

The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

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

January 2021

Meetings and Regular Outings Canceled through May until Further Notice

Because of the COVID -19 pandemic, Todd Bird Club has decided to cancel our regularly scheduled meetings and outings until we see the number of cases diminishing. We are hoping to resume normal operations by September. However, we encourage our members to go out and bird on their own or with family members or close friends.

We hope to resume meetings and outings at some point if the pandemic permits.

The Great Backyard Bird Count and the Spring Migration Count have **not** been canceled.

The Great Backyard Bird Count February 12 - 15, 2021

Each year people from around the world come together to watch, learn about, count, and celebrate birds. Join the Great Backyard Bird Count on February 12-15, 2021.

Count birds anywhere you like for at **least** 15 minutes—or for as long as you wish. Keep track of the kinds of birds you see and how long you watched.

Make your best estimate of how many birds you saw of each species. For example, 5 Northern Cardinals, 3 American Crows, etc. Huge flocks may be a challenge, but your best guess is still valuable.

Put in a new checklist:
for each new day
for each different location
for the same location, same day, if you counted at
a different time of day

The Great Backyard Bird Count uses eBird, one of the world's largest nature-databases, with more than 100 million bird sightings contributed each year and used by professionals for science and conservation. Contribute your sightings to eBird and become a citizen scientist.

If you have never participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count before, or have not participated since before 2013, you'll need to set up an account. Merlin Bird ID app, eBird Mobile app, or eBird.org will walk you through the process of setting up an account. You will be asked to provide your name and email and choose a personal username and password. Additional profile information is optional.

It's a lot of fun! Plan now to go birding on at least one of the four days, February 12, 13, 14, or 15, 2021. Let us know if you participate (bcoriele@windstream.net).

Camping and Birding in Delaware

By Oscar Nigam

The week after Christmas, my dad and I spent a few days camping in Delaware. Hoping the weather would cooperate, it seemed like an excellent way to safely travel, ending a year defined by staying home on a high note. While the main purpose of the trip was not birding, I was looking forward to seeing many coastal birds that don't make their way up to Western Pennsylvania. During the drive, I identified numerous species of birds: Red-tailed Hawks were plentiful, and I spotted two American Kestrels – one that flew right over the car. As we drove farther south, vultures became more abundant – passing hundreds – and I was able to pick out a few Black Vultures among the more numerous Turkey Vultures.

After six hours of driving and a quick stop to load up the back seat with firewood, we arrived at Cape Henlopen State Park. We quickly pitched our tent, eager to maximize the remaining daylight and explore the park, as a mixed flock of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Carolina Chickadees, and Tufted Titmice passed by above us. We left the campsite, hiking through pines, and I quickly heard the squeak-toy calls of Brown-headed Nuthatches, a species of nuthatch endemic to pine forests of the southeastern United States, that grow here. A group of eight landed in the treetops around us, providing incredible looks at these tiny, fast-moving birds, my top target species for the trip – and a lifer. After half a mile, the trees gave way to dunes and a Lesser Black-backed Gull flew by, welcoming us to the ocean. The sky was blue, and temperatures were in the 50s; it felt like summer in comparison to the recent cold spell in Pittsburgh. Vibrant, whacky bills of male Surf Scoters enlivened the sea as Red-throated and Common Loons bobbed up and down in the breakers, occasionally diving to catch a fish. Walking along the beach, groups of Sanderlings darted back and forth with the waves, their little legs inexplicably nimble. Later, we walked out on a fishing pier, hoping to spot a Great Cormorant among a group of Double-crested but saw none. The pier, however, gave us remarkable views of the setting sun. The one aspect of winter camping I hadn't considered before this trip was what to do after the sun sets. We were done with dinner by six, and we didn't want to leave the warmth of the fire until it was time for bed. After talking for a while, we went to bed around 8:30.

I awoke with the rising sun the next morning, looking forward to the birds the new day would bring us. My dad's high school friend, Bob – an ornithologist working for the Nature Conservancy – and his son Connor, who is my age, took the early morning ferry from Cape May to Lewes to join us for the day. After fireside conversation and a breakfast of bacon and eggs, we set off on a five-mile hike in the park along a saltwater lagoon. We quickly spotted the first of many Great Blue Herons, stealthily



A massive cloud of Snow Geese filled the sky.

wading through the water in search of a meal, and a few Mute Swans and Bufflehead in the distance; American Black Ducks were omnipresent. Enjoying the view of the water to our left and the saltmarsh to our right, the most astounding sighting of the day arose from the behind the trees in the distance: a massive cloud of Snow Geese filled the sky ahead of us as they were likely spooked by a Bald Eagle. Black and white flashed as the

birds moved in all different directions, and we estimated this flock – along with several flyby flocks in the background – to total around six thousand individuals. “Find the Ross’s Goose, Oscar,” my dad’s friend Bob joked. We rounded the far end of the lagoon and walked back along the beach, the strong wind making the trek difficult, and we managed to spot a couple of White-winged Scoters and a flying Red-breasted Merganser before making it back to the car.

Our next stop was Prime Hook, a national wildlife refuge close to the state park. Towards the end of the drive, we pulled over to observe a couple of Savannah Sparrows in a field before continuing to the parking lot. With Yellow-rumped Warblers calling in the background, we walked out on a dike, observing flocks of Dunlin flying across the water and a pair of Northern Harriers gliding low over the distant marsh. Small flocks of Snow Geese passed above us almost nonstop throughout the afternoon, and we picked out several blue morph birds. The trails meandered through fields, forests, and wetlands, and we listened to Bob’s always-entertaining stories (this time, it was helping a rancher find his lost cattle while conducting field research in California), Connor’s hopes of traveling to work on an organic farm this summer, and my almost-completed college applications. Some other highlights of the hike included a drake Northern Pintail, a Red-

shouldered Hawk, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Hermit Thrush, and two Eastern Towhees. Later, driving along a road through the marsh, we added Tundra Swan, Killdeer, and Lesser Scaup (in the ocean at the end of the road). As we drove back to Cape Henlopen, the rising moon appeared huge in the periwinkle sky. After a hot dinner of chicken and dumplings, we bade farewell to Bob and Connor as they left to catch the last ferry out of Lewes for the day. Before going to bed, I reflected on the 60-some species we had seen that day.

Though we were driving back to Pittsburgh in the afternoon, we were determined to make the most of our final day in Delaware. Having burned through the last of our firewood the night before, we aimed for a speedy morning at the campsite. I broke camp as my dad cooked breakfast, but I was quickly distracted by the sounds of a mixed flock. I grabbed my binoculars and walked across the road, observing Brown-headed and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Eastern Bluebirds, a Pileated Woodpecker, and – much to my surprise – a single Pine Warbler moving through the treetops as well as a group of Chipping Sparrows foraging on the ground. A Fox Sparrow was another nice addition.

After packing the car, we drove south to Delaware Seashore State Park, where I hoped to pick up several more coastal species for the trip list. As I walked onto the beach, I noticed movement in the grasses. Walking closer, I pished a Savannah Sparrow up onto a shrub. However, this bird looked much paler than the Savannah Sparrows I



This pale subspecies of Savannah Sparrow winters along the Atlantic coast.

had observed at Prime Hook yesterday. It was an Ipswich sparrow! This subspecies of Savannah Sparrow breeds only on Sable Island, a small island a few hundred miles

off the coast of Nova Scotia, and winters along the Atlantic coast. Thrilled with this sighting, I took a final look at the bird and turned my attention to the ocean. I immediately noticed a mixed flock of ducks at the end of the jetty: Common Eiders, Long-tailed Duck, and Bufflehead. Above me, I saw Bonaparte's Gulls flying (the fifth gull species of the trip, after Ring-billed, Herring, and Lesser and Great Black-backed), and I watched the acrobatic flight and dives of Forster's Terns. I heard some unfamiliar calls; turning around, I observed a flock of Boat-tailed Grackles fly across the inlet and land on a construction crane. Still eyeing two new species of shorebirds, we drove across the bridge to the other side of the inlet. I walked out on the second jetty, careful not to slip on the slimy, seaweed-covered rocks. Towards the end of the jetty, among a small group of Sanderling, was a Purple Sandpiper! Larger and much darker than the Sanderling, it foraged on the steep surface of a jetty rock, inches away from the crashing waves. As I walked back down the jetty, I almost stepped on the second target shorebird species! An extremely friendly Ruddy Turnstone ran right past me, exploring the nooks and crannies of the jetty in search of a snack. I took a few minutes to photograph the cooperative bird. At one more brief stop, I watched a large flock of Brant take off from the bay, circle around, and come back into land. Another fantastic morning of birding!



This very tame Ruddy Turnstone posed on the jetty as he explored the crevices for food.

The trip wasn't quite over yet, though. We decided to make one final stop at Sandy Point State Park in Maryland. With the sound of traffic from the Bay Bridge in the background, I added some more waterfowl to the trip list, seeing Greater Scaup, Ruddy Duck, and Common Goldeneye. All in all, we had seen 81 species over our three-day trip, including ten – yes, *ten* – lifers! I'm still a somewhat new birder, only beginning to seriously bird this summer, so many of the coastal species were new to me. Feeling lucky that temperatures never dropped below

30, we floated the idea of a winter backpacking trip later this year. Maybe we will make winter camping an annual tradition, in addition to our annual backpacking trip, always a highlight of my year. Upon returning home that

evening in Pittsburgh, I thought back to these few days camping with my dad, hoping the new year brings many similar opportunities to spend time with my family, safely travel, and see many new birds.

A Purple Finch Puzzle: Why Such Intense Red?

By Paul Hess

Here's a topic about finch coloration, this time for the Purple Finch. A male rarely shows plumage so dark red as the one at right. We typically call it a soft "raspberry." Google "Purple Finch images" on the Internet, and you'll see very few as dark and extensively red as this one. It visited Janice Dembosky's feeder in Marion Center, Indiana County, on July 19, 2020. Along with Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee was there, and recognized its oddity, photographed it, and sent her photos to Bob Mulvihill, ornithologist at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh.

Bob advised Margaret to send her photos to Jocelyn Hudon, Curator of Ornithology at the Royal Alberta Museum in Canada, a prominent expert in the bio-chemistry of feather coloration.

Dr. Hudon replied to Margaret, "Thank you for sending this image. It is a very interesting bird indeed!"

Variations in red, orange, and yellow colors are obtained from the chemical carotene in plants, then processed internally within the birds until pigments are deposited in feathers. Combinations of different plants and varying processes produce different colors, sometimes far from normal.

About this Purple Finch, Dr. Hudon said, "Yes, the bird is unusually red, but it doesn't show the blotchiness we typically associate with diet-derived reddening, but rather a somewhat uniform intense redness. It is hard for me to

judge whether this explains the unusual coloration of your bird."

He concluded, "Without the ability to identify the pigments involved from a photograph, this color aberration may unfortunately have to remain unexplained. Let me know if you ever found a feather of this bird. I could then identify the pigments involved." Alas, no feather could be found.

If you would like to read more about this subject, Dr. Hudon and Mulvihill summarized the role of diet in the journal *North American Bird Bander*. They reviewed findings for 15 species (<https://sora.unm.edu/node/153224>), but the list does not include the Purple Finch. Evidently, no one has studied its variations.



Spring Migration Count Scheduled

Our annual Todd Bird Club Spring Migration Count is scheduled for Saturday, May 8. Mark your calendars now. Social distancing will probably still be in place, so keep in mind any other state regulations at that time. Field birders, as well as feeder/yard watchers are welcome to participate. This count is county-wide and not limited to a 15-mile diameter circle like the Christmas Bird Count.

May is a great time to get outside and observe migrants. Many birds pass through our state on their northward journeys. It's exciting because we never know what to expect.

More information will be provided in the April issue of "The Todd Nuthatch."

Jackpot!

By Debbie Kalbfleisch

This is shaping up to be a wonderful winter for visiting birds from Canada, including Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks. By the beginning of October, people were reporting that these birds were popping up all over Pennsylvania. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was coming in for peanuts, and I was hopeful that I might even get a Pine Siskin in my yard. On Sunday, October 4, I looked out my kitchen window and saw a dark, streaky bird at one of the feeders. It was tiny with a slender beak, about the size of the goldfinch next to it, and both were dwarfed by the House Finch feeding next to them. A few minutes later, I noticed that there was a second siskin bouncing around in the tree. A first for the yard!

That Tuesday, I counted four siskins at the feeder — I was rich! On Wednesday, October 7, I spent the morning birding with friends at Moraine. When I got home around mid-day, I spent a minute getting myself organized in the car then glanced at the tree next to me. Oh, my! Pine Siskins were everywhere! I hastily dug the binoculars out of my birding bag and cautiously got out of the car. The birds ignored me and continued to squabble around the feeders. The ground was littered with siskins. Jackpot!

My neighbor down the street is an avid birder as well, so I immediately called her about my good fortune. Since my little tube feeder only has four ports, I went looking for another one. Fortunately, a friend who sometimes has siskins in her yard had encouraged me to invest in a round

metal feeder several years ago. I shoveled sunflower chips into it, put it out, and by that time, Sylvia arrived pushing her walker and armed with binoculars. I put a chair out for her next to the tree, and we spent a while admiring the birds. She happily exclaimed that she hadn't seen so many siskins since she left Syracuse many years before; she estimated at least 50. Confronted with so many active acrobats, my mind had gone blank on the number, but at some point, they spooked and flew into the air. Oh, yes, at least 50 birds and probably more!

For the next few weeks, they were generally waiting for me to put out the feeders in the morning, and I thoroughly enjoyed them. They were amazingly tame; one day as I took out the round feeder, I approached very slowly and was rewarded when they swarmed the feeder as I held it! The streaking on the birds' underparts varied, as some were more heavily marked than others. Interestingly, the first scouts to arrive had almost no yellow in the wings, but with the invasion, more colorful birds were present. They sound a lot like goldfinches, but the notes tend to be harsher. The zipper call, once you learn it, will never be forgotten. I generally had 20 to 50 birds feeding in the front yard, but eventually, the numbers began to decrease. By the first of November, only three siskins showed up to feed, and then they were gone. As I write this, in mid-November, the weather has gotten warmer. I don't often wish for colder weather, but this year, I can't wait. Maybe I'll get lucky with an Evening Grosbeak.

Christmas Bird Count 2020 Revisited

Forty-nine persons participated in our Indiana Christmas Bird Count on December 26, 2020. Birders tallied 69 species on count day plus six more during count week, three days before and three days after the actual count. This is the highest species count since 2016.

Dory Jacobs took her pup out for his morning walk at 5:48 a.m. and heard a hooting Great Horned Owl, the first bird of the count.

Only one bird was found that was new to the count. A Clay-colored Sparrow first visited Roger and Margaret Higbee's feeder on November 30. It was last seen by Oscar Nigam on December 4. It seemed to be gone. On Christmas Day, it reappeared at the feeder where it was photographed. The morning of the count the Higbees

watched the feeder until it once again reappeared; later that afternoon at 4:20 p.m. Rich Carlson stopped by after covering his territory for the count and refound it in the junipers. Birds also seen at the Higbee feeders included Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow, all singletons on the count.

Early on count day Gloria Lamer stopped at her sister and brother's-in-law home to pick them up to help her with the count. Just as they pulled out of Alice and Dave's driveway, a Barred Owl flew across and perched. Unfortunately, they don't live in the circle, so the owl wasn't countable. However, one of their first stops was at Yellow Creek State Park where they were able to locate 12 of the park's Evening Grosbeaks. These are the first Evening Grosbeaks sighted on the count since 2000 when

two were listed. Later that afternoon they found yet another great bird – actually a flock of them! Along Round Top Road feeding on weed seeds were 25 Common Redpolls; the last ones on our count were in 2012 when 2 were noted. Thanks, too, to the Lamer - Beatty crew for adding the count's only Swamp Sparrows. Hiking at Yellow Creek, Rich Carlson found a small flock of five Evening Grosbeaks as well as two of the three Golden-crowned Kinglets; Ray and Dan Winstead added the third at Blue Spruce.

Rodger Stormer added the count's only Great Blue Heron and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Armstrong Twp. In the eastern part of the count circle Pat Johner found the lone Killdeer. Thanks to our north shore Yellow Creek crew, Ed Donley and John Taylor, who located the count's only Merlin; Lee Carnahan who found the one Common Raven; and Gary Ferrence. the only Brown-headed Cowbird. Tom Simmons listed one of two Eastern Screech-Owls while the other was in one of the Higbees'

owl boxes. The lone Ring-billed Gull is a shared bird – seen at Twolick Reservoir by both Lee Carnahan and Carol Guba!

We also welcomed five new participants this year – John Dudash, Judy Gallo Emigh, Bill Graff, Amy Little, and Karen Valyo. Special thanks to Cindy Rogers for recruiting John who recruited Karen!!! Thanks to Dan Cunkelman who drafted Bill and to Mary A. Little who snagged Amy into the count. We hope all five of you will participate in our Spring Migration Count on May 8, 2021.

Special thanks to Roger Higbee for double-checking all of the species numbers and adding up everyone's miles and hours. Sincere thanks to all who participated. We could not have done it without every one of you!!!

Margaret Higbee, CBC Compiler

2020 Trumpeter Swan Family Update

By Tom Glover

Year 2020 had a once-in-a-lifetime impact on our families. The year also proved to be significant to the swan family. The last update on the family was posted in the January 2020 issue of *The Todd Nuthatch*. The article reviewed the family through December 2019. The last 2019 recorded sighting for Z603, Z675, and their 2018 offspring in eBird was on Christmas Day by Patty Lane on a private pond 2.5 miles south of Sperryville, VA. The pond is the same location where Z603 and Z675 were found during December 2017. Patty Lane's December 25, 2019, eBird entry was the last recorded sighting of Z603, the female; she has not been seen since.

The next sighting of the family was by Lisa Catarouche and her husband on April 23, 2020, located on the beaver pond near Richardsville, Jefferson County, PA. Only Z675, the male, and the 2018 offspring were noted. Z603 was not present. The two swans were again noted on May 13, 2020, on the same beaver pond by Lisa. The two Trumpeter Swans apparently spent the summer of 2020 in the area around Richardsville, PA. Lisa reported that the



Trumpeter Swan Z675 and his young near Richardsville, PA, May 20, 2020.

Photo by Lisa Catarouche

swans were seen during the month of September and into the first part of October 2020 on the beaver pond and nearby on North Fork Creek. The next sighting was an eBird entry on December 19, 2020, on the private pond south of Sperryville, VA. Z675 and the offspring were noted in the comments section of the entry. Patty Lane posted a sighting in eBird along with photos of the swans on December 28, 2020, in the same area.

It appears that Z603 died between the dates of December 25, 2019, noted in VA and April 23, 2020, in PA. Lisa Catarouche contacted the Clifton Institute north of Warrenton, VA, the original home of Z603 and Z675, to determine if someone returned Z603's neck band; but no one has returned the band. Z603 would have turned 15 during 2020. The male Z675 will turn nine this year, and the offspring will be three.

The story of the swan family included tragedy for 2020. It will be interesting if the male will find a new mate in the coming years. And will he still migrate over the coming years between Virginia and Pennsylvania?

Indiana Christmas Bird Count Results

38th Annual CBC – December 26, 2020

Snow Goose (CW)		Black Vulture (3)		Cedar Waxwing (212)	1
Greater White-fronted Goose (2) CW		Turkey Vulture (4)		House Sparrow (809)	306
Canada Goose (2081)	749	Bald Eagle (5)	2	Evening Grosbeak (566)	17
Mute Swan (4)		Northern Harrier (9)		Pine Grosbeak (1)	
Trumpeter Swan (2)		Sharp-shinned Hawk (14)	4	House Finch (1563)	147
Tundra Swan (533)	217	Cooper's Hawk (15)	4	Purple Finch (89)	9
Wood Duck (5)		N. Goshawk (1)		Common Redpoll (63)	25
N. Shoveler (2)		Red-shouldered Hawk (5)	2	White-winged Crossbill (62)	
Gadwall (30)		Red-tailed Hawk (71)	33	Pine Siskin (375)	12
American Wigeon (14) CW		Rough-legged Hawk (3)		American Goldfinch (637)	148
Mallard (670)	92	Eastern Screech-Owl (13)	2	Lapland Longspur (6)	
American Black Duck (190) CW		Great Horned Owl (10)	1	Snow Bunting (225)	
N. Pintail (10)		Barred Owl (5)		Eastern Towhee (3)	1
Green-winged Teal (4)		Long-eared Owl (1)		American Tree Sparrow (483)	96
Canvasback (15)		Short-eared Owl (2)		Chipping Sparrow (4)	1
Redhead (14) CW		Belted Kingfisher (9)	CW	**Clay-colored Sparrow	1
Ring-necked Duck (41)	1	Red-headed Woodpecker (1)		Field Sparrow (13)	7
Greater Scaup (5)		Red-bellied Woodpecker (81)	77	Savannah Sparrow (2)	
Lesser Scaup (32)		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (8)	1	Fox Sparrow (3)	1
Surf Scoter (CW)		Downy Woodpecker (177)	78	Song Sparrow (152)	131
White-winged Scoter (1)		Hairy Woodpecker (58)	30	Lincoln's Sparrow (1)	
Black Scoter (1)		Northern Flicker (40)	2	Swamp Sparrow (14)	3
Long-tailed Duck (3)		Pileated Woodpecker (36)	9	White-throated Sparrow (214)	185
Bufflehead (52)	4	Am. Kestrel (26)	5	White-crowned Sparrow (36)	2
Common Goldeneye (7)		Merlin (2)	1	Dark-eyed Junco (2272)	1487
*Hooded Merganser (34)	35	Peregrine Falcon (1)		Eastern Meadowlark (10)	
Common Merganser (29)	17	Eastern Phoebe (1)		Red-winged Blackbird (3570)	
Red-breasted Merganser (6)	1	Northern Shrike (1)		Brown-headed Cowbird (46)	1
Ruddy Duck (223)	4	Blue Jay (566)	342	Rusty Blackbird (13)	
N. Bobwhite (1)		American Crow (3275)	555	Brewer's Blackbird (CW)	
Ring-necked Pheasant (21)	2	Fish Crow (8)		Common Grackle (503)	
Ruffed Grouse (22)		Common Raven (9)	1	Pine Warbler (1)	
Wild Turkey (345)	63	Horned Lark (225)	7	**Orange-crowned Warbler	CW
Pied-billed Grebe (29)	1	Black-capped Chickadee (808)	312	Yellow-rumped Warbler (18)	
Horned Grebe (7)		Tufted Titmouse (394)	169	Northern Cardinal (584)	420
Red-necked Grebe (1)		Red-breasted Nuthatch (51)	5		
Rock Pigeon (392)	32	White-breasted Nuthatch (201)	100	Total Individuals (18,833)	6510
Mourning Dove (1117)	284	Brown Creeper (25)	7	69 Species on 12/26/20 + 6 for CW	
Virginia Rail (1)		Winter Wren (4)		CW = Birds Seen During Count	
Am. Coot (811)		Carolina Wren (61)	37	Week but Not Count Day	
Sandhill Crane (2)		Golden-crowned Kinglet (106)	3	CW = December 23-29	
Killdeer (20)	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4)		*Record-breaking or Equal High	
Am. Woodcock (2)		Eastern Bluebird (152)	9	Tally (2)	
Wilson's Snipe (3)		Townsend's Solitaire (1)		**Species New to the Count (2)	
Bonaparte's Gull (6)		Hermit Thrush (6)	1	() Highest No. Seen on Any	
Ring-billed Gull (50)	1	Wood Thrush (CW)		Previous Indiana CBC, 1983-2019	
Herring Gull (1)		American Robin (1626)	5	137 Species on Count since	
Red-throated Loon (1)		Gray Catbird (2)		1983 including 5 CW only species)	
Common Loon (9)		Brown Thrasher (1)			
Double-crested Cormorant (1)		Northern Mockingbird (22)	4		
Great Blue Heron (8)	1	European Starling (8656)	195		

2020 Christmas Bird Count Observers

Pat Andrascik	Gary Ferrence	Paul Johner	Cindy Rogers
Alice Beatty	Betsy Fetterman	Gloria Lamer	Tom Simmons
Buck Beatty	Tom Fetterman	Amy Little	Vicki Stelma
Tom Betts	Barb Fletcher	Mary A. Little	Linda Stormer
Rich Carlson	Marie Frew	Frank Logue	Rodger Stormer
Lee Carnahan	Sue Gatti	Lynda Logue	Mark Strittmatter
Dan Cunkelman	Bill Graff	Beth Marshall	John Taylor
Sue Dickson	Carol Guba	Ken Marshall	Mary Lu Tucker
Ed Donley	Margaret Higbee	Flo McGuire	Karen Valyo
John Dudash	Roger Higbee	Jim McGuire	Daniel Winstead
Judy Gallo Emigh	Dory Jacobs	Donna Meyer	Dawn Winstead
Bob Fairman	Pat Johner	Bob Ramsey	Ray Winstead
Emmy Fairman			

CBCs Past and Present

Year	Total Species	Count Week	Individuals	Year	Total Species	Count Week	Individuals
1983	56	3	4188	2002	62	2	9739
1984	57	5	9540	2003	72	4	9687
1985	51	2	4468	2004	72	5	8788
1986	54	2	7453	2005	62	7	12130
1987	60	3	5676	2006	64	5	8762
1988	48	3	6670	2007	82	3	14344
1989	52	4	4309	2008	71	8	14329
1990	65	6	8502	2009	56	5	8472
1991	60	5	6004	2010	55	2	7174
1992	67	8	6435	2011	71	4	9029
1993	70	9	13490	2012	80	3	9094
1994	67	4	10759	2013	68	6	8843
1995	71	5	8637	2014	74	7	5693
1996	65	7	9994	2015	70	4	8835
1997	74	3	10180	2016	70	5	7665
1998	82	7	10873	2017	67	4	6243
1999	73	2	18833	2018	66	6	5295
2000	64	2	12397	2019	62	4	5726
2001	77	2	14365	2020	69	4	6511

A Note about Caching

I hang a small feeder with mixed seed in my deer stand to observe birds while waiting for deer to appear. I don't always see deer, but I always see birds. The stand is elevated about 15feet above the ground and the feeder does NOT attract deer.

This year I had a chickadee bring sunflower seeds to me and tuck them into the folds of my glove or between the fingers, then fly away. This happened a couple of times and on different days. I have seen chickadees take food from a person's hand but never heard of one bringing food to a person.

Dan Cunkelman

“First Bird of the Year” Participants

Jim Dickson	Steve Graff	Frank Logue	Mary Jane Seipler
Sue Dickson	Brian Griffin	Lynda Logue	Jack Solomon
Ed Donley	Margaret Higbee	Mark McConaughy	Sue Solomon
Betsy Fetterman	Roger Higbee	Donna Meyer	Vicki Stelma
Tom Fetterman	Dory Jacobs	Nancy Murphy	John Taylor
Patience Fisher	Pat Johner	Richard Nugent	Marge Van Tassel
Barb Fletcher	Debbie Kalbfleisch	Oscar Nigam	Linda Wagner
Don Frew	Jan Kuehl	Ed Patterson	Dawn Winstead
Marie Frew	Tom Kuehl	James Pumford	Ray Winstead
Tom Glover	Melissa Little	Joseph Pumford	

Thirty-eight people participated in the “First Bird of the Year” event on January 1. Not surprisingly, Northern Cardinal was seen first by six observers. Coming in second for a three-way tie were American Crow, Carolina Wren, and Dark-eyed Junco; four birders cited these three species as their “first bird of 2021.” Three participants registered Blue Jay as their first bird. Next in line, tied at two each, were Red-shouldered Hawk (the same bird listed by a married couple) and Great Horned Owl (reported in PA and in another state).

Fourteen species were reported by single observers as their first birds. The list follows below:

Wild Turkey	Tufted Titmouse	House Finch
Mourning Dove	Red-breasted Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Barred Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	White-throated Sparrow
Red-bellied Woodpecker	American Robin	Song Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker		Great-tailed Grackle

A Special Experience

by Richard Nugent

On the morning of January 8, I had a very special experience with birds. I went to State Game Lands 95, in northern Butler County. Common Redpolls had been reported in a sunflower field along Meals Road and I wanted to see them. When I arrived, there was no activity, so I walked about 200 feet into the sunflowers. Within a couple minutes, birds started to fly into the field until a couple of hundred were present. I stayed as still as I could and the birds came within 30 feet of me. I stayed in one spot for about 30 minutes and every 4-5 minutes the birds would all lift up and fly to trees about 200 yards away and

then filter back to the field. There was no apparent reason for this skittishness. I estimate that there were 100 American Goldfinches, 50 Common Redpolls, and an assortment of other seed eating birds. The big thrill came when a Hoary Redpoll landed on a sunflower about 30 feet away and let me get good looks with my binoculars. It was very pale with faint pink on the breast and no streaking on the undertail coverts. Icing on the cake was a flock of 17 Tundra Swans flying overhead, talking to each other. Time stood still and when I looked at my watch, I couldn't believe 30 minutes had passed.

More CBC 2020 Data

Twenty-four birders watched 20 feeders for 81.08 hours. Field birders, 25 persons in 16 parties, drove 482.33 miles and hiked 26.14 miles. Hours driven were 50.9 while hours hiked totaled 35.47.

Birds Seen on January 1

by Todd Bird Club Members and Friends

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Red-shouldered Hawk	Carolina Wren
Canada Goose	Red-tailed Hawk	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Mallard	Rough-legged Hawk	Golden-crowned Kinglet
American Black Duck	Eastern Screech-Owl	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Mottled Duck	Great Horned Owl	Eastern Bluebird
Northern Pintail	Barred Owl	American Robin
Hooded Merganser	Belted Kingfisher	Curve-billed Thrasher
Common Merganser	Golden-fronted Woodpecker	Long-billed Thrasher
Ruddy Duck	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Plain Chachalaca	Downy Woodpecker	European Starling
Wild Turkey	Hairy Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
Pied-billed Grebe	Northern Flicker	Olive Sparrow
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	Pileated Woodpecker	House Sparrow
Inca Dove	American Kestrel	Evening Grosbeak
Mourning Dove	Green Parakeet	House Finch
Common Pauraque	Eastern Phoebe	Purple Finch
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Great Kiskadee	Pine Siskin
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	Tropical Kingbird.	American Goldfinch
Killdeer	White-eyed Vireo	American Tree Sparrow
Wilson's Snipe	Green Jay	Dark-eyed Junco
Ring-billed Gull	Blue Jay	White-crowned Sparrow
Snowy Egret	American Crow	White-throated Sparrow
White-faced Ibis	Fish Crow	Red-winged Blackbird
Black Vulture	Common Raven	Bronzed Cowbird
Turkey Vulture	Horned Lark	Brown-headed Cowbird
Northern Harrier	Carolina Chickadee	Great-tailed Grackle
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Black-capped Chickadee	Orange-crowned Warbler
Cooper's Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Bald Eagle	Black-crested Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
Harris's Hawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal/Pyrhuloxia
	White-breasted Nuthatch	

Thirty-nine Todd members and friends in four states participated in the January 1 all-day birding, tallying 90 species. If you peruse the list, I'm sure you will be able to figure out two of the four states by the species seen. Further checking of the participants' list on page 9 will enable you to determine the other two states involved.

Random Birding

I took the "back" route home from shopping last week. The route follows the Shenango River for a bit and past a boat launch parking lot, designated as "Millenium Park," on Kings Chapel Road, New Castle. A Pileated Woodpecker flew across the road, so I pulled into the Millenium Park to watch it. Suddenly a second Pileated arrived. Both were eating poison ivy berries. What I thought was a hawk perched on the other side of the river was actually an adult Bald Eagle when I raised by binoculars. A second adult Bald Eagle flew in and perched nearby. The poison ivy berries were busy with the Pileated, Hairy, Downy, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers and three

Northern Flickers. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers were enjoying the berries as well. While I was admiring the traffic at the berries, a third adult Bald Eagle flew in calling and perched near the first two. Next an immature Bald Eagle flew up the river out of sight, also calling. A fourth adult Bald Eagle arrived flying overhead calling, and one of the other three flew off with the fourth one. It was a totally random stop but so nice to enjoy the birds. I never would have expected to see five Bald Eagles on my way home from the grocery store!

– Linda Wagner

Indiana - Armstrong - Cambria County – Fall 2020 Report

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.

Abbreviations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Crooked Creek Park (CC), Indiana (IN), Indiana University of PA (IUP), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Prince Gallitzin S.P. (PG), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek S.P. (YC)

Not often seen in our region, a single **Snow Goose** was observed at PG flying with Canada Geese 10/4 (RL); a flock of 35 flew low over KR 10/28 (JS); 6 also flew over YC 10/29 (AY); 10/30 (TA) yielded another flyover flock of 20 at Cresson. A single **Cackling Goose** accompanied a flock of 43 Canada Geese over SGL 276 near Blacklick 10/25 (MH, RH) during a mini hawkwatch. A single **Trumpeter Swan** was present at PG throughout the fall (m.ob.). **Tundra Swans** showed a good presence in the region between 10/25 (MH, RH) when the first 9 were spotted on the lake at YC and the end of the period (v.o.); high counts included 92 at YC 10/30 (AB, DB, GL), 57 at PG 11/21 (TA), and 54 at Slate Lick 11/23 (GM).

Water levels continued low at both KR and YC through the fall. Although not the latest date on record, last **Blue-winged Teal** included 3 at YC 11/2 (MH, RH, ON). First 5 **Northern Shovelers** appeared at KR 8/30 (MD) while last report of 3 occurred 11/29 (TA) at PG. Top **Gadwall** counts included 106 at YC (MH, RH) and 38 at PG (AY), both 10/29. High **American Wigeon** tallies included 45 at YC 10/29 (AY) and 8 at PG 11/2 (TD). **American Black Ducks** peaked at 20 at Rosston 11/1 (TR), at 18 at PG 11/2 (TD), and at 15 at YC 10/29 (MH, RH). First



This Trumpeter Swan was present through the fall season and beyond at Prince Gallitzin.

Photo by Pam Illig



Marge Van Tassel photographed this Northern Shoveler on Sept. 1.



Tina Alianiello photographed this Long-tailed Duck at Prince Gallitzin Nov. 24.

Northern Pintail arrived at YC 9/26 (MH, RH) where they topped out on 10/13 (PF, MH, RH) at 27; PG's arrival date was 9/30 (JoK) when 4 were listed. First **Green-winged Teal** to appear included 6 at YC 8/22 (MH, RH), one at KR 8/30 (MD), and 2 at PG 10/2 (TD).

One to 2 **Canvasbacks** were found on YC Lake 10/30 (KCT) through 11/3 (LC, ED, MH, RH); PG hosted 3 on 11/5 (TA) and 5 on 11/26 (RL). **Redheads** showed up 11/20, both at YC (MH, RH) and at PG (AY); respective highs were 4 on 11/2 (MH, RH, ON) and 20 on 11/29 (PI). Top **Ring-necked Duck** counts were 45 at YC 11/3 (LC, ED, MH, RH) and 42 at PG 11/5 (TA). YC yielded only single **Greater Scaup** 10/27 (LC, SD, PF, BF, MH, RH) while PG harbored up to 8 on 10/30, 11/14 (TA). High **Lesser Scaup** tallies included 50 at YC 11/1 (HC) and 32 at PG 11/6 (TD).

October 27 yielded the first 6 **Surf Scoters** at PG (TD) and 2 at YC (LC, SD, PF, BF, MH, RH); a singleton was at KT 11/12 (ABu, TR); last was sighted at PG 11/22 (TD). A **Black Scoter** visited PG 11/3 (TD), the only report in the region. PG was also the site of the season's lone **Long-tailed Duck** report; it was first observed 11/14 (TD, DE) and remained through 11/29 (TA, PI). **Buffleheads** were much more

widely reported than the other diving ducks with observations in all three counties where high counts were 200 at PG 11/9 (CK, NK), 80 at YC 10/29 (AY), and 17 at RT 11/12 (TR). Three **Common Goldeneyes** at PG 11/21 (TD) were the only ones noted in the region.

Hooded Mergansers were found at 5 *Armstrong* locations with peak count of 8 at Mahoning Creek Lake 11/25 (AK, JKe); in *Indiana* all reports were from YC and Margus Lake where YC tallies were 8 on 11/2 (MH, RH, ON) and 11/8 (JP); high at Margus was 3 on 11/28 (JaP, JP). Twenty-five on 11/24 (MD) was PG's top count. **Common Mergansers**, as usual more common in *Armstrong*, peaked at 180 at Crooked Creek 11/21 (DBr); KR hosted 34 on 9/21 (ABu). Five at YC 10/19 (MD) and 16 at Beaverdam Run were respectively *Indiana's* and *Cambria's* highs. All **Red-breasted Merganser** sightings were at PG between 11/8 (RL) and 11/27 (TA) ranging in numbers from 3 to 7. **Ruddy Duck** numbers were good this year with best tallies of 2,576 at YC 10/29 (MH, RH) and 400 at PG 11/13 (TD).

Pied-billed Grebes were found throughout the fall, starting 8/4 (MH, RH) at YC; maxima included 28 at PG 10/1 (TD) and 50 at YC on 10/29 (AY). **Horned Grebe** numbers peaked at 10 at PG on 10/29 (DG, GG) and at 4 at YC 11/15 (JH, MS).

One to 3 **Common Nighthawks** migrated over the region between 8/21 (ABu, MH, RH) and 9/23 (MC) with reports from 15 locations.

One to 3 **Soras** were noted at PG between 9/7 (TD) and 10/5



This young Sora at Prince Gallitzin was a cooperative subject for Pam Illig on Oct. 2.



Tony DeSantis captured this photo of the Black-bellied Plover on Sept. 26 at Prince Gallitzin.



It was a great season for American Golden Plovers, both at Yellow Creek and at Keystone. Richard Chirichiello photographed this individual on Oct. 14 at Yellow Creek.



This Buff-breasted Sandpiper was photographed by Pat and Dick Williams on Sept. 16.

(RL). **American Coot** maxima included 12 at KR 10/31 (MH, RH), 44 at PG 11/2 (TD), and 220 at YC 11/15 (JH, MS). Five **Sandhill Cranes** flew over Croyle Twp. in *Cambria* 11/23 (MHu), the only report for the region.

Low water levels at YC and KR caused extensive mudflats providing good habitat for a great shorebird migration stopover this fall. This was the best shorebirding in the area since 2005 when the water level was drawn down for repair of the dam at YC. One to 3 **Black-bellied Plovers** were listed at YC between 9/6 (JP) and 9/30 (TD); KR hosted one to 2 between 9/12 (ABu, SG) and 10/3 (MH, RH); a singleton was found at PG 9/26 (TD, MH, RH) where it remained through 9/29 (TD). Single **American Golden Plovers** were found at YC between 9/7 (RyH) and 10/14 (RC); 2 were present at KR 9/13 (MH, RH) through 9/21 (ABu). **Semipalmated Plovers** moved through YC between 8/4 (MH, RH, DM) and 11/10 (LC, PF, MH, RH, LW) with top count of 8 on 9/16 (MH, RH); 8 was also the best count along the West Penn Trail 8/19 (DL). At KR 1-3 Semipalmated Plovers visited the mudflats 8/14 (SG) through 10/1 (ABu).

KR hosted the region's lone **Sanderling** 9/7 (ABu, MD, SG) through 9/10 (ABu). First 5 **Dunlin** arrived at YC 10/20 (TR); by 10/27 (LC, SD *et al*) numbers had increased to 61; last sighting was 11/10 (LC, PF *et al*) when 21 were counted; PG harbored a single Dunlin 10/27 (TD). First 2 appeared at KR 10/27 (ABu) but numbers increased to 8 on 10/31 (MH, RH), the last day they were reported. Fifteen was the high YC **Least Sandpiper** tally 8/16 (MH, RH); Least Sandpipers

stopped at KR between 8/1 (MH, RH) and 10/3 (MH, RH) with top count of 27 on 9/7 (MD). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, a second *Indiana* record, was found on 9/15 (LC, SD, PF, GL, KT) at YC and documented by Sue Dickson; it was last seen very early the following morning (PW, RiW) but not thereafter.

Pectoral Sandpipers moved through YC between 9/6 (JP) and 10/27 (LC, SD *et al*) when the last individual was listed; top count of 20 occurred 9/26 (MD); KR's best tally was 9 on 9/16 (PW, RiW). First **Semipalmated Sandpiper** arrived 8/4 (MH, RH, DM) at YC with 9 the peak number 8/29 (MH, RH); last YC sighting was 9/30 (TD). Semipals moved through KR between 8/14 (SG) and 9/14 (SG) with top count of 6 on 9/12 (ABu, SG) and 9/14 (SG). Two very cooperative **Short-billed Dowitchers** called as they foraged on the mud in Little Yellow Cove 8/15 (JC, SH, BS). A **Long-billed Dowitcher**, photographed 9/26 (MD), continued through 10/23 (MH, RH, ON); an amazing 13 were tallied on the spit near the observatory 10/13 (LC, PF, MH, RH). Single **American**

Woodcocks were listed 9/4 (JC) at PG and 9/6 (ABu) near KT. The lily pads at YC provided protection for at least 11 **Wilson's Snipe** 9/16 (MH, RH); once the lilies were frosted, the snipe disappeared; the last sighting was a singleton 10/25 (MH, RH); PG yielded one on 9/26 (MH, RH); 14 foraged on the mud at CC 11/20 (TR). Three **Red-necked Phalaropes** visited YC 9/25 (PI); all previous sightings involved single birds. Last **Spotted Sandpiper** lingered 9/29 (LC, MH, RH, KT) at YC. Seven **Solitary Sandpipers** was the high YC count 8/18 (LC, PF, MH, RH) and 18, the top KR tally 9/19 (MV) while the last reported occurred 10/21 (JaP, JP) at YC. **Greater Yellowlegs** put in a good appearance this fall with top tallies of 7 on 10/27 at both PG (TD) and at KR (ABu) and 13 at YC on 10/30 (RB); last 2 were sighted 11/16 (MH, RH, ON) at YC. One to 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** were present at



These are just two of the three Red-necked Phalaropes found by Pam Illig at Yellow Creek on Sept. 25.



A Black Tern visited Prince Gallitzin on August 7 where it was photographed by Tina Alianiello.



First sighted by Tony DeSantis on August 1 at Prince Gallitzin, Pam Illig was one of the few to refind this Brown Pelican later in the afternoon.

YC between 8/8 (ReH, SM) and 10/28 (BG, KSJ); KR hosted **Lesser Yellowlegs** between 8/1 (MH, RH) and 10/6 (TR) when 6 were tallied.

October 29 yielded best counts of **Bonaparte's Gulls** – 25 at PG (DG, GG) and 21 at YC (MH, RH). **Ring-billed Gull** maxima included 59 at YC 11/2 (MH, RH, ON), 10 at CC 11/22 (MVT), and 5 at PG, also 11/22 (TD). The only **Herring Gull** noted was at KT 11/16, 18, 23 (TR).

Single **Caspian Terns** visited YC 10/11 (MH, RH) and 10/29 (MH, RH, AY). One **Black Tern** visited PG 8/7 (TA, TD) while 3 stopped at YC 9/8 (LC, MH, RH). Twenty-five **Common Terns**, accompanied by one **Forster's Tern**, were a great sighting at PG 10/29 (AY). The only other Forster's Terns reported were 2 at YC 8/29 (MH, RH).

Top **Common Loon** tallies were 17 at YC (MH, RH) and 35 at PG (DG, GG), both 10/29; 7 was KR's high the following day (JS).

A **Brown Pelican** at PG 8/1 (TD, KE, PI) was a first *Cambria* record.

An **American Bittern** was reported at YC 8/25 (BF). Seven was a good count of **Great Egrets** at YC 10/27 (LC, SD, BF, CL, GL, MH, RH), the highest fall tally on record; one to 2 visited PG between 8/1 (TA, KE, PI) and 10/16 (TD).

Since the first reports in 2012, **Black Vulture** reports in *Indiana* continue to increase in number with singletons reported this fall on three dates, 10/8 (AM) near Cramer, 10/10 (JK, TK) near Dilltown, and 11/5 (HR) in IN near White's Woods. A **Turkey Vulture** roost near Nolo contained at least 48 individuals 10/27 (GL). Last **Broad-winged Hawks** were 4 near Urey 9/12 (MH, RH) and one at the White Twp. Recreational Complex 9/17 (JP).

Barred Owls were consistently found at Nolo, singletons on 8/4 (DB), 10/17 (DB) and 2 on 9/28 (DB), 11/7 (AB), and 11/24 (AB, DB). One was

observed standing on the road with prey near Simon's Rock 8/23 (CL, GL).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers moved through our region between 9/30 (TA) when one was sighted at PG and 11/29 (HL) when another was listed near Penn Run; other reports include sapsuckers at Nolo 10/14 (CL, GL); 2 at CC 10/24 (ReH, SM); one in IN 11/5 (HR). Seldom seen in the region, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was noted near Lewisville 10/21 (MC).

Merlins were widely reported in *Indiana* with most sightings at YC between 8/29 (MH, RH) and 11/18 (TR); singletons were at KR 9/9 (ABu), at Carrolltown 9/26 (MD), and at PG between 9/10 (TD) and 10/4 (PI, WI) then again at PG 11/21 (TD). Single **Peregrines** stopped at YC 9/25 (GL), at Worthington 10/30 (MVT), and at PG 11/13 (TD). One of the Graff Bridge Peregrines was sighted at Manorville 11/12 (TR) then from the bridge the following day (MH, RH).

The fall's only **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were noted 9/7 (JC) at PG and 10/3 (JT) at IUP. **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were noted at five locations between 8/31 (MH, RH) and 10/2 (MH, RH, FM, JM); BS is still the county's hotspot for this species with sightings on four dates (MH, RH). PG actually hosted 2 that were recorded calling back and forth to each other in the canopy 9/11 (TD).

Philadelphia Vireos moved through *Indiana* with sightings at five locations between 9/12 (JT) and 10/3 (MH, RH); 9/18 was the Philly Vireo day in *Cambria* with singletons at Wilmore Dam (TA) and at PG (TD).



Roger Higbee photographed this Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Blue Spruce on August 31.



Blue Spruce is a great spot for Philadelphia Vireos. This one was photographed there by Richard Chirichiello on Sept. 22.



Red-breasted Nuthatches were one of the species undergoing a southward movement this fall. This one was photographed near Shelocta on Nov. 5 by Margaret Higbee.



This Winter Wren foraged among the pile of branches and leaf litter at Blue Spruce on October 16 by Roger Higbee.

The season's last **Fish Crow** was heard calling in IN 9/24 (MH, RH) then it conveniently perched for a photo.

Single **Horned Larks** were the only ones listed in the region – one near KT 11/7 (ABu), the other near YC 11/28 (JP).

YC produced the last date for **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** 9/15 (EE, AY). Eleven **Purple Martins** still lingered at PG 8/22 (TA) while YC's last migrant was seen 8/15 (JC, SH, BS); KR's last martin was observed 8/1 (MH, RH). Other swallow last dates include 10/3 (TA) at PG for 3 **Tree Swallows**; 9/1 (BF, MH, RH) at YC for 4 **Bank Swallows**; 9/16 (MH, RH) at YC for 3 **Barn Swallows**; and 8/15 (JC, SH, BS) at YC for 4 **Cliff Swallows**.

One to 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were found at ten locations in *Indiana* and an equal number in *Cambria* with most reports of single birds and only four mentioning 2 individuals. *Armstrong* yielded 11 locations with top count of 6 at CC 10/24 (ReH, SM). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** lingered through 9/7 (v.o.) at various locations in the region. Last **House Wrens** were found 9/19 (MC) near Lewisville and 9/27 (TR) e. of KT. It was a good season for **Winter Wrens**; individuals were present at BS between 9/27 - 10/17 (MH, RH), in IN 10/13 (JP), and at YC 10/23 (MH, RH, ON). In *Armstrong* last reports occurred 11/23 (TR) along the Armstrong Trail and 11/25 (AK, JKe) at Mahoning Creek Lake. Singletons were observed at PG between 9/26 (TA) and 10/20 (TD), at Loretto 10/11 (SVH), and at SGL 108 – Fallentimber on 10/25 (TD).

Last **Gray Catbirds** were seen 11/5 at Pitt Johnstown (ob?) and 10/23 at both YC (MH, RH, ON) and PG (TD) while a late **Brown Thrasher** remained at YC 10/23 (MD).

BS yielded the season's only **Veeries** on 8/31 (MH, RH) and 9/12 (JP), both singletons; no others were reported in the region.

Swainson's Thrushes moved through between 9/7 (JC) and 10/23 (TR). **Hermit Thrush** was still present at PG 11/9 (CK, NK). Last **Wood Thrushes** were spotted 10/1 (MD) at CC and 10/3 (TA) at PG. **American Pipits** were found at YC between 9/24 (MH, RH, KT) and 11/3 (LC, ED, MH, RH) with high count of 18 on 10/23 (MH, RH, ON); at KR, between 9/16 (PW, RiW) and 10/11 (HC) with maximum count of 11 on 10/10 (MH, RH); and at PG 10/1 (TD) when 6 were tallied.

Armstrong's first Evening

Grosbeak reports were widespread including first individual near KT 10/18 (SG), 7 near KR 10/24 (JS), and high of 12 near Leechburg 10/31 (MVT). *Indiana's* first 6 Evening Grosbeaks made a very brief appearance in the top of a dead pine near SH 11/1 (MH, RH); next *Indiana* sighting of 15 occurred 11/15 (JH, MS) at YC; 2 were noted three days later, also at YC (TR). PG hosted its first grosbeak 11/2 (TD) with the high count of 15 on 11/7 (TD) and last reports 11/8 (TD, PI, WI, RL).

The first **Common Redpoll** reported was a calling flyover at YC 11/15 (JH); 11/27 yielded a flock of at least 3 near KT (ABu) and 20 in a maple at Templeton (RCa). First 3 **Pine Siskins** arrived 10/3 both near SH (MH, RH) and at Carrolltown (WI); high counts included 75 near SH 10/12 (MH, RH), 55 at Cresson 10/11 (TA), 45 in IN 10/10 (JaP, JP), and 24 at Nolo also 10/10 (GL).

The Babcock Mine area of Gallitzin S.F. harbored 2 **Grasshopper Sparrows** 8/5 (TD). Late **Chipping Sparrows** included one at PG 11/1 (RL), 2 at YC 11/2 (MH, RH, ON), and 2 near SH 11/13 (MH, RH). A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, a new yard bird, appeared near SH 11/30 (MH, RH). **Fox Sparrows** arrived at YC 10/25 (MH, RH) where one remained through 11/3



Joseph Pumford shot this Orange-crowned Warbler photo at YC on Sept. 26.



Seeing a Connecticut Warbler is difficult, but getting a photo like Tony DeSantis did on 9/27 is amazing.

(LC, ED, MH, RH); 10/25 (TD) was also their arrival date, both at PG and SGL 108 (Fallentimber); one popped up in IN 11/12 (JP) and another near SH 11/13 (MH, RH) where one lingered through the end of the period. First 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** were found at SGL 247 on 10/8 (TR); 2 appeared at Carrolltown 10/10 (WI); one was noted at Conemaugh Dam 10/16 (TA). All **Vesper Sparrow** reports came from *Cambria* – 4 near Johnstown on 9/3 (SP), one at the Allegheny Portage Railroad 9/7 (TA), and one at St. Lawrence 10/22 (MD). Last 2 **Savannah Sparrows** stopped at PG 10/3 (TA). The Babcock Mine area still harbored one **Henslow's Sparrow** 8/5 (TD). One **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Blacklick Valley Natural Area 9/12 (JT), one to 2 at PG between 9/18 (TD) and 10/4 (JaP, JP), and one at Cresson 10/17 (TA) were the only ones reported.

Nine **Bobolinks** at Dugan's Marsh 8/21 (TD) were the only ones noted. A late **Orchard Oriole** was spotted at YC 8/4 (MH, RH) while

last **Baltimore Oriole** was observed 9/19 (MC) near Lewisville; a very late Baltimore was observed 10/28 (MD) at PG. YC yielded 10 **Rusty Blackbirds** on 10/21 (JaP, JP) and 80 on 11/10 (MD); 3 stopped at PG 10/27 (TD) while 3 were at Loretto 11/3 (SVH) and one at South Fork 11/24 (SB).

Thirty-two warbler species were reported in our region this fall. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a nice find at BS 9/7 (MH, RH, FM, JM, RW). The **Swainson's Warbler**, found in June along the West Penn Trail, lingered into August with last report 8/7 (LdiB, AL). An **Orange-crowned Warbler**, not reported in *Indiana* since 9/23/2018 (MD), was photographed at YC 9/26 (JaP, JP); another visited SGL 108 (Bellwood) 10/25 (JC). Four **Connecticut Warblers** were noted this fall – one at BS 9/27 (MH, RH), 2 at PG on the same date (TD), and the other at IUP 10/1 (JT). Not always reported every fall, a **Kentucky Warbler** along the West Penn Trail 8/7 (LdiB, AL) and one at BS 8/26 (MH, RH) were nice finds. **Canada Warblers** were last noted 8/31 (MH, RH) at BS and 9/4 (EE) near Armstrong Co.

Hospital. **Wilson's Warblers** were listed at three locations – BVNA on 9/12 (JT), in IN on both 9/24 (JP) and 9/29 (JaP, JP), and at PG 9/26 (MD).

Observers: Tina Alianiello, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Dave Brooke (DBr), Alan Buriak (ABu), Ron Burkert, Seth Burnosky, Rich Carlson (RCa), Lee Carnahan, John Carter, Richard Chirichiello, Henggang Cui, Marcy Cunkelman, Michael David, Tony DeSantis, Lauren diBiccari (LdiB), Sue Dickson, Ed Donley, Ed Edge, Kurt Engstrom, David Esterline, Patience Fisher, Barb Fletcher, Barb Griffith, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Sam Guthrie, Rebecca Hart (ReH), Sean Herrmann, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Ryan Hillsley (RyH), Jason Horn, Matthew Hunt (MHu), Pam

Illig, Winnie Illig, Chad Kauffman, Jon Kauffman (JoK), Noah Kauffman, Avis Keener, John Keener (JKe), Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Alex Lamoreaux, Dennis Lauffer, Hunter Lieb, Renee Lubert, Andrew Mack, Steve Manns, Gregory McDermott, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Donna Meyer, Oscar Nigam, Sigurdur Petursson, James Pumford (JaP), Joseph Pumford, Theo Rickert, Henry Rummel, Matt Sabintine, Kate St. John (KSJ), Brian Schmoke, Jill Stoddard, John Taylor, Ken Truitt, Kevin Chumpitaz Trujillo (KCT), Stuart Van Horn (SVH), Marge Van Tassel (MVT), Mark Vass, Linda Wagner, Patricia Williams, Richard Williams (RiW), Ray Winstead, Aaron Yappert.

Dues Reminder: Todd Bird Club dues are due on January 1 each year. Please submit your \$15 family, \$10 individual, or \$5 student membership to:

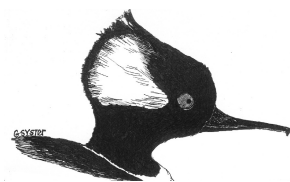
Gloria Lamer, Treasurer
515 Laurel Run Road
Penn Run, PA 15765

And please indicate whether you prefer a hard copy or the electronic version. Thanks!

States represented on pages 9-10: PA, TX, DE, NY.

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

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