

The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Todd Bird Club

July 2010

Meetings

Todd Bird Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month, September through April, at Blue Spruce Lodge in Blue Spruce County Park, located just off Route 110 east of the town of Ernest. Arrive early to socialize. Refreshments are provided at each of our meetings. In May we hold our banquet meeting which starts at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 1 - Ross Gallardy will present a program about the eight months he spent studying abroad on the Gold Coast of Australia along with the 33-day road trip around Australia that he took during his break between semesters. He will talk about how birding is different in Australia compared to here in the states and discuss the various habitats present in Australia and the birds that associate with them.

Ross, a student at the University of Pittsburgh, will graduate in December with a major in finance. After graduation, he plans to attend the USMC officer program.

Ross has been birding since he was nine years old and has chased many rarities in the US. In addition, he has birded in Australia, Canada, Ecuador, New Zealand, and Peru. Don't miss this interesting program!

Tuesday, October 5 - Nearly forty species of Wood

Warblers breed in eastern North America. Although some, like the Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers, are abundant winter residents in Florida, most are inter-continental migrants that winter in the American tropics. In spring they journey to northern forests to breed. Smaller than a chickadee, some, like the Blackpoll Warbler, cover thousands of miles, from northern Canada to South America – nonstop over the Atlantic Ocean.

Suddenly and ephemerally abundant during spring migration, a glimpse of a Blackburnian Warbler or an

American Redstart has turned many casual observers into hard-core birders. Naturalist and photographer Chuck Tague will explore the life-style of these birds, their habitats, and threats to their survival on their breeding grounds, their winter range, and the many stopovers in between.



A glimpse of a Blackburnian Warbler has turned many casual observers into hard-core birders.

Photo by Chuck Tague

Chuck Tague founded and published the *Nature Observer News*. The *Nature Observer* was a monthly journal for educators and naturalists in western Pennsylvania, and featured articles and information on the natural history of the

area. He currently publishes a blog on the [Nature Observer website](#).

Mr. Tague is a long-time bird enthusiast. He presents classroom and assembly programs on birds and ecology in schools and nature centers all over western Pennsylvania. He also developed and leads Nature Journaling

Workshops for Home School Associations. He writes the Bird Watch column for the [Three Rivers Bird Club](#) and was the Important Bird Area (IBA) Coordinator for Raccoon Creek Valley from 2002 to 2008.

Mr. Tague has been President of the [Wissahickon Nature Club](#) since 1997. Previously, he was the Education Curator at the Pittsburgh Aviary (now the National Aviary) and wrote commentary for the *Allegheny Front*, Pittsburgh's only locally produced radio environmental program.

He leads outings for the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, Three Rivers Birding Club, River Quest, and Nine Mile Run Watershed Association.

In 2009 the Group against Smog and Pollution honored Mr. Tague as one of Pittsburgh's forty environmental heroes. He received the 2002 W. E. Clyde Todd Award from the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania for his "significant contributions furthering the cause of environmental conservation in Pennsylvania." He also received a 1997 National Conservation Medal from the Daughters of the American Revolution, was a finalist for the Three Rivers Environmental Award in 1998, and was named Outdoor Person of the Year by the Butler Outdoor Club for 1998.

Tuesday, November 2 - Todd member Marge Van Tassel will share her favorite photos at our November meeting. Marge is a retired Administrative Secretary from the University of Pittsburgh in Oakland and spends much of her time birding Crooked Creek and the surrounding areas in Armstrong County. This year she began monitoring the 27 bluebird boxes at Crooked Creek as a USACE volunteer. She also attends many Tuesday morning Todd outings and the occasional Saturday or special outing at Yellow Creek. She moved to the Leechburg area in 2005, where both she and a son who lives with her have observed a variety of birds on the Kiski River across from their home. They also feed the birds in their yard. A few nice finds have also been observed at the nearby Parks Industrial Park, which includes a small pond, brushy habitat, and a meadow besides the businesses contained in the park. Marge has birded extensively the past several years and has taken innumerable photographs. Don't miss this interesting program.

Tuesday, December 7 - Dr. Jeffery Larkin will give us an update on the Golden-winged Warbler Project at this meeting. Details will be provided in the October *Nuthatch*. This is also our Christmas Cookie Extravaganza. Please bring a dozen cookies to share.

Outings

Tuesday Morning Outings at Yellow Creek will continue until deer season. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office located on Rt. 259 just off Rt. 422 east of Indiana. Everyone – from beginner to expert birder – is welcome.

Saturday, August 21 - Blacklick Natural Area, led by Lee Carnahan (724-465-7323). From Indiana, take Route 56 to Armagh; turn left (or east) onto Route 22. Continue past the Dilltown exit to McFeaters Road on the left, and follow McFeaters to the parking lot at the end of the road. We will meet here at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 28 - Yellow Creek State Park, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). Meet at the park office at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 4 - The Mahoning Shadow Trail, led by Tom Glover. Meet at the Rose Run parking area at 6:30 a.m. From Indiana, take Rt. 119 north to Rt. 210. Turn left onto Rt. 210 for 1.6 miles. Where Rt. 210 makes a sharp left, continue straight on Valier Road toward Valier. Go through the railroad underpass and proceed about 1000 feet; turn right onto Fordham Road. You will be about 2.5 miles from the Rose Run access. Continue past the Fordham Trail Head for the MST, making left - right - left turns in Fordham. Note the oxbow lake on your left in Fordham. Fordham Road becomes No. 8 Road. Follow No. 8 Road down a hill to the parking area at the bottom. This walk will cover two miles between Rose Run and Gresock Road. This section parallels the Mahoning Creek and includes fields and other open areas created by gas wells that offer diverse habitats. We will park at Rose Run and stage a vehicle(s) at the Gresock access for the return trip to Rose Run. Of course birding will be our focus, but the history associated with the trail will be discussed as we walk.

Saturday, September 11 – Blue Spruce County Park, led by John Taylor (724-397-2040). Be prepared to hike. This outing will focus on the warbler migration. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the large parking lot across from the park office.

Saturday, September 18 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Sue Dickson. Meet at 8:00 at the park office.

Saturday, September 25 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-465-7323). Meet at 8:00 at the park office.

Saturday, October 2 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Gloria Lamer (724-349-1159). Early migrating waterfowl will be the target species for this outing. Meet at 8:00 at the park office.

Joint Todd-Westmoreland Picnic

Once again this year Dan and Marcy Cunkelman have graciously invited members and friends of the Todd Bird Club and the Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club to their home for a picnic beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 22. Please bring a covered dish to share. Sloppy joes, non-diet drinks, and table service will be provided. If you require a diet drink, please bring your own.

Please note that their daughter Dana is extremely allergic to strong odors. Please do not use insect repellent or perfumes. Marcy will have repellent available if it is necessary.

Our annual picnic also includes a tour of Marcy's yard. Bring your binoculars and a lawn chair.

Please e-mail (plant4nature@dishmail.net) or call (724-459-7229) to let the Cunkelmans know that you plan to attend.

Birds' Parenting Methods Vary

by Marge Van Tassel

I find it so interesting to observe different bird species and how they court, mate, then nest and raise their young. Perhaps they are not so different from us humans, as there are those who are very good parents, and those who are not, and of course a few fall in the middle.

While sitting at my computer, I watch hummingbirds frequenting the nectar feeder I conveniently placed on a small wrought-iron trellis between bushes. Often I have a hard time concentrating on what I am trying to accomplish because of the antics of the hummers. Several times I have observed the arcing between two males that resembles a pendulum until one had enough and approached the other briefly at a "standstill" in midair. After the males drink, they perch on the trellis or a branch nearby and preen. Sometimes the female is chased away if she approaches for nectar at the same time. The males just like to mate with as many females as possible but leave the rest to the females. The females build the nest, defend the nest, and raise the young.

Now, the bluebirds are a different story. One bluebird box I have observed at Crooked Creek contains the third nest this season. One day as I sat in my car for almost an hour, I watched a male bluebird fly off in search of food for his brood and return with little worms several times. The female at this particular box returned with a small fruit or seed, which it pecked on top of the box before perching at the opening to feed the young. I had seen her a few times

before this day sitting on her nest while Dad stood by. I observed the male also cleaning house or doing diaper duty, however you prefer to think of this chore. He emerged from the box carrying a small white fecal sac, flew off fairly far, returning about five minutes later. Besides these fatherly tasks, he of course also often sat on top of the box, guarding his little family and watching over them. If there was a "Father of the Year" award for birds, I would certainly nominate this little guy.

From the Co-President's Desk...

I hope everyone is having a great summer and getting to do lots of birding. When traveling, don't forget to pack your binoculars and bird guides. I noticed on the several trips I took this summer, that almost all the state welcome centers have brochures on the best places to go birding. You never know when that little side trip may yield a "life" bird.

If you are traveling in the Virginia Beach area, take time to visit the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum. It is located on the boardwalk at 1113 Atlantic Avenue and has the convenience of having its own parking lot. The de Witt Cottage, the home of the museum, was built in 1895 and is the oldest remaining structure on the city's ocean-front. Inside the Museum, visitors view examples representing the evolution of the art of decoy carving using primitive tools to more elaborate and expressive carvings and art work of today. Several carvers are usually practicing their craft and are anxious to share their knowledge with visitors. The Museum has two interactive computer exhibits. One program provides pertinent data about migratory birds indigenous to the Atlantic Flyway. The Museum also houses original oil and watercolor paintings, antique wildfowl carvings, a library with books and artifacts from the 1930s, and shelves stocked with a wide variety of locally carved decoys as well as other unique gifts. The museum staff is anxious to talk to you about birding and will direct you to the best birding areas for the time of year you are visiting.

If you would like to take a day trip, visit "Old Smicksburg Park." It is a beautiful place to spend some time along Little Mahoning Creek. The paths are well mowed, there are benches to rest on, and the birds are plentiful. Afterward enjoy the town of Smicksburg with its shops and excellent restaurants. I am a little partial since I grew up in that area. Enjoy the rest of the summer, and I hope to see you Tuesday mornings at Yellow Creek, at our club picnic, or at our first meeting in September.

Happy birding!

— Donna Meyer, Co-President

Summary of Results of Annual Mid-winter Bald Eagle Surveys Conducted in the Pittsburgh District between 1979 and 2010

Over the 32 years that the Pittsburgh District of the US Army Corps of Engineers has participated in the Annual Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey, wintering Bald Eagle populations have dramatically increased in the Allegheny, Monongahela, and upper Ohio River basins (including western Maryland, southwestern New York, northeastern Ohio, western Pennsylvania, and northern West Virginia). The Pittsburgh District's survey results for the period 1979-2010 clearly document the regional recovery of this "special status species." For the first 16 years of the survey (1979-94) the total numbers of Bald Eagles recorded annually in the Pittsburgh District numbered in single digits, ranging from no eagles observed in 1979, to a high of six in 1987. The numbers increased significantly in 1995 when a total of 15 were reported. During the period 1995-2001, totals ranged from 11 to 17 eagles recorded annually. The numbers increased even more dramatically in 2002 when 30 eagles were observed, followed by totals ranging from 36 in 2004, to as many as 70 in 2008 (the high count for the Pittsburgh District). A total of 60 eagles was recorded in 2010.

Another trend documented over the period of record is the increased distribution of wintering eagles around the Pittsburgh District from 1979 to 2010. This trend is reflected in the increased numbers of facilities in the Pittsburgh District recording eagles over this time period. During the first 16 years of the survey (1979-1994), Bald Eagles were recorded at only one to three projects in any given year. Eagles were recorded at five to seven projects per year during the period 1995-2001. Since 2002, eagles have been recorded at 10-17 projects per year.

– Mike Fowles, Fish and Wildlife Specialist



Tom Glover points out the song of a Black-and-white Warbler to participants Lee Camahan and Marge Van Tassel.

Baltimore Oriole Foraging on Tent Caterpillars

by Thomas N. Glover

While birding the Mahoning Shadow Trail (MST) on Sunday, May 9, 2010, I got the opportunity to observe a female Baltimore Oriole feeding on tent caterpillars. I birded the section of the MST starting at Cloe and walked to the two-mile post from the Winslow road terminus and back. I started about 7:00 on a very cold morning. In fact, at one point I had to take shelter under a hemlock as I was pelted by a heavy shower of sleet. But as the morning progressed, the weather did improve. On my way back just beyond the three-mile post, I came upon a clump of small cherry trees about 15-20 feet tall by an open field. As I passed this clump, I heard a commotion in one of the trees about 10 feet off the trail. About 8 feet off the ground a female Baltimore Oriole was busily eating tent caterpillars. The bird did not seem to mind me as I watched it feed. I was fascinated by the technique she used to deal with the hairy caterpillars. She probed the nest and selected only the large plump caterpillars, totally disregarding the smaller ones. After she made her selection, she hopped to a branch next to the nest, and while holding the caterpillar down against the branch with one foot, the oriole used its bill to strip from the belly side, the soft innards of the caterpillar, and in turn, she ate the soft tissue. On further inspection of the tree I noticed dangling from the branches around the tent caterpillars' nest were numerous empty, hairy, skinned-out carcasses.

I was fascinated with this observation and explored on the internet "Baltimore Orioles feeding on tent caterpillars." I was surprised to find a number of citations on this subject. On further research, I found that a number of different bird species feed on tent caterpillars. The most commonly mentioned were the cuckoos, both the Black-billed and Yellow-billed. But also mentioned were White-breasted Nuthatches, Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Bluebirds. I found one notation of particular interest by J. Kenneth Terres of the Soil Conservation Service, Ithaca, New York:

"On May 20, 1935, I twice observed the Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens virens*, feeding upon American tent caterpillars, *Malacosoma americana*, about ten miles north of **Indiana, Indiana County, Pennsylvania**. During each observation, the individual warblers descended from hemlock growth at the woodland's edge to a grove of young wild black-cherry trees, *Prunus serotina*, where they tore open the nests and devoured the small larvae in some quantities. The larvae at this time were about three-quarters of an inch in length."

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Thanks to everyone who made a trip to the Smicksburg Park to add data to our database so that we may compile a checklist of birds for the Indiana County Parks and Trails. Those who have submitted data so far include Mary Assenat, Vernon and Jean Blystone, Lee Carnahan, Sue Dickson, Ed Donley, Betsy Fetterman, Roger and Margaret Higbee, Donna Meyer, and Marge Van Tassel.

More data is needed, so if you are willing to make a trip to Smicksburg, please do so and submit your data to Margaret Higbee via e-mail (bcorirole@windstream.net) or phone (724-354-3493).

Congratulations to AJ!

Ten-year-old AJ Lassick was the recipient of this year's youth scholarship to the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology's meeting at Erie May 14-16. AJ has been attending and actively participating in our Todd meetings for the past year.

AJ attended the PSO meeting with his grandparents, Gary and Theresa Adams, and had a great time seeing new birds. He took advantage of the opportunity to visit the banding station where the banders allowed him to release several of the birds after they had been banded.

AJ also attended the Presque Isle outings on both Saturday and Sunday. PSO members enjoyed AJ's company and delighted in sharing their scopes with him for better views of the birds. Always enthusiastic, AJ didn't lag behind. He was good at spotting birds in the trees, and he added several new species to his list. The highlight of the meeting was the sighting of an American White Pelican off Beach 11. That's not a bird that is often seen in Pennsylvania. Congratulations, AJ!



AJ Lassick enjoys the conversation at the PSO banquet.

Birding the Mahoning Shadow Trail

by Thomas N. Glover

The Mahoning Shadow Trail (MST) is a rail-to-trail project that runs generally east to west in southern Jefferson County. The trail is 15.2 miles long with its western terminus in the Fordham/Valier area, just north of the Indiana County line. Its eastern terminus is on Winslow Road east of Punxsutawney.

The MST offers ample opportunity to view wildlife, plants, and birds over a wide range of habitats. The first mile from the Fordham/Valier terminus is dominated by wetlands, and the three miles off the Winslow Road terminus is located in a wooded landscape. Most of the length of the MST runs along the Mahoning Creek, but the trail passes by hayfields, meadows, unmaintained open areas, and urban landscapes. The middle section, which includes three miles of the MST, passes through the borough of Punxsutawney. The trail is well maintained, with gentle grades, and is easily accessed about every two miles along its full length. The MST is used by walkers, hikers, joggers, and bikers; but motorized vehicles and horses are not permitted. People who use the trail are courteous, and those with dogs commonly leash their dogs as they pass.

On Monday, June 14, 2010, a small group of birders (members of the Tuesday Yellow Creek crew) including Marge Van Tassel, Lee Carnahan, and Margaret Higbee, joined me to bird 2½ miles from the Fordham/Valier terminus to the No. 8 Spring and back. We started about 6:30 a.m. and returned to the parking lot at 12:45 p.m. The weather was cloudy and threatened rain for most of the morning. The temperatures started out in the 60s but had warmed to the 80s by the time we finished.

We saw or heard 57 species of birds on our outing. We found a number of common birds, including American Crows, Red-eyed Vireos, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Gray Catbirds, but we were treated with a number of the more colorful birds – Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles, and Eastern Bluebirds. The warblers were well represented with Chestnut-sided Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and American Redstart as well as Yellow, Black-and-white, Hooded, and Black-throated Green Warblers. We also found Song, Chipping, Swamp, and Field Sparrows. The most spectacular sighting was spotting two Bald Eagles.

On the next page is a list of the birds that we encountered on our June 14 field trip:

Birds Sighted along the MST

2 Bald Eagles	4 American Robins
1 Cooper's Hawk	19 Gray Catbirds
1 Broad-winged Hawk	7 European Starlings
2 Mourning Doves	5 Cedar Waxwings
3 Chimney Swifts	6 Yellow Warblers
2 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds	1 Chestnut-sided Warbler
1 Belted Kingfisher	1 Black-throated Green Warbler
3 Red-bellied Woodpeckers	2 Black-and-white Warblers
1 Downy Woodpecker	2 American Redstarts
3 Hairy Woodpeckers	5 Ovenbirds
3 Northern Flickers	1 Louisiana Waterthrush
2 Pileated Woodpeckers	8 Common Yellowthroats
2 Eastern Wood-Pewees	2 Hooded Warblers
3 Acadian Flycatchers	1 Scarlet Tanager
2 Willow Flycatchers	9 Eastern Towhees
2 Eastern Phoebe	3 Chipping Sparrows
2 Great Crested Flycatchers	3 Field Sparrows
28 Red-eyed Vireos	8 Song Sparrows
2 Blue Jays (CF)	6 Swamp Sparrows
12 American Crows	6 Northern Cardinals
1 Northern Rough-winged Swallow	6 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks
2 Barn Swallows	6 Indigo Buntings
9 Black-capped Chickadees	17 Red-winged Blackbirds (FL)
1 Tufted Titmouse	1 Eastern Meadowlark
2 White-breasted Nuthatches	4 Common Grackles
3 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers	3 Brown-headed Cowbirds
2 Eastern Bluebirds	3 Baltimore Orioles
2 Wood Thrushes	1 Purple Finch
	2 American Goldfinches

Let's Go Birding!

Ted Floyd has written a new 32-page book entitled *Let's Go Birding* to entice beginning birders to improve their skills. Ted Floyd, now the editor of the American Birding Association's magazine, *Birding*, began his birding career in Pittsburgh where he was mentored by none other than Todd member Jack Solomon. According to Bill Schmoker who contributed the book's photos, "...there are nuggets of wisdom within for birders and wildlife watchers of any experience level. It would make a great stocking-stuffer for anyone interested in birds, particularly young birders and folks interested in getting more serious about enjoying and appreciating wild birds." For a limited time, it is available free if you join ABA, or it may be obtained for \$4.95 from Buteo Books (800-722-2460).

Outing Revisited

Yellow Creek State Park - April 3: Eighteen birders enjoyed the annual spring joint Todd-Three Rivers Birding Club outing at Yellow Creek. The morning started in the high 40s, but the temperature rapidly rose into the 70s. The weather was beautiful – sunny skies, warmth, and a gentle breeze. We had barely arrived at the park office when a Louisiana Waterthrush burst forth in song across the road and three Mallards flew over. The day's only Pine Warbler called from the trees along Laurel Run, an unusual location as we normally see them in the main recreational area and not at the park office.

We headed first to the maintenance building to check Dragonfly Pond as well as the lake. Flying around the bluebird boxes were at least 10 Tree Swallows. Out on the water were 8 Lesser Scaup, 3 Buffleheads, and a Pied-billed Grebe. Roger spotted an Osprey perched in an oak on the north shore. After everyone had scope views of the birds, we continued to the boat launch where we estimated the flock contained 80 Bonaparte's Gulls. Three Ring-billed Gulls were flying about while another stood on the point of the beach. In the distance we spotted the white cheek patches of 2 Ruddy Ducks.

Our next stop was in the main recreational area where a Swamp Sparrow was singing from the marsh and a Purple Finch, from the pines. We walked back to the bridge over Little Yellow Creek where Carol Guba spotted a Louisiana Waterthrush bobbing along the stream at a distance of only 25 feet from us. A flock of 5 Double-crested Cormorants flew overhead, and at least 3 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted. More Purple Finches appeared, and Rusty Blackbirds were calling as they flipped leaves in the wetland area. The 7 Rusties put on a nice show, flying about and landing for all to see. Ian Haigh reappeared to tell us that he had walked along the edge of the marsh and flushed a Wilson's Snipe. A Ruffed Grouse started drumming from the woods. We continued walking toward Rt. 259. Near the intersection we heard a Field Sparrow and an Eastern Meadowlark before we retraced our steps.

Returning to our cars, we next stopped near the portable toilet. Ian Haigh, aka Snipe Man, did it again. He spotted through dense shrubbery yet another Wilson's Snipe. We were able to locate the snipe in our scopes, so everyone had a good look. What a great find! A walk to the beach yielded many of the same species we'd already listed including another sapsucker.

We returned to our vehicles and drove to the observatory trail parking lot. A Fox Sparrow, singing near the entrance to the trail, was most cooperative affording good views for everyone. Along the trail we added the season's first Yellow-rumped Warblers. At the observatory were 3

Gadwalls, a Ring-necked Duck, 6 Buffleheads, one Hooded Merganser, 3 Pied-billed Grebes, 2 Horned Grebes, and (thanks to coot counter Richard Nugent) 93 American Coots. Across the lake toward the dam were 5 scaup, but the distance was too great to determine which species.

Thirteen of us headed to the Chinese buffet in Indiana where we enjoyed lunch and more conversation. We had tallied 49 species and had enjoyed great fun birding with friends in good weather.

– Margaret Higbee

Pontoon Ride Yields Least Bittern

May 25 - Seven of us showed up at 4:00 a.m. at the south shore boat rental at Yellow Creek for our annual pontoon ride. Participants included Mary Assenat and Alex, Lee Carnahan, Sue Dickson, Margaret Higbee, John Kilmarx, Gloria Lamer, and Mike Shaffer. This was one of our warmer early morning expeditions – it wasn't windy, rainy, or cold!

Mike steered the boat toward the dam. As we approached the cattail and reedy vegetation, he cut the motor and we sat listening after we had reviewed the calls of the various marsh birds on a CD. Shortly after dawn we heard a Least Bittern calling in the distance between Grandpa's and Grandma's Cove. All of us could not hear the bird clearly, so Mike started the boat, and we headed around the sea of vegetation to a better vantage point. The bittern continued to call as we got closer and closer. Mike cut the motor and permitted the boat to drift nearer the vegetation before lowering the anchor, allowing us some stability so we could scope the vegetation from which the bird called. Within a few minutes, we spotted amid the cattails the bird's head and bill as it continued its "coo coo coo" calls. The crown and back were very black, contrasting with its bright red unfeathered lores and orangish yellow bill. Peering through the cattails, we could also see its buffy underparts and dull yellow legs. The bird moved slowly and methodically, continuing to call continuously for at least 30 minutes. The seven of us were mesmerized by this sighting of this rather secretive bird. We took turns staring through the scope when we weren't using our binoculars. The bittern continued moving to our right until it finally disappeared from sight and quit calling. It was only then that we left.

We continued into the coves observing at least 11 Wood Ducks and young Canada Goose goslings. We watched Eastern Kingbirds gathering nesting material, and actually spotted the nest site of one pair. It was hard to

concentrate on the cacophony as we were still excited about our earlier find. Willow Flycatchers, Wood Thrushes, Scarlet Tanagers, and Swamp Sparrows were all singing. Two Common Loons in basic plumage swam and dived, reappearing good distances from the spots where they had submerged.

We headed back to shore at 7:45 to discharge a few passengers and to pick up our 8:00 arrivals. Because of previous commitments, Sue, John, Mary, and Alex departed, and Marge Van Tassel arrived. Unfortunately, we missed Tom Glover who had forgotten about the scheduled trip and was apparently watching us from the shoreline. Mike steered the pontoon into Little Yellow Cove where we spotted four Mallards. We continued uplake along the south shore toward the shallow end. A



Smiles are always the norm for Mary Assenat, but seeing the Least Bittern didn't hurt.



Sue Dickson was another happy pontoon participant.



Wearing the glowing smiles of success are our captain Mike Shaffer, John Kilmarx, and Lee Carnahan.

Double-crested Cormorant stood on a partially submerged log with its wings extended. White-eyed Vireos were calling from the shrubby edges, and Willow Flycatchers sang their "fitz bew" songs. When the water became too shallow to proceed, Mike turned the boat toward the north shore. Along the muddy edges we listed five Spotted Sandpipers. Warblers, too, were singing and included Yellow, Magnolia, Pine, Blackpoll, and Hooded Warblers, Ovenbirds, and Common Yellowthroats. Overhead were raptors – single Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks and a kettle of four Broad-winged Hawks. We returned to shore before noon, still basking in the joy of noting 55 species, including one gorgeous Least Bittern.

Indiana - Armstrong - Cambria County Report

Spring - March 1 through May 31, 2010

Please submit your reports at the end of each month to Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934 or e-mail to bcoriole@windstream.net.

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Crooked Creek Park (CC), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Indiana (IN), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Leechburg (LB), Lewisville (LV), Manorville (MV), Margaret (MG), Prince Gallitzin (PG), Robb's Fording (RF), Robinson (RB), Shelocta (SH), Smicksburg Park (SP), Two Lick Reservoir (TL), University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Yellow Creek Lake remained almost completely frozen through mid-March while Glendale Lake did not thaw until late March. Only a small area where Yellow Creek enters the lake was open on 3/9; even Little Yellow Cove, which usually thaws early, was completely frozen. Waterfowl numbers were the lowest we've seen in years with many high counts less than one third last year's numbers.

A flock of 35 **Snow Geese** flew over YC 3/7 (BF,TF). **Canada Goose** maxima included 44 at KR 3/18 (MH) and 33 at CC 5/21 (MVT); March 9 (LC,JD,SD,MH,MVT) yielded the top **Canada Goose** count of 196 and the first 162 **Tundra Swans**, all passing overhead at YC. Another 23 swans passed through YC 3/16 (LC,MH,GL); the last noted were 3 on the lake 3/21 (LC).



Small flocks of Ruddy Ducks stopped at YC on various dates throughout the season.

First **Wood Ducks** were 9 listed near LB 3/11 (MVT); 14 appeared 3/16 (LC,MH,GL) at YC while 2 were reported at PG 3/17 (JS). March 16 (LC,MH,GL) marked the arrival of the first 2 **Gadwalls** and one **American Wigeon** at YC. The high count of 20 Gadwalls occurred 3/19 (EF,MF) and 3/23 (LC,MH,GL) while the season's last was a singleton 4/17 (LC,EF,MF,MH,RH), all at YC. Top American Wigeon count was 15 at YC on 3/19 (EF,MF); 3 stopped at CC the following day (MM); the last reported individual occurred 4/29 (LC,MH,GL,MVT) at YC. **American Black Ducks** arrived at YC 3/13 (LC,MH,RH), at KR 3/18 (MH), and at PG 3/21 (MH,RH). Top YC counts (very low!) of 14 black ducks and 14 **Mallards** occurred 3/19 (EF,MF). A wet field near SH yielded 32 Mallards 3/14 (MH,RH). **Blue-winged Teal**, with all reports of 6 or fewer, first showed up 3/26 (LC) at YC; last spotted were 2 at YC 5/11 (LC,MH,TG). Single **Northern Shovelers** were found on four dates at YC between 3/21 (LC) and 4/20 (LC,MH,BJ); two were listed 4/13 (LC,MH,GL,MVT); KR hosted 2 shovelers 4/15 (MH,RH). Four **Northern Pintails** 3/19 (EF,MF) and one 3/21 (LC) at YC were the only reports. Two **Green-winged Teal** arrived at YC 3/16 (LC,MH,GL); numbers peaked at 12 at YC on 3/19 (EF,MF) while last reported occurred there 4/6 (LC,MH,FM,JM,MVT). One to 2 **Canvasbacks** were listed at YC between 3/19 (EF,MF)

and 3/23 (LC,MH,GL); 2 at nearby Margus Lake 3/21 (MH, RH) may have been the YC birds. YC yielded only 2 **Redheads** 3/21 (LC) and one on 3/27 (SBo,SD,BF,GL, JK). **Ring-necked Ducks** appeared first at YC 3/13 (LC, MH,RH), and at KR 3/18 (MH,RH); their numbers, too, were down with the best tallies of 107 at PG 3/17 (JS) and 94 at YC on 3/23 (LC,MH,GL); last reported were 3 at YC 4/29 (LC,MH,GL,MVT). Three **Greater Scaup** stopped at YC 3/16 (LC,MH,GL); one was still present at YC 3/21 (LC); the only other individual reported was one at Margus Lake 5/8 (GL,GS). KR yielded the first 2 **Lesser Scaup** 3/18 (MH); Lesser Scaup maxima included 62 on 3/26 (LC) and 60 on 4/11 (EF,MF), both counts at YC. A **White-winged Scoter** was a nice find 5/22 (LC,SD,MH,RH) at YC. **Long-tailed Duck** reports at

YC included the first one 3/21 (LC), 2 on 3/23 (LC,MH,GL), and 20 on 3/26 (LC); TL also yielded 8 on 3/26 (LC). **Bufflehead** reports included 9 at MV 3/1 (MVT), 2 at Rosston 3/6 (MH,RH), 6 at KR 3/18 (MH), and 10 at PG 3/21 (MH,RH); Buffleheads did not appear in their usual high numbers at YC with best count a mere 47 on 3/21 (LC); last reported was one at YC 5/22 (LC,SD,MH,RH). A single **Common Goldeneye** at PG 3/25 (JS) was the season's lone report. **Hooded Merganser** maxima included 17 at MV 3/6 (MH,RH), 12 at KR 3/18 (MH), and 19 at YC 3/21 (LC). During the past 10 years, **Common Mergansers** have become much more common on the streams in our area, possibly indicating an improvement in water quality. KR harbored 25 Common Mergansers on 3/17 (MF); one on 3/23 (LC,MH,GL) was YC's lone report; 3 stopped at PG 3/25 (JS). SP, located along Little Mahoning Creek, yielded 5 on 4/7 (MH) while a pair remained on Little Mahoning Creek through the end of the season (v.o.); another pair remained at CC through 5/9 (MVT); yet another pair was seen on the MG BBS 5/31 (MH,RH). First **Red-breasted Merganser** arrived 3/16 (LC,MH,GL) at YC and 3/17 (JS) at PG; top tallies included 21 at YC 3/23 (LC) and 17 at KR 3/31 (MH); last noted were 13 at YC on 4/29 (LC,MH,GL,MVT) and 6 at KR 4/30 (KB). Thirty-four **Ruddy Ducks** landed at YC 3/23 (LC,MH, GL), the high count; last reported were 12 at YC (GL,GS),

Photo by Marge Van Tassel



Steve Gosser photographed the season's first Green Heron at Crooked Creek April 22.



Marge Van Tassel photographed this Killdeer in Park Twp., Armstrong Co., on April 26.



A Red-necked Phalarope was a great find in Croyle Twp., Cambria Co., on May 24.
Photo by Matthew Hunt

including one melanistic, and one at Hemlock Lake (MH,RH), all 5/8.

Only 5 **Ruffed Grouse** were counted on this year's IN PAMC (v.o.), but an equal number were noted at PG on 4/3 (AW). **Wild Turkeys** were mentioned at many locations with largest flock including 50 n. of IN 3/13 (SB); that flock had gradually dwindled to 5 individuals by 5/30 (SB); turkeys numbered 13 near LB 3/1,5 (MVT).

A **Common Loon** was spotted at MV 3/1 (MVT), possibly the same bird that had been present on the Allegheny at KT since 2/21; the first arrival at PG occurred 3/31 (JS) while YC's first arrived 4/6 (LC,MH,FM,JM,MVT); 8 landed at KR 4/30 (KB) where 2 were still present 5/20 (KB); last noted was one 5/25 (MA,LC,SD,MH,JK,GL,MS) at YC. Two **Pied-billed Grebes** first appeared at YC 3/20 (LC) and at PG 3/21 (MH,RH); *Armstrong's* reports included singletons at CC 3/30 (MVT), at KR 4/7 (MH), and at CC 4/28 (MH,JV). YC's rather low top count of only 12 occurred 4/11 (EF,MF). **Horned Grebes** numbered 22 at YC on 3/23 (LC,MH,GL); last reported was one at YC 5/8 (GL,GS). A **Red-necked Grebe** appeared at PG 3/25 (JS) while KR yielded an amazing 5 on 4/30 (KB).

Among many, **Double-crested Cormorant** reports included the first singleton at MV 3/1 (MVT), the first 4 at PG 3/25 (JS) and 5 at YC 4/3 (TBC,3RBC), the high of 41 at YC 4/17 (LC,EF,MF,MH,RH), 21 at KR 4/30 (KB), and 1-4 at CC between 4/11-5/9 (MVT); one lingered at YC into June.

The Plum Creek heronry contained only 3 active **Great Blue Heron** nests 5/9 (JT). The season's high-light occurred 5/25 (MA,LC,SD,MH,JK,GL,MS) on a 4:00 a.m. YC pontoon ride when a **Least Bittern** began calling shortly after dawn; MS carefully and slowly drove the pontoon toward the calling bird until all were able to get great scope views and a few poor digiscoped pictures as the bird continued to call. First **Green Herons** arrived at

at CC 4/22 (SG), at PG 4/24 (JS), and at YC 4/29 (LC,MH,GL,MVT).

First **Turkey Vultures** were spotted near LV 3/8 (MC), at YC 3/9 (LC,JD,SD,MH,MVT), and at UPJ 3/27 (AW). **Ospreys** moved through YC between 3/27 (SB,LC,SD,BF,JK,GL) and 5/11 (LC), but again none stayed to nest; HL hosted one 4/4 (PP), and one flew over a yard near LV 4/14 (MC). Another visited CC 4/28 (MH,JV) and 5/4 (MVT). Three **Bald Eagles**, including 2 adults, were observed at PG 3/19 (JS). The 5 Bald Eagle reports at YC included an immature bird 3/27 (SB,LC,SD,BF,JK,GL), an adult 4/23-24 (LC,MH,RH,GL,DL,MVT), and 2 adults sitting side by side 4/29 (LC,MH,GL,MVT); 5/8 (GL,GS) yielded an immature bird. A sub-adult flew over SH 4/7 (MH). Bald Eagles nested again this year at CC with two young in the nest on 4/30 (MF). KR yielded 2 Bald Eagles 4/30, 5/20 (KB).

Sharp-shinned and **Cooper's Hawks** were respectively listed at 13 and 11 locations during the period. **Broad-winged Hawks** arrived 4/10 both at Nolo (GL) and at YC (LC,SD,MH,RH,FOP) and 4/30 (KB) at KR. A light morph **Rough-legged Hawk** was a nice find near YC 3/16 (MA). A **Merlin** was present near Edgewood 3/2 (LC,MH); another was seen at YC 5/10 (JT).

A **Virginia Rail** at PG 4/24 (JS) was the season's lone report. The YC **American Coots** peaked at only 93 on 4/3 (TBC,3RBC), a continuation of the decline in numbers using YC; 2 lingered through 5/4 (LC,TG,MH,GL,RN,TP,MJS). A **Sandhill Crane** circled over YC 4/6 (LC,MH,FM,JM,MVT).

With the goose fence erected in early April to block the beach and with the high water levels in Little Yellow Cove, shorebirds were deterred from stopping at YC. A **Semipalmated Plover** fed in Little Yellow Cove at YC 5/8 (EF,MF). Single **Greater Yellowlegs** visited YC on 4 days between 3/26 (LC) and 4/27 (LC,TG,MH,GL,TP,MJS); a singleton flew over a yard near LV

5/7 (MC). **Solitary Sandpipers** moved through YC between 4/20 (LC,MH,BJ) and 5/11 (LC,TG,MH). First 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** landed at PG 4/24 (JS) while CC hosted the first 2 on 4/26 (MVT); 5 were tallied there the following day (MH,JV); YC's arrival date was 5/4 (LC,TG, MH,RN,TP,MJS); 6 was KR's best count 4/30 (KB). Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** stopped at PG 5/12 (JS), a **Least Sandpiper** visited TL 5/8 (PJ), and one **Dunlin** appeared at PG 5/12 (JS), the lone reports for these three species. First **Wilson's Snipe** was found at YC 4/3 (TBC, 3RBC) while last noted occurred there 4/24 (LC,MH,RH, MVT). First **Am. Woodcocks** were listed 3/10 (MC) near LV, 3/12 (MA) at Creekside when 3 were tallied, and 3/16 (DG,JS) at PG where another 3 were flying. Other reports included one at Nolo 3/26 (AB,DB), one near Ford City 4/6 (JV), and 3 near MG on 5/31 (MH,RH). One was still performing its mating ritual in Dark Hollow 5/26 (EF,MF, MH,RH). A **Red-necked Phalarope** was a great find 5/24 (RA,MHu) in Croyle Twp., where it was photographed.

Bonaparte's Gull moved through our region between 3/19 (EF,MF) and 5/8 (EF,MF,GL,GS,JS); 37 visited CC 3/31 (JS); 31 stopped at CC 4/10 (MVT); estimated top tallies at YC included 200 on 4/11 (EF,MF) and 250 on 4/13 (LC, MH,GL,MVT). The highest **Ring-billed Gull** counts were 13 at PG 3/21 (MH,RH), 80 at PG 3/25 (JS), 75 at YC 4/20 (LC,MH,BJ) and 26 at KR 4/30 (KB). The Allegheny River yielded 5 **Herring Gulls** at Kittanning and 3 at Rosston 3/6 (MH,RH); 2 moved through YC 4/13 (LC,MH,GL,MVT) while a singleton was spotted at YC 4/24 (LC,MH,RH, MVT). Two **Caspian Terns** at YC on both 4/29 (LC,MH, GL,MVT) and 5/8 (EF,MF,GL,GS) and one at KR 5/20 (KB) were the only ones reported. A flock of 33 **Common Terns** arrived at YC 5/8 (EF,MF,GL,GS); KR yielded 3 on 5/20 (KB). First 2 **Forster's Terns** appeared at YC 4/6 (LC,MH,FM,JM,MVT); 3 were present at YC 4/24 (LC,MH, RH,MVT); one stopped at KR 4/30 (KB); and 3 visited PG 5/8,12 (JS); and 2 were seen at YC 5/8 (GL,GS). Last noted were 4 at PG 5/15 (JS). A **Black Tern** at dusk on 5/8 (EF,MF) was the only one reported.

Cuckoo arrival dates included 5/5 at BS (MA) and near SH (MH) for **Black-billed Cuckoo** and 5/8 (ED,JT.) near RB for **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**. **Eastern Screech-Owl** was noted only at LV (DC,MC) and SH (MH) this season; **Great Horned Owl** was reported only near SH (MH,RH) throughout the period, and one was heard at CC 4/10 (MVT). Two **Barred Owls** were hooting at 4:30 p.m. at BS 3/16 (MA); one was listed near SH between 3/16 and 4/12 (MH,RH); another was hooting in Dark Hollow 5/26 (EF,MF,MH,RH) and a pair was at Nolo 5/29 (AB,DB). (v.o.). More than the usual **Common Nighthawk** reports were received. Single nighthawks were observed at YC 5/8 (EF,MF,GL, GS), near LV 5/14-16 (MC), at KR 5/20 (KB), and at Nolo 5/21 (CL,GL); 2 were flying over KT 5/19 (MH,RH) and 2 were counted at YC 5/22 (LC,SD,MH,RH).

First **Chimney Swifts** were found 4/29 (LC,SD,MH,RH) at YC. First **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** arrived 4/30 (MC) near LV, 5/1 (MA) near Creekside, and 5/2 (MVT) near LB.

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was a nice find 5/6 (ED) near SH, where it spent the day in Ed's yard. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** appeared at CD 3/18 (MF); a pair exhibited pair behavior at Nolo 4/2 (GS); one lingered on Reservoir Hill 4/25 (PJ).

The SP yielded an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** 5/13 (MA); the last 2 seen in the region were at Jacksonville 9/14/2006 (EF,MF). Three **Eastern Wood-Pewees** had returned to BS by 5/7 (MH,ML). First **Acadian Flycatcher** was found 5/8 (GL,GS) near Nolo. May 8 also yielded the first **Willow Flycatchers** near LV (MC) and near Tide (LC). BS yielded the first **Least Flycatcher** 5/7 (MH,ML) while TL produced another 5/8 (PJ). The earliest **E. Phoebes** occurred 3/17 both at BS (MH) and at IN (MC); Nolo's first appeared the following day (AB); 3 had arrived at CC 3/22 (MVT). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were first found at CC 5/3 (MVT), at SP 5/6 (MH), and at BS 5/7 (MH,ML). **Eastern Kingbird** returned 4/30 (MVT) at RF and 5/4 (LC, TG,MH,GL,RN,TP,MJS) at YC.

Vireo dates of return included 5/8 (v.o.) across *Indiana* for **White-eyed Vireo**; 4/10 (LC,SD,MH,RH,FOP) at YC and 4/17 (AW) at UPJ for **Blue-headed Vireo**; 5/1 (LC,SD,MH, RH,JT) at BS for **Yellow-throated Vireos**; 5/8 (v.o.) at various locations for **Warbling Vireo**; and 5/1 (LC,SD,MH, RH,JT) at BS for **Red-eyed Vireos**. Seven **Fish Crows** were found in IN 3/14 (MH,RH); a singleton was listed several blocks away 5/20 (SG). **Common Ravens** were reported regularly from YC and Nolo throughout the period (v.o.). The CC ravens were on nest once again this spring (MVT). A flock of about 100 **Horned Larks** remained near Iselin 3/3 (MC) while 29 lingered near Worthington 3/6 (MH,RH). Single **Purple Martins** visited YC 4/24 (LC,MH, MVT), CC 5/29 (MVT), while another was spotted at YC 5/8 (GS); PG hosted 4 on 5/15 (JS). Arrival dates included 3/19 (EF,MF) for **Tree Swallow**, 4/6 (LC,FM,JM,MH,MVT) for **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, 4/24 (LC,MH,RH, MVT.) for **Bank Swallow**, 4/17 (LC,EF,MF,MH) for **Cliff Swallow**, and 4/10 (LC,SD,MH,RH,FOP) for **Barn Swallow**, all at YC. At least 30 dead Barn Swallows were recovered by the maintenance men at YC in April after the extended cold spell. **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports included one on Reservoir Hill 4/25 (PJ), one near Parkwood 5/8 (JSm,LS,LSt,RS), and one near Penn Run 5/10-12 (BF,TF); one to 2 remained near SH through 5/30 (MH, RH); one on the Parkwood BBS was a first-time occurrence 5/30 (MH,RH).

First **House Wren** returned 4/12 (MH) near SH. **Winter Wrens** sighted included singletons at YC 3/16 (LC,MH, GL), at PG 4/3 (AW), and at CC 4/10 (MVT). A **Marsh Wren** in a tangle of brambles at SP 5/6 (MH), totally out of habitat, was relocated 5/13 (MA). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** arrived 3/27 (AW) at UPJ and 4/10 (LC,SD,MH, RH,FOP) at YC. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** appeared near LV 4/8 (MC) and at CC 4/16 (MVT). Tom Betts reported unexplained losses of three **Eastern Bluebird** broods near Marion Center this season.

The only **Veeries** reported were one near LV 5/8 (DC,MC,AD) and 2 near Tide 5/8 (LC). Two **Swainson's Thrushes** were noted near RB (ED,JT) while another was at SGL 174 (MH,RH), on 5/8; a single bird was observed at CC 5/21 (MVT). Four **Hermit Thrushes** were listed at PG 4/3 (AW); Reservoir Hill yielded one individual 4/16,25 (PJ); one visited UPJ 4/17 (AW); another was along the road below the Gypsy strips 5/8 (MH,RH). First **Wood Thrushes** appeared 4/29 (LC,MH,GL,MVT) at YC and 4/30 (MVT) at CC. First **Gray Catbird** returnees arrived at YC 4/13 (LC) and at CC 4/30 (MVT). **Brown Thrasher** was seen first 4/7 (MC) near LV and 4/16 (MVT) at CC.

Once again this year warblers dribbled through our region with no major fallouts. First **Blue-winged Warblers** were found at CC 4/30 (MF) and at BS 5/1 (LC,SD,MH,RH,JT). A four-note "winged-warbler song" was heard on the MG BBS 5/31 (MH,RH). **Tennessee Warblers** began migrating through our county 5/8 when 4 were noted at TL (PJ), 2 were in Montgomery Twp., and one was at CD (EF,MF); last noted was one at SP 5/21 (LC,BF,MH). Amazingly, the only **Nashville Warbler** reported this spring was one at BS 5/7 (MH,ML).

Northern Parula arrived 4/16 (MF) both at Cochran's Mill and CC and 5/8 at two locations: BS (RW) and YC (GL,GS). First **Yellow Warblers** appeared 4/27 at YC (LC,TG,MH,GL,TP,MJS) and 4/30 (MF) at CC. Other warbler first dates included 5/4 (LC,TG,MH,GL,RN,TP,MJS) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at YC; 5/6 for **Magnolia Warbler** at both SP (MH) and CC (MVT); 5/20 (SG) for **Cape May** at IN, the lone report; 5/7 (MH,ML) for **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at BS; and 4/3 (3RBC,TBC) for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at YC. Best Yellow-rumped Warbler count was 27 at YC 5/10 (JT); 8 at YC 5/11 (LC) were last. Earliest **Black-throated Green Warblers** occurred 4/20 both at Nolo (GL) and near YC (MH) while **Blackburnian Warblers** were first sighted 5/8 (v.o.) on the PAMC. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were noted at CD 4/8 (MF), at CC 4/30 (MF), and near RB 5/8 (ED,JT). **Pine Warblers** returned near SH 3/14 (MH), at YC 3/30 (LC,MH), and at PG 4/3 (AW); Pine Warblers were on territory near SH through the end of May. The Jacksonville area yielded the season's first **Prairie Warbler** 5/7 (EF,MF). The only **Palm Warbler** this spring was one at YC 5/11 (LC,TG,MH). Single **Bay-breasted Warblers** were observed 5/8 both at YC (EF,MF) and at TL (PJ), the season's only reports. **Blackpoll Warblers** were first recorded 5/8 (LC) near Tide; other reports included as many as 11 at YC 5/22 (LC,SD,MH,RH) and last noted were 6 at YC 5/25 (MA,LC,SD,MH,JK,GL,MS). **Cerulean Warblers**, all reports 5/8, included one at CD (EF,MF), one near RB (ED,JT), and 2 near LV (DC,MC,AD); CC yielded one 5/23 (MVT). First dates included 4/30 (MF) at CC and 5/7 (MH,ML) at BS for **Black-and-**

white; 4/30 (MF) at CC and 5/1 (LC,SD,MH,RH,JT) at BS for **Am. Redstart**, 5/13 (MA) for **Worm-eating Warbler** at SP; and 4/23 (LC,MH,GL,DL) at YC and 4/26 (MVT) for **Ovenbird** at CC. A **Northern Waterthrush** was singing at its traditional location below the Gypsy strips 5/8 (MH,RH); YC harbored 3 on 5/10 (MH) and one the following day (LC,TG,MH). **Louisiana Waterthrush** was first found at YC 4/3 (TBC,3RBC) and at CC 4/11 (MVT). Other first dates included 5/8 (v.o.) at five locations for **Kentucky Warbler**, 4/5 (extremely early) (MVT) at CC and 4/27 (LC,TG,MH,GL,TP,MJS) at YC for **Common Yellowthroat**, and 5/4 (LC,TG,MH,GL,RN,TP,MJS) at YC for **Hooded Warbler**. A **Wilson's Warbler** at BS 5/20 (MH) comprised the entire report for this species. **Canada Warblers** were



This striking Rose-breasted Grosbeak was photographed at Crooked Creek by Marge Van Tassel on May 9.

listed 5/8 (PA) near YC, 5/8 at TL (MH,RH), and 5/20 (MH) at BS. Four PAMC parties yielded the first **Yellow-breasted Chats** 5/8 (v.o.) with the best count of 5 near LV (DC,MC,AD); a chat was singing at RF 5/29 (MH,RH).

First **Scarlet Tanagers** surfaced at YC 4/24 (LC) and at CC 4/30 (MF). First returning **Eastern Towhee** occurred 3/10 (MC) near LV. **Am. Tree Sparrow** lingered 3/17, both n. of IN (SB) and at the IN mall (MC), and till 3/25 (ED) at Yatesboro. YC produced the first **Chipping Sparrow** 3/21 (LC). The only **Vesper Sparrow** was found near SP 5/28 (MA). Single

Savannah Sparrows were spotted at PG 3/21 (MH,RH) and at YC 4/23 (LC,MH,GL,DL). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were singing near SH 5/29 (MH,RH) and on the MG BBS 5/31. A nocturnal trip to the West Lebanon strips added only one **Henslow's Sparrow** to the PAMC count (MC,AD) as it was rather windy. **Fox Sparrows** moved through our area between 3/13 (LC,MH,RH) and 4/3 (TBC,3RBC,AW); best count of 6 was achieved at UPJ 3/27 (AW). The season's only **Lincoln's Sparrow** was spotted at YC 5/10 (MH). Observers at four IN locations (v.o.) and at Yatesboro (ED) noted the last **White-throated Sparrows** 5/8. **White-crowned Sparrows** were recorded between 5/4 (LC) when 4 were present at YC and 5/11 (LC,TG,MH) when 4 were again counted at YC; YB yielded one on 5/8 (ED). A **Snow Bunting** was seen at Alverda 3/10 (DR).

Arrival dates were 4/28 (CL,GL) for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Nolo and 5/6 at SP (MH) for **Indigo Bunting**. At least 2 **Bobolinks** were at CC 4/30 (MF) while 5/8 (v.o.) marked their return at three *Indiana* locations; 3 were sighted at RF 5/29 (MH,RH). By 3/19 **E. Meadowlark** had returned at both West Lebanon (EF,MF) and at PG (JS). **Rusty Blackbirds** were once again in low numbers with all reports but one at YC; first arrivals were 14 on 3/13 (LC,MH,RH); 19 was the best count 4/13 (LC,MH,GL,MVT) while a single bird 5/8 (EF,MF) was last. At CC 2 rusties were present 4/16 (MVT). Both **Orchard Oriole** and **Baltimore Oriole** were first listed at BS 5/1 (LC,SD,

MH,RH,JT), but the first Baltimore was noted at KR the day before (KB).

Observers: Regina Allen, Moose Anderson (MAn), Pat Andrascik, Mary Assenat, Alice Beatty, Sid Blair, Susan Boser, Ken Byerly, Lee Carnahan, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Jennie Dickson, Susan Dickson, Ed Donley, Erma Dovenspike, Anita Duffalo, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Sue Gatti, Tom Glover, Steve Gosser, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Matthew Hunt (MHu), Bob Jackman, Pat Johner, John Kilmarx, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Mary A. Little, Mark McConaughy, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Richard Nugent, Top Pearson, David Rossi, John Salvetti, Mary Jane Seipler, Mike Shaffer, Jared Smelko, Linda Stormer, Luke Stormer, Roger Stormer, Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Josie Valasek, Marge Van Tassel, Andrew Wicks, Ray Winstead, Friends of the Park (FOP), Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC), Todd Bird Club (TBC).

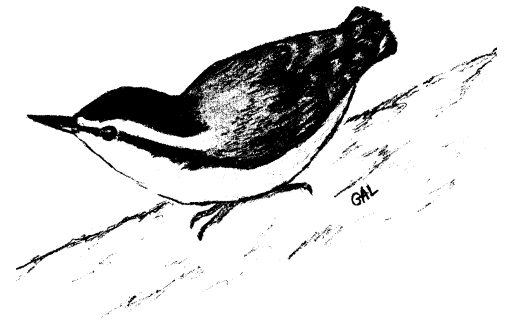
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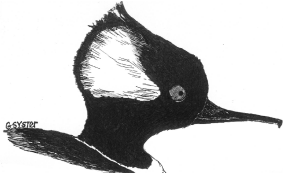
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Participants of the Blue Spruce outing on May 1 included Sue Dickson, Roger Higbee, Lee Carnahan, and John Taylor.

Photo by Margaret Higbee





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