

The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Todd Bird Club

April 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, May 4 – 6:00 p.m.

Our annual covered dish dinner. Please bring a covered dish to share and your own place settings. Drinks will be provided.

The evening's speaker will be Tom Betts who will present *Beauty Around Birds*.

There is plenty of beauty in birds. But there is also plenty of beauty that birds lead us to, aspects of the natural world that can enhance the birding experience. This photographic bird walk celebrates not only the beauty of birds but also the beauty around birds.

Tom Betts teaches Environmental Science at Marion Center Area High School and is the sponsor of the Project Earth club there. He has had a lifelong interest in birds and in nature. His articles and photographs have appeared in a number of outdoor magazines. Tom is currently the president of the Indiana County Photo Club.



Tom Betts photographed this Great Blue Heron at daybreak in Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Florida.

Field Trips

Tuesday Morning Outings at Yellow Creek will continue. For all Yellow Creek outings except May 25, 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, April 17 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-465-7323).

Saturday, April 24 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Marge Van Tassel.

Saturday, May 1 – 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 parking lot across from the park office.

Saturday, May 9 – Pennsylvania Migration Count for both Indiana and Armstrong Counties. Please contact Roger or Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493) if you'd like to participate. We have new state compilers this year, Frank Haas and John Fedak.

This 19th annual count is similar to the Christmas Bird Count, but it is county-wide rather than limited to a 15-mile diameter circle; and there is no participation fee. Forms and instructions may be downloaded at <http://www.pabirds.org/PAMC/Index.html>, but it is not essential that you use the provided forms. Either call the Higbees (724-354-3493) or e-mail your data to bcoriolo@windstream.net.

Friday, May 14 through Sunday, May 16 – PSO annual meeting in Erie County. This is a good opportunity to bird one of the best birding sites in the state, Presque Isle State Park. We'll bird all day then enjoy a banquet at the Bel-Aire Clarion in Erie. The evening's speaker will be Jerry McWilliams, co-author of *The Birds of Pennsylvania*. Vendors will be present, including Aden Troyer, Lost Creek Shoe Shop optics; Frank Haas's Bird Screens; Brad Wiley, wood carver; Robert Grubbs, photographer and author of *Presque Isle Naturally*; and Dave Hughes, who's doing an afternoon workshop with his paintings.

For further information, check www.pabirds.org for more information or contact the Higbees (724-354-3493).

Saturday, May 22 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Carol Guba (724-465-4429).

Tuesday, May 25 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Mike Shaffer. This is our annual early morning pontoon ride. Meet at the boat rental at 4:00 a.m.– yes, 4:00 a.m. We will watch the sunrise from the lake. We will come ashore at the beach at 8:00 for a pit stop and to pick up “latecomers.”

A New Free Silhouette Guide to Hawks Seen in North America

A new silhouette *Guide to Hawks Seen in North America* is now available free from the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) at www.hmana.org. The two-page guide helps you compare the shape and key field marks of 21 species of migratory hawks seen throughout most of North America. To keep everything relatively simple and on two pages, only the adults of most species are shown. The guide is a handy field reference for all hawk watchers, and a great start for beginning hawk watchers.

This new guide is a significant revision and expansion of the *Guide to Hawks Seen in the North East* introduced in 2008, adding Mississippi Kite, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and adult male Northern Harrier, as well as other new images and additional field marks. The guide is designed and illustrated by Paul Carrier, the artist who conceived and developed the popular, ground-breaking silhouette guide to hawks in the 1970s, as well as the recent *Guide to Hawks Seen in the North East* (also available for free download on the HMANA web site, along with a free PowerPoint presentation on identifying hawks of the northeast).

A Guide to Hawks Seen in North America is available in

two forms:

- * A downloadable PDF for single-copy printout for personal, non-commercial use.
- * A professionally printed copy on durable card stock laminated for long-term use in the field. Individual laminated copies cost \$5.00 each + \$1 S/H. Special bulk prices are also available on the web site. Hawk watches, bird clubs, schools, nature shops, or any other organization can raise funds and help educate their constituents about hawk identification by purchasing the guide in bulk quantity at wholesale prices.

Proceeds from individual and bulk sales support HMANA's effort to promote research, education, and conservation regarding our birds of prey.

For complete information, including bulk pricing, and to order or download the new guide, visit www.hmana.org.

Volunteers Needed

Old Smicksburg Park, a 33-acre park located along Route 954 in the borough of Smicksburg in northwestern Indiana County, has been managed by the Smicksburg Area Heritage Society since 2000, under a management agreement with Smicksburg Borough. Effective March 24, 2010, the management agreement was transferred to Indiana County Parks & Trails.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers leases the property on which the park sits to Smicksburg Borough as it is part of the Mahoning Dam flood control project. Mahoning Dam is located roughly eleven miles downstream from the park.

The Todd Bird Club has been requested to compile a bird list for this recently acquired park. Two trips through the park have yielded 34 species, including Wood Ducks and Common Mergansers. The trails are level, and it takes less than an hour to walk the entire park. Thanks to all who volunteered to complete a trip at our April meeting.

The protocol is simple; merely walk the trails and list all the birds you see or hear, tallying the number of each species. Please record the date and time you spend, and send your data to Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934, or e-mail it to bcoriolle@windstream.net. Our goal is to complete at least one trip per week through September. All dates after June 13 are still open. Please volunteer and help your club!

From the Co-President's Desk....

The snow has finally melted, and we hope that this beautiful weather we've been having isn't a "teaser," and warmer weather is here to stay.

With the onset of spring our thoughts turn to how we can improve the habitats we share with our feathered and furry friends. I'm already planning where I can plant more evergreen trees to provide extra wintertime protection.

I am really excited about a project I am involved with at United Elementary School. We are in the process of developing a "cavity-nesting trail." This has been made possible through the donation of eight birdhouses from Yellow Creek State Park (Thank you, Mike Shaffer!), the construction of the houses and predator guards by my husband, (Thanks, Ed!), the donation of a beautiful educational poster by the Birdwatcher's Store in Slippery Rock, and the purchase of additional materials by the United Elementary Eco-Team. The Eco-Team is a group of fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students, who under the direction of their science teachers (Department Chair, Ron Ofman), have been involved in numerous environmental projects around the school. The fourth grade team, with the help of high school students, concentrated their efforts on a nature garden designed to attract a variety of butterflies, insects, and birds. The fifth grade students have been working on enhancements to the school's nature trail. They have been involved in the selection of plants and other improvements for the trail. The sixth grade team is developing an outdoor classroom along the nature trail. Money for these projects is raised by the students' recycling ink cartridges and cell phones, and an "upcycling" program where collected Capri Sun and Kool-Aid drink pouches, Nabisco and Frito Lay chip product wrappers are made into new products. Visit www.Terracycle.com for more information on this upcycling program. I think you'll be amazed at the numerous items that are made from these recycled items.

The students will research cavity-nesting birds and how to manage and maintain the nesting boxes – a great learning experience for our students. I hope to see everyone at the meetings and don't forget to mark your calendars for our field trips.

– Donna Meyer, Co-President



Nightjar Survey Underway

The U.S. Nightjar Survey Network is entering its fourth year (2nd year in PA) as the vital program that documents the population distribution and population trends of these declining species. Nightjars are the group of nocturnal, insectivorous birds including species such as the Whip-poor-will, Common Poorwill, Chuck-will's-widow, and the nighthawks among others. We would like to invite all birders and conservationists to participate in the program by adopting Nightjar Survey Routes in 2010 and beyond.

We are very grateful to the number of participants already involved in the program and for the quality of the data they have collected. Information gathered over the past four years is helping to explain how the composition of habitats in local landscapes influences nightjar abundance. In turn, these data will help reach the project's near-term goals of explaining habitat-based declines where they occur.

There is still need for longer-term data and broader geographic coverage to adequately cover the target species.

Nightjar Surveys are standardized counts conducted along census routes on bright moonlit nights. Observers count all Nightjars seen or heard for a six-minute period at each of 10 stops along the route. The entire survey will not take much more than one hour to complete and only needs to be conducted one time per year. We have a series of existing routes in each state that are still in need of adoption.

Please consider adopting a Nightjar Survey Route. The continuing success of U.S. Nightjar Survey Network relies entirely on volunteer participation. I would like to add a special thanks to the PA Game Commission for their support of the project.

Visit the U.S. Nightjar Survey at www.ccb-wm.org/nightjars.htm for location of surveys, data sheets and instructions, and how to adopt a route.

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www.ccb-wm.org/nightjars.htm

Outings Revisited

Yellow Creek State Park – March 13: Three of us birded Yellow Creek on this cold, windy morning. Most of the lake was still frozen, but there was a little open water which harbored 12 American Black Ducks, one Ring-necked Duck, and 3 Ring-billed Gulls. Fourteen Rusty Blackbirds and a male bluebird were the morning's highlights. – Lee Carnahan

Yellow Creek State Park – March 27: Five birders, Susan Boser, Sue Dickson, Betsy Fetterman, John Kilmarx, and I birded Yellow Creek on this cold early spring morning. Our first stop at the apple tree yielded the two highlights of the day – an immature Bald Eagle and an Osprey. Also birding Yellow Creek was Jeff Larkin leading his biology class; they, too, enjoyed seeing the eagle and the Osprey. A number of boats on the water were pushing the ducks around, so counting the waterfowl was difficult. Six Blue-winged Teal were the first of the year. – Gloria Lamer

Coastal New Jersey – March 26

- 28: Roger and I were the only participants on the New Jersey trip. Highlights at Edwin B. Forsythe NWR on Friday morning included Snow Geese, Brant, an immature Northern Goshawk (ph.), Peregrine Falcon, one Black-bellied Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, about 2000 Dunlin, and Pine Warbler. Friday afternoon we headed to Avalon where we added a small raft of Harlequin Ducks, Surf and Black Scoters, and our first American Oystercatchers. At Stone Harbor we counted another 12 oystercatchers and added our first 10 Northern Gannets and 3 Great Cormorants. Cape May yielded Red-throated Loons, Laughing Gulls, Forster's Terns and Purple Sandpipers. The highlight at Cape May was a Black-headed Gull which we spotted from the Rotary Park. Once again the jetty at Barnegat Light was the high point of the trip. Here were 5 Common Eiders, 4 Harlequin Ducks, 3 Black-bellied Plovers, 30 Ruddy Turnstones, one Sanderling, 90 Purple Sandpipers, and 250 Dunlin.

Yellow Creek State Park – April 3: Eighteen birders enjoyed the annual spring joint outing of the Todd Bird Club and Three Rivers Birding Club at Yellow Creek. At 8:00 the temperature was in the high 40s but quickly 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.

After everyone had introduced himself or herself, we headed to the maintenance building. Flying around the bluebird boxes were at least 10 Tree Swallows. Out on the water were 8 Lesser Scaup, 3 Bufflehead, 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 that the distant gull flock contained 80 Bonaparte's Gulls. Three Ring-billed Gulls were flying about while another stood on the beach. In the distance we spotted the white cheek patches of 2 Ruddy Ducks.

Our next stop was the main recreational area. 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



Harlequins are always one of the Barnegat Light highlights.

Photo by Margaret Higbee

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 perching 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 drummed several times 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 another Wilson's Snipe. We were able to locate the snipe in our scopes, so everyone had a good look. 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, one 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.

After the outing thirteen of us headed to the Chinese buffet in Indiana where we were joined by Michael Guba and enjoyed lunch and more conversation. We had tallied 49 species and had enjoyed great fun birding with friends in good weather.

– Margaret Higbee

Great Backyard Bird Count Participants

The following Todd members participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count in February:

Pat Andrascik
Sid and Jean Blair
Marcy Cunkelman
Ed Donley
Sue Gatti
Roger and Margaret Higbee
Bob Jackman
Tom and Jan Kuehl
Fred and Carol McCullough
Ed and Donna Meyer
Greg and Robin Zawrotny

Friends of Yellow Creek

A new group has formed at Yellow Creek State Park. Its purpose is to create recreational opportunities at the park and to organize volunteers to pursue projects. Their second meeting will be held the same evening as our banquet, May 4, at 6:30. For further information, contact Park Manager, Ken Bisbee at 724-3547-7913.

The Rarest of the Rare

The Wildlife Conservation Society recently released a list of the dozen most endangered species. Only one bird placed on that list – the endemic Grenada Dove, the national bird of Grenada. This medium sized dove is threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation. It currently inhabits two isolated areas of secondary dry forest in southwestern Grenada.

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For complete information, including bulk pricing, and to order or download the new guide, visit www.hmana.org

Web Master Needed

The Todd Bird Club needs a web site. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact the Higbees (724-354-3493, bcoriole@windstream.net).

Indiana - Armstrong - Cambria Counties

December 1, 2009 - February 28, 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 (CC), Keystone Reservoir (KR) Leechburg (LB), Lewisville (LV), Manorville (MV), Marion Center (MC), Prince Gallitzin (PG), Rosston (RT), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TL), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

YC Lake, which harbors most of the waterfowl moving through *Indiana*, had frozen completely by 12/23; by the end of the period there was still no open water at YC. TL, which seldom freezes completely, had also frozen by the end of 2009 and had not thawed by the end of February.

Canada Goose maxima included 608 at TL 12/20 (LC), 136 near LB 1/2 (MVT), and an estimated 500 over LV 1/22 (MC). Two **Mute Swans** were noted at RT after 2/14 (MH,RH). A flock of 458 **Tundra Swans** passed over LV 12/7 (MC); 10 stopped at PG 12/14 (JS); last reported were 2 at TL 12/26 (LC) and 2 in flight near SGL 248 on 12/26 (JK, TK).

A late **Wood Duck** remained at YC 12/8 (LC,MH). Four to 5 **Gadwalls** were sighted at YC 12/2-4 (LC); KR yielded the last 2 **Gadwalls** 12/6 (MH,RH); 2 were listed at MV 2/21 (MH,RH). Five **American Wigeons** at PG 12/14 (JS) were the only ones noted. Last **American Black Ducks** were sighted 12/26 with tallies of 18 at TL (LC) and 2 at Margus Lake (GL,GS). Top **Mallard** counts were 146 at TL 12/26 (LC) and 60 at MV 2/27 (MH,RH). Single **Canvasbacks** were spotted at YC 12/3 (LC) and 12/15 (LC,MH,MVT) while 2 were present there 12/8 (LC,MH); PG yielded 3 on 12/14 (JS). Two **Redheads** 12/8 (LC,MH) and one **Ring-necked Duck** 12/15 (LC, MH,MVT) at YC were the only ones noted this season. YC harbored one **Lesser Scaup** 12/8 (LC,MH) and 2 on 12/15 (LC,MH, MVT); a singleton was at RT 2/21 (MH,RH). YC yielded both a **Black Scoter** and a **Long-tailed Duck** 12/8 (LC, MH). Lingering **Buffleheads** included 3 at PG 12/2 (JS), 2 at KR 12/6 (MH,RH), 21 at YC 12/8 (LC,MH), and a singleton at YC 12/15 (LC,MH,MVT). Two **Common Goldeneyes** appeared at YC 12/8 (LC,MH); another was at RT 2/21 (MH,RH). **Hooded Mergansers** included one at KR 12/6 (MH,RH) and 6 at TL (LC) and 20 at YC (LC,MH), the latter two reports 12/8; a high count of 45 was achieved at PG 12/14 (JS) while 3 at YC 12/15

(LC,MH,MVT) were last. On their northward journey 2 appeared at CC 2/20 (MVT) and 5 at RT 2/27 (MH,RH). KR hosted 16 **Common Mergansers** 12/6 (MH,RH) while PG harbored 25 on 12/14 (JS); 3 were at MV and 2 at KT 2/14 (MH,RH); 6 visited CC 2/20 (MVT), and one was at RT and 2 at KT the following day (MH,RH). Six **Red-breasted Mergansers** were sighted at KR 12/6 (MH, RH); a singleton visited TL 12/23 (LC). Twenty-nine **Ruddy Ducks** were still present at YC 12/1 (LC) while 33 lingered at PG 12/2 (JS), but numbers dwindled to the last 4 at PG 12/14 (JS) and the last 3 at YC 12/15 (LC,MH, MVT). TL yielded 4 Ruddies on 12/24,26 (LC).



Marge Van Tassel photographed these two adult Bald Eagles at Crooked Creek on 12/5/09.

December 26 yielded 11 **Ruffed Grouse** for the IN CBC (v.o.), up 2 from last year's count; one was sighted at Nolo 1/24 (CL,GL); 3 were feeding on buds in a tree near Luciusboro 2/13 (MH,RH, DL). The largest flock of **Wild Turkeys** was observed almost daily north of IN with a high of 57 on 1/13 (SB); 32 was a good count in IN 1/7 (CL,GL); an equal number was found near LB 1/10 (MVT). The season's last **Common Loons** were sighted 12/2 (JS) at PG, 12/3 (LC) at YC, and 12/6 (MH,RH) at KR.

The Allegheny at KT yielded a single **Common Loon** 2/21,27 (MH,RH). Last **Pied-billed Grebes** were 8 at PG 12/2 (JS), one at KR 12/6 (MH,RH), and 6 at TL 12/26 (LC).

Last **Turkey Vulture** was listed near Creekside 12/26 (MH,RH). PG's last **Bald Eagle** was noted 12/23 (JS). At least two adult and two immature Bald Eagles were observed at CC in Jan. (MVT); two adults were found near LB 2/7 (MVT); a second-year bird was at RT 2/27 (MH,RH). **Northern Harriers** were found near YC 12/4 (TF), at YC 12/22 (LC,MH), near Penn Run 1/5 (CL,GL), near Smicksburg 1/23 (MH,RH,DL), and near Penn Run 2/11 (CL). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at 17

locations; **Cooper's Hawks**, at 13 (v.o.). An adult **Northern Goshawk** near Nicktown 12/29 (AL) and an immature near IN 2/22 (KM) were great finds. Single **Red-shouldered Hawks** were spotted near Nicktown 12/29 (AL), at Thomas Bridge 1/23 (MH,RH,DL), and near Belsano 2/20 (MH,RH,LW). In *Indiana* **Red-tailed Hawks** hit respective high tallies of 54 and 44 on WRS #2 on 1/23 (MH,RH,DL) and WRS #1 on 1/30 (MH,RH,DL); a new WRS #3, after the deep snow cover, yielded only 29 Red-tails 2/13 (MH,RH,DL). A dark morph **Rough-legged Hawk** near Elderton 12/23 (RH) and a light morph just n. of IN 2/28 (DW,RW) were nice finds. WRS #2 produced 7 **American Kestrels** in n. *Indiana* 1/23 (MH,RH,DL) while WRS #1 and #3 respectively each yielded only 3 on 1/30 and 2/13 (MH,RH,DL). A **Merlin** was photographed near LV 2/17,18 (MC). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** near the Market Street Bridge in KT on 2/14 (MH,RH) was a second county record.

YC's high **American Coot** count this season was 549 on 12/8 (LC,MH); last noted before freeze-up were 297 at YC 12/15 (LC,MH,MVT).

Last **Killdeer** were one found 12/21 (MC) near LV and 2 near the Jimmy Stewart Airport 12/26 (PJ); first returnee was sighted 2/26 (LC) near Homer City.

Three **Bonaparte's Gulls** stopped at YC 12/8 (LC,MH). Top **Ring-billed Gull** count was a mere 12 at YC 12/8 (LC,MH); 8 stopped at CC 1/28 (MVT) and 12 were on the Allegheny between MV and KT 2/14 (MH,RH); 6 were flying over the Wal-Mart Plaza near IN 2/22 (MH). Top **Herring Gull** count was 10 at MV 2/21 (MH,RH). A second-winter **Glaucous Gull** ph. 2/14 (MH,RH) at KT was a first county record.

Great Horned Owls were noted at various locations this winter, including a pair in Armstrong Twp. 12/26 (LS,LSt,RS), a pair hooting frequently in Jan-Feb near IN (DJ), a pair near Home (VB); and a pair near SH after 2/26 (MH,RH). **Barred Owls** were noted near Brush Valley 12/20,25 (BB) and near SH 1/10 (RH); one roosting in a tree cavity at CC was observed 1/2 (SG) and 1/9 (TS).

With all the ice on streams, **Belted Kingfishers** were in short supply with the IN CBC yielding only one 12/26 (BM,KM); the next reports did not occur until 1/21



Marcy Cunkelman first spotted and photographed this adult Merlin on February 17.

(MVT) at CC and 2/13 (MH,RH,DL) when single birds were spotted on Crooked Creek near SH and at Conemaugh Dam.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included single birds near LV 12/7 (MC), n. of IN 12/30-1/14 (SB), near LB 1/10 (MVT), at CC 1/21 (MVT), and near SH 2/14 (ED). Five **Fish Crows** were listed in IN 12/26 (JK,TK). **Common Ravens** were reported from 7 locations, including the best count of 4 over LV 2/12 (MC).

Top **Horned Lark** counts included 35 near Homer City 12/5 (BM,KM), 30 near Conemaugh Dam 1/2 (MF), 50 on WRS #2 on 1/23 (MH,RH,DL), 60 near Smicksburg 1/27 (MH,SH), 55 on WRS #1 on 1/30 (MH,RH,DL), and 221 on WRS #3 on 2/13 (MH,RH,DL). One to 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** visited a feeder near SH throughout the period (MH,RH). YC harbored one **Hermit Thrush** 12/8 (LC,MH), 3 on 12/26 (MH,RH), and a singleton in another part of the park also 12/26 (DWi,RW).

Three **Yellow-rumped Warblers** found 12/26 (JT) near St. Bernard's in IN were the last seen this season in *Indiana*; in *Armstrong* 3 at CC were nice finds 1/23 (MVT); one was still present 1/27 (MVT).

A flock of 39 **American Tree Sparrows** were found at PG 12/23 (JS). A late **Chipping Sparrow** visited a yard in Ebensburg 12/28 (JS). Three **Fox Sparrows** lingered near LV 12/6 (MC). Last **Swamp Sparrows** occurred 12/26 (v.o.) for the CBC; one turned up again at YC 2/2 (LC,MH). **White-crowned Sparrows**, usually uncommon in the county in winter, were reported more frequently this year. Reports included one near LV 12/6 (MC), 2 at YC 12/26 (JD,JT), one near IN 12/26 (DC,MC), 6 on 1/31 (MH,RH) at a farm near Blacklick, where 4 were again listed 2/13 (MH,RH,DL).



This Glaucous Gull at Kittanning 2/14, photographed by Margaret Higbee, was a first county record.

Last **Red-winged Blackbirds** were 2 at Nolo 1/8 (CL, GL); 4 **Red-winged Blackbirds** returned to Yatesboro 2/14 (ErD) while LV yielded the first February returnees 2/12 (MC) as well as the only 2 **Rusty Blackbirds** reported; LV was also the site of the only returning **Common Grackle** 2/10 (MC). Last **Brown-headed Cowbird** appeared at Ebensburg 12/27 (JS).

Observers: Vince Beatty, Bob Bell, Sid Blair, Lee Carnahan, Susan Comfort, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Jim Dearing, Ed Donley, Erma Dovenspike (ErD), Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Mike Fowles, Steve Gosser, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Stephanie Higbee, Dory Jacobs, Pat Johner, Jessica Jopp, Jan Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Alex Lamoreaux, Dennis Lauffer, Beth Marshall, Ken Marshall, Tom Skubel, Linda Stormer, Luke Stormer (LSt), Rodger Stormer, Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Marge Van Tassel (MVT), Linda Wagner, Daniel Winstead (DWi), Dawn Winstead, Ray Winstead.

This newsletter is produced four times a year by the Todd Bird Club.

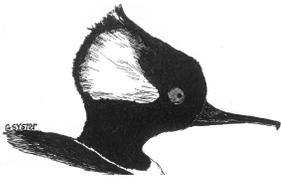
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Marcy Cunkelman photographed these American Goldfinches at her feeder on February 12.

Did You Know That?

Did you know that one of the best places to look for early Ruby-throated Hummingbirds is at the sap wells drilled by Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers?



Todd Bird Club

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