 3 **Henslow's Sparrows** WBR 4/30 (DR), and an **Orchard Oriole** HRR 5/11 (DR).

Mentionable warbler sightings this spring include **Worm-eating Warbler** CCSF 5/22 (MS), a **Cape May Warbler** CCSF 5/22 (MS), a **Cerulean Warbler** AS 5/14 (JAK), a **Bay-breasted Warbler** MST 5/13 (JAK), and a **Wilson's Warbler** BB 5/13 (DK).

Observers: **Dan Richards, 1151 Treasure Lake, DuBois, PA 15801 , (814) 771-2471, drichards7@verizon.net**, John and Avis Keener, Dave Keith, Nick Voris, Darlene Kearney (Dark), Timothy Grover, Margaret Higbee, Matthew Schenck.

### *Juniata County*

Locations: Arch Rock (AR), Casner's Crossing - Juniata River (CC), Clearwater Res. in Licking Creek Valley (CR), Cocolamus Dam (CD), Juniata River (JR), Lewistown Narrows Canal Park (LNCP), McAlisterville (MA), Mifflintown (MIF), Mifflintown River Access (MRA), Pine Grove Rd (PGR), Thompsontown (TT).

*Juniata* birders recorded 146 species on the Global Big Day on 5/14. This appears to be the second highest county tally in Pennsylvania!

Good counts of **Tundra Swans** were made in early Mar, including 264 at CC 3/3 (CK, AS) and up to 300 near MA 3/1-4 (JP, MP). Four **Northern Shovelers**, uncommon in *Juniata*, were at MIF 3/3 (m.ob.). Also uncommon, **Long-tailed Ducks** were sighted 3/12, including 2 at CC (CK, JP, MP, JH) and 3 at TT (MP, JP); and 3 were at MA 4/6 (JP). **Common Mergansers** were widely reported, with a high of 75 at CR 3/5 (JP, MP).

*Juniata* is not a great shorebird location, but this spring was certainly better than usual. The highlight was a first eBird county record of **White-rumped Sandpiper**, with one-two at PGR 5/19-20 (MP, JP, CK). The third eBird report of **Dunlin** was also at PGR where 10 were found 5/19 (MP, JP). Other notable shorebird reports included single **Semipalmated Plovers** at PGR 5/14-20 (MP, JP, CK) and TT 5/20 (MP, JP), a high of 12 **Least Sandpipers** at PGR 5/14-15 (MP, JP, CK), 5 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at PGR 5/19-20 (MP, JP, CK), 9 **Wilson's Snipe** at MA 4/1 (JP), a high of 14 **Spotted Sandpipers** at CR 5/6 (MP, JP), a high of 13 **Lesser Yellowlegs** at PGR 5/7 (MP, JP), and a good, fairly early count of 7 **American Woodcocks** at MA 3/15 (JP, MP).

Among many reports of **Ring-billed Gulls** along the JR, the high report was of 300 at MRA 3/5 (MP, JP); no doubt thousands of gulls use the JR corridor as they head north in spring. Four **Forster's Terns** at MRA 4/16 provided the third county eBird record (MP, JP, CK). It was a good spring for **Double-crested Cormorants**, with many reports of 20-plus, mostly along the JR.

*Juniata* is fortunate to have many **Purple Martin** colonies. The first **Purple Martin** checked in at the Swarey farm colony near Academia 3/21 (*fide* CK). The biggest colony is probably that of the Dan Renno farm, southeast of Port Royal, where counts reached as high as 140 (m.ob.). As spectacular as that is, even more so is the **Cliff Swallow** colony there, with a high count of 300 (!) made 5/14 (JP, MP).

An early **Osprey** was at MIF 3/20 (JP, MP). A good find in *Juniata*, a **Golden Eagle** was at MA 3/26 (JP). Seventy **Broad-winged Hawks** were counted over SGL 107 on 4/24 (JP, MP). Five reports of **Merlin** were widely scattered by date and location. Two **Peregrine Falcons** were at TT 3/5 and one at Cuba Mills 4/17 (JP, MP).

A **Brown Thrasher** at CD 3/14 (CK) was either very early or had wintered. Seldom reported here, a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at a cabin near AR 5/20 (NB).

A **Harris's Sparrow** was seen by numerous birders at a residence on Wagner Rd, near MIF 3/26-4/13. Reports of **Yellow-breasted Chats** were 2 at SGL 88 on 5/14 (JP, MP), one near Reed's Gaps 5/15 (AW), and 2 on Blacklog Rd. 5/15 followed by 3 there 5/21 (JP, MP). Over a dozen reports of **Eastern Meadowlark** were good to see, though the high count was only 5, and no other count exceeded 3 birds. Of about 8 reports of **Rusty Blackbird**, no count exceeded 6 birds.

Thirty warbler species were reported. **Golden-winged Warbler** was found on only two dates, 5/15 and 5/21, both reports of 3 birds and both from Blacklog Rd. in western *Juniata* (JP, MP). **Cerulean Warblers** were also reported only from the western end of the county, found on Blacklog Rd and vicinity 5/14, 5/15, and 5/21 in counts of 2-5 birds (JP, MP). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were reported from two locations on the JR: 2 at LNCP 4/16 and again 5/1 (JP, MP) and singles at MRA 4/16 (CK) and 5/1 (JP, MP). A **Wilson's Warbler** was at MA 5/22 (JP). A **Blue Grosbeak** returned again this year to the Dan Renno Farm (m.ob.).

Observers: **Greg Grove, gwg2@psu.edu, Chad Kauffman, 91 Kauffman Lane, Mifflintown, PA 17059, chadkauffman@earthlink.net, cell 717-994-6715**. Nick Bolgiano, Jackie Heidenreich, Jason Petersheim, Michael Petersheim, Anne Supplee, Austin Willi.

### *Lackawanna County*

Locations: Corby Swamp (CS), Lackawanna SP (LSP), Lake Scranton (LS), Sickler Pond Rd (SPR).

The 2022 spring migration season within the Pocono region was relatively odd and did not resemble many of its predecessors. Diverse congregations of waterfowl were absent from many of the region's water bodies, and passerine movements were small and infrequent. Reasons for these observations were unknown; perhaps weather conditions at the time kept species in flight above our region instead of encouraging stopovers. Despite such trends, *Lackawanna* stood out among its neighboring counties in showing a higher diversity of waterfowl species closer to what is expected at spring's arrival.

Signaling the end of winter was the encounter of 350 **Snow Geese** in flight above the northern boundary of Eales Preserve 3/16 (Brian Hess). Massive flocks of **Canada Geese** are often imposing, especially north of the Lehigh Valley; a county high of 4500 flew above Creamery Rd 3/7 (DS).

Also making the eBird era record book was the county high 6 **Gadwall** at SPR 4/1 (BC). At least 6 **American Wigeons** visited *Lackawanna*; 2 were at CS 3/10 (RK) followed by 4 at Sickler Pond 3/24 (DS). A single **Northern Pintail** at SGL 312 on 3/11 (CF) preceded 4 at Holmes Pond northeast of Fleetville 4/2 (DS). Two additional county high counts were 12 **Green-winged Teal** at SPR 4/7 (BC) and 6 **Greater Scaup** reported from Heart Lake 4/11 (RA). Small flocks of **Lesser Scaup** were seen from three locations within the western portion of the county (m.ob.). Limited to just one encounter was a **Long-tailed Duck** at Griffin Pond northeast of Clarks Summit 3/31 (SP). Each of the above-mentioned species are expected annually but remain infrequent and rarely occur in large numbers thus making this period's sightings noteworthy.

**Horned Grebes** made two appearances with 3 at LSP 4/23 (SP) and 2 at LS 4/20 (CF). Also impressive was the county high of 8 **Red-necked Grebes** discovered at LS 4/20 (CF, RK). An **American Coot** was found at CS 4/4 (TD). **Sandhill Cranes** returned to their suspected

northwestern *Lackawanna* breeding grounds in Mar; a new county high of 8 was had at SPR 3/6 (TB).

This count may suggest that this species is continuing to spread throughout the northeast region. **Wilson's Snipes** visited *Lackawanna* in decent numbers producing noteworthy counts of 13 at Fords Lake 3/30 (TB) and a new county high tally of 36 at Pumphouse Rd 3/25 (TD, RJ). Small counts of **Least Sandpipers**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were encountered countywide and more so within the western half of the county where birding activity is more prevalent.

Always a treat to encounter is the rather elusive **American Bittern**; one was heard calling from a wetland adjacent to Highland Blvd in Archbald 5/10 (CF). A **Least Bittern** was at CS 5/28 (CF, RK, WK). **Great Egrets** are not regular visitors to the northeast as they are in late summer, but 2 were seen this period with one at LSP 4/3 (SP) and a second from Mud Pond northeast of Fleetville 4/27 (CF).

**Merlins** continue to be seen more consistently in recent years with several sightings countywide, including one of a bird in Elmhurst 5/15 (Dave Altmiller) that is said to have bred there for the past three years. Increased efforts to explore wetlands in the Poconos may reward birders with discoveries of anticipated marsh birds. One such effort produced a **Sedge Wren** at Archbald Pothole SP 5/1 (D. Schreck), an observation that followed one of the same species seen last year north of Fleetville from Corderoy Rd 5/12 (CF) that was unintentionally left absent from last year's spring summary. A non-vocal **Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush** was a noteworthy find at the O&W Rail Trail near Simpson 5/21 (CF).

Tundra grassland visitors are always a welcomed sight: 2 **American Pipits** made an appearance at Watts Rd 5/11 (RA). A **Mourning Warbler** was at Hubbard Mtn west of Blakely 5/19 (Rob Wnuk). Also of note was a lack of **Cape May Warblers** with reports coming from just two locations and each of only individual birds.

Observers: **Ryan Johnson, 140 Hollisterville Hwy, Moscow, PA 18444, (570) 702-9118, natureguy13@gmail.com**, Ralph Allen, Tobias Beach, Bro. Co., Tony DeSantis, Chris Fischer, Rick Koval, Wendy Koval, Susan Petty, David Snyder.

### **Lancaster County**

Locations: Chestnut Grove Natural Area (CGNA), Lancaster County Central Park (LCCP), Landis Woods Park (LWP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA), Noel Dorwart Park (NDP), Octoraro Reservoir (OR), Speedwell Forge County Park (SFCP), Susquehanna River Conejohela Flats (SRCF), Susquehanna River Lake Clarke (SRLC), Woods Edge Park (WEP).

This spring's weather was fairly routine and continued trends of slightly above average temps and dismal snowfall from the winter. Weather information is derived from Harrisburg data from the National Weather Service. During the period, 229 species were recorded, below the 5-year average of 234.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was mixed with **Snow Geese** at MCWMA 3/1-3 (MH, RK, m.ob.), the only one of the season. The continuing first-county-record **Tufted Duck** was seen frequently on the lake at MCWMA, last seen 3/11 (m.ob.). Sea ducks were quite light, but a drake **White-winged Scoter** was on SRLC 3/29 (BP), and 4 **Long-tailed Ducks** were there 4/3 (ML).

A rare **Common Gallinule** showed up at OR 4/4-14 (NW, WW, m.ob.), providing many birders their first county observation. Another was found as fresh roadkill in Manheim Twp 4/25 (EW). A third individual spent at least two days roosting in a rhododendron at a New Holland home, photographed on 5/3 (RM, ZM). The wintering pair of **Sandhill Cranes** at OR were last reported 4/16 (PB, LB).

Sixteen shorebird species were tallied. An **American Avocet** spent the entire day at MCWMA 5/6 (SF, m.ob.). **Black-bellied Plovers** were recorded several times in mid-May, notably a flock of 6 at SRCF 5/13 (ML, m.ob.). Also at SRCF were 4 **White-rumped Sandpipers** 5/29, and 5 **Short-billed Dowitchers** 5/15 (BC, TG, EW).

### **PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**

**Little Gulls** were practically everywhere compared to last year's near bust, with numerous sightings on SRLC between 3/16-4/9 (JHr, ML, m.ob.). It is tough to say how many individuals were represented, but with one report on 3/20 of 5 concurrently (EW), it is easy to imagine well into the double digits. Similar numbers were upstream in *Dauphin* during this time period. Also around SRLC was a **Laughing Gull** 3/16 (JHr), and a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 3/6 and 3/10 (CG, ML). **Caspian** and **Forster's Terns** were the only two tern species, and sadly *Lancaster* did not partake in the major mid-May Arctic Tern invasion of SE PA. A basic plumaged **Red-throated Loon** was a bit unusual at OR 5/19-20 (MS, m.ob.).

**American Bittern** reports were healthy, with at least five birds around the county between 4/23-5/20 (m.ob.). A **Least Bittern** was a nice find at CGNA 5/19-23 (AP, RN). A **Snowy Egret** was seen at CGNA 5/15 (SS), and a beautiful breeding-plumaged **Cattle Egret** was at MCWMA 4/28-29 (anon., JW). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** once again took up residence in their Ephrata rookery, but unfortunately the long-returning **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** did not join them this year. However, one was described in-flight at WEP 5/2 (RN). The wintering **Golden Eagle** and **Short-eared Owls** were last seen at MCWMA 3/5 and 3/10 respectively (m.ob.).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** reports numbered four between 5/17-19 (CG, DL, SM), and **Alder Flycatchers** were found consistently after mid-May. Notable was a count of 4 at NDP 5/19 (SM) and returning breeders at MCWMA after 5/20 (BC, m.ob.). This is the only spot in *Lancaster* where Alders are known to breed. A **Black-capped Chickadee** associated with Carolina Chickadees at OR 4/14-16 (NW, WW, m.ob.). It was not an irruption year for this species, but they are annual in winter in low numbers. Nesting **Cliff Swallows** returned to two colonies along the Susquehanna R., the only strongholds for this species.

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** continued in small numbers through mid-Apr, and a few reports in May likely represented northbound migrants. **Purple Finches** staged in light numbers mid-Apr to early May, and while **Pine Siskins** were nearly nonexistent last fall, reports were made of two birds at SFCP 3/11 (HM), and one near Manheim 4/12 (PBr). Surprisingly both Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting were missed, likely due to lack of significant snowfall, despite having been found during winter.

A grand total of thirty-four warbler species were successfully documented in *Lancaster* this season. **Golden-winged Warblers** are always a welcome sight, and two males were found: one at LCCP 5/5 (SMa), and one at LWP 5/10-11 (JHu, m.ob.). A demure **Orange-crowned Warbler** was photographed well at NDP 5/3 (SMc). Our wintering male **Painted Bunting** near Bowmansville was last observed by the homeowner 3/3, and lastly, the **Dickcissel** at NDP continued to at least 4/3 (DK, SK, SMc, m.ob.).

Observers: **Zach Millen, 101 Bridle Path, New Holland, PA 17557, (717) 723-1279, zjmillen@gmail.com**, Larry Bernhardt, Paul Bernhardt, Paul Brubaker (PBr), Bruce Carl, Steve Ferreri, Tom Garner, Carlton Groff, Michael Hartshorne, Jason Horn (JHr), Josh Houck (JHu), Dan Keener, Sammy Keener, Rick Koval, Daniel Lane, Meredith Lombard, Shirley Mast (SMa), Seth McComsey (SMc), Rebecca Millen, Harry Miller, Randall Nett, Brandon Pentz, Ann Pettigrew, Steve Schmit, Marvin Stauffer, Eric Witmer, Joe Wolf, Nina Wolf, Warren Wolf

### **Lawrence County**

Locations: Black Swamp (BS), Plain Grove Township (PG), Shaner Road Marsh (SR), Volant Strips (VSM), Vosler Road (VR).

It was an unexciting season, during which the most notable event was the closing of the county's best hotspot, Shaner Road, to all birder access. The area is now posted and patrolled regularly, the unfortunate outcome of the poor behavior of some birders and photographers, who finally exhausted the patience of the landowner and his neighbors. The

spot can still be monitored from inside one's car without pulling off the road, but in general, the site has been spoiled for birders for the foreseeable future. Some early spring reports from that spot are included in the report below, dating from before the closing of the site to public access.

A **Tundra Swan** was at SR 3/5-10 (GK, MAK), the only report after the winter season. A nice count of 18 **Blue-winged Teal** was made at New Galilee 4/9 (MV); aside from these, small numbers were at SR in Mar and early Apr. Thirteen was a good tally of **Northern Shovelers** at SR 3/19 (m.ob.), but there were just five reports of **Gadwall**, one from each of five different sites, all in Mar. A late **American Wigeon** was at VR 5/13 (MV). Three **Northern Pintail** were at SR 3/5 (MK, PS), and 3 were elsewhere in PG that same day (MK). As is typical, no more were seen after the early part of Mar.

A good count of 46 **Redheads** was made at a pond off Rte. 956 in New Castle 3/11 (SM, RH). SR hosted excellent counts of **Ring-necked Duck**, including 233 on 3/10 (GK), 289 on 3/18 (KS), and 150 still there 4/2 (JF). Twenty-one were still hanging on at a different pond near Volant 4/30 (MV). Top count of **Lesser Scaup** was 32 in PG 4/4 (MH, RH, LW), and 29 **Buffleheads** at the former Three Rivers gravel company site on Larchwood Drive 4/9 (MV) was the top for that species. A **Common Merganser** was reported in McConnell's Mill S.P. 5/30 (eBird).

Four **Common Gallinules** were at their usual spot on Wampum-New Galilee Rd. 5/30 (MV). With SR closed off by the time shorebird season came around, birders searched for other sites, the best of which turned out to be a pond on Miller Road in PG. It proved to be a poor substitute for SR, but there were at least a few notables found there: one **Semipalmated Plover** 5/28 (MV, GK, MAK), one **Dunlin** 4/28 (KB, GK, MAK), up to 6 **Least Sandpipers** 5/4-28 (m.ob.), and up to 8 **Solitary Sandpipers** 5/4-28 (m.ob.). VR held **Semipalmated Plover** 5/23 (MV) and another **Dunlin** 5/21-23 (MV).

Four **Double-crested Cormorants** at SR 4/4 (MH, RH, LW) were uncommon for *Lawrence*. Without a doubt, the best birds of the season were 2 **Black Vultures** photographed on State Line Rd. near Enon Valley 5/8 (CL), just a stone's throw from the Ohio line. These represented a first for *Lawrence*. The only report of **Short-eared Owl** at VSM after the winter was one there 4/4 (MH, RH, LW). Short-ears have definitely become harder to find at these grasslands as the years have gone on. Up to 3 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** continued at SGL 151 from 3/22-5/8 (RN, GK, MAK), and one visited a feeder in New Castle 5/25 (PS). Reports of **Merlin** were one at SR 3/24-4/3 (eBird) and one in New Wilmington 4/26 (MW).

Passerines were, as usual, very lightly reported. A **Northern Shrike** was well-described by an anonymous observer at BS 3/2, and one was at SR 3/22-24 (ph. SD). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was found at Marti Park 5/16 (JP), and 8 **American Pipits** were at the Miller Road pond in PG 5/7 (MC, et al.). A **Fox Sparrow** at SR 3/22 (RN) was the only one reported. Top count of **Bobolink** at VSM was 17 on 5/8 (MV). Four **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted at both SR 3/6 (KS) and Copper Road 3/11 (PS). The only notable migrant warbler was a **Northern Waterthrush** at Marti Park 4/27 (JP), but a fair number (at least by *Lawrence* standards) of more common migrants were noted at a number of locations around the county.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Kimberly Berry, Martin Carlin, Sandi Diehl, John Flannigan, Rebecca Hart, Amy Henrici, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Michelle Kienholz, Mary Alice Koeneke (MAK), Glenn Koppel, Chris Lamb, Steve Manns, Richard Nugent, Joel Postema, Pam Shaw, Kim Springer, Randy Stringer, Mark Vass, Linda Wagner, Michael Williams.

#### Lebanon County

**Locations:** Cold Springs Rd (CSR), Cornwall Area (CA), Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority (GLRA), Lebanon Valley College (LVC), Lion's Lake (LL), Memorial Lake State  
**PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**

Park (MLSP), Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MC), Quittapahilla Educational Wetlands (QEW), SGL 145, SGL 156, SGL 211, Shuey Lake (SL), Snitz Creek Park (SCP), South Hills Park (SHP), Stover's Dam Park (SDP), Swatara State Park (SSP).

A **Ross's Goose** was seen at MC 3/5 (JW). A **Cackling Goose** was at MC 3/6 (AR), and five were at LL 3/13 (ST). A first county and fourth state record **Tufted Duck** continued from the winter quarter at MC 2/24-3/11 (TK, CK, TB, KB, MV, TO, m.ob.). Two **White-winged Scoters** were at MLSP 5/19 (TC). Single **Long-tailed Ducks** made appearances at MLSP 3/12 (JH) and 3/24 (JD, CT, RSt). Four were there on 4/7 (JD, CT). A female **Common Goldeneye** was found at MLSP 4/9 (TN, JD, TB, MC, RSt, SW). Six **Red-breasted Mergansers** were also a nice find at MLSP on 4/9 (JH, TN).

**Ruffed Grouse** were found at SGL 211 on 3/18 (NF) and 5/15 (DL). Another was noted at FIG 4/5 (JD). A **Common Nighthawk** was at MLSP 5/15 (TB, KB), with 4 there 5/19 (MC, RSt). One was seen at SL 5/21 (JH).

Up to 3 **Virginia Rails** were found at FIG 4/6-5/7 (JH, JD, CT) and one was also at SCP 4/15-23 (JH, RSt, RPe). **Soras** were at locations around FIG 4/12-5/21 (JD, CT, JF, JH, RPi, SW), and others were found at QEW 4/25 (JS) and SCP 4/23 (RPe, RSt, JH) and 4/27 (JH). A **Common Gallinule** treated viewers at SL 4/21-5/2 (CT, JD, et al.).

Up to 22 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at MLSP 4/15-17 (JD, CT, SW, RSt). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found at the GLRA 3/5 (JH). An **American Bittern** was at MLSP 4/5 (RS). A **Least Bittern** was photographed on a trail camera that had been set up to survey marsh birds at FIG 5/9 (JD). One was later seen flying to a perch along nearby SL 5/19 (JD, CT). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were noted at MLSP 4/9 (RSt) and at SL 4/12-21 (JD, CT, TN, RSt, MC, TB).

A **Barred Owl** was heard at SSP 5/21 (JH). A **Short-eared Owl** was observed from Stop #3 of MC 3/2-8 (JH, BS, WS, AC). Up to 3 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported from FIG throughout the period (JD, CT, m.ob.). Other locations for this species included Obie Rd 3/3-4/15 (JDe, MS, JFi), SDP 3/24 (TBu), up to 3 at MLSP 4/15-27 (MC, SD), and SHP 4/29 and 5/28 (BB, BBr, JF).

**Merlins** were seen at MLSP 3/6 (NF, JF, EF, BBr) and 4/9 (JH). One was at SCP 3/6 (JH). A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen at the intersection of Rte. 419 and Obie Rd 3/1 (RP, CP). Two were at CA 4/10 (P&RW), raising the possibility of nesting at the nearby quarry.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen along CSR at FIG 5/19 (AM, TC). **Alder Flycatchers** were found at SSP 5/15 (JH), MLSP 5/19 (TC), and MC 5/22 (JH). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was photographed at MLSP 5/19 (TC). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were uncommon this spring, with sightings at SHP 3/5 (BB, BBr, JF), SGL 145 on 4/24 (RSt), and SSP 4/28 (Jdf). **Marsh Wrens** were observed at MLSP 4/28-29 (RSt, JD, CT, SW) and at SGL 145 on 5/1 (JH, MC).

A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen at FIG 5/14 (JD, CT, SW, ZR, CH). Two **Vesper Sparrows** were at LVC 4/13 (RSt, MC), with one along Krumstown Rd 5/14 (JH). Krumstown Rd has provided sightings of this uncommon sparrow over the past few years. **Rusty Blackbirds** were sporadically reported at MLSP 3/5-4/17 (JH, JF), with 4 there on 4/24 (JH). **Rusty Blackbirds** were also found at CA 3/19 (P&RW), at FIG 3/22 (CT), and 2 at Grantville 4/20 (TB).

A **Prothonotary Warbler** was a great find at SL 5/19 (JD, CT, P&RW, TC, RPe, PB). Another was seen at HM Levitz Park 5/22 (ST). **Mourning Warblers** were noted at FIG 5/11 and 5/20 (JD, CT), and also at SSP 5/15 and 5/21 (JH). **Cerulean Warblers** were found at FIG several times between 5/2 (JD, CT) and 5/27 (JD). They were also found at Oak St south of Annville 5/11 (JD), at SGL 211 on 5/13 (NF), and at MLSP 5/14 (JH, CH, JD, CT).

A **Blue Grosbeak** was at FIG 5/2-20 (JD, CT). Other Blue Grosbeaks were found at SGL 156 on 5/11 (P&RW), SSP 5/15 (JH), and MC 5/25 (TK).

**Observers:** **Timothy Becker, tjbecker81@aol.com**, Kathy Becker, Brandon Brown, Brian Brown (BBr), Paul Brubaker, Thomas Buehl (TBu), Aaron Coleman, Mary Coomer, Troy Corman, Charles Davis,

Jonathan DeBalko (JDe), Jason Deefer (JdF), Jarrod Derr, Sue Dibble, Emily Felty, Justin Felty, Nate Felty, Maddie Ferner, Jim Fiorentino (JFi), Chris Hauer, Jonathan Heller, Marie Johnston, Chad Kauffman, Ted Keen, Rick Koval, Wendy Koval, Daniel Lane, Annette Mathes, Ted Nichols, Tio Offner, Chris Payne, Rebecca Payne, Robert Peda (RPe), Rebecca Picone (RPi), Ashley Rathman, Zach Richard, Clint Robinson, Win Shafer, Mike Shull, Rosemary Spreha, Rita Stima (RSt), Jerr Stine, Brian Storey, Scott Thomas, Cassidy Titus, Mark Vass, Steve Walthus, Jason White, Pat and Richard Williams (P&RW).

### Lehigh County

No report submitted

### Lycoming County

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

A total of 208 species were reported during the spring. Two **Trumpeter Swans** were near Montgomery Boat Launch 3/16 (BB, DeB, BoB, RB). A male **Surf Scoter** was at RVL 4/16 (EH et al.). After a pretty poor year in 2021, **White-winged Scoters** were found on a number of occasions, mostly at RVL during Apr and May, with five reports during that time (m.ob.). Aside from RVL, there was one on the river in Nisbet 3/12 (BB, DeB, BoB), and a flyover group of 15 birds was seen in Montoursville 5/19 (BB). Four **Red-necked Grebes** were at RVL 4/20 (EH et al.).

Three **Semipalmated Plovers** were at MS 5/16 (BB, DeB). There were additional reports of single individuals at the same location 5/17 (BB), 5/19 (BB, DeB, BoB), and 5/27 (BB, DeB). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at RVL 5/21 (BB, DeB).

A **Laughing Gull** was at WD 5/26 (BB et al.), and a different one was at the same location 5/30 (BB, DeB, BoB). Those sightings provided the third and fourth *Lycoming* records of that species. The **Iceland Gull** first seen at WD 2/28 continued to be seen 3/1 (BB et al.). A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at RVL 4/9 (BB et al.), providing the seventh record for *Lycoming*. A high count of 28 **Caspian Terns** dropped in at RVL 4/16 (MH, BB, DeB, BoB). A **Common Tern** was at MS 4/28 (BB), and 2 were at the same location 5/6 (BB, DeB, BoB). One was also at WD 4/28 (KP et al.). Sightings of the species at RVL included one 5/6 (BB, DeB), one 5/7 (BB, DeB, BoB et al.), and 3 on 5/19 (BB, DeB, BoB).

A **Red-throated Loon** was on RVL 3/24 (BB et al.). A group of 13 **American White Pelicans** dropped in at WD 5/18 (MD et al.) The group was also present at the same location the following morning and was later observed flying upriver as far as Nisbet before returning to the original spot. They eventually departed for good in the early afternoon 5/19. This represented the second record of the species in *Lycoming*. An **American Bittern** was at RPANA 5/6 (BB, DeB, BoB).

A homeowner north of Williamsport photographed a **Snowy Owl** that was reportedly present for about a week in late Mar (*vide* SP). **Short-eared Owls** continued to be observed at Mill Hill Rd. as late as 3/2 (BM). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was at SGL 252 on 5/22 (BB, EvH).

**White-eyed Vireos** seen at SGL 252 included a pair 4/24 (BB, EvH), one 4/27 (DB), 3 or 4 birds 5/1 (BB, AK, EvH, BP), and one 5/29 (BB, AK). **Philadelphia Vireos**, which are rare during spring, were seen at SGL 252 on 5/15 (EvH, BB) and at RVL 5/16 (BB, DeB, DB). A **Marsh Wren** was at RVL 4/17 (BB, DeB, MH et al.).

A **Lapland Longspur** was in Nisbet 3/12 (BB, DeB, BoB). A **Vesper Sparrow** was at RPANA 4/24 (BM), and one at MS 4/29 (BB, RB, DeB, BoB) and 4/30 (BB, RB, DeB). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at the Lycoming County Conservation Trail 5/2 (BB); one was at MS 5/4 (BB, DeB), and one was at RVL 5/16 (BB, DeB).

A singing **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at SGL 252 on 5/22 (BB, EvH). A singing **Cerulean Warbler** was at Williamsport High School 5/5 (DF), and one was seen at RVL 5/6 (BB, DeB). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at MS 5/9 (BB), and the species was also reported in the

more expected areas of Trout Run Park and along Pine Cr.

Observers: **Bobby Brown**, [bobbybrown1011@gmail.com](mailto:bobbybrown1011@gmail.com), Dan Brauning, Bob Brown (BoB), Deb Brown (DeB), Rebecca Brown, Jean Dalton, Maddy Dunlap, Dave Ferry, Eric Hartshaw, Melissa Holland, Evan Houston (EvH), Andy Keister, Brett Matlock, Karol Pasquinelli, Bryce Perles, Steve Pinkerton.

### Mercer County

Locations: Barry Road (BR), Carlisle Road (CAR), Chestnut Run (CR), District Road (DR), Golden Run (GR), Greenville (GN), Limber Road (LI), Maurice Goddard SP (MG), Otter Creek (OTC), Shenango Res. Propagation Area (PR), Sandy Lake (SL), SGL 130, SGL 151, Sharon (SH), Shenango Reservoir (SR), Shenango Trail (ST), Spring Road (SP), Transfer (TF), Wise Road (WI).

Generally, it seemed to be a fairly normal and uneventful migration this year. Twenty-nine species of warblers were noted along with 12 species of shorebirds. Waterfowl lingered late, as evidenced by **American Wigeon**. A huge push of multiple waterfowl species was noted in nearby *Butler* on April 12; in *Mercer* all that showed from this push were large numbers of **Ruddy Ducks**. Warblers came through in small numbers, most likely held up by the rains in southern US, then going over *Mercer* on their way north. However, this was an excellent year for gulls: two-first eBird records along with one first-county and one second-county record.

Two **Snow Geese**, never in high numbers here, were seen 3/5 at WI (GE). Three **Cackling Geese** were noted at PR 3/12 (MW). The highest count of **Tundra Swans** was 60 at OTC 3/4 (RV). The waterfowl highlight was a single **Eurasian Wigeon** at PR 3/5-3/16 (m.ob.). **American Wigeon** lingered until 5/16, with the last one noted at PR (BW). A good flight of **Northern Pintail** was seen at PR in early Mar, peaking at 350 birds 3/13 (AH). A small number of **Long-tailed Ducks** usually appear every year; 2 at MG were noted 4/17 and 4/25 (SK). The big **Ruddy Duck** flight on 4/12 showed up at PR with a count of 1255 (BW).

**Common Nighthawks** arrived at SH 5/12 with a single bird (MH). There is a small population that is holding on there. A few notable shorebirds seen included one **Least Sandpiper** at PR 5/12 (KS), one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at PR 5/23 (MW), 5 **American Woodcock** at GN 3/23 (MW), and one **Solitary Sandpiper** at GN 4/9 (MW).

This was the year of the gull in *Mercer*! A **Black-headed Gull** was found at MG 4/3 (ST) and seen until 4/6 (m.ob.). This is the first eBird record for this species in *Mercer* and the second PSO record in the county. Even better, a **Little Gull** was found also at MG 4/2 (KZ) and seen until 4/5 (m.ob.). This represents the first eBird and first PSO record for *Mercer* (doc.sub.). **Ring-billed Gull** numbers peaked at an estimated 7000 at PR 3/12 (MW). Interesting gulls continued: a **Franklin's Gull** was at MG 3/29-4/10 (Jerry Stanley, m.ob.) and a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at PR 3/13 (MW). Subsequently, **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were seen in multiple locations through 4/10 (m.ob.) with up to 3 birds seen at MG. Contrary to the great gulls, terns were a disappointment. Up to 15 **Caspian Terns** were at PR 4/23 (BW).

Maurice Goddard is always a reliable spot to find migrating **Common Loons**. On 4/2, 46 were noted here (GK, MAK), with a high estimate of 100 on 4/4 (Michael David). Shenango Reservoir is the spot to find **Double-crested Cormorants**; a high count of 509 were at PR 4/14 (BW). A few wading birds pass through *Mercer* while a few stay. A single **Great Egret** was at PR and CR 3/21-4/8 (BW, m.ob.). A good count of 3 **Black-crowned Night Herons** was at MG 4/17 (SK).

The first **Osprey** showed up 3/9 at SR (MH). **Northern Harrier** lingered until 4/3 with 3 at LI (KS). The high count at MG this year of 35 **Bald Eagles** was on 4/4 (m.ob.).

Flycatchers are one of the looked forward to birds of the spring. A single **Eastern Kingbird** was at SL 4/10 (LG). **Acadian Flycatchers**

appeared 4/25 with one at GN (MW). Its counterpart, **Alder Flycatcher**, was first sighted at GR 5/14 (SS).

Migrant Vireos usually come through in good numbers. A nice count of 10 **Blue-headed Vireos** was at MG 4/16 (DB). **Two Philadelphia Vireos** were at GN 5/15 (GS). **Common Ravens** continue to be found throughout the county, now during most of the year. Up to 2 birds at TF 4/20 (KS). **Veery** came in 5/30 with 3 birds at JA (KS, JS). A single **Hermit Thrush** was also at JA at the same time. **Wood Thrush** were a bit earlier with one at ST 4/24 (MW).

**American Pipit** is rarely seen, so 5 at CAR 3/27 was a good find (MW). **Bobolink** continue to frequent the grasslands on SP, with an estimated 50 there 5/11 (MH). **Rusty Blackbirds** seemed to be in low numbers this year, even noticed in other counties. Five found 3/6 at DR (KS) was one of the best finds this year with 5 also at MG 4/16 (JP).

It was a normal year for warblers; no big numbers, but most were found at one time. A single **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at GN 4/7 (MW) and 2 **Northern Waterthrush** at MG 4/25 (RP). **Blue-winged Warblers** usually have better numbers as they are resident, with 3 at TF 4/30 (KS).

**Prothonotary Warblers** are not often found in *Mercer* which is odd since they are in *Crawford*, just north of here, so one at DR 5/5 (MH) and others at SR areas 5/7 (KS) and 5/8 (SS) were nice finds. **Kentucky Warblers** are being found again now at their usual location, SGL130, where the first one was noted 5/14 (KS). A single **Cape May Warbler** was at JA 5/4 (MW). **Cerulean Warblers** are a most sought-after bird and fairly regular in the counties here in the West. An excellent count of 4 were found on 5/13 at BR (MH). Long-distance migrants seen included: the first 2 **Bay-breasted Warblers** at GN 5/11 (MW), the first **Blackburnian Warbler** at CR 5/4 (BW), the first 2 **Blackpoll Warblers** at GN 5/8 (MW), and **Wilson's Warbler** at SH 5/11 and 5/15 (MH).

Observers: **Glenn Koppel 122 Linsdale Dr. Butler, PA. 16001, macatilly@gmail.com**, Dave Brook, Ron Burkert, Gary Elderbroom, Lynn Goldbach, Amy Henrici, Mimi Hoffmaster, Andy Keister, Scott Kinzey, Mary Alice Koeneke, Rebecca Payne, Jo Popma, Steve Sanford, Jim Springer, Kim Springer, Gavin Svenson, Shannon Thompson, Richard Voytko, Michael Williams, Bill Winkler, Kendall Zook.

#### **Mifflin County**

No report submitted

#### **Monroe County**

Locations: Broadhead Creek Park (BCP), Cherry Valley (CV), Goulsboro State Park (GSP), Long Pond (LP), Mt. Airy (MA), Mt. Pocono Airport (MPA), Pocono Summit Lake (PSL), Saylor's Lake (SAL), Stillwater Lake (STL).

The Spring of 2022 was one of normal weather patterns and temperatures, with a bit of extra cold air in early May thrown in for good measure to delay the passerine migration for just a bit. Due to a Google crash on my computer, forgive me if some information was left out due to documents, files, and 'saved' info being wiped out.

The **Trumpeter Swan** in Pocono Summit has finally found a mate, albeit a Mute Swan. Nest-sitting by the Trumpeter followed by hybrid young were observed. Only one **Tundra Swan** was observed for the period; a single fly-over on 4/7 at BRC (JW).

A high of 6 **Blue-winged Teal** were at CV 4/10 (JS). An incredible 15 **Northern Shovelers** were a great find at GSP 4/9 (JM). The only **Gadwall** for the period were 5 at Mountain Springs Lake 4/9 (BJ). The high count for **American Wigeon** this spring were 4 at SAL 3/2 (PN). For **Northern Pintails**, singles were mostly found here and there, with 3 at BCP 3/10 (JW).

Highs for **Ring-necked Ducks** were 163 at Lake Mineola 3/7 (Paul Nale) and 150 at PSL 4/10, and for **Lesser Scaup** 19 on STL 3/25 (BJ). April 7th produced 3 **White-winged Scoter** at STL and 13 **Long-Tailed Ducks** at MA (BJ). Four **Red-breasted Mergansers** at STL 4/6 were a

**PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS**

period high (BJ). Over 300 **Common Mergansers** once again staged at SL 3/10 (PN), a yearly phenomenon.

In the Tobyhanna Army Depot region, **Virginia Rails** could be heard once again with little effort, with an added bonus of 3 **Sandhill Crane** fly-overs tossed in 5/1 (m.ob., BJ). Four **Horned Grebes** were at GSP 4/9 (JM), and 2 **American Coots** turned up at BCP 4/17 (JW). **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were plentiful at LP along the Hypsy Gap Rd. (m.ob.). Last, but definitely not least, perhaps even the best find for the season, was a **Common Gallinule** found and reported at Sun Mountain (Shawnee) on 4/12 by Stollery and Flood and subsequently seen and photographed by others.

Shorebird migration seemed to be a pretty normal event, with a couple unexpected species thrown in for a little spice. A high count of 6 **Semipalmated Plovers** were on the Poxono Island 5/19 (BJ), and 3 **Dunlins** were once again found at the MPA WTP that same day. Fourteen **Wilson's Snipes** were flushed at Lynchwood Lake 4/26 (BJ), and a male **Wilson's Phalarope** dropped in for the day 5/18 at MPA WTP (BJ, m.ob.). A **Common Tern** zipped by the airport on 5/27 (BJ).

**American Bitterns** were once again reported from the West End and LP areas (JM, BJ), with 2 **Great Egrets** observed flying over the LP area on the late date of 5/17 (BJ). Single **Merlins** made appearances over the county throughout the period, with only one **Peregrine Falcon** report, a single bird at BCP 3/29 (JW). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was wonderfully photographed in the LP area 5/22 (JM). **Pine Siskins** were reported from the Burg areas in very low numbers (NT, JW). A **Kentucky Warbler** was heard at the DWG National Recreation Area HQ 5/6 (JM). A high of 3 **Vesper Sparrows** were feeding together at MPA 4/8 (BJ).

Observers: **Bruce Johnson, Mt. Pocono, (570) 534-2935, brucejohnson207@yahoo.com**, Jon Mularczyk, Paul Nale, June Smith, Nancy Tully, Jeff Wilkins.

#### **Montgomery County**

Locations: Dixon Meadow Preserve (DMP), Evansburg S.P. (ESP), Fort Washington S.P. (FWSP), Franconia Twp. (FT), Green Lane Park (GLP), Lorimer Park (LP), Norristown Farm Park (NFP), Palm/Hosensack Farmland (PHF), Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT), Unami Creek Valley (UCV), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP), Wissahickon Waterfowl Preserve (WWP).

Despite lackluster spring passerine migration, *Montgomery's* species total for spring 2022 turned out to be 224, just one below the 225 recorded in spring 2021, the high water mark of the last decade. Unlike 2021, this haul included numerous PORC review list species, one of which, **Arctic Tern**, will become a new addition to the *Montgomery* list, pending PORC acceptance. The other review list species - **Clapper Rail**, **Mississippi Kite**, **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, and **Western Tanager** - were not county firsts, but most were close to that point. Several new seasonal high counts and early dates were set as well. (This summary comes with the usual disclaimer, that we're defining these records primarily based on data that has been submitted to eBird.)

A **Snow Goose** remained at GLP through the end of the period (m.ob.), as did another at Hoy Park, at the south end of ESP (LT). Four **Cackling Geese** were at GLP 3/5-6 (PH, m.ob.), while a lingerer at GLP 3/24 (PH) represented the county's second latest Cackler record, just a few days' shy of the tenure of a 2015 goose, who stayed until 3/29. March 7 was the biggest **Canada Goose** migration day of the period, with 6510 counted over Pennsburg (PH) and 4600 over FT (SG).

A late **Blue-winged Teal** was recorded over FT 5/12 (SG, vr.), one of many interesting observations made via nocturnal flight count (NFC) microphone this period. Prior to 2022, there were *zero* records of 50+ **Northern Shovelers** in Mar, let alone Apr. From eBird data, which has a good amount of historical content at this point, our pre-2022 Mar all-time high record was just 40. That was in 2017, the first year in the data that Mar shoveler numbers exceeded 20! In 2022, Shoveler numbers were way up at GLP, consistently. High-count records were set for two

months: 64 shovelers on 4/5 (PH) and 92 on 3/17 (KC), both exceeded prior records by wide margins. **Gadwall** numbers at GLP were unusually high in Apr as well, including 105 on 4/12 (PH). This collection represented a new record high-count for the month.

Like shoveler, Gadwall numbers at GLP remained strong deep into Apr, where they were seen in groups of 40+ through 4/21 (m.ob.). To put that into perspective, Apr numbers have topped 30 only 4 times prior to 2022, with none of those observations occurring later than 4/10, and the previous high count was just 45. A late drake Gadwall remained at GLP through the end of the period (m.ob., ph.), as did an **American Black Duck** (m.ob., ph.), while a group of 5 **American Wigeon** stayed at GLP until 5/2 (m.ob., ph.). Apart from 123 observed flying over Pennsburg 3/7 (PH), all other **Northern Pintail** counts were in the single digit realm (m.ob.).

The pair of **Redheads** at WWP, present since 2/5, finally ended their stay in Mar. They were last observed 3/8 (m.ob., ph.). Two to 3 Redheads bounced around between Skymount Park in the UCV and GLP 3/5-13 (NB, JFu, m.ob., ph.). Another Redhead trio was seen at GLP 3/24 (PD). Large groups of 246 and 194 **Ring-necked Ducks**, or a single large group on the move, were at Skymount Park and GLP, respectively, 3/6 (WBH, PH). **Greater Scaup** were noted at GLP on four dates 3/6-4/7 (m.ob.), including 7 on 4/6 (PH, ML, KR, m.ob., ph.).

Four **White-winged Scoters** were at GLP 4/6 (ML, m.ob., ph.). Sixteen **Long-tailed Ducks**, the biggest group of this species reported in *Montgomery* since 1993, were at GLP 3/12 (DB, PH, SGr, ph.). Two Long-tails were also present at GLP 4/1 (PH, ph.) and eight were there 4/19 (PD, vt.). A dozen **Common Goldeneye** were at VFNHP 3/4 (PD), while smaller groups of up to 5 were spotted at GLP and and Norristown Dam through 4/1 (m.ob.). The long-staying WWP goldeneye was last seen 3/22 (m.ob., ph.), after spending more than two months at the preserve.

Fruitful **Hooded Mergansers** were documented at VFNHP in Apr and May (m.ob., ph.); two females with 17-18 tiny juveniles were witnessed 4/23-24 (DB, VS). Hooded Mergs were also noted in late May at FT (SG) and GLP (m.ob., ph.). Eleven **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at GLP 3/26 (PH, ph.), with 6-11 also found at the reservoir on 4/9 (PH, ph.). Four Red-breasted Mergs at GLP 5/19 (PH) set a new record late date, by four days. **Ruddy Duck** numbers at GLP were very low, not even topping three (m.ob.). Four **Horned Grebes** were at GLP 3/8-12 (m.ob.), and another 3 showed up 4/1 (PH, m.ob.).

**Black-billed Cuckoo** was not encountered often this season, with just three confirmed reports on the ground over a concise, three-day span, 5/11-13 (DB, CF, WBH). NFC were recorded over FT on four evenings 5/5-31 (SG, vr.).

Nearly as many **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were encountered as Black-billed Cuckoos, with separate encounters with vocalizing birds in Harleysville 4/30 (BQ), Haverford College 5/6 (KaJ) and Miquon 5/12 (SZ, vr.). The Haverford Whip was photographed later that same day, on the *Delaware* side of the county line.

One of the bigger surprises of the period was a **Clapper Rail** found in a tiny, isolated patch of vegetation on the shoreline of GLP 4/26 (ML, m.ob., ph., doc. submitted). Because its ability to melt into the background was minimal, many birders were able to see the rail during its one-day stay at the reservoir. Pending PORC acceptance, this bird would represent a second *Montgomery* record, and a first living one: a recently deceased Clapper Rail was found in North Wales in 1976 (AM). A **King/Clapper Rail** was recorded over FT 5/15 (SG, vr.). With the two not reliably ID'ed by voice to species level, regrettably, the ID had to remain at "slash" level. **Virginia Rails** were picked up by the mic at FT on seven nights 3/31-5/31 (SG, vr.), including at least 4 distinct individuals on 3/31. Virginia Rails were also encountered at Bethayres Swamp 5/1 (PD, vt.) and McCarthy Park 5/1-5 (DB, m.ob., ph.). Single **Sora** were at McCarthy Park 5/1 (DB) and DMP 5/9 (RD, ph.). No Sora NFCs were recorded from FT, but a more unexpected rail was: a **Common Gallinule** was captured flying past 5/15 (SG, vr.), representing only the second county record since 2000, and 9th county record overall. There were just five reports of single **American Coots** at four locations 3/26-4/27 (m.ob.).

Spring shorebirding at GLP got a nice, but all-too-brief, upgrade this period. The water in GLP's Knight Lake was artificially drawn down for dam maintenance, exposing an extensive mudflat from roughly 5/12 to 5/19. Although it was short-lived, the shorebirds found it and used it immediately. One of the more notable birds to turn up there was a **Black-bellied Plover**, present 5/14-17 (SG, m.ob., ph.). Other Black-bellied Plovers were encountered as flyovers, between NFC recorded at FT 5/21 (SG, vr.), and during dedicated Delaware Bay migration shorebird watches at GLP on the evenings of 5/25, 5/29 and 5/30 (m.ob.). The 5/30 sighting was of a flock of 16 plovers (m.ob.). **Semipalmated Plovers** were seen at GLP and WWP, and flyovers were taped at FT, 5/14-31 (m.ob.). The largest accumulation, 7, was on the Knight Lake mudflat 5/16-17 (SG, ED).

**Dunlin** were found at WWP 5/4 (CD, JM, m.ob., ph.), GLP 5/18 (ML, m.ob.) and GLP again 5/27 in quantities of 1-3 (m.ob., ph.). Five **Pectoral Sandpipers** at WWP 3/30-31 (JM, m.ob., ph.) were the first of their kind on record for the month of Mar, and the earliest by a full week, besting an Apr 6 record standing since 1978. Single Pectorals were in PHF, in northwest Upper Hanover Twp., 4/12 (JH, m.ob., ph.) and at NFP 5/1-2 (DB, SB, ph.). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found in 1's and 2's at WWP, NFP and GLP 5/14-31 (m.ob.), and recorded over FT 5/30 (SG, vr.). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at Knight Lake 5/14 (PH, m.ob., vr.), with another three at WWP 5/19 (JM, m.ob., ph.), and a flyover flock of 140 went past the shorebird skywatchers at GLP 5/25 (PH, JH). Short-billed Dowitcher calls were captured FT on five nights 5/15-24 (SG, vr.). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** reported at GLP on 3/19 (SGr) set a new county record early date by six days.

A pair of **Bonaparte's Gulls** was at WWP on the fairly early date of 3/9 (JM, RB), and a late one was at GLP 5/17 (ED, ph.). In between there was a high count of 61 at GLP 4/18 (JH, ph.). There were an unprecedentedly high number of **Laughing Gull** sightings this spring; in fact, per eBird, the greatest number of spring reports to date. Three were at GLP 4/26 (PH, ph.), one at King of Prussia 4/30 (WBH, KH), five at LP 5/5 (JF, MG), one at GLP 5/15 (DB) and one again at GLP 5/28 (JeH, ph.). Stepping back in time a couple of months, a pale, Kumlien's-type **Iceland Gull** was at GLP 3/5 (WS, m.ob., ph.). An immature **Thayer's Iceland Gull** was recorded at GLP a few days earlier, on 3/1 (PH, ph.), representing a second county record of this recently demoted species. An estimated 150 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** at GLP 3/6 (PH) represented a new Mar high count of that species. If current trends continue, that record may not last for too long. A **Great Black-backed Gull** was reported in flight over Bryn Athyn 4/29 (RC).

WWP hosted a **Black Tern** 5/5 (DB, m.ob., ph.), and GLP had three of them 5/20 (SG, m.ob., ph.). Three **Forster's Terns** were at GLP 5/2 (LH, ph.), and another two were recorded there 5/21 (AdM, MS, ph.). A **Common Tern** showed up at WWP 5/13 (SJ, KJ, ph.). Several birders went to try to refine that Common Tern, only to discover, after some initial confusion, that it had been replaced by a different, even more unusual *Sterna* tern: an **Arctic Tern** (m.ob., ph., doc. submitted via eBird). As the day of 5/13 progressed, it became increasingly clear that a huge inland movement of Arctic Terns across the northeastern US was underway. The WWP bird (which may well have been 2 birds) and 3 more observed at GLP 5/13 (AD, ED, mob., ph., doc. submitted via eBird) represented county first records.

Two hundred twenty **Double-crested Cormorants** counted at GLP 5/20 set a new May high count (PH).

**American Bitterns** were discovered at five locations 4/1-5/1 (m.ob., ph.). The 5/1 Bittern represented a new species for the already impressive Haverford College campus bird list (SJ, m.ob., ph.). A **Least Bittern** took up residence in Bethayres Swamp 5/1 to the end of the period (PD, m.ob., vr.). Twenty-five **Great Blue Herons** were counted at their ESP rookery 5/12 (JW). A **Snowy Egret** was at GLP 5/21 (AdM, MS, ph.). **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was recorded as NFC 5/1 and 5/2 (SG, vr.). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was found at Norristown Dam 4/1 (PDo, SG, ph.), representing a new county arrival-date record by a full 10 days. There were no further viewings of the species at the dam, lamentably, which had been a presumed nesting site in the not terribly distant past. Two flyover **Glossy Ibis** were spied from

Upper Dublin Twp. 4/24 (AA).

Despite reports of a mass casualty event, at least partially blamed on avian influenza, **Black Vulture** numbers at Souderton seemed strong through the period, including 165 counted by the rendering plant 4/6 (CB). Details of the event are, unfortunately, unavailable. **Mississippi Kites** were photographed over Wyndmoor 5/17 (JF, doc. submitted via eBird) and LP 5/18, on a DVOC birdwalk (LW, et al., doc. submitted via eBird). The first **Osprey** of the season turned up on the notably early date of 3/6, at Salus University in Elkins Park (MD) and VFNHP (SGr).

Paul Heveran again conducted a series of hawk watches from his Pennsburg yard this spring. Eighteen Ospreys were counted there 4/11, representing a new second-place spring high-count record. Nine **Northern Harriers** tallied the same day, 4/11, set a new top high count, by a margin of one. The top **Sharp-shinned Hawk** count, 17, came from 4/11 as well, but 15 recorded 5/1 established a new May high count by almost twice the old record. While well below 2021's record-shattering 1370 count, 206 **Broad-winged Hawks** at Pennsburg 4/14 were enough to claim the third-place spring high-count slot (all PH). Eighty-five Broadwings were counted here 4/11, and 64 on 4/24 (still PH). A couple of other high, but not record-setting, Pennsburg hawk watch counts included 9 **Bald Eagles** on 3/16 and 28 **Red-shouldered Hawks** on 3/7 (PH). The curious **Red-shouldered x Red-tailed Hawk hybrid** continued at a retirement community in Worcester until 3/3 (DBa).

**Barn Owl** calls were recorded over FT 3/22, 4/3, 4/25 and, more puzzling, 5/20 (SG, vr.). The popular **Northern Saw-whet Owl** in North Wales, present at the site since 2/1, finally moved on after 3/4 (m.ob., ph.). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed on four occasions at three locations within the UCV 3/10-5/12 (WBH, ph.). Another was described at ESP 5/1 (DBa). A late **Merlin** was noted at Heuser Park 5/10 (AB, MSo). Four Merlins over Pennsburg 4/11 (PH) represented a surprisingly low new record high count for the spring season.

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found at VFNHP 5/6 (SGr, PD, ph.) and FWSP 5/20 (RB, ph.). **Alder Flycatchers** were at GLP 5/14-19 (AD, ED, m.ob., vr.), WWP 5/18 (RB, CD, vr.) and FT 5/15-17 (SG, vr.). There were at least 17 solid **Least Flycatcher** reports from 15 locations 4/30-5/20 (m.ob.), well above average. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** showed up quite early in a yard adjacent to PERT 4/16 (RC, ph.), defining a new record early date by four days.

Two notable Corvid counts for the period came from the same Huntingdon Valley yard: a flock of 105 **Fish Crows** were observed 3/23, and a family group of 6 **Common Ravens**, with juveniles, made an appearance 5/27 (both CA). The Fish Crow report represented a new second-highest spring record for *Montgomery*. A singing **Horned Lark** on presumed breeding territory was reported from PHF through the end of the period (JH).

An atypically cold and windy snap in late Mar/early Apr led to big numbers of **Tree Swallows** at GLP's Knight Lake. Hundreds of swallows gathered on the small lake and nearby creek 3/27-4/10, clinging to boulders and islands when the wind was particularly brutal. An estimated 600 Tree Swallows were present 4/9 (PH). Setting a new record early date by four days, a **Barn Swallow** was found at PERT 3/21 (MG, ph.). Single **Cliff Swallows** were sporadically seen at GLP, WWP and Heuser Park 4/26-5/14 (m.ob.).

The subdued **Red-breasted Nuthatch** irruption of winter 2021-22 wrapped itself up this period. Though they were witnessed at 17 or more locations (m.ob.), they were really only regular at about a half-dozen of those sites. One of the more regularly seen individuals stayed until 5/15 in Gladwyne (EP, ph.). A late **Brown Creeper** was described at PERT 5/3 (LM). **Marsh Wrens** overwintered in Lower Moreland Twp. for the third straight winter. Two were spotted 3/19 (JC, ph.). Another Marsh Wren turned up at GLP 5/3 (JH, SB, ph.).

Early **Gray Catbirds** were seen at seven locations in Mar and into the first week of Apr (m.ob.). A **Brown Thrasher** was at Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve 3/4 (SP, ph.). It had been noted there previously, in Feb. **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were at seven locations 5/14-22 (m.ob.). **American Pipits** showed up in ones and twos at four locations on five occasions 3/12-4/21 (m.ob.). **Purple Finches**, another irruptive species over the previous couple of seasons, were sighted at 17 locations to 5/10

PENNSYLVANIA BIRDS

(m.ob.), generally just as singles or in pairs; however, ten were reported at a feeder in FT 5/6 (SG).

**Grasshopper Sparrows** were observed singing at the traditional Fruitville Rd. site in Upper Hanover Twp. starting 5/29 (ADe). Another was noted on possible territory in PHF 5/22 (JH). There were also several reports of 1-2 at two locations within VFNHP 5/23-29 (JM, m.ob., ph.), a park with some prior history of breeding-season Grasshopper Sparrows, but not much. There were numerous reports of continuing-overwintering/early **Chipping Sparrows** in the first half of Mar, all single digit quantities except for a dozen at VFNHP 3/1 (MEH, et al.), 24 at GLP 3/13 (PH) and up to 25 at PERT on multiple dates (m.ob.). An injured **Dark-eyed Junco** remained in North Wales through the end of the period (MLa, ph.).

**White-crowned Sparrows** were found at 13 locations 3/11-5/9 in quantities of 1-3 (m.ob.). High **White-throated Sparrow** density continued at Salford Twp. feeders through much of the period, including 110 on 3/12 and 78 on 4/17 (WBH). **Vesper Sparrows** were found in ones and twos at three sites 3/31-4/13 (m.ob., ph.), a typical timeframe for this. Far less typical were two reports in May: singles at FWSP 5/4 (SB, ph.) and VFNHP 5/7 (DB). These represented *Montgomery's* first May Vesper records since 1991. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was noted at Zacharias Creek Trail, across the street from ESP, 5/8 (PM). Another hung out at a Salford Twp. feeding station for more than two weeks, 4/30-5/15 (WBH, ph.).

A pair of **Yellow-breasted Chats** took up residence at Heuser Park 4/28, and remained there through the end of the period (SGr, m.ob., ph.). Elsewhere, chats were recorded at ESP 5/14 (PB), UCV 5/21 (WBH, ph.) and VFNHP 5/21 (SGr, DB, ph.). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was an exciting find in PHF 4/12 (PH, m.ob., ph., doc. submitted via eBird). It gave nice looks to a few lucky observers, while stymieing others, as it and its Icterid companions steadily moved around the area, refusing to stay put for more than a few minutes. So it goes with mobile birds. **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted at 25 sites 3/7-5/9, mostly in single digits (m.ob.). The biggest groups were 25 at Bethayres Swamp 3/25 (PD, vr.) and 18 along the Green Ribbon Trail in Lower Gwynedd Twp. 4/10 (KR).

Spring 2022 was generally considered to be poor for warblers and other neotropical migrants in *Montgomery*. Numbers of many species were below those of some recent years. This was particularly notable among spruce budworm specialists, like Bay-breasted Warbler. Many, presumably, took a different route up to their breeding grounds this year. There were some highlights, however. A **Brewster's Warbler** (Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrid) was photographed at LP 5/11 (JF, m.ob., ph.). **Prothonotary Warblers** were observed at VFNHP 5/22-24 (CF, m.ob., ph.) and ESP 5/31 (MH). **Orange-crowned Warblers** were located at Elkins Park 4/16 (SPa, ph.) and Whites Rd. Park in Lansdale 5/6 (KR). Six **Mourning Warblers** were found over five sites 5/15-24 (m.ob., ph.). **Kentucky Warblers** turned up at Camp Woods Preserve on the unusually early date of 4/29 (RB), and also Penn Valley 5/15 (BK) and Briar Bush Nature Center 5/17 (WC, m.ob., ph.). **Hooded Warblers** were at seven locations 5/1-15 (m.ob., ph.).

A singing **Cerulean Warbler** was recorded at Althouse Arboretum 5/4 (ADe, vr.). **Pine Warblers** were reported at nine potential breeding sites in late May (m.ob.), the largest quantity of late season reports in at least a decade. Similarly, looking over the last 10 years of eBird data, there have been no spring seasons with more reports of **Yellow-throated Warbler** than this one, with birds documented at six sites 4/15-5/9 (m.ob., ph.).

A male **Western Tanager** was a one-day wonder visitor at a Willow Grove residence 5/27 (B&S, ph., doc. submitted via eBird). This bird represented a 6th county record and a first May record. Encountering a Western Tanager in Pennsylvania at any point is exceptional but is particularly exceptional mere days from Jun. From eBird, there appears to be just one record of the species, statewide, at a later date. One-off **Blue Grosbeaks** were detected at a Salford Twp. feeder 5/10 (WBH) and Philmont Country Club in Huntingdon Valley 5/12 (JeC), and as continuing presences at DMP (DB, m.ob., ph.) and VFNHP (AME, JMO, m.ob., ph.), starting 5/15 and remaining through the end of the period at both sites.



Observers: **W. Brian Henderson, Salford Twp., PA, wbhenderson@gmail.com**, Cindy Ahern, Andrew Albright, Douglas Baird (DBa), Dave Belford, Anne Bekker, Carrie Bell, Paul Bernhardt, Redmond Brubaker, Sara Busch, Nathan Butler, Will Cochran, Jeremiah Cooper (JeC), Josh Cooper, Robin Cooper, Kevin Crilley, Ron Damiani, Angela Detweiler (ADe), Andrew Dolan, Edward Dolan, Pete Donnelly (PDo), Marietta Dooley, Paul Driver, Curt Dunn, Jason Fehon, Camille Fieseher, James Funk (JFu), Scott Godshall, Mike Grubb, Steve Grunwald (SGr), Mary Ellen Heisey, Katie Henderson, Paul Heveran, Len Hillegass, Jeff Hopkins (JeH), Jason Horn, Matt Hunter, Karl Johnson (KaJ), Kristen Johnson, Sheryl Johnson, Bill Kunze, Michael Lawlor (MLa), Michael Lyman, Jack McBrearty, Linda McGrath, Adrian Melck (AMe), Adam Miller (AdM), August Mirabella, Pedro Miranda, James Molyneaux (JMol), Sophie Parker (SPa), Samuel Perloff, Elizabeth Porter, Barb Quinter, Kenneth Rieker, Michael Schall, Vincent Smith, Michael Sonkowsky (MSo), Walter Stutz, Linda Tomeo, John Ward, Linda Widdop, Sydelle Zove, Brian & Shaun (B&S, *sumames withheld at observers' request*).

### Montour County

Locations: All observations this season come from the Montour Preserve (MP).

The highlight this season was a hybrid **Tufted Duck x scaup sp.** 3/18 (MH). This appears to be the first hybrid Tufted Duck reported in the state. Field marks were suggestive, but not conclusive of Lesser Scaup being the scaup parent. Other highlights were a **Common Gallinule** 4/26 (EH) and a **White-rumped Sandpiper** 5/5 (AK).

Scoters were represented only by a single sighting of 2 **White-winged Scoters** 5/2 (AK). A report of 175 **Northern Pintails** 3/2 (AK) was a county high count. Terns included a lone **Common Tern** 5/4 (AK) and a lone **Forster's Tern** 4/26 (EH).

In other non-passerine news, 2 **American Bitterns** (migrating together?) were seen 4/26 (BP). One **Red-throated Loon** was observed 4/3 (AK), and a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was spotted 5/14 (DI). The report of 17 **American Woodcocks** 3/11 (AK) represented a county high count.

Passerine news included a **White-eyed Vireo** 5/11 (AK), and a county high count 3 **Mourning Warblers** 5/18 (AK).

Observers: **Evan Houston, evanhouston@gmail.com**, Deepak Iyer, Andrew Keister, Bryce Perles.

### Northampton County

No report submitted

### Northumberland County

No report submitted

### Philadelphia County

Locations: Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), Awbury Arboretum (AA), Bartram's Garden (BG), Delaware River (DR), East Park Reservoir (EPR), Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (FDR), Glen Foerd (GF), John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR), Navy Yard (NY), Northeast Philadelphia Airport (NEPA), Pennypack on the Delaware (POD), Pennypack Park (PP), Rittenhouse Square (RS), Schuylkill River (SR), South Philadelphia (SP), Southwest Water Treatment Plant (SWTP), Wissahickon Valley Park (WVP).

This spring had a few special visitors that had not been seen in at least a decade, but the best bird was very likely a **Piping Plover** on the DR mudflats at GF 5/14 (SM et al.). The weather was perfect for a small shorebird fallout with low-hanging clouds and dense fog. Feeding close to the river bank, the bird offered fantastic views to anyone who could make it out before the incoming tide pushed it north. This is the third

eBird record in eastern Pennsylvania after 4 birds were observed at JHNWR in *Delaware/Philadelphia* in 1950 and another one in *Bucks* in 2005.

Fog and drizzle are always a good recipe for unusual birds elsewhere along the DR as well. Two male **Black Scoters** flew in for a quick stop at NY 4/7 (HP), before heading further northeast along the river. Ten **Long-tailed Ducks** there 4/9 were a new eBird high count for the city (GA, LH). After a successful brood in 2007, a pair of **Pied-billed Grebes** hatched 2 youngsters at EPR 4/18 with only one being seen two weeks later (KR et al.).

An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was again vocal at AA 5/8-9 (BR et al.) while the first one for FDR was found snoozing during the day 5/3 (MT et al.). Continuously advertising its presence was a **King Rail** at ACE 5/1. This species used to be a regular breeder in the Tinicum marshes in the 1950's; JHNWR is a small remaining portion of what used to exist. Even until the early 1990's up to 2 breeding pairs could be found, but only scarce records exist for later years. The last observation of a likely migrant was made at JHNWR in 2013. The bird at ACE remained throughout May in a small freshwater cattail marsh (EE, HP et al.). Up to 2 **Virginia Rails** were at NEPA 3/18-5/8 (m.ob.) while there was but one observation from JHNWR 4/9 (KA). A **Sora** was heard at ACE 5/2, but up to 2 birds typically showed well at JHNWR 4/30-5/9 (m.ob.). Lucky observers got a glimpse of flyover **Sandhill Cranes** at various places: 2 and 6 at JHNWR 3/11-15 (MG, VS), 5 at ACE 3/19 (HP), one over SP 5/1 (HP) and 3 at FDR 5/15 (RK).

Three **Black-bellied Plovers**, 2 **Dunlins**, and one unidentified **Dowitcher** flew by GF on that foggy 5/14 and landed on Mud Island in *Bucks* (m.ob.). More **Black-bellied Plovers** were at POD 5/1-27 with a high of 10 birds 5/27 (MG). Another Dunlin was photographed at POD 4/30 (MT et al.) and at JHNWR 5/16 (Cho, NI). The nocturnal flight call of an **Upland Sandpiper** was recorded over SP 5/2 (HP). Nocturnal flight calls of **Short-billed Dowitchers** were recorded on a few nights there 5/21-27 (HP). A stunning **Red-necked Phalarope** was enjoyed by many on the SR just north of Boathouse Row 5/15 (JK et al.).

A new county high of at least 150 **Bonaparte's Gulls** were resting on a sandbar in the DR just north of the Betsy Ross Bridge in northeast Philadelphia 4/16 (MJ). Long overdue for a re-sighting, up to 2 **Little Gulls** were feeding in the DR waters of *Philadelphia, Bucks* and New Jersey at GF 4/11-12 (Chi et al.). This adorable small gull species was last seen at the Philadelphia International Airport in 1980. The only **Least Tern** in Pennsylvania this spring flew up the DR at GF 5/14 (MDe, LH, PM, MW). On the same day, a **Common Tern** was photographed at POD (TB, JC, VS). As part of a larger influx in eastern Pennsylvania, up to 3 **Arctic Terns** were seen along the DR between POD and GF 5/13-16 (TB, BF, PM, et al.). This species was recorded last during Hurricane Irene in 2011.

**American Bitterns** at FDR 4/1 (BF et al.), Fort Mifflin 4/24 (PM et al.), JHNWR 4/1-30 (m.ob.) and SWTP 4/1 (DB, TB) frequently offered great opportunities for spectacular photographs. **Least Bitterns** were back on their potential breeding grounds at JHNWR 5/1 (m.ob.) and SWTP 5/20 (HP). The first record of this species at EPR was obtained 5/22-25 when participants of an "In Color Birding Club" outing heard a bird softly cooing from the phragmites (JH et al.). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** appeared to have established a favorite roosting spot along the SR opposite the Museum Waterworks with up to three birds there 4/14-5/6 (PD et al.). Other records came from FDR, GF, and JHNWR. Three soaking wet **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were discovered at EPR 5/7-8 (LA et al.), a new record for the site and a county high.

A juvenile **Golden Eagle** at AA 5/17 was a highly unusual sight for the time of the year (EE, TV). This was also true for an influx of **Mississippi Kites** occurring on the same day, concentrated in the northwest section of the city (m.ob.). A lone bird was over SP 5/18 (GG). The first confirmed **Red-shouldered Hawk's** nest was found in Cobbs Creek Park, and at least one fledgling was noted 5/14 (m.ob.). Two small **Barred Owl** young found an unfortunate end in the Carpenter's Woods section of the WVP when they were found dead 5/5 (LV). An adult bird at RS in the center of the city was a great surprise 5/7-8 (MDe et al.).

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** have been an annual occurrence at

FDR since 2019 and so it was no surprise that folks found one when searching for another rarity 5/3-4 (m.ob.). Two reliable locations for migrant **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were productive once again with one individual at Houston Meadow 5/4 (GA et al.) and one at JHNWR 5/19 (MDo et al.). In another first for the city, a pair of **Common Ravens** was finally confirmed nesting. After years of seeing birds in the vicinity, a nest with 2 hatchlings was discovered in an active steel-processing plant in the Somerton neighborhood in northeast Philadelphia 4/23 (HP).

A pair of **Horned Larks** was back in the general area of last year's, and Philadelphia's only, nest at ACE 4/16-5/14 (m.ob.). An unusually large flock of 24 **American Pipits** foraged at the construction site on the former Island Green Golf Course 3/13 (HP). A single **Pine Siskin** in a mixed flock was out of the ordinary at Fox Chase Farm 4/28 (LW).

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at POD 5/2 (WB), and the nocturnal flight call of one bird was recorded over SP 5/6 (HP). An oddly-colored **White-throated Sparrow** turned out to be a hybrid with a **Dark-eyed Junco** at FDR 5/4 (BF). This appears to be the first for the county and about the tenth eBird record for Pennsylvania. With the bulk of migrant **Lincoln Sparrows** typically moving through the area in the first half of May, observations at ACE 3/19 (HP), POD 3/17-20 (BF, KS) and Tacony Creek Park 4/9 (HP) were extraordinarily early. Could these have been overwintering birds?

**Yellow-breasted Chats** were discovered at JHNWR 5/4 (MB) and PP 5/4 (WB). Among the 32 warbler species reported only a **Cerulean Warbler** at PP 5/15 (PM) stood out from the fold. Overall numbers of **Tennessee, Cape May, Magnolia, and Bay-breasted Warblers** were lower than in previous years. **Summer Tanagers** were at FDR 5/4 (AD), WVP 5/5 (PM), Lemon Hill 5/6+20 (CS et al.) and RS 5/20 (MDe).

Observers: **Holger Pflücke, Philadelphia, PA 19148, pflücke.holger@gmail.com**, Leigh Altadonna, Kitty Anderson, George Armistead, Debbie Beer, Margaret Bue, Tanya Burnett, William Buzzard, Jessica Coss, Angelo DelloMargio, Martin Dellwo (MDe), Peter DeStefano, Manny Dominguez (MDo), Ed Edge, Ben Filreis, Gabriel Galson, Mike Grubb, Jason Hall, Liam Hart, Christopher Hinkle (CHi), Charles Homler (CHo), Nathan Iloff, Matthew Jewell, Robert Karchnyak, Patrick McGill, Shane Murphy, Bill Reaume, Keith Russell, Victoria Sindlinger, Kiehl Smith, Connor Smyth, Meredith Tamminga, Leor Veleanu, Tom Voter, Michael Walter, Linda Widdop.

**Pike County**  
**No report submitted**

#### **Potter County**

Locations: Austin (AUST), Coudersport (COUD), Cherry Springs Clear Cuts (CSCC), Cherry Springs SP (CSSP), Cowley Run Powerline (CRP), Dry Run Road (DRRD), Frosty Hollow B&B, Rte. 44 (FHBB), Galeton (GALE), Galeton Lake (GALA), Hebron (HEBR), Bader's Hollow Road and Germania Road (GERM), Joerg Road (JOERG), Lake Lloyd, Genesee-Mills Rd, (LLGMR), Leech Hollow Beaver Pond, Galeton (LHBP), Lyman Run Road (LYRR), Lyman Run SP (LRSP), Reed Run Road—Mina (RRRM), Ole Bull Road (OBRD), Ole Bull State Park (OBSP), Ole Bull State Park-Beaver Swamp (OBSP-BS), Oleona (OLEO), Phoenix Run-Potter (PHR-P), State Game Lands 59 (SGL59), State Game Lands 204 (SGL204), Shinglehouse (SHIN), Sinnemahoning SP-Potter (SISP-P), Sizerville SP (SISP), Sunken Branch Road (SBRD), Susquehannock SSF—Forest Road 65 (SSF-FR65), Susquehannock SF—Potato City Airfield & Wetlands (SSF-PCA), Susquehannock SF—Splash Dam Hollow Run (SSF-SDH), Sweden Hill Road (SWHR), Tioga SF-Bear Run Ridge (TIGSF), Ulysses (ULYS), Intersection of Whitney Creek and Maple Ridge roads (WCMR).

Reports taken from eBird for the spring season, though low in number, totaled 149 species for the county. Migratory waterfowl numbers are usually low in the spring due to very few lakes, but a few birds do

stop over at GALA, LRSP and OBSP. **Canada Geese** can be found year-round and were reported primarily from GALA 3/2-5/29, with a high count of 32 on 3/2 (SL). **Wood Ducks** were reported from just two locations in low numbers, with most reports from OBSP-BS, 3/15-5/2, including a high count of 6 on 4/7 (SL). **Blue-winged Teal** were 2 at LRSP 4/14 (DG, GG) and 4 at OBSP-BS 4/7 (SL). **American Wigeon** was reported as a single bird from LRSP 4/14 (DG, GG) and at GALA with 5 on 3/2 (SL) and one 3/3 (KR). One **American Black Duck** was reported from GALA 3/3 (KR). Over the past 10 years, eBird shows most reports of this species in low numbers in the vicinity of Rte. 6 (m.ob.). Two **Northern Pintails** were seen from 3/3-11 at GALA (KR). Three **Green-winged Teal** were reported from GALA 3/11 (KR), while 6 were seen at OBSP-BS 4/21 (SL).

**Ring-necked Ducks** were reported in low numbers 3/5-18 at GALA (KR, SL); the high count was 9 on 3/5 (KR). **Greater Scaup** and **Lesser Scaup** were seen as single birds on several dates during the second half of Apr at GALA (KE, KR, BG, SL). **Buffleheads** were seen in low numbers at LRSP, LHBP, GALA and at ponds on private property along OBRD, with 10 on 4/12 (SL, KR). Three **Red-breasted Mergansers** were reported from LRSP 4/26 (KR).

**Wild Turkey** numbers were low (1-4) with birds reported from just five locations: COUD, SWHR, SSF-FR65, SBRD, and ULYS (m.ob.). Single **Ruffed Grouse** were reported from CSCC 4/8 (TH) and a residence on DRRD 5/8-9 (TK). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen at LRSP 4/16 (BG), 4/25 (KE), and singles were reported from OBSP 3/17 (SL) and LLGMR 3/26 (KR). Two **Horned Grebes** were seen at ponds along OBRD 4/12 (SL). There were three reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** during the second half of May: 2 at SISP-P, one each at JOERG and CRP (MS, SL, AS). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was reported just twice from a private camp near ULYS 5/20 and 5/22 (SB).

Single **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported four times 5/6-14 from JOERG (SL). It is noteworthy, that after checking across all years of data from eBird, this species had been reported in the spring season from only two locations, OBSP 5/25/2021 and a residence near the park on JOERG; single birds in eleven reports during May from 2020-2022 (SL).

One **American Coot** was reported from OBSP-BS 4/7 (SL) and checking data across all years for the spring season, only two other coot records were found: SGL 204, 4/29/1990 (AWIa) and at gamelands off Rte. 6 west of COUD, 4/12/2012 (JF). **American Woodcock** was reported in low numbers (1-3 birds) from just six locations: TIGSF, JOERG, CSSP, FHBB, COUD and SGL59 (m.ob.). Three **Wilson's Snipe** were observed at SSF-PCA 4/13 (SS, MS).

Sandpiper reports included two observations of **Spotted Sandpiper** at GALA on 4/25 (SL) and 2 on 5/2 (ph. AME). On 5/2 **Solitary Sandpiper** was also at GALA (AME) and OBSP-BS (SL) where they were also noted 4/26 and 5/4 (SL). **Greater Yellowlegs** were at GALA 4/8 (SL) and 5/2 (AME), and single **Lesser Yellowlegs** at OBSP-BS 5/2 (SL) and GALA 4/25 (KE) and 5/2 (AME). Fifty **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen at GALA 4/17 (KR). A **Common Loon** was seen at LRSP 4/14 (DG, GG) and in addition, another was reported from SISP-P 5/22 (MF).

Raptor numbers were low. While there were many reports of **Turkey Vultures**, (1-2 per report), Black Vulture was not reported. Birds of prey included: 1-2 **Osprey** from COUD, LRSP, GALA and SHIN (m.ob.), one migrant **Golden Eagle** at GERM 3/2 (SL), one **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at JOERG 5/13 (SL), and one **Cooper's Hawk** at OBSP-BS (SL). **Bald Eagles** were seen at 10 locations spread over the county (m.ob.). Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported from LRSP 5/10 (TK) and twice in May from JOERG (SL). **Broad-winged Hawks** were seen mostly as single birds from late Apr through May from DRRD, COUD, LRSP, JOERG, and SISP-P (m.ob.). There was only one report of a **Great Horned Owl** from JOERG 3/31 (SL) and three reports of single **Barred Owls** from CSSP 4/8-9 (TH, CM) and 5/10 (AW).

Just one **American Kestrel** was reported for the county, OLEO 4/9

(SL). After checking all records in eBird for the county for all year, over all the years (approx. 98 records), most of the observations given county-wide were of single birds, with 17 reports of 2-5 birds and one report of 11; that report must have included a tally along several miles of Denton Hill Road, done by Sam and Seth Greene on 4/18/2018. Only one **Merlin** was reported for the county; SHIN 3/24 (KE).

An **Alder Flycatcher** was photographed at East Branch Cowley Run, SISP 5/31 (AS). A lone **Bank Swallow** was seen at FHBB 5/14 (MI). Single **Swainson's Thrushes** were observed at SISP-P 5/9 and 5/16 (MS). There were three reports of **Fox Sparrows** from SISP 3/17 (TH), CCCC 4/8 (SS) and SSF-SDH 4/13 (MS). A single **White-crowned Sparrow** was observed at Galeton 4/13 (KR) and a **Savannah Sparrow** at GERM 5/13 (KR). There were 7 **Bobolinks** at GERM 5/13 (KR) and 5 at Bush Hill Road AUST 5/17 (BB). Migrating **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed at LYRR and LRSP, both 4/14 (DG, GG), with a high count of 10 at JOERG 3/7 (SL).

Wood warbler accounts of interest were all single-bird observations. **Louisiana Waterthrush** was at JOERG 4/13, 5/12 and 5/14 (all SL) and a **Northern Waterthrush** was seen at OBSP-BS 5/4 (SL). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was seen at JOERG 5/6; **Blue-winged Warbler** was also observed at JOERG 4/29 and 5/6, and a **Black-and-White Warbler** was seen along Germania Road, GALE 5/13 (all SL). Single **Tennessee Warblers** were reported from SISP-P 5/16 (BB) and RRRR 5/20 (MS).

Other warblers included a **Nashville Warbler** at PHR-P 5/4 (KR), a **Cape May Warbler** at SHIN 5/9 (KE), single **Northern Parulas** reported from PHR-P 5/4 (KR) and JOERG 5/6 (SL), one **Bay-breasted Warbler** at SISP-P 5/16 (SS, MS), **Palm Warblers** at GALA 4/26 (KR) and SHIN 4/29 (KE), and a **Prairie Warbler** at SISP-P 5/7 (DL, DT, SS). A **Canada Warbler** was audio-recorded from RRRR 5/20 (BB). One **Wilson's Warbler** was reported from JOERG 5/13 (SL). Note that only three other Wilson's were found in eBird data: WCMR, 9/12/2016, Whitney Creek, HEBR 9/17/2016, and SISP-P 5/20/2018 (SG, SeG).

Observers: **Robert Snyder, P.O. Box 603, Howard, PA 16841, (814) 753-2629, birdphotoginpa@gmail.com.** Sue Bible, Anonymous Ebirder, (AE), Bob Boyd, Kathy Ebling, John Fedak, Margie Fritz, Barbara Gee, Sam Greene, Seth Greene (SeG), Deborah Grove, Greg Grove, Tyler Hodges, Mary-Ann Ingrao, Ted Keen, Sarah Lindgren, Debra Lombardo, Alan MacEachren (AME), Casey Mack, Kathryn Riley, Matthew Schenck, Susan Schenck, Andrew Sidelinger, Scott Stoleson (SSt), Danielle Tate, Evan Tracy, Annie Williams, Andy Wlasniewski (AWla).

### Schuylkill County

Locations: Air Products Wildlife Sanctuary (APWS), Deer Lake (DL), Lake Wynonah (LW), Landingville Dam and Marsh (LVD), Locust Lake State Park (LLSP), Still Creek Reservoir (SCR), Swatara State Park (SSP), Sweet Arrow Lake (SAL), Tuscarora State Park (TSP).

The county has no large bodies of water that attract good numbers of waterfowl; lakes range from farm ponds to modest-sized municipal reservoirs. The reservoirs are in steep valleys so they generally lack extensive shallow zones which would support aquatic vegetation. With some minor exceptions, what waterfowl we do get are low in numbers and range from uncommon to occasional to rare.

Waterfowl relatively easy to locate include **Canada Goose**, **Mute Swan**, **Wood Duck**, **Mallard**, and **Common Merganser**. A large flock of 54 **Tundra Swans** were spotted 3/4 at LW (KH), while 5 others were seen 3/19 flying over Frackville (TB). **Blue-winged Teal** were found 3/30-4/15 at LVD (m.ob.). They were also found 4/10 and 4/30 at SSP (BR, RP) and at LW 4/1 (RR). A single **Northern Shoveler** was seen at LVD 3/15 (JoD, TB, TJ). **American Wigeon** were at SSP 3/2 (TB), LW 3/11 (RR), DL 3/6 (BA), and LVD 3/13 (KH) and 3/31 (TB). The best place in the county for **American Black Duck** is by far APWS where they were seen almost every day 3/1-4/11 (m.ob.) with a high count of 19 on 3/26 (CF). They also showed up elsewhere this spring: SAL 3/3 (BR, JF), LVD

3/5-4/8 (TB, KH, TJ), and TSP 3/21 (JoD). **Northern Pintail** were found at LVD 3/2-15 (KH, DK, TB, TJ), as well as at APWS 3/5 (JoD). Most of the **Green-winged Teal** seen this season were also at LVD 3/5-4/9 (m.ob.), while a single bird was also at APWS 3/25 (JoD).

Also, quite common this season was **Ring-necked Duck**, which was found throughout the county by many observers. A pair of **Greater Scaup** was at LW 3/5-6 and 3/10 (KH), while a single bird was found at DL 3/15 (TJ). A single **Lesser Scaup** was found at LVD 3/19 (TB) and six others at SCR 3/26 (DK). Only the second time in at least ten years, **White-winged Scoters** were spotted in the county. One was at LVD 4/3 (KH, TJ, RR, DK) while an impressive flock of 10 was seen 5/19 at SAL (L&AW). A flock of 9 **Long-tailed Ducks** were seen at SCR 4/7 (DK). **Bufflehead** were seen at four locations in small numbers: SAL 3/9 (TB), LLSP 4/9-16 (TB, DK, TJ, BeR), LVD 3/2 (DK), and SCR 3/20 (DK).

**Red-breasted Mergansers** are becoming more regular in the spring with singles seen at SAL 3/31 (TB) and LW 3/11 (RR). Two **Ruddy Ducks** were seen 4/7 at SAL (TB) and 3 were found at SCR 4/7 (DK). A **Horned Grebe** was seen at SAL 3/22 and again 3/31 (TB); others were reported at SCR 3/20-4/9 (DK). One was also seen at SCR 5/15, a very late date for this species (JD, JoD).

Normally common in small numbers, only a single **Semipalmated Plover** was reported this season 5/27 at LVD. A **Dunlin** was found at LVD 5/19 (KH, TJ, TB, RR, SS, JoD), the first sighting since 2018 and only the second time in at least the last ten years. For the second year in a row, a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was also seen at LVD 5/19 (KH, RR, TB, SS) and again 5/28 (TB, JoD, DK). Rounding out an extraordinary day at LVD, 3 **Short-billed Dowitchers** were spotted 5/19 (KH, TJ, TB, SS, RR, JoD), the first spring sighting in at least ten years. Four **Bonaparte's Gulls** were found at SCR 3/31 (JD) and one was there 4/7-9 (DK). Only one **American Bittern** was seen - at SSP 4/29 (TB).

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard tooting at TSP 4/2 (DK, BeR, TB). It was another good spring for **Red-headed Woodpeckers** with a single reported along West Deerview Drive 5/13 (DR). In the Molino area, one and 2 birds began coming to a suet feeder 4/26 (LG). In the Barnesville area, a pair was spotted 5/17-18 (BeR, JoD, TJ). The first spring **Olive-sided Flycatcher** since 2013 was found at Tumbling Run 5/21 (DK).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was along Flat Hill Road 5/20 (TB) and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was found in SGL160 on 5/18 (KH). The warbler count for the season was 31 different species, most coming and going as expected. Some notable sightings included an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at SSP 5/2 (TB), a **Mourning Warbler** at LLSP 5/14 (DK), and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at SGL 80 5/5 (TB). These three species are not found most years in the county. Finally, another rare visitor to the county, **Blue Grosbeaks** were heard singing in SGL 160 on 5/26 (TB) and seen at a feeder in Hometown 4/29-30 (BeR).

Observers: **Dave Rieger, 401 Stony Mountain Road, Auburn, PA 17922, d.m.rieger@gmail.com.** Barbara Angstadt, Thomas Buehl Jr., John DeBalko (JoD), Jonathan DeBalko, Caroline Fegley, Jane Fennelly, Laurie Goodrich, Karen Hardy, Tonia Jordan, Dave Krueel, Robert Peda, Rich Rieger, Barb Ritzheimer, Beverly Rockovich (BeR), Sherman Suter, Lee & Audrey Wells, Andy Wlasniewski.

### Somerset County

Locations: Berlin Area (BA), Bluebird Hill Farm – near Quemahoning Res. (BHF), Buffalo Creek (BC), Confluence Area (CA), Flight 93 National Memorial (FLT 93), Kimberly Run Natural Area (KRNA), Laurel Hill State Park (LHSP), Payne Property (on Allegheny Mt.) (PP), Quemahoning Reservoir (QR), Somerset Lake IBA (SL).

Waterfowl were present in decent numbers, but did not approach historical numbers in years when SL was full. There was some water in the lakebed with a lot of vegetation that kept some species late. A **Mute Swan** was in residence at the ponds at FLT 93 from 3/22-5/13 (m.ob.). A **Trumpeter Swan** was a one-day wonder at SL 5/9 (SE). The high

count for migrating **Tundra Swans** was 72 at QR 3/4 (JP).

**Blue-winged Teal** liked the shallow, weedy area in SL lakebed with a high of 75 on 4/6 (JP) and 54 still present 4/29 (FB). A wing of 12 **Gadwalls** at SL were somewhat late 5/7, along with a single **American Wigeon** (JP). An impressive 76 **Northern Pintails** were there 3/3 (ST). A fairly unprecedented 100+ **Green-winged Teal** were in the weeds at SL 3/27 with the last bird spied there 5/10 (JP).

Quemahoning Reservoir was the place for 20 **Canvasback** and 78 **Redheads** on 3/4 (PL, PH). **Ring-necked Ducks** also liked SL with 123 counted 4/8 and 4 remaining 5/10 (JP). A few **Greater Scaup** and a high of 61 **Lesser Scaup** inhabited QR 3/23 (R&MH). Four **Surf Scoters** 4/26 at QR were a nice find (LG). **Buffleheads** in good numbers, a few **Common Goldeneyes**, a smattering of 3 **Common Mergansers** and dependable **Ruddy Ducks** were on QR through the early part of the season.

A crowing **Ring-necked Pheasant** north of Berlin 5/29 may have been a residual from the wild pheasant reintroduction program as no stocking takes place nearby (JP). There were five reports from four, mostly high-elevation, areas of 1-2 **Ruffed Grouse**. Our state bird is in dire straits in this county, and a temporary cessation of hunting season would seem warranted. By contrast, **Wild Turkeys** are doing very well. Exciting were the calling **Pied-billed Grebes** through the season (and beyond) in the weedy flooded areas of SL; breeding was probable. Up to 8 **Horned Grebes** were at QR on multiple occasions.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were not reported until 5/14 with reports of 1-3 through the end of the period; fewer reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos** started 5/23. **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were reported from three locations including a high of 6 on Mt. Davis 5/13 (AK). The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was 4/23 near LHSP (J&MM). **Virginia Rails** were in BA 5/10–29 (JP) and 2 were at SL 5/14 (AK). **Sora** were found in two locations near Boswell 5/4 (EH) and 5/7 (PL) and at SL and BA, both 5/10 (JP). **American Coots** were very sparse.

Shorebirds were a bit hard to come by since the muddy days of draining SL have passed. There were 4 **Semipalmated Plovers** near the new dam at SL 5/15 (JP). A single **Upland Sandpiper** was at Babcock State Forest 5/29 (JP). **Least Sandpipers** garnered seven reports from five locales. **Pectoral Sandpiper** were found at SL with one 5/7 and two 5/10 (JP). **American Woodcock** were present throughout. The high-count for migrating **Wilson's Snipe** was 20 on 3/12 (JP) just north of Berlin. **Spotted** and **Solitary Sandpipers** and **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present in modest numbers at SL.

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were reported on eight occasions with up to nine birds at SL and QR. A nice flock of 56 **Ring-billed Gulls** was at QR 3/4 (PH) while SL recorded 3 **Herring Gulls** 4/10 (SH). One of the better birds of the season was an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** photographed in a field with some Ring-bills in BA 3/3 (JP). One **Forster's Tern** 5/4 at QR (EH) was the only tern reported. The 31 **Common Loons** 4/16 (LG) at QR was a nice gathering. **Double-crested Cormorants** were a bit sparse with 13 on 4/27 (LG) at QR the high. Just 2 **Great Egrets** were reported for the season with one at BC in Apr (fide JP) and one 4/2 at QR (SC).

**Black Vultures** mostly avoided the county with 3 singles being the only reports (m.ob.). An **Osprey** was carrying nesting material 4/28 (TH) at Cranberry Lake; other reports elsewhere were of migrating birds. There were only three reports of **Northern Harrier**, certainly less than in recent years. **Bald Eagles** were thriving with nests in at least six locations. There were only five spread-out **Red-shouldered Hawk** reports, but many **Broad-winged Hawks**.

Absolutely no Eastern Screech Owls were reported. One **Great Horned Owl** was in the Holsopple area 4/2 (LG), but many **Barred Owls** were found. All seven woodpeckers breed in-county: **Red-headed Woodpecker** numbers may be up slightly with reports from nine different areas. **Merlin** was found first 4/28 at QR, then intriguingly 5/31 near Holsopple (both LG). The only **Peregrine Falcon** was nicely photographed at QR 3/19 (EH).

No Olive-sided Flycatchers were spotted this season, but all the other expected flycatchers were found in modest numbers. The county's less common spring vireos were sparsely represented with three reports

of **White-eyed Vireo**, a decent 6 **Yellow-throated Vireos**, and 5 **Warbling Vireos**, most of these from the lower elevation areas like Confluence. **Blue-headed** and **Red-eyed Vireos** are much more numerous. A decade ago **Purple Martins** had mostly disappeared from *Somerset*. Now, thanks to efforts by the Amish community, they are nesting in at least four locations including Springs, a couple set-ups near Shanksville, and one west of Somerset. The other uncommon swallow is **Bank Swallow** with only a couple migrants near QR 4/28 and 4/30 (LG) and CA (JP) reported.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports were consistent through 5/11 with the last at QR (JP). **Brown Creepers** are common migrants and some stay to breed, usually in large forested blocks. **Winter Wren** similarly is common in migration with breeders mostly in Laurel Mountain parks. **Golden-Crowned Kinglets** are spotty breeders; a nice count of 15 migrant **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** was at Mallard's Rest, a Somerset County Conservancy property, near Boswell on 4/23 (AW).

**Veery** reports of 1-5 birds come from mostly higher elevations. An on-the-ground **Gray-Cheeked Thrush** was at PP 5/10 (JP). **Shy Swainson's Thrushes**, while common migrants, were reported only four times. **Northern Mockingbirds** are uncommon. These usually visible and flashy birds were only mentioned five times. **American Pipits** were found in a very narrow window with 40 near Holsopple 3/26 (LG), one in BA 3/27 (JP) and 8 at SL 3/27 (JP). A contender for bird-of-the-season was **Red Crossbill** with 3 on 3/5 at Black Spruce Bog (PF) and 2 at Hidden Valley 4/8 (AS). Will they possibly breed?

Overall, the grassland sparrows are getting a bit harder to find as the county's old strip mines are getting brushier. **Grasshopper Sparrow** was only reported from three locales, **Vesper Sparrow** from five, **Savannah Sparrow** from four and there were no seasonal reports for **Henslow's Sparrow**. Wintering or migrant sparrows included **American Tree Sparrow** through 4/4 near Meyersdale (NM), a healthy 12 **Fox Sparrows** at PP 3/26 (JP), **White-crowned Sparrows** from 4/2–5/17, **White-throated Sparrows** until 5/14 and one **Lincoln's Sparrow** at SL 4/28 (AT, LD).

The only report of **Yellow-breasted Chat** was one migrant at PP 5/14 (JP). **Bobolinks** and **Eastern Meadowlarks**, while garnering a good number of scattered reports, seem to be declining overall. **Rusty Blackbirds**, always worth mentioning, were 3 in BA 3/12 (JP), 10 at QR 4/3 (LG) and a single there 4/8 (AD).

Twenty-eight species of warblers were found during the period. The following warrant some mention. **Worm-eating Warblers** were found at five locales including Allegheny Mt, QR, CA and Mt. Davis. **Northern Waterthrush** was a scarce migrant with birds at BHF 5/4 (PL), Holsopple 5/31 (LG) and breeders at KRNA beginning 5/22 (JP). All the **Golden-Winged Warbler** reports were of one pair at QR 5/11 (JP) and 5/15 (LG), though three birds were reported 5/26 (DP, BS). Two **Blue-winged Warblers** reported included one 5/4 at Mallard's Rest (EH) and one 5/14 in CA (AK). A **Mourning Warbler** in CA was a nice find 5/14 (AK). **Kentucky Warbler** reports came from the extreme Southwest portion of the county 5/14 (AK) and the Southeast 5/28 (JP).

One to 2 **Cerulean Warblers** were found on six occasions. Migrant **Cape May** and **Bay-breasted Warblers** were both found three times. **Chestnut-sided warblers** are very common migrants and breeders. Migrant **Blackpoll Warblers** were on six lists, and **Palm Warblers** were on five. **Pine Warblers** were pretty uncommon with six reports coming from the QR area, BHF and SL (m.ob.). **Yellow-throated Warbler** was a probable migrant at QR 4/8 (AD) and LHSP 4/30 (TA), while the bird 5/12 in CA probably stayed to breed in the sycamores (AP, JP). The only **Wilson's Warbler** was one 5/24 at LG's farm.

Observers: **Jeff Payne, 9755 Glades Pike, Berlin PA, 15530, 814-267-5718, paynemt@gmail.com**, Tina Alianiello, Frank Berdan, Sandy Cline, Laetitia Desbordes, Alexander Donley, Suzanne Enos, Patience Fisher, Linda Greble, Eric Hall, Roger and Margaret Higbee, Scott Higgins, Tyler Hodges, Pam Hornick, Andy Keister, Paul Lehman, Nicole Martin, Jim and Meg Moses, Alan Peterson, David Poder, Andrew Smith, Bob Stewart, Alexandre Terrigeol, Shannon Thompson, Atlee Wise.

## Sullivan County

Locations: Cherry Township (CT), Eagles Mere Lake (EML), Hillsgrove (HG), Hunter's Lake (HL), Kinsley's Corner (KC), Lambert Hill (LH), LaPorte (LAP), Litzelman Rd Cherry Township (LR), Loyalsock State Forest Coal Mine Rd (CM), Loyalsock State Forest High Knob (HK), Loyalsock State Forest Shanersburg Rd (LSFSR), Muncy Valley (MV), Ogdonia Rd (OGR), Ricketts Glen State Park (RGSP), Ricketts Glen SP Hayfields (RGH), SGL 13 Splashdam Pond (SDP), SGL 13 Newell Rd (NWR), SGL 66 Shady Nook (SN), World's End State Park (WESP).

A major snowstorm left upwards of a foot of snow in the county April 18-19. Bodies of water had been free of ice prior to that time. The snow did not remain for an extended period. All reports except personal observations by the author are taken from eBird and represent the first sightings of the season unless noted otherwise. All reports are from the author unless otherwise attributed.

A report from 3/1 included 10000 **Snow Geese** and 2000 **Tundra Swan** in CT (PP). A lone **Mute Swan** was seen at RGSP 4/14 (RS). Five **Blue-winged Teal** were found in CT on 4/9. A **Green-winged Teal** pair was observed in the LR area 3/19. One **Horned Grebe** was on EML 4/1 (DKI).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was heard at SN 5/28. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was at WESP 5/21 (JM). **Sandhill Crane** returned to the LR area again with a pair first observed 3/18. Four **Wilson's Snipe** were in the LR area 4/30. Two **Greater Yellowlegs** and a lone **Lesser Yellowlegs** were at SDP 4/22 (SMu). A **Ring-billed Gull** was on HL 3/19. Six **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen in LAP 4/12 (SM).

A **Black Vulture** was seen along Route 87 near HG 5/29. A **Golden Eagle** was seen from LH 3/19. Two **Rough-legged Hawks** were found in the KC area 3/19. **Barred Owl** was observed at CM 4/11 (SM), and **Great Horned Owl** was found at RGH 5/13 (RS). Four **Cliff Swallows** were observed under the Route 87 bridge over the Loyalsock Creek north of HG 5/30. It appears this is a viable colony as the birds have been found here several years running.

Two **American Pipits** were at LH 4/19 (MD). Two **Pine Siskins** were observed near SN 4/10 (SM). Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found in the LR area 5/23 (EH). A **Vesper Sparrow** was a good find near MV 5/19 (DKI). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was another good find along Brunnerdale Road near HL 5/31 (DKI). Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed at SN 4/10.

Twenty-two species of warbler were reported. The majority of these were local breeders with **Palm Warbler** the only pass-through migrant. Highlights included a **Pine Warbler** at LSFSR 4/30 (DKe). Two **Nashville Warblers** were in the vicinity of RGSP 5/5 (AMac), another was there 5/22 (m.ob.), and one was near Mildred 5/20 (AS). A **Mourning Warbler** was at HK 5/12 (SM). Three **Canada Warblers** were present at NWR 5/16 (DG). A **Hooded Warbler** was heard singing along OGR 5/30.

Observers: **Rob Megraw, 131 Butternut Dr, Pottstown, PA 19464, (610) 858-6361, robert.r.megraw@gmail.com**, Michael David, Doug Gross, Eric Hartshaw, David Keith, Dawn Kleinsasser (DKI), Alan MacEachren, John Mercer, Sean Minnick, Sean Murphy (SMu), Paula Piatt, Alice Simmons, Rhiannon Summers.

## Susquehanna County

Locations: East Great Bend Swamp (EGBS), Hollister's Pond (HOL), Lake Montrose (LMO), Stillwater Reservoir (SWR).

The opening act of the 2022 northbound migration began with the passage of hundreds of **Snow Geese** 3/5 and 3/6 (m.ob.). The proverbial needle in many haystacks of Canada Geese was a single **Cackling Goose** photographed at SWR 3/10 (CF). The only sighting of **Blue-winged Teal** was a pair found at SGL 236C 4/26 (CF). Three **Northern Pintails** were on the river 3/14 (BS). The only scoter species discovered were 2 **White-winged Scoters** on Quaker Lake 5/2 (EM, BS, GS). A single **Horned Grebe** was on Lake Walter 4/3 (JS).

The spring migration of **Common Nighthawks** following the river north seemed to peak 5/25 with 38 individuals reported (BS, GS). The only **Sora** record was at a private wetland near New Milford where it was heard 4/27-5/11 (NV). Up to 6 **Least Sandpipers** were present at HOL 5/3-17 (TN, BS). Reports of **Wilson's Snipe** were limited to 2 with singles seen at HOL 5/9 (TN) and at SWR 5/3 (CF). A pair of **Greater Yellowlegs** briefly stopped by HOL 4/15 (TN, BS, NV). They were followed by a single **Lesser Yellowlegs** at the same location 5/3-12 (TN, BS). Sixteen **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at LMO 4/9 (TN) and one at SWR 4/20 (CF). The only reported and photographed **Great Egret** was discovered at EGBS 4/26 (GS).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a surprise feeder visitor outside Montrose 5/9 (BM, NW). A single **Lincoln's Sparrow** appeared at the same location 5/12 (BM, NW). A **Merlin** was present on private property just east of Great Bend 3/5 (BS, GS). This was the very spot where one was repeatedly seen foraging last fall. Twenty-seven warbler species were found this spring. Highlights included a **Cerulean Warbler** singing in SGL 35 on 5/19 (JM) and a **Wilson's Warbler** at SGL 236 on 5/10 (SC).

Observers: **Evan Mann, 8313 Laurel Lake Road, Montrose, PA 18801, (570) 663-2621, tevanmann@gmail.com**, Stan Chapman, Chris Fischer, Justin Mann, Bruce McNaught, Tom Norville, Barb Stone, Gary Stone, Joyce Stone, Nancy VanCott, Nancy Wottrich.

## Tioga County

Locations: Cowanesque Lake (COW), Hills Creek Lake Road (HCLR), Hills Creek State Park (HCSP), Marsh Creek Straight Run Area (MCSRA), Muck Railyard Area (MRYA), Muck's North End (MUN), Pine Creek Rail Trail (PCRT), Roseville (ROS), State Game Lands 313 "The Muck" (MSGL), Tauscher Pond (TP), Tioga-Hammond Lakes' Ives Run Recreation Area (IRRA).

The Spring season seemed long and slow to warm up. Recorded temperatures confirmed that average temperatures were several degrees cooler than last year. Some observers' vehicles developed a strange hard pull toward the driveways and pull-outs while running errands and passing good observation locations. There were 191 species reported on eBird during this season. Data were obtained using eBird bar charts and the species map features.

**Snow Geese** were reported twice: 50 at ROS 3/2 (BS) and 3 at MCSRA (JC). **Tundra Swans** were at most of the usual locations (m.ob.) although none were reported at Nessmuk L. Unlike last year, no Trumpeter Swans were reported. Duck species moved through the area in good numbers. **Blue-winged Teals** were first spotted near the end of Mar at IRRA 3/26 (SM) and were last seen from Old Rte. 287 to Ives 5/3 (LD). **Gadwalls** were observed in the wetlands at PCRT's Webster Rd 3/6 (LD), The Muck 3/19 (LD) and at TP 4/12 (LD) and 4/21 (GT). **American Wigeons** were scattered throughout the county. The earliest was at the west end of COW 3/2 (MW), and the latest observations were at HCSP during a bird walk and at the nearby TP 4/9 (LD, JF, SM, LS, GT). A handful of **Northern Pintails** were recorded in or near MSGL during March (JC, LD, SM, D&KP, KR). **Green-winged Teals** began appearing at MSGL in late Mar (LS) and were last seen in mid-Apr at Clymer Auto Repair's wetland (LD).

As many as 4 **Redheads** were spotted at MRYA (LD, KB, JC). **Ring-necked Ducks** were seen during the entire spring season and throughout the county from COW 3/6 (MW) in the north to Nessmuk L. 4/16 (LD) in the south. **Greater Scaups** were observed mostly at HCSP and THLA (JC, LD, KR). **Lesser Scaups** were observed at HCSP, nearby Taucher's Pond and at Hammond L. in slightly higher numbers (m.ob.).

**White-winged Scoters** dropped in for a break at HCSP and THLA 4/19 (LD). Beginning with a single bird at THLA's Channel Overlook/Dam Area (SM), **Buffleheads** were reported throughout the county (m.ob.) until 4/22, when 2 were at MSGL (GT, AT). Merganser species were observed as usual. Of note, **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at MCSRA and IRRA 3/27-4/16 (JC). **Ruddy Ducks** were reported at Nessmuk L. 4/8 (LD) and at HCSP, where the last one was reported 4/21 (GT).

Most observers reported single **Wild Turkeys** throughout the county.

The largest recorded flock was 8 in the Holiday area (LD). **Ruffed Grouse** were observed from Letonia (LS) to Mansfield (KC). A handful of **Ring-necked Pheasants**, probably all stocked, made it through the winter and were seen at HCSP 3/19 (SM), at Summer Road 3/20 (LD), at THLA 3/25 (LD), 4/10 (LD) and 5/8 (SM). The earliest **Pied-billed Grebe** was at MRYA 3/14 (KB); the latest was at TP 5/14 (KR). **Horned Grebes** were observed at HCSP 4/12 (LD) and 4/24 (BM), and at THLA 4/1 (MW) and 4/10 (LD). A lone **Red-necked Grebe** was recorded at IRRA 4/9 (JC).

The Spongy Moth outbreak may have contributed to the arrival and continued presence of cuckoos beginning in late May. The latest reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were 5/31 at PCRT's Darling Run (GT, AT), West Hill/Hillfiger Roads (KC) and RFRD (KR). **Black-billed Cuckoos** arrived a little earlier at MCSRA 5/10 (JC).

Five **Common Nighthawks** were recorded at MSGL 5/20 (TJ et al). A lone **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was heard HCLR 5/27 (LD). **Chimney Swifts** were first seen at THLA's Channel Overlook/Dam Area 4/24 (GT). The arrival of warm weather brought reports of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** from the Lawrenceville area 5/12 (AC) to Letonia 5/9 (LS).

It was difficult to find shorebirds this season. The puddles in the fields along Muck Road where shorebirds are often seen dried out early. The birds may have moved to areas farther out in The Muck where small birds are especially difficult to observe. The temporary break in the dam at Tauscher's Pond provided shorebird habitat. **Virginia Rails** returned to the MSGL 4/2 (LD) as usual. The first **Sora** was recorded at MSGL 5/3 (LD). **American Coots** were recorded at Knapp 3/10 (D&KP) and TP 5/14 (KR).

Three **Least Sandpipers** were observed at TP 5/18 (KC). Beginning with PCRT's Straight Run 3/6 (JC) **American Woodcocks** were scattered throughout the county (m.ob.). **Wilson's Snipes** were recorded at several locations. The earliest was MCSRA 4/13 (JC); the latest was 5/7 MCSRA (JC) and Old Keys Road (M&PB). **Spotted Sandpipers** were present at the usual locations and at some outlying areas in the county. The earliest records are at RFRD and HCSP 4/23 (SM, GT). The first **Solitary Sandpiper** was recorded at Marsh Creek area 4/30 (LD). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were first observed at TP 4/9 (JF). **Greater Yellowlegs** were last observed at MRYA 5/10 (LD).

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were first reported at IRRA 3/24 (JC) and observed into Apr with a final report at HCSP 4/23 (GT). Four **Caspian Terns** were recorded at COW 4/11 (JC). An early **American Bittern** was observed at MUN 3/26 (LD), and the last report was at MSGL 5/20 (TJ et al). **Great Egrets** were observed at Hills Cr. Road 4/10 (D&KP) and HCSP 4/21 (GT). The first **Green Heron** was at PCRT's Webster Rd 4/22 (SM).

The first **Black Vulture** was seen at IRRA 3/26 (SM). **Ospreys** returned and were seen from RFRD 4/21 (KR) to CWL 5/7 (DW). Mar also brought reports of a **Golden Eagle** at THL-RT 3/18 (SM) and IRRA 3/21 (D&KP). **Red-shouldered Hawks** were first observed at Mansfield Res. Shaw Road 4/15 (LD), where they have been seen for several years. **Broad Winged Hawks** began arriving in mid-Apr at Mansfield Res. Shaw Road 4/14 (LD) and RFRD 4/15 (KR). The last record of a **Rough-legged Hawk** was at State Rd 660's Middle Ridge Swamp 3/6 (SM).

An **Eastern Screech Owl** was once again roosting or nesting in a box at MUN 4/12 (LD). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard near HCLR 3/2 (LD). **Merlins** were reported at Wellsboro 4/14 (KBI) and IRRA 4/16 (JC). **Peregrine Falcons** were observed at four locations including Pine Cr. Gorge 3/29 (DB) and MRY 3/14 (KB), where a young bird was seen diving for a wood duck.

A single **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was recorded from Old Rte. 287 to Ives 5/19 (LD). All other expected flycatcher species were reported throughout the county (m.ob.). Notable was a **Philadelphia Vireo** at Leonard Harrison SP 5/21 (TJ et al). A single **Northern Shrike** was seen at THLA 3/18 (SM). Two **Bank Swallows** were reported at Dean Hill Road and Rte. 287 on 5/15 (D&KP).

Kinglet species continued to be reported through Apr (m.ob.) with **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** found into May (m.ob.). **Marsh Wrens** returned to The Muck in May (m.ob.). One wren was reported near the end of Apr at MCSRA 4/23 (JC). **Northern Mockingbirds** arrived or passed through the area. The earliest report was a single bird on Hills Cr. Road 3/5 (SM). A **Swainson's Thrush** was discovered by a group at Colton Point SP 5/21 (TJ et al). Pictures were taken of **Red Crossbills** near the eastern side of the

canyon on Sullivan Road 3/29 (LD).

A single **Grasshopper Sparrow** was observed near a Mansfield hotel 5/21 (TJ). **American Tree Sparrows** left in Apr with final 5 birds reported at MCSRA 4/10 (JC). A lone **Vesper Sparrow** was recorded on Gurnee Road 5/17 (KR). The first **Savannah Sparrow** was photographed at MUN 4/12 (LD). **Swamp Sparrows** began arriving at SGL 37's Hills Cr. L. Road 4/7 (LD).

**Bobolinks** were observed from Gurnee Road 5/17 (KR) to ROS 5/23 (BS). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were recorded across the county with the westernmost at PHNX 5/2 (KR) and the easternmost at ROS 5/22 (BS). Fruit-loving **Baltimore Orioles** were recorded in many locations (m.ob.). **Orchard Orioles** did not go unreported; the first was at MCRSA 5/10 (JC).

Warblers finally began to arrive with the return of warmer temperatures. The long cool spring seemed to delay their arrival. The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** was located at Painter Run Road 4/14 (KR). A **Northern Waterthrush** was observed on Kendrik Road 5/17 (KC). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was observed on Goodall Rd 5/14 (D&KP). **Blue-winged warblers** were more common, especially near the Hammond L. area, where they were discovered along THL-RT (m.ob.). **Mourning Warblers** seemed most common in the western part of the county where one was first reported at Phoenix Run Road 5/2 (KR).

**Cape May Warblers** were hard to locate with just four observations all in mid-May: HCLR 5/16 (LD), Marsh Cr. area 5/8 (MF), Pine Cr. Gorge-Bradly Wales Picnic Area 5/18 (SM) and Painter Letonia Road 5/10 (KR). **Northern Parulas** were in just three locations: the first at Leonard Harrison SP 5/11 (RE) and the last at CPSP 5/22 (D&KP). Four **Bay-breasted Warblers** were observed at CPSP 5/21 (TJ et al). **Blackpoll Warblers** were at MUCN 5/19 (KR) and MSGL 5/20 (TJ et al). **Wilson's Warblers** were reported at Knapp 5/13 (D&KP) and Kendrik Road 5/17 and 5/20 (KC). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were well reported throughout the county (m.ob.), as were

**Indigo Buntings** (m.ob.).

Observers: **Lisa Doud, Hills Creek Lake Rd, Wellsboro, PA 16901 (570) 723-2616, lissum05@ptd.net**, Kiley Birgensmith, Mary and Phil Birkhoran, Kate Black (KBI), Dan Brauning, Alex Clark, Ken Cooper, John Corcoran, Robert Edkin, Jim Fiorentino, Myron Frost, Tom Johnson, Sean Minnick, Brooke Morse, Dale and Karen Plumley, Kathy Riley, Barbara Silverstein, Laura Steele, Shirley Stark, Anya Tyson, Gary Tyson, Drew Webber, Monika Wood.

#### Union County

In the spring of 2022, 164 species were reported. Four **Blue-winged Teal** at Riverwood's Soccer Fields provided a nice count 4/24 (MH). Other waterfowl species included **Northern Shoveler, Redhead, and Greater Scaup**.

**Eastern Whip-poor-wills** returned as expected to Spruce Run Rd area. The first was heard 4/24 (RM). Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were found 4/14 in a flooded field and continued several days (AH). This was the second county record according to eBird. **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Greater Yellowlegs** were each reported only once, 4/13 and 5/8, respectively (AH).

There were two reports of **American Bittern**. The first was concealing itself in the reeds of the small ponds on SGL 317 from 4/6-7 (TR, AH). The second was at a farm pond 4/13 (RM). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was found along Buffalo Creek 5/1 (AH).

Two **Swainson's Thrushes** were seen and heard 5/15 near Mifflinburg (AH). Warbler species totaled 29. Warblers notable for the county included **Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, and Yellow-throated Warbler**. **Fox Sparrows** were reported several times in early Mar with a high of 10 at SGL 317 on 3/11 (TR, AH). A **Vesper Sparrow** was first heard 4/12 in a field near Mifflinburg where it continued through May (AH). **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported numerous times with 50 counted 3/10 at SGL 317 and 70 counted along Buffalo Creek 3/30 (AH).

Observers: **Andrew Hurst, andrewnerika@daystar.io, cell 717-580-3642**, Matthew Heintzelman, Ryan Martin, Travis Rohrer.

## Venango County

Locations: Allegheny River (AR), Allegheny River Trail (ART), Barkeyville Fields (BF), Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary (BHNS), Franklin area (FA), Fisherman's Cove (FC), Franklin (FR), Kahle Lake (KL), Oil City area (OCA), Oil Creek State Park (OCSP), Pleasantville area (PA), Seneca area (SA), Sandy Creek Trail (SCT), Slatertown Road (SR), Two Mile Run Park (TMRP), Wyattville Pond (WP).

It was kind of a slow spring with most species present in low numbers. As usual the waterfowl migration mostly passed us by, except for one exceptional morning at Kahle Lake. Fallout on March 14 produced between 700 and 1000 birds on the lake. It was difficult to count and keep track of the numbers as the birds were in almost continual motion. They started lifting off about 11 AM; by noon there were almost no ducks on the lake.

Waterfowl highlights include **Tundra Swan** 3/14-15 at KL (JS) and **Blue-winged Teal** from 3/14 at KL (JS) to 4/21 at KL, WP and TMRP (RS, JS). **Northern Shoveler** was at KL 3/14-4/21; **Gadwall** present 3/7-4/12 at TMRP (RS). **American Wigeon** were seen 3/8-4/12 at KL (JS), while **Northern Pintail** were there from 3/8-26 (JS) with 4 on 3/14. **Green-winged Teal** were reported 3/6-4/12, **Canvasback** 3/12- 4/17 with 50 on 3/14 at KL (JS), and **Redhead** from 3/6-4/17 at KL except for one 3/17 at TMRP (RS). **Ring-necked Duck** were present 3/6-4/24, **Greater Scaup** 3/14-4/12, and **Lesser Scaup** 3/9 -4/12. One **White-winged Scoter** was found on 4/23 at KL (JS). One **Long-tailed Duck** was at KL 3/11 (SK, AK), while 9 were seen 4/12 (JH). **Common Goldeneye** were scarce this year with four records from 3/14-4/12 all at KL (JS, RS) and two birds at OCSP 3/15 (JH). **Red-breasted Merganser** were at KL 3/7-4/12 (RS, JS, JH). **Ruddy Duck** were also scarce this year. They were not present for most of the spring, and seemed to drop in for a day and then leave. Reports were from 3/21-4/17, but a high count of 1000 was made at KL 4/12 (JH).

**Wild Turkey** were in low numbers this spring. One **Ruffed Grouse** was on record 5/8 at FC (SB) and another at OCSP 5/2 (m.ob.). Only two reports of **Pied-billed Grebe** were from KL on 4/12 (JH) and 4/14 (JS) and one was at TMRP 3/15 (JH). **Horned Grebe** were also in low numbers this year from 3/14- 4/17 all at KL (m.ob.), except on 4/12 when 75 were estimated present (JH), and one was at TMRP 4/17 (JH).

Both cuckoos were reported: **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at OCSP 5/7 (Yianni Laskaris) and 5/14 (Grace Vesho), at BHNS 5/24 (JS, KG) and at SGL 45 on 5/30 (SB), and **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Venus 5/19 (DS) and at BHNS 5/23 (KG, JS). **Common Nighthawk** were later than in recent years. There was one at BHNS 5/14 (KG, JS) followed by one at FR 5/23 (JH). One **Whip-poor-will** was reported 5/8 at ART (AW) along with 2 **Chimney Swift**, though the first swift arrived FA 4/24 (JH). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** appeared on 4/25 in FA (NB).

There were only two sightings of **American Coot**, both at KL 3/9 (JS) and 4/17 (RS). One **Sandhill Crane** flew over BHNS 4/20 (KG, JS).

Shorebirds, never numerous in *Venango*, made a decent showing this year. All records are from TMRP, unless otherwise noted: 4 **Semipalmated Plover** 5/19 (RS), **Least Sandpiper** 5/15-19 with 3 on 5/17 (RS, JS), one **Pectoral Sandpiper** 5/17 (JS). **American Woodcock** were at BHNS 3/8-4/21 (JS, KG) and at OCSP 3/14-15 (RS, JH). **Wilson's Snipe** was found at KL 3/10-4/27 (JH, JS, RS), with 30 on 4/27 (JS). **Spotted Sandpiper** were seen 4/24-5/22 (RS, JS), with 4 on 5/22. There was one **Solitary Sandpiper** on 4/24 (RS) and 5/17 (JS). Four **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/17 (JH), and others 4/24 and 5/9 (RS), and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs** 5/16-17 (RS) finish out the list at TMRP.

**Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen 4/1-27 at TMRP and KL (RS, JS) with 3 on 4/24 (ES). **Ring-billed Gull**, never common here, made numerous appearances from 3/1-4/26 with 5 on 4/25 at AR (JH). **Caspian Tern** was noted 4/16 (JS) and 4/21 at KL, with 3 on 4/21 (RS). Two **Common Terns** were at KL 5/2 (JS), while **Forster's Terns** made appearances from 3/31-4/26 at KL (JS), with 3 on 4/12 (RS).

One **Red-throated Loon** was at KL 4/17 (JS) while **Common Loon** was found 3/16-4/29 at KL (RS, JS) and 4/25 at AR (JH). The **Great Blue Heron** colony in Radar Valley was active again this year, and once again a **Great Horned Owl** nested in the middle of it. Were the owlets on a steady diet of young heron? One **Great Egret** was at KL 3/31 (JS) and another there

4/16-18 (JS). A **Cattle Egret**, the county's second record, was found in fields near KL (JS) and remained from 4/21-27. **Green Heron** were scarce this season.

There were only two **Osprey** reports, 3/26 at TMRP (RS) and 5/22 at FR (JH). **Northern Harrier** was sighted 4/22 at KL (ES) and 5/29 near OCSP (RS). The few **Broad-winged Hawk** reports were 4/13 at BHNS (JS, KG), 4/23 at FA (NB) and 5/14 at OCSP (CW). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was reported from BF 3/19 (Meg Heft). A **Peregrine Falcon** was spotted at BHNS 4/25 (JS).

The wet spring seemed to affect flycatchers. Reports were low for all species. **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was at BHNS 5/13 (KG, JS). **Eastern Wood-Pewee** arrived 5/12. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was found 5/14 at Sandy Creek (KS), 5/16 at FC (RS, TN) and 5/20 at SCT (JH). **Alder Flycatcher** was reported from 5/16-20 at TMRP (RS) where there were 2 **Willow Flycatchers** 5/21 (JH). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported from SR 5/19 (RMH, LH). **Least Flycatcher** was at BHNS 5/3-4 (JS, KG) and at OCSP 5/14-15 (RS, CW). **Eastern Kingbird** was another bird reported arriving late in the season, from 5/11 at FA (NB).

A **White-eyed Vireo** was sighted on SR 5/19 (RMH). County arrival dates for vireos were: **Yellow-throated Vireo** 4/24 (DD), **Blue-headed Vireo** 4/14, **Warbling Vireo** 4/24 at SCT (JH) and **Red-eyed Vireo** 5/2 at OCSP (KA). There were no reports of Philadelphia Vireo.

There was a single **Horned Lark** record 4/9 at KL (DG, GG). Nine **Bank Swallows** were at Cooperstown Sand and Gravel 5/14 (JH). **Cliff Swallow** was first sighted 5/9 at FC (JH). All nesting sites are not doing well, though, since bridge repair affected two of the three usual sites. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** passed in low numbers from 4/12-5/23 (m.ob.). **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was reported from four sites 3/6-5/19 (m.ob.).

There were two early Mar reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and one report 5/7 at OCSP (JH). There were 2 **Northern Mockingbirds** in Emlenton 3/10 (Joshua McCoy) and a few May reports, mostly from the BF area (m.ob.).

**Swainson's Thrush** was found in Harrisville 5/9 (PM), at BHNS 5/12 (JS, KG), and at Belmar 5/15 (JH). **Hermit Thrush** was at BHNS 4/19 and 4/21 (JS), SR 5/19 (RMH, LH), SGL 45 on 5/30 (SB) and at Venus 5/19 (DS). There was only one **American Pipit** record on 3/9 at KL (JS) and one **Pine Siskin** report on 4/7 at OCA (SA).

**American Tree Sparrow** remained until 4/23 (NB, JS, KG), while **Fox Sparrows** were reported 3/2-4/12 at FA (NB) and at BHNS (JS, KG). **White-crowned Sparrow** was at OCA 5/1-3 (RS, SA), at OCSP 5/2 (m.ob.), at FA 5/11-12 (JH, NB), and at Venus 5/13 (DS). There was one **Vesper Sparrow** report from an unspecified location 5/23 (CV). **Savannah Sparrows** were found at Barkeyville Strips 5/11 (JH) and at or near KL 4/19 (JS) and 4/24 (MD). A **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at BHNS 5/10 (JS, KG) as was one nicely photographed foraging in the grass in Woodland Heights that same day (MK), as well as at SR 5/19 (RMH, LH).

There were four scattered individual **Bobolink** reports in May and low numbers at BF on 5/22 (RS, TN) and 5/26 (NB). **Rusty Blackbird** was reported at BHNS 3/24 (JS, KG), from OCA 4/22 (SA), and at ART 4/30 (DR).

Warblers of note included: **Northern Waterthrush** at FA 5/1 (JS) and OCSP 5/14 (CW); **Tennessee** at SCT 5/12 (JH), at OCSP 5/14 (CW) and 5/19 (CH) and at BHNS 5/12-18 (JS, KG); **Nashville** at BHNS 5/3-12 (JS), at SCT 5/8 (JH), at FA 5/11(NB), and at OCSP 5/14 (CW); one **Mourning** record at BHNS 5/18 (JS, KG); one **Kentucky** at BHNS 5/13 (JS, KG); **Cape May** 5/3 and 5/10 at BHNS (JS, KG) and 5/8 at FC (SB); **Bay-breasted** 5/11-15 (JS, JH); five **Blackpoll** reports (m.ob.); **Palm** at KL 4/24 (MD) and at OCSP 5/2 (KA); **Pine** at KL 4/20 (JS), at PA 4/23-24 (DD) and at BHNS 4/29 (KG, JS); **Prairie** at TMRP 5/13 (JH); **Canada** at the usual location in OCSP on 5/19 (RS) and elsewhere in that area 5/10 (JH) and 5/14 (CW); and **Wilson's** at BHNS 5/12 (JS, KG).

**Scarlet Tanager** arrived 4/25 (RS, NB, JS), **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 4/24 (NB, JS, RS) and **Indigo Bunting** 3/24 (JS, NB, RS).

Observers: **Russ States**, 111 E. 4th St., Oil City, PA 16301, (814) 758-3935, [pelagics202@gmail.com](mailto:pelagics202@gmail.com); **Gary Edwards**, 224 Meadow Rd, Apt 9, Seneca, PA 16346, (814) 676-3011, [gedwards@csonline.net](mailto:gedwards@csonline.net); **KM Anderson**, Skylar Austin, Nancy Baker, Stephen Bucklin, Michael David, Dwayne DelGrande, Kathie Goodblood, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Jeff Hall,

Chuck Herrold, Lesley Howard, RMH (RMH), S Kaye, Anne Kline, Meg Kolodick, Patrick Markee, TC Nicolls, Dan Richards, Eric Schill, Daria Sockey, Kim Springer, Jerry Stanley, Christina Voorhes, Carole Winslow, Andrew Wood.

### Warren County

Locations: Akeley Swamp (AS), Anders Run Natural Area (AR), Benson Swamp [SGL 306] (BS), Big Four Road (B4), Buckaloons Campground (BK), Cherry Hill Cemetery, Sugar Grove (CH), City of Warren (CW), Chapman State Park (CSP), Cherry Grove (CG), Economite Rd (ER), Game Lands 29 (GL2), Game Lands 86 (GL8), Hearts Content Natural Area (HC), Hillside Acres Tidioute (HA), Longhouse Drive (LH), Martin Road Akeley (MA), MJ Lane (MJ), Newbold Estate (NE), Tidioute Boat Launch (TB), Tidioute (TI), Tidioute Trail (TT).

Spring of 2022 in *Warren* featured a wild mix of both unseasonable warmth and cold, and higher than normal rainfall, creating less than ideal conditions for birds or birders. Still, the hard-cores managed to see some good things.

A high count of 25 **Tundra Swans** passed over CW 3/5 (TS); most of the birds had passed through earlier in late winter. A single **Trumpeter Swan** was seen this spring at AS 3/15 (TS). An impressive 22 **Wood Ducks** were seen on the Allegheny River near TI 4/14 (JV). While widespread across the county, they are rarely seen in groups greater than four. A high count of 12 **Blue-winged Teal** were spotted at AS 3/26 (RH, SM). **Northern Shovelers**, always a rare treat in *Warren*, were sparse this Spring, with a sole report of 4 at CSP 3/9 (TS). A high count of 11 **Green-winged Teal** was seen at AS 3/17 (EN, KN).

**Ring-necked Ducks** were unusually common at AS this season, with a high count of 118 spotted 3/15 (TS). The newly refurbished lake at CSP attracted a group of 7 **Long-tailed Ducks** 3/26 (RH, SM). A high count of 35 **Hooded Mergansers** was reported from the Allegheny River near TI 4/14 (JV). Always more widespread, **Common Mergansers** were seen throughout *Warren*, with high counts of 14 seen at TI 4/14-15 (JV, SV). Three **Red-breasted Mergansers** spotted at TB 3/27 were noteworthy (EN, KN). An extended group of 5 **Ruffed Grouse** were flushed on GL2 on 3/24 (SHS, DW, TS). Repeated observations of **Pied-billed Grebe** at AS from 3/15-5/4 likely indicate breeding (KN, TS).

Ten **Common Nighthawks** spotted over CW 5/22 probably were migrants passing through (TS). There have been no definite breeding observations in the county in recent years, as has been the case throughout much of the northeastern states in recent years. Like most aerial insectivores, their populations have declined dramatically. Another declining aerial feeder, the **Chimney Swift**, still occurs in some numbers locally: a high of 16 were seen 5/4 at AS (TS). A rather warm Apr probably is responsible for the first **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** being seen well ahead of normal on 4/28 at a feeder in CW (TS).

Waterbirds tend to be sparse in *Warren*, with most sightings at the extensive wetlands at AS. On 5/4, 5 **Virginia Rails** were detected there along with 3 **Soras** (TS). A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** was seen consistently at AS from 5/3-24 (CJ, BR, IR), suggesting they are once again breeding in *Warren*. Another pair was seen at BS 5/4 (BR). **American Woodcock** appear to be doing well locally: high counts of 5 were recorded from ER 3/17 (CW), from MJ 3/17 (EN, KN), and 4 from BK 3/16 (SP). A probable locally-breeding **Wilson's Snipe** was found at BS 5/4 (BR). A brewpub next to the Allegheny River in CW proved productive for **Spotted Sandpipers** with 5 spotted 5/21 (ES).

Seven **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen from TT 4/5 and 4/7 (EN, KN). A high of 4 **Double-crested Cormorants** were seen on the river at TT 4/23 (CW). A single sighting of **American Bittern** came from AS 5/16 (BR); despite the late date, it probably did not stay to breed. Similarly, a single **Great Egret** at TT 4/17 (EN, KN) was likely a migration overshoot.

Unusual for this highly-forested county was a **Northern Harrier** at AS 5/3 (EN). **Red-shouldered Hawks** are common – and noisy – throughout *Warren*, but they may not be doing so well. At least two nests (monitored by DW) were predated by fishers, which have similarly devastated local

**Northern Goshawk** and other raptor populations. **Broad-winged Hawks** typically are abundant in most of the forested areas of *Warren*, but for some reason this year seemed exceptionally sparse. Single nests were located by FS Research crews in CG and ER – but they took some searching (DW, SHS).

**Barred Owls** tend to be relatively inconspicuous during spring and usually are seen or heard as single birds; pairs were spotted at HC 4/24 (ML), at HA 5/8 (EN), and at ER 4/5 (SHS). Although locally common, **Northern Saw-whet Owls** are extremely secretive during the breeding season. Repeated detections of calling birds on ER from 3/17-4/23 indicate a breeding pair (CW). A single **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen 5/8 at GL2 (TS). Like other aerial insectivores, **Eastern Kingbirds** have become rather scarce as breeders in *Warren*; the highest number reported this spring was a mere 2 seen at AS 5/16 (BR).

A rarity locally, a single **Horned Lark** was found in agricultural fields near HA 3/7 (EN, KN). The **Bank Swallow** colony in a gravel pit at CH continues to thrive, with up to 22 birds seen 5/21 (TS). A **Marsh Wren** was seen and heard at AS 5/16, but whether it stayed to breed is unclear (BR). The county's first reported **Swainson's Thrush** of the season at NE 5/12 (EN, KN) was somewhat early for this normally late migrant. **Cedar Waxwings** are sociable birds but generally do not occur in flocks until after their young fledge, so a group of 27 seen 5/21 from a brewpub in CW is notable (or was the observer seeing double?).

The big excitement in the ornithological community of northwestern PA this spring was the influx and subsequent nesting of **Red Crossbills**, apparently in response to huge crops of Norway spruce cones. Multiple breeding pairs were documented in *Elk* and *Forest*, as well as nearby *Chautauqua*, NY, but the sole report from *Warren* was a pair exhibiting breeding behaviors in HC; however, breeding was not confirmed. **Swamp Sparrows** are not uncommon in *Warren* in appropriate habitat, but 10 reported from AS 5/16 was unusual (BR).

Being a grassland obligate, **Eastern Meadowlarks** tend to be sparse here, so a report of 8 from fields along MA 3/14 was encouraging (TS). A big flock of 28 **Rusty Blackbirds** stopped by AS 3/15 (TS).

Although among the earliest of spring warblers, a **Louisiana Waterthrush** seen at AR 4/12 was exceptional (TS). A number of warbler species seemed to be unusually sparse this year, perhaps reflecting the well-documented declines in so many North American birds. **Tennessee Warblers** typically are a common spring migrant here, but of the few reported, the high count was only 5 seen at B4 on 5/13 (TS). Never common, few **Cape May Warblers** were seen this spring: single birds were noted from three locations (m.ob.). Similarly, many of the 'traditional' areas for seeing (and researching) **Cerulean Warblers** had few this year; one notable exception was the main study area along LH, where 6 were seen 5/21 (CW).

After several years in which **Bay-Breasted Warblers** were common, much to the delight of local birders, few were reported this spring, with only a single observation of multiple birds: 3 seen at TT 5/19 (EN, KN). A rather early **Blackpoll Warbler** showed up 5/5 at GL8 (SHS); otherwise they were unusually few and far between. Since *Warren* lies at the very northern fringe of the range of **Yellow-throated Warbler**, they tend to be very rare and localized here, so an observation of 2 males seen fighting on GL8 on 5/5 was unusual (SHS).

Observers: **Scott H. Stoleson, 114 Sanders Rd, Sugar Grove, PA 16350, (814) 489-3734, scott.h.stoleson@usda.gov**, Rebecca Hart, Chelsea Jandreau, Matthew Lindley, Steve Manns, Elizabeth Nicholson, Ken Nicholson, Spencer Parkinson, Isaac Reese, Bruce Robinson, Eric Schill, Travis Suckow, John Vassallo, Samuel Vassallo, Don Watts, Carole Winslow.

### Washington County

Locations: Canonsburg Lake (CL), Cross Creek County Park (CC), Ginger Hill area ponds (GHP), Greencove Wetlands (GCW), Hillman State Park (HSP), Mingo Creek County Park (MC), Peters Lake (PL), City of Washington (WASH), Washington Park (WP), Washington Reservoir #4 (R4).



Four **Greater White-fronted Geese**, presumably continuing from the winter season, were found on Parkview Road outside CC 3/25 (RI). **Blue-winged Teal** were a fixture at CL 3/27-5/2, with a max count of 10 on 4/21 (JF, LF). Two were also at Coal Center on the somewhat early date of 3/16 (RI) and 2 were at CC 4/29 (RI, SG). Otherwise it was a somewhat disappointing season for waterfowl, but there were at least a few highlights. Five **Northern Shovelers** on School Road near Bentleyville 3/12 (JF) and 2 at CL 4/16-22 (RT) were the only ones reported. Quite surprising was the lack of **Gadwall**; reports were limited to 8 at R4 on 3/2 (RI) and 2 at CL 4/20 (RR). **American Wigeon** had a better showing. A nice count of 12 was made at R4 on 3/2 (RI) and even better was the 21 at GHP 3/5 (JF, LF). Four tarrying birds were on School Road near Bentleyville 4/23 (JP, JF, LF). As usual, **Northern Pintail** was here and gone by the first week of Mar: reports were limited to one at the pond on Hahn Road 3/3 (TB) and one at CC 3/4 (RI). **Green-winged Teal** was noted at five locations 3/2-4/10 (m.ob.).

Both **Canvasback** and **Redhead** were very sparse, and both limited to sightings at GHP in early Mar: 2 of the former 3/5-10 (JF, LF) and 5 of the latter 3/2-12 (JL, JF). Very impressive, though, was the collection of **Ring-necked Ducks** at GHP in early Mar. A superb count of 310 was made 3/5 (JF, LF) and 200 were still there 3/12. Twenty-eight at R4 on 3/29 (RI) was a fair count for late Mar, and 2 there 4/20 (LC) were late. **Greater Scaup**, the more uncommon of the two scaup here, were represented by singles at Hahn Road 3/13 (JO) and CL 4/9 (JF). **Lesser Scaup** were below average, with 18 at GHP 3/5 (JF, LF) the best count.

**Common Mergansers** were widely reported through Apr, but most interesting was a report of 2 on Raccoon Creek near Burgettstown 5/30, a strong indicator of nesting in the area. The species now nests at three other locations on Raccoon Creek in nearby *Beaver* as well. Interestingly, there were four reports of **Red-breasted Merganser** from four different locations by 3/9, which is a little early for them, but none thereafter. Typically they are most common in this region in late Mar and early Apr. Five somewhat late **Ruddy Ducks** were at PL 4/28 (JF, LF).

Two **Eastern Whip-poor-wills** were back at HSP 4/24 (RT), but none were reported there again until a count of 3 on 5/31 (RI), an indication of lack of coverage this season at this excellent site. **Virginia Rail** (3) and **Sora** (2) were both first reported at GCW 4/19 (RR). Both species persisted there to at least 5/23 (RI) but were not found during a visit in early Jun.

It was a poor season for shorebirds, with just one notable highlight: a **White-rumped Sandpiper** photographed at CL 5/27, in the company of 9 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** (SG). **Semipalmated Plovers** frequented CL 5/15-23 (m.ob.) with a high count of 9 on 5/20 (JF). Twenty-two **Least Sandpipers** was a nice total also at CL 5/18 (JF). Up to 10 **Lesser Yellowlegs** (on 5/15) were noted at CL where sightings spanned 4/15-5/23. There was never more than one **Greater Yellowlegs** seen at once, but reports of singles at CL were made over the same general window that Lessers were reported (m.ob.), and one was at the Dutch Fork lakebed 5/18 (RI). Six **Bonaparte's Gulls** and a **Forster's Tern** at a pond near Bentleyville 4/23 (JP, JF, MJ) were the only reports of either.

A **Common Loon** was at R4 on 3/29 (RI) and another was at PL 4/3-7 (JF, GG). The first **Great Egrets** appeared at CL 4/2 and were thereafter reported at five additional locations, but none after 4/29 (m.ob.). Very nice was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at CL 4/16 (JF, m.ob.), the fifth record for *Washington*.

Continuing with what are now almost annual sightings was a **Black Vulture** seen along PA-43 near Finleyville 5/12 (LCh). The species has now been reported in the county every year since 2016, except for 2018. Prior to that, one reported 5/4/2012 near Claysville was thought to be the first county record at the time. The **Bald Eagle** nest at CL had a young bird stretching its wings 5/23 (JF). Following a good winter for them, the last report of **Short-eared Owl** along the Panhandle Trail near Midway was one 3/12 (KB). **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported from a remarkable six locations, including CL, 4/30-5/30 (m.ob.), probably the best season for them ever here. **Merlin** was reported in suburban WASH 3/15 (JPo), the only report after the winter season.

**Blue-headed Vireo** was reported at MC deep into May, with the last report made 5/21 (SM, RH). The only **Philadelphia Vireo**, which is quite rare here in spring, was a well-described bird at MC 5/8 (JPo). **Common Raven** was noted all over the place and throughout the season, with too many

sightings to bother annotating (or even tallying) in this space anymore.

**Cliff** and **Bank Swallow** can both be hard to find here; this season's reports were limited to 2 Bank at CC 4/29 (RI, SG) and one Cliff at GCW 4/24 (JO). A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** persisted at a WASH feeder to 4/25 (JuL), and 3 were at MC 4/23 (JP, JF, MJ). Otherwise they were limited to HSP, where they are year-round residents, including a top count of 6 there 5/5 (KD, KS). A **Marsh Wren** was a nice find at GCW 5/23 (RI, SG). A very early **Veery** was described at MC 4/16 (JL).

**Grasshopper** and **Henslow's Sparrows** both persist at the grasslands on Donaldson Road in Robinson Twp. (RI, MV, et al.). They also remain at the Panhandle Trail grasslands near Midway and at grasslands near HSP, but both are generally harder and harder to find in northern *Washington* (and, indeed, in western *Allegheny*) in the face of continuing development of the former strip mines in the area. The three *Washington* sites mentioned, at least, remain relatively undisturbed for the time being, and the Donaldson Road site seems to have been spared following the completion of the new PA-576 toll road nearby. It had been feared, a number of years ago, that the highway would end up claiming this site, in a region relatively starved for grasslands. A fairly late **Fox Sparrow** appeared at CL 4/17-20 (MO, JF), and a somewhat early **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at CC 4/29 (RI, SG).

**Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported at six locations in May (m.ob.), a good season for them. Three **Bobolinks** were at Donaldson Road 5/11 (RI), a welcome sight there, but the hotspot in the county remains Ciaffoni Road near Muse, where the top count was 20 on 5/14 (FK, AN).

A nice season for **Northern Waterthrush** included reports of 4 singles: one at CL 5/1 (JF, LF), one at PL 5/6 (JF), one at SGL 232 on 5/12 (FK), and one again at CL 5/18 (JF). A **Lawrence's Warbler** was a wonderful find at WP 5/12 (SG). It was also a good season for **Tennessee Warbler**, with near-daily reports from 5/3-20, including a top count of 8 at WP (LC). Very nice was a **Mourning Warbler**, very difficult to find in spring, at WP 5/25 (RI). Two **Kentucky Warblers** at MC 5/8-22 (JF, et al.) were the only ones reported. Though Tennessee was common, the other two budworm warblers were not, with just three reports of **Cape May Warbler** 5/3-11 and **Bay-breasted Warbler** noted at just four sites. **Palm Warbler**, conversely, had a good season, especially at CL, with the first appearing 4/16 (JF). A **Prairie Warbler** near Bentleyville 4/23 (JP, JF, MJ) was the first reported at what turned out to be four sites. A **Wilson's Warbler** at WP 5/10 (LC) was the season's only individual of this species.

Observers: **Geoff Malosh, 7762 Maumee Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537-9334, (412) 735-3128, pomarine@earthlink.net**, Ken Behrens, Trip Bondi, Lynn Chapman (LCh), Lauren Conkle, Karyn Delaney, Leslie Ferree, John Flannigan, Gigi Gerben, Sayre Greenfield, Rebecca Hart, Roy Ickes, Matthew Juskowich, Fred Kachmarik, Judy Lesso (JuL), Jeffrey Levers, Steve Manns, Alyssa Nees, James Offhaus, Mariam Ohanjanyan, Joe Papp, Jo Popma (JPo), Russ Ruffing, Kathy Saunders, Ryan Tomazin, Mark Vass.

#### Wayne County

Locations: Hankins Pond (HP), White Oak Pond (WOP).

A **Trumpeter Swan** was photographed at HP 4/17-5/19 (m.ob.). A male **Greater Scaup** was documented on the icy Delaware R. near Narrowsburg Access 3/3 (CF, JH). Three **Red-necked Grebes** were photographed at WOP 4/20 (CF). **Virginia Rail**, **Sora**, and **Common Gallinule** returned to their respective breeding grounds, including HP and WOP, the last week of Apr (m.ob.). One **Sandhill Crane** was seen on annual breeding grounds in the Avoy and Eisenhauer Rds area southwest of Lakeville, 3/26 (RJ).

The first eBird record of **Dunlin** in *Wayne* was reported at WOP 5/4 (CF). Vocalizations of 2 **Least Bitterns** were recorded at HP 5/14-25 (JD, CF). This species has been documented at this location annually since 2020.

Twenty-eight warbler species were tallied. A singing **Worm-eating Warbler** was recorded at the Delaware R. Narrowsburg Access 5/23 (CF). A **Mourning Warbler** was spotted at SGL 159, an annual breeding location (CF). The first county eBird record of **Yellow-throated Warbler** was audio-recorded at Eisenhauer Swamp 4/22 (CF).

Observers: **Josh Jones, unclchu76@gmail.com**, Jonathan DeBalko, Chris Fischer, John Harvey, Ryan Johnson.

## **Westmoreland County**

Locations: Arnold Palmer Airport (APA), Beaver Run Reservoir Rt. 380 Overlook (BRR), Donegal Lake (DL), Hunters Lane (HL), Keystone State Park (KSP), Kuehl Property – Murrysville (KP), Laughlin Farm Road and area (LFR), Love Hollow – Andy Mack Ligonier location (LH), Ligonier Valley Area (LVA), Mammoth Park (MP), Murrysville Community Park (MCP), Pleasant Valley Park (PVP), Powdermill Nature Reserve and Banding Station (PNR), Spruce Flats Bog (SFB), St. Vincent Lake and Reclamation Ponds (SVL); Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT) through MAWC Beaver Run Reservoir property (WHT-BR), from Delmont to Trees Mill (WHT-D).

The 5/14 Global Big Day by the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club organized by Steve Manns, contributed to significant reporting for the season that included some unusual species, substantial shorebird reporting at MP, and a significant total of warbler species.

Early Mar provided for two reports of **Greater White-fronted Goose**: one at SVL 3/4 (MF) and one at MP 3/7 (RC). Two **Trumpeter Swans** were photographed at MP when seen 3/1 (RC, SW), 3/2 (PF) and 3/3 (MH, RHi).

Dabbling ducks had modest reporting. **Wood Ducks** and **Blue-winged Teals** were widely reported. Highest counts for Wood Duck were at WHT-BR with 12 on 3/1, 14 on 3/5, and 12 on 4/16 (KB). **Northern Shoveler** was reported at just two locations: the earliest and highest count for this location was of 2 at DL 3/13 (AM), and the highest count at SVL was also on the earliest report date with 4 on 3/22 (RC). **Gadwalls** were reported at several locations; the high count was of 9 at BRR 3/3 (MH, RHi). SVL was the most productive location for Gadwall with reports beginning 3/2 with one (SW), the high count of 5 on 3/4 (MF), and the final report of the season of 3 on 4/10 (RC).

Of his several Mar reports, the high for all locations was of 8 **American Widgeons** at WHT-BR 3/10 (KB). The most productive location for American Widgeon was DL with an earliest report of 2 on 3/17 (SW) and 20 reports continued to 2 on 4/23 (PF). There were almost daily reports at SVL of **American Black Ducks**, with 3 on 3/8 to one 4/10 (RC). The high count of American Black Ducks was 6 at SVL 3/8 (RH, SM). Among the 7 reports for **Northern Pintail** was 24 at SVL 3/6 (MS, JT). MP was the most productive location for **Green-winged Teal** with 14 reports, with 2 on 3/5 (MJ) continuing with 3 on 4/5 (RC); the high was at SVL with 16 on 3/6 (JP).

Except for **Ring-necked Duck**, diving-duck reporting was also modest. No Canvasbacks were reported. **Redhead** was reported in modest numbers and at just several locations. The almost daily effort at SVL contributed to about 20 reports at that location 3/2-29 (SW, RC). The first half of Mar provided for substantial counts of **Ring-necked Duck** including 62 at SVL 3/5 (RC), 35 at Turner's Pond (KB), 58 at WHT-BR on 3/10 (KB) and 77 at Acme Dam 3/13 (AM). Unusual is that a rush of later reports for Ring-necked Duck occurred at DL in the short window of time 4/16-23, with some of the higher counts of 69 on 4/17 (AL) and 53 on 4/19 (ST).

Twelve **Greater Scaup**, were reported at SVL 3/6 (JP). DL was the most productive location for **Lesser Scaup**, with a high of 22 on 3/13 (AM). No scoters were reported, with the only report **Long-tailed Duck** of one at DL 4/19 (ST). **Buffleheads** were at scattered locations, although no higher counts than 12 at WHT-BR 3/20 (MC) and 12 on Loyalhanna L. at the Bush RA 4/3 (MC) were recorded. Reporting of **Common Goldeneye** was quite limited, with just one at Tubmill Res. 4/4 and 4/12 (AM).

**Hooded Mergansers** were at many scattered locations, and in good numbers at MP where all reports were on or before 3/15, and the highest count was of 20 on 3/4 (MF). **Common Mergansers** were also widely reported and included a very exciting report of newly confirmed breeding in LVA by a hen with 11 young that were in Loyalhanna Cr. along Rt. 381 between Laughlinton and Rector 5/10 (AL, TC). **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at three locations with these high counts: 3 at Mannitt L. 3/3 (MH, RHi), 5 at SVL 3/16 (JK), and 3 at BRR 4/3 (MH, RHi). **Ruddy Duck** was reported at several locations in low numbers with a high of 4 at SVL 4/18 (EC).

No Ruffed Grouse were reported; however, **Wild Turkeys** had numerous sightings, with a high of 26 on Ridge Road 3/20 (KB), and a healthy population at KP up to 4 toms joined an average of a dozen hens at the feeders on many days during Mar and Apr. As expected, **Pied-billed Grebes** were well reported with the high of 6 at DL 4/11 (AM), which was the earliest at that location. **Horned Grebes** were also reported at several locations, no higher than the 5 at ESL 3/3 (MH, RHi).

As expected, there were many reports of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and just several reports of **Black-billed Cuckoos**, including one at HL 5/10 (JLK, TK) and one at MCP 5/14 (EH, SMi). One **Common Nighthawk** was reported at MP 5/26 (MC), and 2 were seen a few days later nearby at Mutual Wetlands (MA). Nocturnal effort for the Global Big Day on 5/14 on Derry Ridge Road that crosses Chestnut Ridge provided for a report of one **Eastern Whip-poor-will** (RH, SM) and one was also reported at PNR 5/19 (AL).

**Virginia Rails** were at several locations, with photos at the Lower Reclamation Wetlands 4/22 (JLK, TK, MM) and of 2 at SVL at the reclamation ponds 4/30 (RC). A **Sora** was photographed at SVL 4/29-30 (RC), as was a **Common Gallinule** found in the morning at the Youngwood Swamp on the Five Star Trail 5/3 (JK, SMi). **American Coots** were reported with the high of 8 at DL 4/4 (GP). One **Sandhill Crane** was heard, not seen, on a walk at the CLR 5/19 (DL).

Mammoth Park effort spiked with 2 **Semipalmated Plovers**, one **Dunlin**, and one **White-rumped Sandpiper** early on 5/25 (SW). Excepting a report of 4 later that day (AB), one or 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** were reported daily at MP through 5/30 (PB). Likely the same bird found earlier in the day (SW) was the one Dunlin that was reported daily until a final report on 5/29 (PC, AH, JLK, TK, MM). Up to 3 **Least Sandpipers** were at MP 5/2-28 (LD, RH, SM). One or 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers** were at MP 5/21-29 (SiT, MW) with 3 on 5/30 (MA). One **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at MP 3/30 (RC); a high of 5 was there 4/2 (PB, RC). Six **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at MP 5/19 with 5 last there 5/30 (PB). PNR, whose sponsored Woodcock Walks was one of several locations, had 5 for **American Woodcocks** for the early evening 4/8 that included a silhouette photo of one (AB, DB). The high count for **Wilson's Snipe** was of 6 at Sewickley Wetlands (MF). **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, and **Greater Yellowlegs** were widely reported. There were fewer reports for **Lesser Yellowlegs**, however MP was productive from 4/16 (2 by AM), with a substantial count of 11 on 4/2 (LD, AL, GP), concluding with one 5/23 (RH, SM). Of note is that Semipalmated Plover, Dunlin, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Semipalmated Sandpiper were only reported at MP.

A sampling of the reports at several locations for **Bonaparte's Gull** included one at Northmoreland Park 4/6 (MVT), 4 at KSP 4/7 (AL), 6 at KSP 4/7 (GP), 4 at MP 4/13 (RC), 4 at DL 4/18 (AB), and the latest of 2 at MP 4/23 (DM). The high counts for **Ring-billed Gull** were 31 at MP 3/2 and 20 at SVL 3/3 (PF). **Caspian Terns** were found at MP with 2 on 4/11 (SW), and at DL with one 4/26 (DM). **Forster's Terns** were reported at DL on 4/16 with 3 in the morning and 4 later that day (PB).

The most productive location for **Common Loon** was DL with 2 reported there 4/21 (MC), 2 again 4/23 (MD), then one 5/15 (EH, SMi). **Double-crested Cormorants** were widely reported with the high of 40 at BRR 5/3 (RH, SM). A flyover of an **American Bittern** was heard at LH 5/12 (AM). One American Bittern was reported at PNR 5/15 (AL), and one at MP 5/30 (MA). The Galando Road rookery was active with 12 **Great Blue Herons** on nest 5/3 (JLK, TK). A **Great Egret** was photographed at MP 3/30 (RC), and at DL with 2 on 4/16 (AM), 2 on 4/18 (EH), and 2 on 4/21 (JLK, TK). One Great Egret was at KSP 4/29 (SW).

There were no reports with more than 2 **Black Vultures**. There were Black Vultures out of the LVA with one near Glengary Golf Links 5/7 (JK). At LVA was an early season report of one Black Vulture at LH 3/19, and a later report of 2 on 5/8 at the same location (AM). There were many scattered reports for **Osprey**. At the long-time DL nest, one Osprey was first reported 3/17 (SW), and there were many reports of one to 3 to May 22, when 2 were reported (AM). Excepting a report of one **Northern Harrier** at MP 5/30 (MA), other reports were in Mar or Apr, so most likely to have been migrating birds. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and **Cooper's Hawks** were widely reported.

On 5/11 a very large accipiter was seen on WHT-D (KB, LH ph). To eliminate the possibility that the bird could have been a **Northern Goshawk**

the photos were shared by county Compiler with several experts including Dr. Scott Stoleson, Research Wildlife Biologist with the USDA Forest Service in the Northern Research Station who researches **Northern Goshawks** in the Allegheny National Forest of northwestern Pennsylvania. The photos were adequate for Scott to declare, "It is truly an odd-looking, confusing bird -- but not a **goshawk**, alas." Scott then provided identification details to support his conclusion that the bird was a **Cooper's Hawk**. A full crop and large body indicated that this bird had eaten recently and certainly contributed to the large appearance of this Cooper's Hawk.

As expected, **Bald Eagles** were widely reported. Breeding was confirmed at the Ice Pond - Lady of the Lake nest 5/14 with 2 chicks on the nest and a nearby adult (JLK, TK). At KP one or 2 **Red-shouldered Hawks** were first reported 3/1 (JLK, TK) when 2 were seen and then were heard or seen on many days, including 5/31. **Broad-winged Hawk** had 2 on 5/10, with one on a partially built nest in Linn Run SP (JLK, TK). There was one **Eastern Screech-Owl** at PNR 5/11 (AL), 2 **Barred Owls** at WHT-BR 4/7 (KB) and one at KP 4/24 (JLK), one **Great-horned Owl** at KP 3/11 (JLK), and one **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at PNR 5/12 (AL).

The many May reports for **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** reflected its breeding in the Laurel Highlands, and, at lower elevations of likely migrants that included one at WHT-BR 3/2 and 3/26 and one at WHT-D 4/4 (KB). One male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker visited a woodpecker cake at KP 3/2-4/7 (JLK, TK). A nice addition to Global Big Day, one **Red-headed Woodpecker** was reported at Penguin Court Preserve outside of Laughlinton 5/14 (AM) and one was at Charlotte Drive in Ligonier 5/20 (AL). Global Big Day provided a **Peregrine Falcon** at the Beaver Run Res. 5/14 (TM). At the nest box on the Tarentum Bridge there were 3 chicks and one adult **Peregrine Falcon** 5/11 (JLK, TK).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was photographed at PVP 5/14 (EH, SM). Several late-season reports for **Alder Flycatchers** provided for the possibility of breeding in *Westmoreland*: at PNR 5/22 (MW, SiT), one at LH 5/22 (AM) and 5/28 (RH, SM), one at HL 5/25 (KS), and one at SFB 5/30 (KSJ). PNR had the most **Least Flycatchers** beginning with 3 on 5/1 (AL) and with 3 on 5/19 (AL). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were in the Laurel Highlands; one of the several reports at lower elevation was at PVP 5/20 (MC).

There were many scattered reports for **White-eyed Vireos**, including reports of 3 at MR 5/22 (SMi) and 3 at PVP 5/22 (EH). **Yellow-throated Vireo** was well reported primarily at lower elevations, while at higher elevations SFB was the most productive location for **Blue-head Vireos**, where one was 5/8 (SMi) to 5/30 (KSJ). As is often the case, all reports for **Philadelphia Vireos** were of birds banded at PNR with one on 5/13 and 5/14, then 2 on 5/17 (AL). **Warbling Vireos** were widely reported at lower-elevation locations, and **Red-eyed Vireos** were reported, well -- everywhere!

Unusual, one **Fish Crow** was reported on the Trafford end of WHT 4/10 (PB), then on 5/2 and 5/4 one **Fish Crow** did a calling-flyover at SVL (MH, RH). **Common Ravens** were extensively reported in both high- and low-elevation locations in *Westmoreland*, and apparently not appreciated by **American Crows** as 2 were harassed by **American Crows** at KP 4/17 (TK) and the same observed on WHT from the Sarah Steel Trailhead to Saltsburg 4/30 (JLK, TK). The only report for **Horned Lark** was the result of Global Big Day, with a photo of one of the two at Segar Drive, north of Derry, 5/14 (RH, SM).

High counts for the **Purple Martin** house at BRR were 15 on 5/5 (MM) and 15 again 5/14 (MM); at the house at MCP the high count reported was of 25 on 5/14 (EH, SMi). Two **Bank Swallows** were at KSP 4/7 (GP), one was at MP 5/28 (RH, AL, SM, GP), and one was reported there 5/30 (MA). MP, a nesting location for this species, was the most productive location for **Cliff Swallows** beginning with 8 reported 5/14 (AB), continuing with multiple reports, and ending with a high of 8 on 5/29 (AH).

There were many scattered reports for **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet**. SFB continued productive for **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, with reports including 2 on 5/10 (JLK, TK) and 5/30 (KSJ); at a lower elevation in Delmont, 2 visited feeders 3/4 (KB). One **Brown Creeper** was a regular at a woodpecker cake at KP 3/1-20; with scattered reports, 2 were at WHT-BR 3/28 (KB). On top of Laurel Ridge were 3 **Winter Wrens** 4/29 (DY). Four Winter Wrens were in a traditional breeding area in Linn Run SP 5/14 during Global Big Day (JLK, TK). The only report for **Marsh Wren** was a banding of one at PNR 4/24 (AL).

**Veery** is common in the Laurel Highlands; however, a bit unusual that one was at a KP feeder four times 5/3-13. One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was banded at PNR 5/22 (EC, PC), and in the field one was at MP 5/30 (MA). Captures of **Swainson's Thrush** were made at PNR, and field reports included one at LH 5/21 and one at SFB 5/22 (AM). Again, PNR bandings were of **Hermit Thrush**, and in the field, among reports at SFB were 2 tallied for the Global Big Day 5/14 (JLK, TK). The only report for **American Pipit** was of 5 at SVL 3/29 (RC ph).

Of a few reports for **Purple Finch**, which largely appeared to be feeder reports, one was of a male at KP feeders 3/9 (JLK, TK). No Pine Siskins were reported, however there were two reports for **Red Crossbill** in the Laurel Summit Rector-Edie Road area that is thick with spruce and other evergreen trees with 3 on 3/5 (PF), then 2 heard 4/29 (DY) that could provide some optimism for breeding in this area.

The LFR has been productive for grassland birds with a report for one **Grasshopper Sparrow** 5/4 (RC). The high-count noted for Grasshopper Sparrow was of 5 at APA 5/29 (JLK, TK, MM). A late date for this migrant species, one **American Tree Sparrow** was at PNR 4/7 (EC). **Fox Sparrows**, banded and identified by song, were at PNR 3/1-4/13; substantial counts of Fox Sparrows were there at apparently the peak migration time with 9 on 3/22 (EC), 10 on 3/24 (EC), and 8 on 3/25 (AL). Snow on 3/27 brought 16 **White-crowned Sparrows** to the feeders at a house outside of Scottdale (GS, MS). There were several reports of **White-crowned Sparrows** in early May. At Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve feeders, a reliable location, White-crowned Sparrows were reported on many days beginning with 3 on 3/5 (PCu) to one 5/8 (PCu).

An adult **Harris's Sparrow** was photographed on Arnel Road outside of Latrobe 5/3 (ST) and 5/5 (JM). **Savannah Sparrows** included one in LFR on Segar Drive 5/14 (RH, SM), one at Shield's Farm in Delmont 5/18 (KB, PF), 2 on APA 5/29 (JLK, TK, MM), and one at MP 5/30 (MA). Banding at PNR of one **Lincoln's Sparrow** was made for 4/24, 5/15, 5/17 and 5/18. A Lincoln's Sparrow was photographed at WPT-D 5/10 (LH); another was at CLR 5/14 (RH, SM).

It has been unusual to have several reports for **Yellow-breasted Chat** for the season. At MR one was reported on 5/15 (AB), and one was there 5/22 (SMi). A group of Todd Bird Club Members reported a Yellow-breasted Chat at the Conemaugh River L.'s Livemore to Indiana County border 5/21 (MH, RH, JT), and one was in LFA 5/30 (MH/ RH). There were scattered reports of **Bobolinks**; a new location was Shield's Farm with 2 found there with 3 **Eastern Meadowlarks** 5/18 (KB, PF). Long a reliable location, 5 Bobolinks were at Allen Road at Rt. 381 during 5/14 Global Big Day (JLK, TK). Reports for Bobolink around LH included one on 5/5 and 4 on 5/28 (RH, SM). Effort in the LFR and on roads near Pizza Barn Road provided a substantial number of reports for Eastern Meadowlark including 2 on LFR 3/19 (SMi), 3/31 (RC) and 4/12 (RC). Near Pizza Barn Road there were 2 on 5/7 (SM) and, on Bergman Street, 3 on 5/14 (RH, SM). Meadowlarks in other areas included 7 in the Crabtree Farm area 5/14 (MM) and 2 at Mutual Wetlands on Pollins Road 5/29 (JLK, TK, MM); 2 were at APA 3/20 and 4/16 (AM). **Rusty Blackbirds** seen were 3 at WHT-D 3/2 (PF), 3 at MP 3/5 (MJ), and 3 at SVL on 3/8 (RC).

There were an amazing 37 warbler species, including one hybrid, reported. The only reports for **Worm-eating Warblers** were at PNR: one on 4/26 and 5/8 (EC). Several reports for **Northern Waterthrush** away from PNR included one at DL 5/4 (AL) and 2 at SVL 5/4 (MH, RH). The only reports for **Golden-winged Warblers** were 2 seen together in the morning of 4/28 on the WHT-D (KB), and one seen again in the late afternoon (PF). More reporting of **Blue-winged Warblers** included one on WHT-D 4/29 (KB), one on HL 5/10 (JLK, TK), one at MR beginning on 5/15 and on 5/20 (RH, SM), and at MR 5/22 (SMi). There were 2 Blue-winged Warblers reported at KSP 5/19 (SW). Three observers, including Tammy Colt of the PGC, reported a sighting of a **Brewster's Warbler** hybrid that was singing a Blue-winged Warbler song at HL 5/18.

A **Prothonotary Warbler** was photographed at DL 4/17 (AL) and reported until 4/20. **Orange-crowned Warblers** were banded at PNR: one on 4/27 and one on 4/28. A **Mourning Warbler** was at SFB 5/22 (AM). There was one **Connecticut Warbler** on WHT-D 5/8 (KB). PVP was the most productive location for **Kentucky Warbler** with an earliest report of one 5/3 (LH), a report of 4 on 5/14 (EH, SMi), continuing until one 5/27 (MC).

Migrating **Cape May Warblers** were hard to find but included one at Armbrust Road on the Five Star Trail 5/8 (JK), on Derry Ridge Road 5/21 (SMi), and on Mt. View Road off Rt. 711 on 5/22 (AM). There were few reports for **Bay-breasted Warbler**, however some high counts on 5/14 Global Big Day were 3 at MCP (EH, SMi) and 5 on Derry Ridge Road (RH, SM). Of the several reports for non-capture **Blackpoll Warblers** at PNR were one on Derry Ridge Road 5/14 (RH, SM) and of 2 at SVL 5/19 (SMi). Good reporting of **Palm Warbler** including a high count of 5 at DL 4/29 (ME). An early **Pine Warbler** was at Bushy Run Battlefield 3/21 (MC), and one was at PNR 4/27-28 (AT). One **Prairie Warbler** was reported on the Coal & Coke Trail near Scottsdale 4/23 (AB) and one at PNR 5/1 (AL). One **Wilson's Warbler** was at PNR 5/1 (EC), one on WHT-D 5/9 (KB) and one at PVP 5/14 Global Big Day (EH, SMi).

A **Summer Tanager** at PNR 4/27 was described as a "Magnificent male moving on top of the canopy with the other tanager. Red wings and tail as opposed to the black ones" on the **Scarlet Tanager** (LD, AT).

Observers: **Tom Kuehl, 3615 Hilty Road, Export, PA 15632, 724-325-1918, tjkuehl@comcast.net**, Mark Alt, Paul Brant, Alex Busato, Daniel Busato, Ken Byerly, Tommy C, Michele Carlson, Emily Case, Richard Chirichello, Pat Comas, Pamela Curtin (PCu), Michael David, Luke DeGroote, Laetitia Desbordes (LDs), Melissa Easter, Mike Fialkovich, Patience Fisher, Eric Hall, Rebecca Hart, Amy Henrici, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee (RH), Linda Huber, Matt Juskovich, Jim Kellam, Janet Lee Kuehl (JLK), Dennis Lauffer, Annie Lindsay, Andy Mack, Steve Manns, Mark McConaughy, Jeff McDonald, Sue Miller (SMi), Donna Mohny, Tom Moser, Gustav Pettersson, Joseph Pumford, Kathy Saunders, Georgia Shalek, Mike Smith, Kate St. John (KSJ), Mark Strittmatter (MSt), John Taylor, Alexandre Terrigeol, Shannon Thompson, Simon RB Thompson (SiT), Steve Wagner, Mark Welford, David Yeany II.

**Wyoming County**  
**No report Submitted.**

#### **York County**

Locations: Codorus State Park (CSP), Gifford Pinchot State Park (GPSP), Hopewell Township Park (HTP), Lake Redman (LR), Lake Williams (LW), Long Arm Reservoir (LAR), Rocky Ridge County Park (RRCP)

The period's 215 species, plus a hybrid and exotic, were a new Spring period high. Better highlights included **Common Gallinule**, an "off-river" **Little Gull**, a **Pacific Loon**, 34 warbler species including an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, and an all-too-brief backyard feeder visit of a **Painted Bunting**.

A pair of **Trumpeter Swans** put in a long stay at GPSP 3/1-4/22 (CB, JC, et al). A nice 247 **Tundra Swan** count came from GPSP 3/3 (M&SS). Several broods of **Wood Ducks** produced a 63 count at GPSP 5/4 (TC, RK). Rarely in double-digit numbers in York, up to 10 **Blue-winged Teal** were at Sheppard Myers Reservoir 4/6-10 (JO, BR, LW), and GPSP held up to a baker's dozen 3/5-5/2 (m.ob.). Four sites produced **Northern Shoveler**, but no count exceeded 5 birds. GPSP held up to 45 **American Wigeons** 3/1-16 (m.ob.) A **Mallard x American Black Duck** was identified at GPSP 3/4-7 (DH, SV). **American Black Ducks** were scarce with only two sites reporting, limited to a 3-bird max. A better **Northern Pintail** count of 40 birds came from GPSP 3/1-7 (m.ob.).

**Canvasback** was limited to 4 birds at GPSP 3/3-5 (m.ob.). A nice **Redhead** flock of 35 birds was at CSP 3/3 (EV). **Greater Scaup** was found at five sites 3/3-4/25 (m.ob.) while some better flock sizes of **Lesser Scaup**, 37 and 60 birds, showed at GPSP 3/2 (N&WW) and CSP 3/10 (JW), respectively. A good find in the waterfowl group, a **White-winged Scoter** was at GPSP 3/1-6 (JC, CE, et al). **Common Goldeneye** reports found up to 3 birds at GPSP 5/1-13 (m.ob.) and 4 at CSP 3/6 (JO).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were found at 13 sites while **Black-billed Cuckoos** were found at SVCP 5/12-18 (BR) and CSP 5/21 (EV). The only **Common Nighthawk** report was a perched bird at GPSP 5/11 (TC, RK,

AM). It was an impressive **Virginia Rail** showing: up to 4 birds at Nixon C.P. 4/11-5/15 (m.ob.), one at LW 4/18-22 (BR), and one at LR 4/8-5/1 (m.ob.). These sites are within two miles of each other. A **Sora** was at LR/LW 4/20-5/4 (m.ob.). Very rare for the county, a **Common Gallinule** was a flyover observation at GPSP 5/2 (RK). A nicely photographed in-flight **Sandhill Crane** was over CSP 4/11 (EB).

Shorebirding was reasonable. A pair of **Semipalmated Plovers** was at LW 5/15 (DA) and up to 12 were at LR 5/6-28 (m.ob.). A single **Dunlin** was at LR 5/19-24 (m.ob.). High count for **Least Sandpiper** was 45 at LW 5/15 (DA). A single **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at LR 5/1-6 (CE, BR, DW). LR/LW produced the **Semipalmated Sandpiper** report with up to 6 birds 5/15-29 (m.ob.). A one-day visit 5/19 (m.ob.) brought 4 **Short-billed Dowitchers** to LR. **Solitary Sandpiper** was not so solitary when 25 were counted at LR 5/8 (MC, BP). Six sites reporting **American Woodcock** was a plus, and an impressive 13 count came from Dover Twp 3/1 (DC). **Wilson's Snipe** also enjoyed good reporting with five sites holding birds and a nice 8 count along Pinchtown Rd 3/12 (CB).

Likely the strongest **Bonaparte Gull** showing in many years, five sites reported birds with three of those sites producing counts of 23 to 39 birds 3/22-4/16 (m.ob.). Extremely rare inland of the Susquehanna R., a **Little Gull** was at CSP 4/4 (NM). This date/timeframe also had sightings on the river, a distance of 30 to 35 miles. Also uncommon away from the river, a pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** was at LW 4/23 (DC, AM, BR, RS). Two **Great Black-backed Gulls** were in York airspace 3/1-6 (MC, EE, EV) at Shanks's Mare, and a single was over Wrightsville 3/20-21 (JCo, BR). Four reports of **Caspian Terns** spanned 4/9-5/4 (m.ob.) with a 9-bird count at LW 4/9 (MC). A good spring find was a **Black Tern** at CSP 5/24 (JV). Three sites produced **Forster's Terns** 4/6-5/3 (m.ob.), but no count exceeded 2 birds.

A fairly cooperative **Pacific Loon** afforded photo opportunities at CSP 5/19-25 (KL, et al). At times, it was in the company of up to 4 **Common Loons**. York records appear to indicate that this is only the second Pacific Loon report, the prior one being a June 1998 bird at LAR and CSP. **American Bittern** singles were found at CSP 3/30-4/9 (EB, et al) and LR 4/5-6 (m.ob.). The Kiwanis L. mixed rookery produced high counts for **Great Egret** of 28 birds and 16 **Black-crowned Night Herons** 4/14 (DCa). A nice surprise, a **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was at GPSP 4/25 (JD).

A strong **Black Vulture** count of two kettles comprising 120 birds were over York Twp 5/9 (AP). The rest of the diurnal raptor reporting was typical. HTP held up to 2 **Short-eared Owls** thru 3/10 (BR). **Red-headed Woodpecker** sightings came from 25 sites with a high counts of 5 at HTP 4/22 (DF) and 5/25 (BR). A **Merlin** was seen in York Twp 3/5 (CK), and one explored LR/LW 3/20-4/23 (AMc, BR). A **Peregrine Falcon** pair were over Wrightsville 3/25-31 (RN, BR).

Flycatcher highlights included an **Alder Flycatcher** at GPSP 5/16 (TC, AM) and four sites reported **Least Flycatcher** 5/2-29 (CB, TC, RK, AMa, BR, DY). Vireo notables were an 8 count of **White-eyed Vireo** at GPSP 5/1 (AWi) and 5 **Yellow-throated Vireo** at GPSP 5/16 (TC, AMa). **Horned Larks** were found in small numbers at five parcels 3/14-31 (m.ob.). A 3/18 (BR) **Barn Swallow** at LW was dramatically early. The established **Cliff Swallow** colony at CSP produced a max count of 20 birds. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** were found at seven sites with 5/15 being the latest report.

Always a good find, single **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were at GPSP 5/11 (SG) and CSP 5/15-17 (MH, EV). A nice **American Pipit** count of 40 birds came from Shank's Mare 3/13 (ML, BR). Up to 90 **Cedar Waxwing** were found along Green Valley Rd 3/3 (J&ND). Sixteen sites reporting **Purple Finch** were led by an eight count at Fairview Twp 4/18 (JC). The lone **Pine Siskin** report was a single bird at Rosenmiller Woods 3/14 (JF).

HTP held up to 20 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 5/4-31 (m.ob.), and a pair were at LAR 5/22-30 (EV). **American Tree Sparrow** continues to be a challenging find. Singles were at GPSP 3/1 (SV) and LR 3/14 (CE). Always nice to report in this season, a **Vesper Sparrow** was heard at Emig School Rd 5/6 (DA), and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** was at GPSP 5/4 (TC, RK). **Savannah Sparrow** and **Swamp Sparrow** continue to enjoy good spring reporting with seven and 12 sites holding them, respectively.

Strong **Yellow-breasted Chat** reporting was evident also as seven sites produced birds 5/11-31 (m.ob.). Even more impressive were nine sites producing **Rusty Blackbird** reports with a very high count of 67 birds in

Hanover 3/26 (SK). HTP produced a nice 30-bird flock of **Bobolinks** 5/3 (DC) and the high count for **Eastern Meadowlark** totaling 18 birds 4/11 (AS).

Despite a nice warbler migration, this compiler continues to wonder why the long-term warbler migration hotspot at RRCP seems to have lost some of its attractiveness. This is now the third consecutive spring season when reporting trends are down at this location. Fortunately, birders have found other productive spots, and reporting of warbler species have remained high. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was found along the Rail Trail 5/5 (AM, RS). A pair of **Prothonotary Warblers** were at Brunner Island 5/12-29 (DA, CM, BR) and Lock 12 held a single bird 5/23-28 (N&WW, AWy). Single **Tennessee Warblers** were found at GPSP 5/7 (DA), RRCP 5/10 (AS), and Ski Roundtop 5/18 (CH). The clear warbler highlight was a rarely found **Orange-crowned Warbler** at GPSP 4/30 (AW). Church Rd produced the only **Mourning Warbler** report with a bird 5/19 (AW).

A **Cerulean Warbler** found the Lock 12 area to its liking 4/30-5/17 (DA, DHo, JWH), and a single was at Indian Steps 5/22 (DA). A strong 78 count of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at GPSP 5/4 (TC, RK) was the total of several flocks of a dozen or more birds. **Yellow-throated Warbler** singles were at GPSP 4/23-28 (EBE, RK) and Indian Steps 4/30 (DA). The sole **Wilson's Warbler** report was a bird at GPSP 5/10-11 (SG, SLW). **Blue Grosbeak** reports came from Gut Rd 5/4-11 (CE, SG), HTP 5/9-29 (m.ob.) and the Mt. Wolf area 5/29 (DA).

The highlight for the period was a very short 10-minute stay of a photographed male **Painted Bunting** at a Shrewsbury Twp backyard feeder 4/14 (RP). To this compiler's knowledge this is the third county record, preceded by a May 1945 bird "along the river", and a 4/6-17/2004 bird seen by many at Saginaw.

*Exotics:* Single **Chukar** were seen in York Twp 3/23 (AP) and at Sam Lewis SP during the week of 4/2 (JWH).

Observers: **Phil Keener, 198 Jacobs Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, 717-259-9984, pittche74@yahoo.com**, David Arrow, Ed Bernot (EBE), Chuck Berthoud, Evan Brooks, Debra Carman (DCa), Dick Cleary, Jady Conroy, Troy Corman, Jessica Coss (JCo), Mary Creager, Jon Dale, Jennifer & Nathan Derr, Chad Ehrhart, David Farner, James Flinchbaugh, Scott Godshall, Jim & Wendy Hill, Daniel Hinnebusch, Carolyn Hoffman, David Hooper (DHo), Matt Hunter, Chuck Kling, Ramsay Koury, Meredith Lombard, Craig M, Andy McGann (AMc), Annette Mathes (AMa), Nicholas Minnich, Anne Murren, Randall Nett, Jacob Owings, Brandon Pentz, Ralph Perrone, Ann Pettigrew, Bob Reiter, Matthew & Susan Schenk, Anne Simmons, Robin Smith, Evan Vaeth, Jeff Vinosky, Steve Voorhees, Scott & Carol Walker, Dan Watkins, Jean Wheeler, John Whitesell (JWH), Anne Wilhelm (AWi), Andrew Wolf, Nina & Warren Wolf, Andy Wyatt (AWy), Daryl Yetman.

**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](mailto: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**



Dunlin at Mammoth Park, Westmoreland 25 May. (Mark McConaughy).

Rare in Allegheny, these Short-billed Dowitchers spent a few hours at Gold Star Mothers Wetland before continuing migration 19 May. (Dean Newhouse)

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

1. Publication Title: **Pennsylvania Birds**
2. Publication Number **2905**
3. Filing Date **09/10/2022**
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: **X 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)		367	350
b. Paid Circulation	(1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541.	352	324
	(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))		352	324
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	1	1
e. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		1	1
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		353	325
g. Copies Not Distributed		14	25
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)		367	350
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		104	104
b. Total Paid Print Copies (15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (16a)		352	324
c. Total Print Distribution (15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (16a)		353	325
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, 2022 issue of this publication).
  18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Date  
 Franklin C. Haas, Treasurer, 09/10/2022
- I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

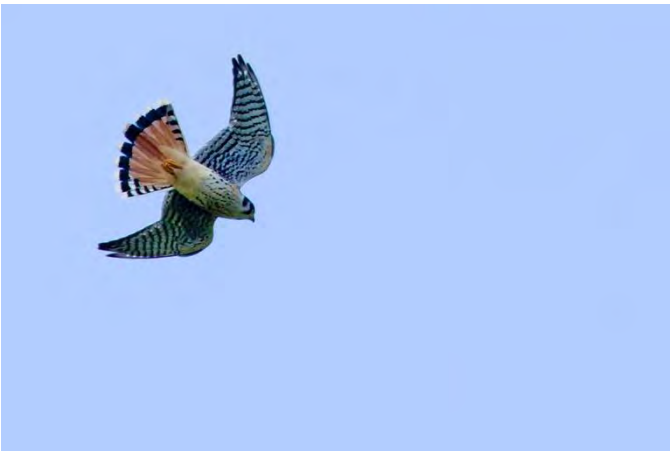
## IN FOCUS – American Kestrel



**American Kestrel** in Lower Nazareth Twp., Northampton 4 April, 2022. (Dave DeReamus)



**American Kestrel** at Victory Park, Mifflin 4 April, 2018. (Rob Dickerson)



**American Kestrel** in Big Valley, Mifflin 2 August, 2017. (Rob Dickerson)



**American Kestrel** at Spruce Hill, Juniata 3 February, 2017. (Rob Dickerson)