

The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Todd Bird Club
www.toddbirdclub.org

August 2021

Meetings

We are hoping to resume our regular meetings this coming September, depending upon the status of Covid and the CDC guidelines at that time.

Once again our meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m., September through April, at Blue Spruce Lodge in Blue Spruce County Park, located just off Route 110 east of the town of Ernest. Arrive by 7:00 to socialize, abiding by CDC guidelines. Masks and social distancing may be required, so please come prepared.



Tom photographed this Violet Wood-Hoopoe at Etosha National Park.

in 2019 through the African countries of Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. The presentation will follow the tour's itinerary and include the many highlights of birds, mammals, and scenery. We'll conclude with a visit to Victoria Falls. Stops on the tour include Etosha National Park in Namibia and the Okavango Delta in Botswana. Expect to see a stunning variety of beautiful, unusual birds and many of the specialty game and predatory mammals of the African continent.

Tuesday, September 7 – Tom Kuehl will present on a Rockjumpers Birding tour that he and his wife Janet took

Don't miss this excellent presentation!

Outings and **NO Picnic**

Tuesday and Saturday morning outings will resume in September till Covid makes it impossible or till deer season. Check our website to ascertain whether the outings will take place. All Tuesday (except Sept. 28 – see below) and Saturday morning outings will be at Yellow Creek.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office, located on Route 259 just off Route 422 east of Indiana. Early comers are invited to meet at the pavilion on the north shore around 7:00 a.m. Everyone, from beginner to expert birder, is welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Carnahan (724-

388-4667) or Roger or Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493; bcoriole@windstream.net).

Sunday, August 15 – Annual Todd Bird Club picnic at the home of Dan and Marcy Cunkelman. has been canceled. due to Covid concerns.

Tuesday, September 28 – Moraine State Park, led by Mike Shaffer. Meet at the park at 8:00 a.m. This outing is still in the planning stages, so for more information at a later date, contact the Higbees (724-354-3493).

Birding Ironwood Drive

By Tom Glover

One thing I have noticed after birding for more than eleven years is that certain locations become important. For members of the Todd Bird Club, it has to be Yellow Creek State Park. And for me personally, it is the Mahoning Shadow Trail. The trail will always be at the top of my list. I can still tell you the exact spot where I laid eyes on my first Ovenbird and a female Baltimore Oriole eating tent caterpillars near Mile Marker 12, confirming that I *was* a birder!



Tom Fuller, Tom Glover's son-in-law, photographed this beaver dam near Ironwood Drive.

My wife, son, and I moved to Tuxedo, New York, last August to a home only a block away from my daughter's family. My daughter and her family have been introducing me to the birding venues in the area. One location in particular has become my favorite, Ironwood Drive, and its surrounding area. The Drive is a little over a mile long and ends in a parking area under the power line right-of-way. It is located off Long Meadow Road in Sterling Forest State Park, in Orange County, New York.

The area around Ironwood Drive has two noted hotspots in eBird. As of July 30, the spot located at the end of the Drive has recorded 166 species with 891 lists in eBird. The second noted eBird hot spot is located along the Drive with 173 species and 781 lists. The oldest eBird record for the Drive is a Broad-winged Hawk noted on August 20, 1956. Other highlights in eBird include 1,000 Brant noted on May 12, 2016, a Mississippi Kite on May 28, 2012, and interestingly Eastern Whip-poor-wills have been regularly reported since May 22, 2006. A total of 30 warbler species have been recorded for the Drive. In particular Golden-winged Warblers have been noted starting on May 22, 2006. Also of note, Blue-winged Warblers have been reported for the area. With these two noted species in the same area, it is not surprising to find Brewster's and Lawrence's hybrids recorded in eBird. The Brewster's hybrid showed up on 47 submitted eBird lists for the months of May and June 2021. My son-in-law Tom recorded the Brewster's on May 6, 2021.

Tom first introduced me to Ironwood Drive on May 17, 2015, before my family and I moved to New York. And yes, we recorded a Golden-winged Warbler along with a Blue-winged Warbler. Other outings with Tom included one on the evening of March 12, 2021, when we heard

American Woodcocks and were treated to their spiraling aerial display. On our April 30, 2021, outing we hiked up Bare Mountain overlooking Ironwood Drive. Toward the summit a hard-granite cliff is the home to a pair of nesting Common Ravens. The ravens were not pleased with our presence. We could not determine the exact location of the nest, but we could see a number of areas on the cliff's rocks that were white-washed. Later in that outing when we were some distance from the

nest area, we heard the male raven protesting. The source of the protest was a high-flying raptor over the mountain top. On that same outing just before we departed, a female Wild Turkey popped out of the grass no more than 20 feet in front of us, stopped, took one look at us, and flew off toward the woods.

The Ironwood Drive area has more to offer than just birds. The area is rich in other wildlife. The creek that runs through the area has been dammed in a number of places by active beaver. The beaver ponds have created wetland habitats for plants and animals. Tom even came across a pair of river otters on one of his outings. During the warm months the area is alive with the croaks of a number of frog species. The area with its different ecotones offers a variety of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants and is rich in geology. The above-mentioned granite is over a billion years old. And lastly, the Ironwood Drive area has played a significant role in the life of our granddaughter Phoebe.

Phoebe is familiar with the area. From the time before she could walk to the present her dad and mom have let her explore the wonders of the area. She in particular likes one of the beaver ponds. She loves wading through its water and playing in the mud. She has even explored the frozen pond during the winter, but both her grandmas let Tom know that they were not happy with his letting Phoebe wander around the frozen pond.

Ironwood Drive is proving to be at the top of my list – not only as a birding venue but also as a location that has a lot to offer. I have already started exploring the many facets of the area, and I am looking forward to what else the Drive has to offer.

Birding by Train

By Debbie Kalbfleisch

This spring, I took a train to Florida, instead of flying, for a birding trip. I wasn't sure if I was ready for a trip anywhere, much less Florida, following the heels of a pandemic, but I knew I wasn't ready to fly!

I traveled by coach to D.C. on Amtrak's Capitol Limited, leaving Pittsburgh at 5:40 a.m., just a few minutes behind schedule, on April 23. The temperature that morning was 34° F and it's usually a bit chilly on the train, so I was wearing multiple layers including long johns! When the sun came up at 6:30, we were well into the heavily wooded Appalachian Mountains, following the Youghiogheny River. The trees were just starting to leaf out, and patches of frost appeared in the early light. At 8:45 we stopped for a few minutes in the middle of nowhere, and I noticed a small sign proclaiming that we were at the Summit of the Alleghenies. Soon after, I finally spotted my first bird, a Turkey Vulture, rocking over a ridge. We entered Maryland just above Cumberland, and I added Rock Pigeon, American Crow, European Starlings, and House Sparrows to my list. We dipped into West Virginia and started running alongside the Potomac River with Maryland on the other side. While I wasn't seeing many birds, it was a beautiful day and the scenery passing by was lovely with dogwoods and redbuds in bloom. At 10:40, I was tickled to see a Wild Turkey ducking into the woods. We stopped at Harper's Ferry and crossed the Potomac over a long, skinny bridge back into Maryland.

I especially enjoyed going through the suburbs of Maryland and picking out landmarks in D.C. as I had lived in the District for many years. The train was only 20 minutes late pulling into Union Station. CSX and other freight trains own most of the tracks, and they always take precedence over Amtrak. Knowing this, I was planning to arrive at my destination the day before my tour started, and I had cleared my schedule several days afterwards for the return trip. A Redcap loaded my baggage onto his cart and after a wild ride zipping around pedestrians and other obstacles delivered me to the Amtrak Lounge. I ventured out to grab something to eat and at 3:05 that afternoon boarded Amtrak's Silver Star and settled into a roomette which would take me the rest of the way to Miami. Yes, a tiny room all to myself with two comfortable seats facing each other and a very large window to see the birds! Because of Covid restrictions, the dining room was only partially open, so the car attendant took my lunch and dinner orders and delivered them to me. A tabletop

appeared by pulling up a handle next to the window, and a small sink was also in the room.

I sighed happily at the sight of a Great Blue Heron flying over the Potomac River. Near Quantico, Virginia, I spied a Double-crested Cormorant. The train hugged the east coast, which meant plenty of streams, rivers, and even flooded woods going through the Old Dominion. Just before pulling into the Richmond station, I spotted another turkey. Near Emporium, Virginia, just this side of the North Carolina border, I spotted my last bird of the day, a Turkey Vulture. The car attendant made up my bed by pushing and pulling the seats together, then lowered a foam mattress already made up with sheets and a blanket. We would be rolling through the Carolinas and Georgia during the night, and dawn would find us in Florida.

I fell asleep easily that night to the rocking motion of the train and woke at 5 a.m., a few hours before I had set the alarm. With everyone else still sleeping, I took a quick shower (an interesting experience on a moving train) and headed to the dining car for breakfast to go. Drinking coffee, I contentedly watched the sun come up over my first palm trees. The weather report for Jacksonville was 68° F, overcast, and cloudy. The usual suspects, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Turkey Vulture, and Common Grackle, were the first to appear. At 9:08 a.m., I saw my first-of-the-year (FOY) Black Vultures soaring near a lagoon. A Great Blue Heron was standing sentry in a lake near Sanford, and a little later I spotted a couple of Wood Ducks and my FOY Great Egrets. A rather pale Red-shouldered Hawk made an appearance, and a Muscovy Duck stood tall and stretched its wings as we went past, showing off its striking black-and-white pattern on the underwings.

The Silver Star had been traveling due south, but mid-morning found us heading inland, with stops in Orlando, Kissimmee, and Tampa on the west coast. Ospreys were everywhere, many on nests. A Green Heron flew off at our approach. Shortly after noon, I spotted a graceful Swallow-tailed Kite soaring in the sky. Definitely, the best bird of the trip! Fifteen minutes later, however, a Magnificent Frigatebird appeared, competing for best bird. The train turned around and headed east and then south. Around the Lakeland area, I picked up an American Kestrel. Shortly afterwards, Cattle Egrets began appearing in the fields, appropriately stationed next to the cows!

Around Lorida, near Lake Istokpoga, a good-sized freshwater lake, the train sat on a siding because of computer problems. This was a lucky stop for me as a Roseate Spoonbill flew over! We moved slowly onward, and I noticed some Eurasian Collared-Doves on the telephone wires. We stopped again for a few minutes, and I realized that one of the sitting birds had a white racing stripe on its wing — White-winged Dove which was a lifer for me!

We arrived in Miami late in the afternoon, and the following day I joined some friends on a birding tour of South Florida. Eleven days later, I was back at the Miami Train Station for the journey north, this time on the Silver Meteor. Within ten minutes of starting, I had noted Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Northern Mockingbird, and Common Grackle. Near Jupiter, I spotted a Swallow-tailed Kite soaring in the sky. I also added a couple of Wild Turkeys, a Great Egret, an Osprey, and a Red-shouldered Hawk. A small pool held numerous herons, but I had eyes only for the White Ibis! Around Winter Haven, Cattle Egrets started showing up in the fields, and it was exciting to spot a Little Blue Heron in another small pool. As we stopped at various stations along the way, I saw more and more Chimney Swifts, which I had not noticed on the trip south. The golden slippers on a Snowy Egret were easy to see as it flew over a lake. While we were stopped in the Jacksonville rail yards, a Killdeer flew in and landed next to the train.

I woke early the following day, May 6, and said a cheery good morning to Walter, the train attendant, as he was walking down the corridor. He stopped with a gloomy look on his face and informed me that a freight car up ahead had derailed because of a broken axle and had spilled its load of chemicals, stopping train traffic in both directions. A hazmat team had been called in to clean up, but they didn't know when we would start moving again. We had been sitting in Kingstree, South Carolina, since about midnight. South Carolina! I had no birds in that state, so here was an unlooked-for opportunity! I grabbed coffee and breakfast and was happy to see my first American Robin of the trip exploring the branches of a tree next to the train. We were parked next to a four-lane highway with a tractor supply store on the other side of the highway, so it wasn't ideal habitat; but I did eventually spot a Northern Mockingbird on the other side of the road. Shortly before 9:00, the first raptors started soaring, but I had only half a dozen species by the time we finally started moving just before noon. A couple of Great Egrets in a flooded swamp were my best birds by the time we crossed the border into North Carolina. Still, I ended up with nine birds for my new South Carolina list!

We zipped through North Carolina in roughly two and a half hours, and I counted a dozen birds with five new birds for my state list including Eurasian Collared-Dove and Black Vulture. My best bird for Virginia was a Great Blue Heron flying across the Potomac as we entered the District of Columbia with the setting sun. We had about half an hour in the station before we left, and it was completely dark when we pulled out. D.C. is beautiful at night, and it was a thrill, as always, to see the monuments lit up.

We reached Philadelphia around 10:30 that evening, 13 hours behind schedule. About a dozen of us had missed our connections earlier that day, but the Amtrak lady sorted us all out and handed out vouchers and instructions. I shared a taxi ride with another woman to the hotel where we met the following morning for the ride back to the station. We pulled out of Philadelphia at 12:42 p.m. on the Pennsylvanian under sunny skies. We were a bit surprised when the conductor came by to check our tickets in coach, and he told us we were in the wrong car. We had been bumped up to business class! This entitled us to a free drink from the dining car, so I treated myself to a Coke and a candy bar. Back in my seat, I was on the alert for a special Pennsylvania year bird and about an hour later near Exton, I saw it soaring with half a dozen of its cousins — Black Vulture! A rare bird in western PA and one that I don't always get every year, unless I manage to travel east. Near Harrisburg, I snagged a Great Egret, also a Pennsylvania year bird. On the other side of Harrisburg, we came to a halt, and an announcement came on the p.a. system that a problem with a freight train ahead had occurred, and they didn't know how long we would be stopped. Four of us remaining in the car had spent an unscheduled night in Philly, and we all four stood up, looked at each other, and started laughing. We were only delayed for 20 minutes, and we agreed that the wait was pretty pitiful and hardly worth the p.a. announcement.

Traveling along the Susquehanna River, I spotted more Great Egrets and a few Canada Geese. The skies turned darker, and we began getting some rain, on and off. Just outside of Huntingdon and late in the afternoon, I was stunned to recognize a Common Nighthawk doing figure eights in the air as it hawked for insects. I certainly wasn't expecting that! We reached the famous Horseshoe Curve in Blair County just before 6:00 p.m. As we climbed to the top, I noticed that the trees here were just starting to leaf out. A few Turkey Vultures circled lazily in the sky. At 8:30, we reached Turtle Creek, and it looked like hundreds of Chimney Swifts were darting about over the creek in the dying light.

My train list came to a total of 39 species, 28 species on the trip down to Florida and 31 on the way home. I managed one lifer, a White-winged Dove, and several others were FOY birds. Most of the birds seen were fairly common — Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Turkey Vulture, American Crow, European Starling, and House Sparrow, but I never knew when I would see something different, and even a Killdeer or robin was enough to

make me feel pleased. Traveling by train is probably not everyone's cup of tea, and I was honestly surprised to hear that some of the sleeping car passengers complained about the noise when they were trying to sleep. Clickety-clack is soothing background noise to me, much like a babbling brook! The whole experience made for an extremely relaxing vacation, and I've decided to travel by train more often in the future! Canada....

Red-bellied Woodpecker Variant

By Paul Hess

Just another ordinary Red-bellied Woodpecker? No, and it took a sharp eye to see why not.

Study this photo closely. Can you see something unusual?

When the bird appeared at Roger and Margaret Higbee's feeder near Shelocta in Indiana County in January of 2021 and was spotted periodically through early March, they noticed something subtle that many birders might not have looked carefully enough to see.

The front of its crown has a blackish patch. This is an uncommon variation. Usually, the crown's red color extends all the way to the front of the forehead where the feathers reach the base of the bill.

Margaret asked about this, so I sent the photo to woodpecker expert Stephen A. Shunk, author of the *Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America* (Mariner Books, 2016). In the species account about plumage variation in the Red-bellied, he says, "Female rarely shows small amount of black at forward edge of red nape."

About this particular bird, Steve tells Todd Bird Club members:



This Red-bellied Woodpecker was photographed on January 25, 2021, by Margaret Higbee near Shelocta.

"Interesting bird! The only thing I can come up with is a bird showing some partial melanism. Like a leucistic bird shows plumage lacking in melanin, this can occur in reverse. It certainly does in raptors with a broad range between dark-morph and light-morph birds.

"My only other explanation is that the crown may be showing extensive wear and some delayed molt pattern, which is difficult to confirm from this photo. Thanks for sharing!"

Bob Mulvihill, ornithologist at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, offers this comment: "I feel like I've seen this sort of dark coloring on the crown of Red-bellied Woodpeckers in the past, but I checked all my archived Powdermill banding station posts and didn't find anything like it. Juveniles certainly can show dark feathering there." Bob has a photo example of a somewhat similar bird at <https://tinyurl.com/ef2eaewx>.

The Indiana County woodpecker suggests something valuable: Look closely at birds of any common species. You might see something even slightly unusual. Photograph it and send to Margaret, editor of *The Todd Nuthatch*. She will forward your information to experts for evaluation.

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology to Host Virtual Meeting

Because of the uncertainties of the pandemic, PSO has planned to hold a virtual meeting on Wednesday, September 29, at 7:00 p.m. You do not have to be a member to attend. A short business meeting will precede the presentation by keynote speaker Matt Young, Executive Director and founder of the Finch Research Network. More information will be posted on the Todd Bird Club website as it becomes available.

Brown-headed Cowbird

by Tom Kuehl

While Brown-headed Cowbirds do overwinter in Pennsylvania, the male that I photographed in February visiting a feeder was likely an early season migrant. Brown-headed Cowbirds winter across the southern United States and Central America, and breed in the northeast and central US and southeastern and southcentral Canada, and more broadly in western states and into the Canadian northwest. Brown-headed Cowbirds that are widely tallied for Pennsylvania Audubon Christmas Bird Counts are often found at dairy farms, where they are, like European Starlings and House Sparrows, taking advantage of scraps available among feeding cows.

Historically ornithologists think that Brown-headed Cowbirds were once restricted to the Great Plains and followed the American bison herds as they provided feeding opportunities as the bison churned the thick prairie sod and disturbed the soil. Brown-headed Cowbirds are brood parasites, which means that they lay their eggs in the nest of another species and play no part in raising their young. While they could have been pre-adapted to this strategy, it has been hypothesized that cowbirds developed brood-parasitic breeding habits as

they needed to follow wandering bison herds to feed. Whichever is the case, the fragmentation of the largely forested habitat of the eastern North America has provided the opportunity for Brown-headed Cowbirds to expand into this area, and so cowbirds are now reported to parasitize more than 200 species. In Pennsylvania they are laying eggs in the nests of our native flycatchers, thrushes, sparrows, and warblers.

Smaller bird species are negatively impacted by the Brown-headed Cowbird as their larger nestling out-compete the smaller species. In Michigan, management for the once critically threatened Kirtland's Warbler included removable of cowbird eggs (and cowbirds) to bring this very habitat-specific species back from a path towards extinction. As a threat to so many appealing species, the Brown-headed Cowbird is widely disliked among birders, much like the invasive European Starling and House Sparrow; however, it is a native species and its impact is more about human-induced habitat changes than about this bird.

References: David Allen Sibley Guides to Birds and to Bird Life & Behavior

Indiana County Migration Count Observers

Ron Alsop	Bob Fairman	James Kellam	Joseph Pumford
Pat Andrascik	Emmy Fairman	Gloria Lamer	Bob Ramsey
Sharon Baldrige	Carol Ferrence	Rita Lippert	Cindy Rogers
Tom Betts	Gary Ferrence	Amy Little	Henry Rummel
Sid Blair	Betsy Fetterman	Mary A. Little	John Somonick
Carter Chambers	Tom Fetterman	Frank Logue	Tamathy Stage
Olyvya Cowan	Barb Fletcher	Linda Logue	Vicki Stelma
Marcy Cunkelman	Sue Gatti	Beth Marshall	Linda Stormer
Lionel Deimel	Carol Guba	Ken Marshall	Rodger Stormer
Sue Dickson	Margaret Higbee	Donna Meyer	Mark Strittmatter
Ed Donley	Roger Higbee	Nancy Murphy	John Taylor
John Dudash	Dory Jacobs	Margarita Orlova	Mary Lu Tucker
Anita Duffalo	Pat Johner	Ava Overdorff	Dawn Winstead
Judy Emigh	Linda Jones	James Pumford	Ray Winstead

Party Hours on Foot = 44.87
Party Hours by Car = 52.92
Party Hours by Other = 79.76 (Stationary)

Total Party Hours = 177.55

Party Miles on Foot = 28.03
Party Miles by Car = 471.22

Total Party Miles = 499.25
Total Participants = 56
Total Parties = 44

Indiana Pennsylvania Migration Count 2021

Canada Goose	223	Eastern Phoebe	38	White-crowned Sparrow	22
Wood Duck	11	White-eyed Vireo	3	White-throated Sparrow	14
Blue-winged Teal	3	Yellow-throated Vireo	1	Song Sparrow	157
Mallard	20	Blue-headed Vireo	11	Swamp Sparrow	4
American Black Duck	1	Warbling Vireo	3	Eastern Towhee	240
Common Merganser	8	Red-eyed Vireo	34	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
Red-breasted Merganser	5	Blue Jay	211	Bobolink	5
Ruffed Grouse	1	American Crow	227	Eastern Meadowlark	18
Wild Turkey	54	Fish Crow	1	Orchard Oriole	13
Rock Pigeon	32	Common Raven	9	Baltimore Oriole	107
Mourning Dove	164	Tree Swallow	183	Red-winged Blackbird	435
Chimney Swift	4	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	32	Brown-headed Cowbird	51
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	26	Purple Martin	48	Rusty Blackbird	7
Killdeer	22	Barn Swallow	255	Common Grackle	462
Spotted Sandpiper	6	Black-capped Chickadee	85	Ovenbird	99
Solitary Sandpiper	2	chickadee sp?	4	Louisiana Waterthrush	5
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	Tufted Titmouse	110	Northern Waterthrush	1
Common Loon	11	Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	Golden-winged Warbler	1
Double-crested Cormorant	11	White-breasted Nuthatch	42	Blue-winged Warbler	5
Great Blue Heron	13	House Wren	34	Black-and-white Warbler	13
Green Heron	5	Carolina Wren	33	Tennessee Warbler	3
Turkey Vulture	100	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	10	Nashville Warbler	1
Osprey	6	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	Kentucky Warbler	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Eastern Bluebird	80	Common Yellowthroat	113
Cooper's Hawk	6	Veery	1	Hooded Warbler	33
Bald Eagle	3	Swainson's Thrush	4	American Redstart	44
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Hermit Thrush	1	Cape May Warbler	1
Broad-winged Hawk	6	Wood Thrush	101	Cerulean Warbler	3
Red-tailed Hawk	25	American Robin	873	Northern Parula	2
Barred Owl	1	Gray Catbird	237	Magnolia Warbler	9
Belted Kingfisher	5	Brown Thrasher	20	Blackburnian Warbler	5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Northern Mockingbird	12	Yellow Warbler	97
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	European Starling	383	Chestnut-sided Warbler	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	75	American Pipit	2	Palm Warbler	1
Downy Woodpecker	63	Cedar Waxwing	12	Pine Warbler	2
Hairy Woodpecker	28	House Sparrow	193	Yellow-rumped Warbler	31
Northern Flicker	56	House Finch	52	Yellow-throated Warbler	2
Pileated Woodpecker	24	Purple Finch	2	Prairie Warbler	5
American Kestrel	6	American Goldfinch	191	Black-throated Green Warbler	42
Merlin	2	Grasshopper Sparrow	1	Scarlet Tanager	26
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	Chipping Sparrow	157	Northern Cardinal	229
Least Flycatcher	1	Field Sparrow	38	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	61
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	Dark-eyed Junco	1	Indigo Bunting	31
Eastern Kingbird	7				

Total Number of Species = 129
Total Number of Individuals = 7,196

Note: The *sp?* are not counted as species since other members of those families are already on the list, but the numbers are included in the final total.

Indiana- Armstrong - Cambria Spring 2021

Please send your bird reports at the end of each month to Margaret Higbee at bcoriele@windstream.net or mail to 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701. If you enter your data on eBird, it's not necessary as I'll retrieve them from eBird.

Abbreviations: Armstrong Trail (AT), Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Crooked Creek (CC), Indiana (IN), Indiana County Migration Count (ICMC), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Lewisville (LV), Lock and Dam (L & D), Prince Gallitzin (PG), Rosston (RT), Shelocta (SH), West Lebanon (WL), West Penn Trail (WPT), West Valley (WL), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Not frequently found in the region in the spring, a single "blue" **Snow Goose** was photographed near YC 3/4 (MH, RH). The **Greater White-fronted Goose**, found in Feb. at KR, continued through 3/3 (MH, RH); 3 also appeared near Worthington 3/5 (LCr, JJ). Two **Trumpeter Swans** were listed at Manorville 3/2 (TR) and continued through 3/6 (ABu, SGU); YC hosted as many as 4 on 3/9 (MH, RH, ON); the only previous YC sighting of one bird occurred 4/25/2006 (LC, MH, GL, KR); one showed up at PG 3/14 (RL) and was seen by many through 5/16 (RL). Top **Tundra Swan** counts included 250 at PG 3/5 (TD), 200 at YC 3/4 (MH, RH) and 3/6 (JaP, JP), and 70 over a farm south of WV, *Armstrong*, 3/9 (ABu).

High counts for **Blue-winged Teal** were 13 at YC 3/26 (MH, RH) and 10 at PG 4/25 (TA). Top **Northern Shoveler** counts noted were 13 at YC 3/4 (MH, RH), 6 at PG 3/12 (TD), and 2 n. of L&D 8 on 3/10 (TR). Lingered **Gadwalls** included 4 at YC 4/27 (JaP, JP), 2 at PG 4/4 (RL), and one at Park Bend Farm 4/6 (MVT); 15 was the season's high at CD 3/27 (RC). Fifty **American Wigeons** were noted on 3/10 (MD) at YC, the top tally, but other highs were 17 at KR 3/9 (JSt) and 14 at PG 3/14 (JD, SDo). Last **Green-winged Teal** was found at YC 4/29 (MH, RH).

Waterfowl at YC peaked on 3/9 (MH, RH, ON) with highs of 18 **Canvasbacks**, 38 **Redheads**, and 170 **Ring-necked Ducks**; highs elsewhere included 5 Canvasbacks at RT 3/2, 7 (TR), 11 Redheads at Rosston 3/2 (ABu) and 3/6 (RH, SM), and 300 Ring-necked Ducks at PG 3/19 (JS, SDo) and 50 at RT 3/7 (TR). Thirty-five **Greater Scaup** were noted 3/21 (JC) at PG. **Lesser Scaup** counts included 50 at RT 3/7 (BH), 100 at PG 3/22 (MD), and 98 at YC 3/26 (MH, RH). Five **Surf Scoters** n. of L&D 8 on 5/14 (TR) were the only ones listed. PG hosted 2 **White-winged Scoters** 4/1 (TA), 4/3 (JC), and 4/4 (PI,



This Snow Goose was a nice surprise 3/4 near Yellow Creek..



This is one of two White-winged Scoters photographed by Tina Alianiello at Prince Gallitzin S.P. on April 1.

RL); 3 were sighted 4/11 (RL) while 2 remained the following day (ST). March 12 yielded 10 **Long-tailed Ducks** at PG (TD) and 2 at RT (TR); KR harbored 2 on 3/20 (CB, LL). Peak **Bufflehead** numbers were 75 at PG 4/11 (TA), 56 at YC 4/19 (TR), and 39 at RT 3/6 (RH, SM). Most of the **Common Goldeneye** reports involved singletons, but 8 at RT 3/2 (TR) and 4 at PG 3/13 (TA), 3/21 (JC) were a few of the exceptions.

Last reported **Hooded Mergansers** this spring were 3 at PG 5/6 (TA) and 8 at YC 4/25 (MH, RH). **Common Mergansers** tallied were 70 at CC 3/13 (RC), 26 at YC 3/9 (MH, RH, ON), 17 at PG 3/20 (TD). Top counts of **Red-breasted Mergansers** included 33 at YC on 4/22 (MH, RH), 26 at PG 4/20 (AM), and 14 at KR 3/16 (MH, RH). It was good seeing the report of 200 **Ruddy Duck** at PG 4/11 (TA, RL) as numbers elsewhere were minimal with the highest tally of 14 at YC 4/2 (BF); several birders have mentioned the decrease in numbers of migrating

Ruddies in western PA.

Only three **Ruffed Grouse** were noted – one in *Cambria* 3/17 (TD), one in *Indiana* 5/8 (LJ, JS) and one in *Armstrong* 5/16 (SBu).

A single **Pied-billed Grebe** lingered at YC through 5/10 (TR).

This spring **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** far outnumbered **Black-billed Cuckoos**; only one Black-billed was found in *Indiana* this season – one along the WPT 5/21 (MCa, ME); *Armstrong* produced three reports while *Cambria* came up with two (PI, RL). Only one **Common Nighthawk** was eBirded 5/30 (ABu) s. of WV while two **Eastern Whip-poor-will** reports were received; a single bird was calling at the Allegheny Portage Railroad on 4/24 (TA) while 4 Whips were singing near Johnstown 5/20 (JE).

Chimney Swift numbers seemed to be down across the region with only 4 sighted on the INMC. The migration count numbers have dwindled since 2012 when 250 were counted; the following year the tally had dropped to 154 and it continued to fall till 2016 when it bumped back to 178. In 2017 the number was 141; in 2018, 129; in 2019, 73. The year 2020's count was more like a Christmas Bird Count with the sighting of just one swift in the freezing temps, blowing snow, sleet, and rain. The weather this year was warmer, but we still counted only 4.

One **Virginia Rail** was found at PG 4/17 (TA, SVH) and heard again on 4/29 (MH, RH). **American Coots** peaked at 42 on 4/2 (MH, RH) at YC and at a mere 3 on 4/25 (TA) at PG. A single **Sandhill Crane** flew over a yard near LV 4/11 (MC) calling repeatedly.

A single **Semipalmated Plover** was listed 5/14 (DJa) at YC where 2 appeared 5/27 (JaP, JP) along with one **Least Sandpiper**. The WPT near Bow Ridge yielded a flock of 25 Least on 5/21 (MCa, ME). CC hosted 10 on 5/17 (TR). Least Sandpipers moved through PG between 5/10 (TA) and 5/30 (RL) with best count of 4 on 5/16 (RL). Single **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were listed at PG 5/23 (RL) and at YC 5/27 (JaP, JP). A single **Dunlin** visited PG 5/5 (TA) through 5/6 (TA, PI). An **American Woodcock** 3/13 (MC) near LV was first. **Wilson's Snipe** reports included 5 at CC 3/13 (RC), 2 at Dugan's Marsh 3/23 (TD), one near YC 4/24 (MH, RH), and one south of WV 5/5 (ABu). One to 4 **Solitary Sandpipers** were listed at YC between 4/24 (SD) and 5/19 (SD). In **Armstrong** single Solitaries were found west of Timblin 5/7 (AK, JKe), south of WV 5/12 (ABu), and at CC 5/17 (TR). **Cambria** hosted singletons 4/24 (TA, SVH) at SGL 108, Fallentimber, and 5/10 (TA, JC) at PG. Three **Greater Yellowlegs** arrived 4/10 (SM) at YC with singletons spotted there through 5/27 (JaP, JP); 7 at PG 5/10 (JC) and 3 at the WL strips 5/12 (MH, RH) were the high counts. An amazing 17 **Willetts** were photographed at CC 5/10 (MVT) and subsequently seen later that evening by others (ABu, MD); another arrived at PG 5/10 (TA). Seven **Lesser Yellowlegs** were noted at WL 4/30 (MH, RH); 2 were found at PG 5/10 (JC), the same day 3 appeared at YC



Marge Van Tassel's photo of two of her 17 Willets demonstrates well that all the color is in the wings.

Alan Buriak, concerning his Short-eared Owl, writes:

A single bird flew in at 6:18 PM and hunted the fields within clear view for a few minutes. As it approached in the distance, I thought it was a harrier as I had seen a male earlier; however the shape difference became quickly evident. Bird floated distinctively as it hunted, light underwings with dark tips. This is only the second time I have spotted this species here, the other being April 2020; however it is possible that they regularly overwinter in the general area but cover a large area and alternate with other nearby farms. Our property and the neighboring farm contain about 230 acres of open farm field and some early successional fields and regularly host overwintering Northern Harriers.

(TR); the following day 5/11 (LC, ED, PF, MH, RH, DK, DM, JT) the YC count was 7.

An amazing flock of 300 **Bonaparte's Gulls** 3/30 (SD) is the highest count on record for YC, surpassing the 275 seen on 4/11/2006 (LC, DL, MH, SS). PG hosted 1-8 on 11 dates between 3/13 (TA) and 5/10 (TA). Two Bonaparte's Gulls were sighted at CC 3/25 (TR), one at the same location 4/27 (MVT), and one at KT 5/15 (MH, RH). Top **Ring-billed Gull** counts included 19 n. of L&D 8 on 3/3 (TR), 42 at PG 3/3 (TD), 46 at Walmart in IN 3/7 (SH), and 89 at YC 3/9 (MH, RH, ON). Not regularly seen in *Indiana*, 8 **Herring Gulls** were nice finds 3/9 (MEy, LS) at YC; on 3/10 (TA) 3 stopped at PG; the KT Herring Gulls were already on nest by 5/15 (MH, RH). Two **Caspian Terns** visited YC 4/25 (MH, RH) while one stopped by 5/11 (LC, ED, MH, RH, JT); at least 4 dropped into PG 4/29 (MH, RH). The only report in the region, a **Common Tern** appeared at PG 5/10 (TA) and remained through 5/11 (PI). **Forster's Tern** maxima included 11 at CC 5/3 (TR), 13 at Lake Margus 5/4 (GL), 7 at PG 5/5 (TA), and 15 at YC 5/10 (JT).

Eleven **Common Loons** were present during a heavy snowstorm 4/22 (MH, RH) at YC where 5 were counted on the ICMC. An **American White Pelican** at PG was a great find 4/12 (KLu, RL). Single **Great Egrets** were widely reported in *Indiana* between 3/31 (JP) when one flew over McCreary's Pond in IN and 5/18 (LC, ED, MH, RH, DK, JT, KT) at YC where one was sighted from the north shore.

Armstrong reports included three reports of single birds between 4/24 (DR) and 5/7 (MVT).

The many **Black Vulture** sightings are significant as this species continues to expand its range northward. Sightings include 2 at SF 3/2, 9 (SB); 6 near Edmon 4/5 (JaP, JP), one near LV 4/30 (MC), 2 at CD 5/12 (MH, RH), and one at CD 5/16 (MH, RH). A **Golden Eagle** was observed at SF 3/16 (SB).

Eastern Screech Owl sightings included one in a tree cavity n.e. of Brady's Bend 3/5, 15 (TAr); one near SGL 247 on 3/19 (DBr), 2 at Apollo 5/13 (SDu), and one in the CC valey 5/16 (MVT). Single **Great Horned Owls** were heard along the WPT 3/19 (MCM) and at Nolo 3/24, 5/6 (DB); one flew across the road at YC 4/24 (MH, RH). Two were heard hooting near SH 3/16 (MH, RH) and at SF

3/24 (SB). **Barred Owls** were noted at six locations in *Cambria*, four in *Indiana*, and two in *Armstrong* (v.o.). A lingering **Short-eared Owl** was spotted s. of WV 3/8 (ABu).

Two **Merlins** were reported at undisclosed *Cambria* locations 4/11, 21(KL) while another was noted 5/15 (KL). Singletons were sighted in an IN yard 4/23 (JP) and at YC 5/8 (MO). One stopped at PG 5/5 (TA). One of the Graff Bridge **Peregrines** was last reported 5/20 (MH, RH) as it perched on the electrical structure near its former territory.

The only **Horned Larks** noted in *Armstrong* were one 3/5 (RB) near Worthington and 1-2 at another Worthington location 3/13 (RHa, SM, TR); *Indiana* yielded a singleton on 4/2 (MH, RH) and 10 on 4/22 (MH, RH), all just north of YC. In *Cambria* 19 were tallied near SF 3/3 (SB).

Swallows, like the swifts, seemed to be in short supply this spring. Although there are several **Purple Martin** colonies in the northern part of *Indiana*, only one Purple Martin was eBirded this spring – a single adult male at YC 4/26 (MH, RH). The colony near Penn Run with the high tally included 48 martins on 5/8 (RA). The CC colony count was a mere 4 on 5/8 (MVT) while 6 were noted at Robb's Fording 5/16 (MVT). PG's top tally was 20 on 5/18 (MD). One to 2 **Bank Swallows** were sighted at YC between 4/22 (MH, RH) and 5/10 (TR, JT); top counts elsewhere include 15 at PG 5/15 (TA) and 10 along the AT n. of L&D 8 on 5/8 (TR). Single **Cliff Swallows** were found at YC 4/25, 29 (MH, RH) and 5/10 (TR); 2 were at Two Lick where they nest under the bridge on 5/14 (JeC). Best counts were 10 along the AT n. of L & D 8 on 5/8 (TR) and 6 at PG 5/6 (TA).

A male **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was observed courtship feeding a female 5/16 (MH, RH) near SH, where they had previously nested other years; he first passed her a piece of suet then foraged in the white pine and brought her another tidbit which she gladly accepted. May 16 was also the last spring date at Carrolltown (WI) and near KT (SGu) for this nuthatch. The only **Winter Wrens** noted were singletons along the AT n. of L&D 8 on 3/3 (TR), at Mahoning Creek Lake 3/9 (AK, JKe), at BS 4/8 (JaP, JP), at Fallen Timber 4/10 (TA, SVH), and at PG /15 (TA).

Veeries were tough to find this spring with the only *Indiana* sightings at BS of 3 birds 5/6 (JT) and 2 on 5/11 (DK); one was at Blacklick Valley Natural Area 5/8 (JT). In *Armstrong* the AT n. of L&D 8 yielded one on 5/8 (TR) while SGL 247 harbored 2 on 5/16 (TR). *Cambria's* sightings



Theo Rickert photographed this Evening Grosbeak in his yard 4/22.



A Lincoln's Sparrow, photographed by Joseph Pumford added to the ever-growing Pumford yard list in Indiana.

included single Veeries in the Loretto area 5/20, 31 (SVH), at SF 5/17 (SB), and near Gallitzin S.F. 5/23 (DP). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** along Rock Furnace Trail 5/23 (DR) was the region's lone report.

The ICMC 5/8 (v.o.) produced 4 **Swainson's Thrushes** in various parts of *Indiana* in addition to reports of four other Swainson's between 5/12 (DJa) and 5/21 (MCa). *Armstrong* yielded six reports between 5/2 (TR) and 5/23 (DR). **Hermit Thrush** reports included single birds in IN 4/7, 13 (JP), at BS 4/8 (JP), at YC 4/24 (JaK), and near SH 5/8 (BR); sightings were much less numerous in *Armstrong* with only one eBirded report of a Hermit s. of WV 4/22 (ABu). Heading east into *Cambria* five reports included single birds between 3/26 (SVH) and 5/31 (TA).

Four **Evening Grosbeaks** stopped by Nolo 3/7 (GL); one arrived near SGL 247 on 4/22 (TR); 2 appeared near Beaverdale 5/5 (MHa); another was observed east of KT 5/8 (SGu) while 6 popped up near LV 5/10 (MC), the last report in the region. A single **Common**

Redpoll at PG 3/20 (TD) comprised the entire report for this species as no others were noted in our area this spring. **Pine Siskins** were found at six locations this season with the last 3 sighted near KT 5/16 (SGu).

The first and only **Grasshopper Sparrow** this spring was sighted 5/8 (JaP, JP) at SGL 262. The wintering **Clay-colored Sparrow** near SH was last seen 3/15 (MH, RH). *Cambria* harbored the only two **Vesper Sparrows** noted – single birds at PG 4/1 (TA) and at another PG location 4/10 (TA). First **Savannah Sparrow** was listed south of WV 4/24 (ABu); none were noted in *Indiana* while PG's first arrival occurred 5/10 (JC). The only **Henslow's Sparrows** spotted were 3 on 5/17 (JC) and one 5/23 (TA), both reports at SGL 108 – Bellwood.

Only three **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported – one 5/11 (JP) in IN, another 5/8 (MH, RH, JT) at BS, and the last 5/15 (SVH) at Loretto.

Becoming ever more difficult to find in *Indiana*, two **Yellow-breasted Chats** were noted – one at the Conemaugh Floodlands in early May (DL) and one on the SH BBS route 5/31 (MH, RH). In *Armstrong*, reports included 3 chats 5/20 (SGu) s.e. of Adrian where one remained 5/31 (TR) and another 5/25 (ABu) s. of WV.

Top **Bobolink** counts were 10 at SGL 108 - Bellwood on 5/17 (JC) and 6 at Robb's Fording on both 5/16 (MVT) and 5/30 (MH, RH).

Rusty Blackbirds were found at YC on four dates bracketed by 3/4 (MH, RH) and 3/29 (TR) with best count of 9 on 3/5 (MH, RH); 7 were noted on the ICMC 5/8 (SD) at Waterworks Conservation Area. Seven was the best *Armstrong* tally along the AT n. of L&D 8 on 4/24 (TR). In *Cambria* single Rusties were found 4/3 (TA) at Wilmore Dam, 4/16 (SVH) and 4/28 (SVH) at two separate Loretto locations, and 4/18 (RL) at PG; at SF 2 were sighted on 3/18, 4/27 (SB).

Thirty-three warblers were listed in *Indiana* this spring; 27 in *Cambria*; and 23 in *Armstrong*, for a total of 34 region-wide. Found in all three counties were 19 species: Ovenbird; Louisiana Waterthrush; Blue-winged, Black-and-white, Tennessee, and Nashville Warblers; Common Yellowthroat; Hooded Warbler; American Redstart; Cape May Warbler; Northern Parula; Magnolia, Blackburnian, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Palm, Yellow-rumped, Prairie, and Black-throated Green Warblers.

Worm-eating Warblers were noted only at PG 5/10 (JC) and at YC 5/15 (SL, DLI). **Northern Waterthrush** was noted at PG 4/29 (MH, RH) and 5/6 (TA); *Indiana* produced sightings at five locations between 4/30 (JP) and 5/17 (MH, RH) when 2 were observed at BS. A banded **Golden-winged Warbler** at YC 5/5 (JT) continued through the end of the quarter. May 15 yielded 3 Golden-wings at SGL 108 - Fallentimber (TA) and one at SGL 108 - Sandy Run (PI).



Sometimes very difficult to see but frequently heard in migration, Joseph Pumford photographed this Northern Waterthrush in his yard!

The Golden-winged Warbler found at YC had been color banded by Dr. Jeff Larkin at the L&M Camp-ground near YC last year and had been fitted with a transmitter that was designed to fall off which it apparently did.

A **Prothonotary Warbler** visited a bird bath near downtown IN 5/21 (SG) where it continued for two days; this was just the third *Indiana* record for this species. The **Swainson's Warbler** found last year along the WPT had returned by 5/13 (DL) and continued through the end of May. A **Mourning Warbler** at PG 5/10 (JC) was listed again 5/15 (TA), the only reports in the region. Reported mostly in *Indiana*, **Kentucky Warblers** were found at three *Indiana* locations near CD 5/16 (MH, RH) and at a fourth nearby spot on 5/22 (JP); a single Kentucky was at Forest Manor 5/17, 23 (SD). YC sightings included single birds 5/10 (TR) and 5/18 (LC, ED, MH, RH, DK, JT, KT). Another bird was heard just outside the park 5/18, 25 (MH, RH). The only *Armstrong* sightings occurred at three stops along the Margaret BBS 5/28 (MH, RH). **Cerulean Warbler** reports were centered mostly in *Armstrong* with birds at nine locations between 5/3 (TR) at CC and the end of

the month (MH, RH) when one was heard at Cochran's Mill; best count of 5 was achieved along the AT n. of L&D 8 on 5/14 (TR) and again 5/21 (MH, RH, FM, JM). *Indiana's* hotspot was along the Conemaugh River between 5/12 (MH, RH) and 5/31 (JK, TK). Few **Bay-breasted Warblers** were noted – singletons were noted at PG 5/10 (JC), at SF 5/17 (SB), and at BS 5/19 (MH, RH, JT). YC yielded 3 on 5/18 (LC, ED *et al*) and 2 the following day (SD). **Blackpoll Warblers** were restricted to *Armstrong* and *Indiana* this spring with single birds 5/23 at Rattling Run (DR), at CC (ABu), and near IN (RS); two stops in *Armstrong* on the SH BBS 5/31 (MH, RH) each yielded a singleton. YC sightings included one on 5/25 (ED, PF, MH, RH, JT) and 2 on 5/27 (JaP, JP). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were reported 5/2 (DJa) at YC, 5/11 (JP) in IN, and 5/12 (DJa) at IUP Co-op. *Cambria* sightings included one 5/9 (NS) at Laurel Ridge, 2 on 5/10 (JC) at PG, one on 5/11 (DJa) at Northern Cambria, and 2 on 5/12 (TA) at Wilmore Reservoir. **Pine Warblers** arrived first 3/12 (MH, RH) near SH, 3/17 (SB) at SF, 3/28 (AP) at YC, and 4/11 (TA) at PG. **Yellow-throated Warblers** first appeared 4/16 (TR) at CC and 4/17 (JK, TK, MM) along the WPT. Single **Canada Warblers** were sighted only along the WPT 5/16 (MH, RH) and at BS 5/19 (MH, RH, JT). **Wilson's Warbler** was found 5/11 (PF, MH, RH, DK, KT) at YC where it was photographed 5/27 (JaP, JP).

Observers – Tina Alianiello, Ron Alsop, Tammy Arnold (TA), K.M. Anderson, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Corey Bellis, Dave Brook (DBr), Alan Buriak, Ron Burkert, Susan Burket (SBu), Seth Burnosky, Martin Carlin (MCa), Rich Carlson, Lee Carnahan, John Carter, Jeremy Castle (JeC), Matthew Cmar (MCm), Linda Croskey (LCr), Marcy Cunkelman, Michael David, Tony DeSantis, Susan Dickson, Josh Donaldson, Susan Donaldson (SDo), Ed Donley, Sarah Dunmire (SDu), Joseph Elias, Mary Elsenheimer, Mary Eyman, (MEy), Patience Fisher, Brian Freiwald, Sue Gatti, Sam Guthrie (SGu), Brooke Hahn, Susanne Haney, Matthew Harbart (MHa), Rebecca Hart (RHa), Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Pam Illig, Winnie Illig, Dory Jacobs, David Janetski (DJa), Julie Jansen, Linda Jones, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Avis Keener, John Keener (JKe), James Kellam (JaK), Jan Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Sean Leahy, Laura Levri, Dawn Lloyd (DLI), Kathy Lubert (KLu), Renee Lubert, Karen Lucas (KL), Alan MacEachren, Steve Manns, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Donna Meyer, Oscar Nigam, Margarita Orlova, Aidan Place, David Poder, James Pumford (JaP), Joseph Pumford, Bob Ramsey, Kevin Redvay, Dan Richards, Theo Rickert, Nicholas Schleissmann, Russ Smiley, John Somonick, Scott Speedy, Liz Spence, Jill Stoddard (JSt), John Taylor, Shannon Thompson, Ken Truitt, Stewart Van Horn, Marge Van Tassel.

Sincere Thanks!

Thanks to the Todd Bird Club and other members who supported the Todd Towhees during the B4C – the Birding Blitz for Conservation, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology.

The Todd Towhees sighted 101 species on June 21 and raised \$325 which will be split among three conservation organizations – the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, and the Manada Conservancy. One hundred percent of all donations will be disbursed to the three organizations as PSO fronted all the costs of the effort. The monies will be used to fund projects that focus on protecting habitat for our two target species – Northern Harrier and Wood Thrush.

A detailed report of our day will be included in the October newsletter.

Thanks again for your support!

Carol Guba
Gloria Lamer
Roger & Margaret Higbee

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

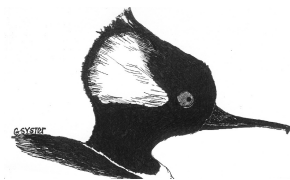
Co-President - Jim Woodard	724-465-5886	creelcrazy@gmail.com
Co-President - Linda Jones	724-463-0651	joneslinda@hotmail.com
Secretary - Roger Higbee	724-354-3493	rvhigbee@windstream.net
Treasurer - Gloria Lamer	724-349-1159	michny9@gmail.com
Past President - Tom Glover		tomnglover@comcast.net
Facebook - Doug Wise		dmdoug66@gmail.com
Scrapbook - Donna Meyer	724-349-2787	donna.meyer36@gmail.com
Webmaster - Ed Donley		hedonley@iup.edu
Outings - Lee Carnahan	724-388-4667	

Note: In the April issue of “The Todd Nuthatch,” we requested that members write about “My Favorite Bird.” Below is the first one we’ve received. What is **YOUR** favorite bird???

My Favorite Bird

by David Cecchi

Although very hard to choose just one favorite bird, I would pick our beloved state bird, the Ruffed Grouse. We have seen such a decline in their numbers, and they need help. I used to hear and see them all the time, but not so much any more. I really miss the springtime drumming we would hear while fishing. It is such a highlight of my day if I see one nowadays.



Todd Bird Club

c/o Roger V. Higbee
3119 Creekside Road
Indiana, PA 15701-7934