

# The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Todd Bird Club  
[www.toddbirdclub.org](http://www.toddbirdclub.org)

January 2026

## Meeting Time Changed Starting on February 3

Since the beginning when the Todd Bird Club was formed in 1982, meetings have been held at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month, September through April. We will continue to meet at Blue Spruce Lodge in Blue Spruce County Park, located just off Route 110 east of the town of Ernest.

At our October meeting, members began discussing the possibility of meeting earlier so that members are not driving home late at night. The topic was discussed and tabled until our November meeting. At that meeting a motion was made to move our “gathering time” to 6:00 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 6:30. At 6:00 we will start socializing and snacking until our meeting opens at 6:30. The motion passed. We decided to begin the time change in February to allow notification of the time change to be spread to all our members.

**Tuesday, January 2** – 7:30 p.m. Four members shared their photos for Members’ Night. First presenter was Tiffany Chan who discussed Penguin Court and the various birds she saw there on the Rector Christmas Bird Count. Her photos included Red-headed Woodpeckers and a photo of one of the penguin shelters with a fake penguin inside. Matt St Clair then presented excellent photos of the birds he spotted in 2025, followed by butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. Third was Greg Tomb who showed photos of birds he found while atlasing and doing point counts – Grasshopper Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Prairie

Warblers and more.. Roger Higbee was the final presenter with his highlight of various owl photos.

**Tuesday, February 2** – 6:30 p.m. Todd Bird Club is proud to present Ezra White’s “My Journey as a Young Birder in Western Pennsylvania” at our February meeting.

Thirteen-year-old Ezra White will present his experiences of becoming a young birder in western Pennsylvania. He will share how the region’s unique avifauna, geography, and birding community have inspired and cultivated his birdwatching journey and reflect on how digital technology has transformed birding for his generation.

Ezra lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and has been committed to viewing and documenting Pennsylvania’s birdlife since age six. He has led bird outings for the Three Rivers Birding Club, the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, and the American Birding Association, and he has won the PSO’s young birder scholarship and medaled in the ABA’s Young Birder of the Year Program. Don’t miss this program!

**Tuesday, March 3** – 6:30 p.m. Member Ed Donley will present “Birding in Indiana County in 1776.” Birding here in 1776 would have been very different than birding now. We will travel back in time in our imaginations to plan a hypothetical 1776 birding excursion in what is now Indiana County. Ed will describe the various habitats in the region at the time and where we can find them. He

will list some of the species we hope to see, including species that are no longer here. We will also discuss species that are common here now but were rare or absent in the county in 1776. And we will have to deal with the confusing bird names of that time.

We will look at a map of trails and villages in what is now Indiana County and plot our route by horseback and

canoe. We will plan our overnight stays at known accommodations, when possible, but often we will have to make our own shelters.

This is a monthly Todd Bird Club meeting and it is also a part of the Indiana County 1776 Series commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. All are welcome to join us.

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## Outings

**Tuesday morning outings** will continue, weather permitting. For all Yellow Creek Tuesday outings, meet at 8:00 a.m. at the North Shore gazebo, located off South Harmony Road 1.4 miles from Rt. 422, east of Indiana. Follow South Harmony Road, making the right at the "Stop - Right Turn Keep Moving" sign. Go past McFeaters Cove and turn left at the North Shore sign. Follow the road to the large parking lot which you'll see on the left as you face the lake. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions or weather concerns, please contact Roger Higbee (412-309-3538) or check the Todd Bird Club website for updates.

**Saturday, February 21** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Noah Jones (724-403-6698). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office on the South Shore, located on PA 259 just off Rt. 422. We'll be looking for waterfowl and other winter birds.

**Saturday, February 28** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Matt St. Clair (724-464-9112). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office on the South Shore.

**Saturday, March 7** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Noah Jones (814-327-7805). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office on the South Shore.

**Saturday, March 21** – Muddy Creek Wetland Trail, Moraine State Park, led by Debbie Kalbfleisch (724-651-5426). Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot opposite the trailhead on Burton Road. Target birds are Sandhill Crane, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, and Ruffed Grouse. This is an easy-walking trail through woods, and can be muddy in spots. In case of inclement weather, please call Debbie or check the Todd Bird Club web page!

Directions: From Indiana, follow Rt. 422 west, and take the exit for Rt. 528 towards Prospect. Make a right onto Rt. 528 North, passing the 528 Boat Launch on your right. Continue north on 528 and turn right onto West Liberty Road. In .7 mile, turn right onto Burton Road. The parking lot will be about half a mile on the right.

**Saturday, March 28** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Gloria Lamer (724-349-1159). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the North Shore Gazebo.

**Saturday, April 4** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Sue Dickson (724-388-5000). This is a joint outing with the Three Rivers Birding Club. Meet at the park office at 8:00 a.m., located on PA 259 just off US 422 east of Indiana.

**Saturday, April 11** -- Yellow Creek State Park. Joint outing with Friends of the Parks, led by Ed Donley and John Taylor (hedonley2@gmail.com or 724-599-5886). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office, located on PA 259 just off US 422. We'll target waterfowl, wintering and resident birds, as well as other migrants. If you have extra binoculars, spotting scopes, or an identification guide, you might want to bring them to share with novice birders who are participating from Friends of the Parks.

**Saturday, April 18** – Ed Donley will lead an outing on his property near Shelocta. Meet at Ed's home, 1243 Five Points Road, Indiana, PA 15701, at 8:00 a.m. Three driveways meet Five Points Road at the same location. The center one has a yellow iron gate. Ed's driveway is the paved one with the sharp left. If you get lost, call Ed's cell (724-599-5886).

**Saturday, April 25** – Alice Stitt will lead an outing on the Stitt property near Elderton. For more information, please contact Alice (717-781-6306). Directions: Take US 422 toward Elderton. At the eastern most traffic light at the Log Cabin Restaurant, turn left onto PA 210 south. Follow 210 for less than 0.25 miles and watch for the driveway on the left (not Kimmel Plan Lane). Across the road from the Stitt driveway is a white farmhouse and a silo with a blue roof. Proceed up the driveway, past the first white and black house. Continue on the driveway past a green gas well, being careful of the dip in the road. Follow the driveway to the end of the road. Please park in front of the large green and white building. (GPS coordinates: 40.681327 W, -79.341915)

# Who's Coming for Dinner?

***A chance evening encounter leads to a deeper look into the hidden life and migration of the Northern Saw-whet Owl.***

**By Tiffany Chan**

In early October of this year, I was having a quiet dinner on my patio with my Dad. Suddenly, I heard a group of songbirds squawking and making a commotion. I noticed my cat staring intently at a branch about twelve feet off the ground. I knew something interesting had to be there. I grabbed my camera phone and walked over to investigate.



It was a tiny Northern Saw-whet Owl! He was curious and looked at me calmly. He made a soft “*too, too, too*” call. In my excitement, I tried to take photos but realized it was too dark, so I switched to video. In spite of all this fumbling, I managed to capture a few seconds with decent exposure before he flew off.

This encounter left me completely enamored of this tiny owl! He appeared to have a presence that seemed bigger than his small stature. And so I set out to learn more about these elusive, special birds.

Most likely, that owl was beginning its fall migration and happened to land in my Arborvitae trees because they prefer dense, bushy cover. It was probably a male, since males make territorial calls at this time of year. Saw-whets get their name from the “*too, too, too*” call they make, which sounds like a saw being sharpened on a whetstone.

Saw-whet owls are nocturnal and very hard to spot during the day. They roost quietly in dense hemlock, juniper, mountain laurel, or rhododendron thickets, where their brown-and-white camouflaged feathers blend in perfectly (Pennsylvania.gov). Their diet consists mainly of woodland mice – especially deer mice and white-footed mice – but they will also eat voles, shrews, small birds, and insects. They hunt by perching silently and swooping down on prey under cover of darkness. They nest in natural cavities or old woodpecker or squirrel holes and occasionally use nest boxes. Females typically lay four to six eggs and incubate them for about three to four weeks (Pennsylvania Envirothon).

Migration for these robin-sized owls occurs between October and late November. They move from southern Canada and New England into the Mid-Atlantic states. Some are year-round residents and will stay in Pennsylvania through the winter if prey remains abundant. Much of this important information is being gathered by **Project OwlNet**.

Researchers with Project OwlNet across North America study the movements of Northern Saw-whet Owls to understand the timing, pace, and intensity of their migration. Licensed banders delicately capture the birds using nets and recorded calls, band them, collect data, and then release them. Each band has a unique identifying number placed on the owl's leg, allowing researchers across the continent to track movements if the owl is recaptured. This research has revealed remarkable journeys—including one owl caught at the Sewickley Heights site that had been banded 1,500 miles away in Alberta, Canada (National Aviary).

While attending the fall hawk migration at the **Allegheny Front** site, I learned that licensed owl bander, **David Darney** and **Jeanne Ging**, conduct Saw-Whet Owl banding there on Friday and Saturday evenings from October through late November, weather permitting. Favorable conditions mean no rain, minimal wind, and preferably little lunar light. These small owls can become prey for larger owls and other predators and tend to stay put when there is too much ambient light.

**Vicki Stelma** and **Ed Donley** accompanied me to an owl banding in late October. We arrived a little before sunset to set up our chairs to wait for an owl to be caught in the mist nets. These sessions attract birders eager to share stories, which made the time between net checks engaging and enjoyable. Gazing at the night sky was also a highlight of the evening. Plenty of stars and planets were easy to see plus a few meteors flashed by. They certainly have dark skies at the Allegheny Front!

After about an hour and a half, an owl was caught. They brought her over to the measuring area in a protective bag. They let me hold the bag before they weighed her. It was so light!

They brought her out and held her legs just above her talons. She was a beauty. Calm and composed. She slowly blinked, revealing white-feathered eyelids that gave her a regal appearance. Her feathers seemed to shimmer. They let a few people gently touch her head. She was so soft. It was a magical encounter with a wild creature. The banders handled her with great care; she was delicate and light, yet potentially fierce, with razor-sharp talons and beak.

Her age, weight, height, sex, and overall health were recorded. The banders also held up a card to determine the exact color of her eyes. I noticed the words “*Benjamin Moore*” at the bottom—it was simply a paint color chart with shades of yellow! When I asked David what eye color reveals, he said they aren’t entirely sure yet, but they hope patterns will emerge as more data is collected.

Interestingly, three out of four Saw-Whet Owls that are caught are females, and researchers still don’t know why

males are captured less frequently. David and Jeanne determined that this owl was in its hatch year. To assess age, banders shine a UV blacklight on the underside of the owl’s wing. Feathers contain porphyrin pigments that fluoresce bright pink when newly grown and fade as feathers age. This contrast helps reveal molt patterns and age classes much more clearly than regular light alone (“*A Primer on Aging an Owl*,” Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch).

After her measurements were complete, she was safely released back into the night. The information collected contributes to a larger body of research that helps scientists understand migration patterns and supports conservation of these owls and their habitats.

We felt especially lucky to have seen an owl so early in the evening. Knowing we still had a long drive back we decided to not press our luck and headed home. That night, eleven owls were captured, banded, and released.

A total of forty were caught and recorded during the 2025 season, which is considered average. Seasonal totals at the Allegheny Front typically range from 18 to 100 owls.

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## 2025 Mulberry Magic

By Tom Kuehl

Not long after we moved to Murrysville in 1997 Janet bought two Mulberry Trees that I planted in the barren yard behind our detached garage. Twenty-eight years later they are big trees, reaching up to at least forty feet high above the garage. The mulberries are delicious – when ripe, of course. I fondly recall the early years when I could reach many of the berries and join the wild-life in snacking on the stinky, but wonderfully sweet berries.



Tom Kuehl photographed this Scarlet Tanager eating mulberries in his tree.

(yes, with an adult beverage) on the porch at the end of the hot July days, I noticed the many wild visitors to the Mulberry Trees and decided to grab the camera to work to capture some Mulberry Magic.

The mulberries attracted many species of birds. Among them were Red-headed and Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Gray Catbird, both male and female Baltimore Orioles, and a male Scarlet Tanager, all very thrilling encounters.

Now years ago, however, the most amazing animals to visit the Mulberry Trees were a family group of Wild Turkeys and a Gray Fox. This summer, as I was chilling

I certainly don’t mind sharing the berries with the wildlife, especially as the ones within reach for me are a very small part of the bounty. I can still reach all of the

fruit on my blueberry bushes, so I much prefer that the catbirds confine their attention to the mulberries.

Both Gray Squirrels and a Red Squirrel were daily visitors to the Mulberry Trees in July. Janet and I are thrilled to have two or more Black Morph Gray Squirrels on the

property, and it was great fun to watch their acrobatics as they searched for ripe berries.

With the many visitors, despite the bounty of the Mulberry Trees this year, by the end of July the search for ripe berries resulted in few visitors. Alas, all good things must come to an end.

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## The Joe Taylor Chronicles

### Chapter 4: The 2000s

By John F. Taylor

With Joe and Sally's return to the West Coast at the start of the new millennium, our opportunities to bird together were once again limited to the infrequent occasions when they returned for family visits, or when my travels took me to California. Unfortunately, their visits usually occurred in the summer, rather than coinciding with warbler migration in the spring. They did coincide a few times, however, two of them being in 2002 and 2019. The special occasion that prompted those slightly earlier visits, notably 17 years apart, was the return of the local brood of periodic cicadas, a natural spectacle that Joe and I both found exhilarating. One of my fondest memories from 2002 is the morning Joe, Wil, and I joined a Todd Bird Club outing at Blue Spruce in the last week of May to find the cicadas emerging from burrows and scaling virtually every available tree and shrub to discard their husks, dry their wings, and join the throngs already filling the air with their breeding calls. Despite the fascination with these remarkable critters that had motivated Joe to cross the continent to view the spectacle, my notes from that morning say that he confessed that the pasty white ones that had just emerged from their burrows "weirded him out."

Not to be completely upstaged by the cicadas, the warblers also cooperated that morning, showing up in decent numbers and in their breeding finery. The best (avian) finds of the outing were a Canada Warbler and a Brewster's Warbler, the dominant Blue-winged/ Golden-winged hybrid. Our delight in finding the Brewster's that



Joe, pictured, and John found a local driving range while atlasing.

morning might have been diminished somewhat had we known that the hybridization between those species would ultimately result in the effective disappearance of breeding Golden-winged Warblers from Indiana County.

That decline was one of many disconcerting trends revealed by data collected in the first and second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas projects. Toward the end of the second atlas project, Joe joined me on one of my trips to

the Valier 1 and Valier 2 blocks in northern Indiana County to get a little first-hand experience with atlasing. While it certainly paled in comparison with warbler watching in May, Joe clearly enjoyed that outing in June of 2008 when we confirmed breeding for a few species, spotting a fledgling Black-capped Chickadee and a Swamp Sparrow carrying food. We also found a pair of magnificent Bobolinks in suitable habitat to upgrade that species' status to Probable. However, I suspect that the high point of the day for Joe, enamored as he was with the physics of the golf swing, was our discovery of a beautiful driving range in the area.

The next opportunity I had to do some spring birding with Joe came in May of 2012 when younger brother Wil and I traveled west to spend a week in California and Arizona, partly for professional work and partly (OK, mostly) to pursue many of the western species that had eluded us on previous trips to that part of the country. Joe was able to join us only for the first few days in California, but we made the most of them. On Day 1 we had the benefit of having a senior geological colleague and *serious* birder

from the University of California at Riverside, Doug Morton, to guide us to some of his favorite spots south and east of Los Angeles. Doug's son, Greg, also an accomplished birder, joined us for the day as well. With that kind of local expertise, the lifers came early and often. Some, like California Towhee, Cassin's Vireo, and Clark's Grebe, were new species because of splits that had occurred since I'd visited Joe in the 1980s. Doug was not only a fantastic birder, he was also a re-

nowned expert on the geology of southern California, known for his meticulous geologic mapping of the region through decades of work with the U.S. Geological Survey. Joe and I had a ball peppering him with questions that he fielded with glee. The day went extremely well for all of us...except Greg. As a favor to his dad, who'd promised to guide three yahoos from Pennsylvania to hot spots near L.A., he had passed on a separate outing with his birding buddies and learned later that he missed out on a real rarity that they turned up. As they saying goes, "Let no good deed go unpunished." By spending the day with us he missed seeing (wait for it...) a *Red-eyed Vireo*! It's funny how the status of an everyday species is elevated to a rarity with a change in region. From Greg's perspective, the REV was a big deal, whereas the MacGillivray's Warbler that pranced about almost at our feet in a roadside rest (a lifer that sent Joe to the moon with delight) was not particularly noteworthy.

It had been an extraordinary day, but quite a long one, covering a lot of ground and birding hard the full length of a long summer day. It was, in fact, a bit too much for Joe, who by then was in his mid 60s. When Wil and I stopped in later that night at their apartment (see photo) to plan the next day's activities, he looked up at us from the recliner where he'd been resting to recover, and with his characteristic smirk asked..."Why don't you people stay home?" Fortunately, he was sufficiently recovered by the next morning to resume his duties as our local bird guide. After a bit of relaxed birding in the vicinity of the museum where Joe frequently taught classes for Boy Scout groups, we drove off into the Santa Ana Mountains to scour the vast expanse of chaparral for a Wrentit. Despite being common and vocal, they hide infuriatingly well in the dense vegetation. It took hours of searching, but we finally got one to pop up into view where we could see the diagnostic streaked breast and bright white eye, as



Joe and Wil pose outside Joe and Sally's home after returning from another 2012 birding outing.

well as the grayish head characteristic of the southern race of the species.

The birds were much more cooperative and easily seen that evening in the Coyote Hills in Fullerton where Joe took us on a successful search for California Gnatcatcher, another relatively recent split. The panoramic trails that we hiked there were also good for hummingbirds, including the Black-chinned and Allen's, the latter putting on a real show as

the males performed their impressive pendulum display flights.

Wil and I returned to California in September of 2019 after retirement had freed us up from fall teaching commitments. The trip had many components, one of which was to again drag Joe birding to localities not far from their place. By then, we were making extensive use of eBird and rare bird alerts to keep tabs on rarities in the areas we planned to visit. To our good fortune, people began reporting a Ruff amidst the numerous shorebirds feeding on the Santa Ana River less than 15 miles from Joe and Sally's apartment only a day or two before we arrived. Armed with detailed information on the locations of the most recent sightings, we picked Joe up the evening we rode into town and drove to Riverdale Park, which provided convenient parking and access to a trail that runs along the river. We saw a lot of nice birds on the river, but the Ruff was nowhere to be found. We did not, however, leave the park without adding an exotic species to our North American life lists. We noticed a small, finch-like bird feeding on the ground as we made our way across the athletic fields in the park and did a double-take upon getting a good look through the binoculars. It was a Pin-tailed Wydah, a species Wil and I had seen on its breeding grounds on a trip to South Africa in 2005.

Unfazed by our failure to find the Ruff on our first attempt, the three of us returned the next morning for a second try. As is obvious from Wil's expression and hand gesture in the photo taken that morning (see page 7), the Ruff was back, feeding along with the numerous yellow-legs and Black-necked Stilts, affording us excellent views through the spotting scope in ideal lighting. Later in the day, we birded the trails through the botanical gardens of the University of California-Riverside, adding one more lifer when we spotted a Costa's Hummingbird feeding on the flowers.

Those splendid days in 2019 were the last time the three of us would ever bird together. The arrival of COVID the very next year turned everyone's life upside down and torpedoed any plans for long-distance travel. Even when Joe and Sally were finally able to schedule a trip back to Pennsylvania in 2022, viruses disrupted the visit so badly that we never managed to get out birding, even for a day.



You wouldn't know it from Joe's expression, but he got just as big a kick out of the Ruff sighting as Wil and I did.

Fortunately, things had improved by their next trip east late in the spring of 2023, allowing Joe and me a few productive outings. Reports of a Mottled Duck on Canonsburg Lake in late May caused us to detour on our return trip after dropping Wil and our nephew Christopher at the Pittsburgh airport. It was a beautiful spring morning, and the target species cooperated, yielding splendid views at fairly close range.

That bird was the first of three surprising visits by southern species that year, and I recall wishing that Joe's visit could have been long enough for him to have shared our later sighting of a Limpkin at Moraine State Park and the bizarre scene of American Flamingoes feeding at a pond in Franklin County with mountains in the background. It was, however, long enough for him to enjoy surprising old friends and making a few new acquaintances by attending a Tuesday morning outing at Yellow Creek. Birding with one of the latter, Deb Kalbfleisch, continued after the outing when we tacked on a quick trip to Snyder Road to successfully chase a Clay-colored Sparrow that Dennis Lauffer had found there the previous weekend.

Blissfully unaware that it would be our last, I took Joe out on one more birding adventure the following day to the Conemaugh Floodlands, hoping to add Yellow-breasted Chat to my 2023 list. The "Shemp Warbler," as I like to call the chat given how its calls remind me of the vocalizations of one of the three stooges, didn't show; but we did see some other nice birds. Perhaps the most interesting sighting of the day, however, was a butterfly that landed on the ground in front of

us. It had been many years since I'd seen a Baltimore Checkerspot, and this one was a beauty. I know what you're thinking. "What gives? Writing about a butterfly in a bird-club newsletter?" Well, they fly and have wings adorned with bright colors that are imparted by tiny scales. (The name of the insect order that comprises butterflies and moths, Lepidoptera, means literally "scale wing.") And what are bird feathers, but modified reptilian scales? So not so much of a stretch as you might think then, is it?

Less than a year later we received a devastating text message from Sally from the Emergency Room in Los Angeles that read, "We're losing Joe to a cerebral hemorrhage!" He passed away at 77 years of age six days later on May 29, 2024. To this day, I have a hard time wrapping my head around the fact that Joe is gone, but look back with inexpressible gratitude for the many glorious adventures we shared while he was still with us. There is some solace in knowing that he'll remain with us in the memories we cherish of those wonderful times together, whether triggered by the appearance of warblers in the treetops or the sight of a radiant "Black-winged Redbird."

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## Armstrong, Indiana, Cambria Counties – Fall 2025

**Abbreviations:** Allegheny River IAR), Armstrong Trail (AT), Blacklick Valley Natural Area (BVNA), Blue Spruce Park (BS), Brush Valley (BV), Brush Valley Twp. (BVT), Crooked Creek (CC), Ghost Town Trail (GTT), Indiana (IN), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Lewisville (LV), Lock & Dam (L&D), North Buffalo Sportsmen's Club (NBSC), Patton (PT), photographed (ph.), Prince Gallitzin S.P. (PG), Two Lick Creek Reservoir (TLCR), Virginia Farms (VF), Waterworks Conservation Area (WCA), West Penn Trail (*Indiana* section) (WPT), White's Woods Nature Center (WWNC), Worthington (WT), Yellow Creek Restoration Project (YCRP), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

First **Tundra Swans** appeared at YC 11/8 (NL, MS, JT), at CC 11/16 (TR), and at PG 11/14 (SR) with numbers ranging from five to 14 with high count of 101 on 11/18 (MS, JT) at YC. Migrant **Blue-winged Teal** were noted at only YC

between 8/13 ((MW) and 11/2 (EW) and at BS where one was present on 10/8 (CW); high tally at YC was 52 on 10/7 (MH, RH). A single **Northern Shoveler** was observed at YC between 9/19 (MW) and 9/27 (PI, WI, KL, TM, VS, JT) while PG hosted

a hen on 10/20 (CS). First **Gadwalls** arrived at YC 10/21 (MH, RH, JT) with top count of 20 on 11/7 (TD). First single **American Wigeons** appeared at BS 9/15 (CW) and at YC 10/7 (MH, RH); two put in an appearance at Musser's Lake 10/17 (MW); high tally was 12 at YC 10/21 (DB). First reported **American Black Duck** was noted at YC 9/20 (MH, RH, JP, JT) while best count at YC was nine on 11/18 (MS, JT). A single **Northern Pintail** was found in *Armstrong* at Murphy's Bottom 10/11 (BP, CZ); 2 pintails on 8/19 (AM) at YC were early. KR yielded five **Green-winged Teal** on 10/14 (MS, JT) while 22 was the high at YC 9/27 (DK).

One **Redhead** was noted only at YC with sightings of singletons 11/15 (SD, DK, JT) and 11/18 (MS, JT). Six **Ring-necked Ducks** appeared first 10/26 (TM) at YC with high tally of 20 on 11/15 (SD); PG hosted two on 10/30 (CS). A pair of **Greater Scaup**, first noted 11/22 (JT) and present 11/23 (NL), was a nice find at YC. The hen was ph. at YC 11/24 (MS, JT). PG hosted the first **Lesser Scaup** 10/30 (TeR); fourteen were listed 11/4 (SD, ED, MH, RH, DK, JT) at YC where two were also noted 11/29 (RB, JM). Nine **Buffleheads** were found along the AR 11/13 (JB) n. of L&D 6 at "The Tracks." Farther n. on 11/23 (TR) six were present n. of L&D 8. In *Indiana* Buffleheads were listed at four locations; BS harbored four on 11/8 (CW) but only three could be relocated on 11/20 (CW); a small farm pond near YC hosted five hens on 11/11 (ED, MH, RH, BW); YC's first 16 occurred 11/4 (SD *et al*). In *Cambria* PG's first 10 were noted 11/8 (AMa) while top tally of 100 occurred 11/22 (AMa). PG harbored the region's only two **Common Goldeneyes** this fall on 11/18 (SR) and 11/22 (AMa).

**Hooded Mergansers** were noted in all three counties this fall. *Armstrong* yielded two on 11/16 (JB) at "The Tracks." YC hosted three to 31 Hoodies between 11/8 (NL) when three were counted, 11/24 (MS, JT) when the tally was 25, and finally 11/29 (RB, JM) with the high of 31. Hooded Merg visits to PG included one on 10/31 (CS), 13 on 11/18 (SR), and 10 on 11/22 (AMa). **Common Mergansers** were noted in both *Armstrong* and *Indiana*. By 9/20 (JB) 10 Common Mergansers were present at "The Tracks." CC harbored 276 on 11/29 (JB). First *Indiana* report mentioned seven along the GTT at Vintondale 8/15 (NM); nine at WCA 9/18 (SD); and 19 at Old Smicksburg Park 10/21 (MS). YC hosted one to three between 11/1 (JBU, ED, MH, RH, DK, D&DK, JK, TK, TM, AS, VS, BW) and 11/24 (MS, JT).

One to two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were found at six locations in *Armstrong* on five dates between 8/4 (TR) and 9/1 (JK), at three locations in *Indiana* on five dates between 8/3 (MS) and 9/10 (CW), and at two locations in *Cambria* on three dates between 8/11 (SM) and 9/1 (PI, WI). A single **Black-billed Cuckoo** 9/13 (TR) n. of L&D 8 was the lone regional report.

*Armstrong's* **Common Nighthawk** reports included three near Slate Lick 8/23 (GM) and four near KR 9/1 (JC); in *Indiana* nighthawks were noted at ten locations with top counts of 32 at Shadowood 9/3 (MW), 15 at both IUP 8/30

(SS, JT) near LV 8/31 (MC), and 11 in Indiana 9/5 (JP); and in *Cambria* five were listed in Glasgow 8/24 (AG, SM) and one in Ebensburg 9/19 (MSC).

**American Coots** began moving through YC 10/10 (AM) when the first was spotted; high count was 17 on 11/4 (JT). Phalarope Flats at YC provided great habitat for shorebirds this season. Single **Black-bellied Plovers** were listed on three dates, 9/17 (MSC, MS, JT), 10/21 (MH, RH, JT), and 10/25 (TJS). **American Golden-Plovers** moved through between 9/18 (AM) when three were tallied and 10/8 (AM) when two were still present. First **Semipalmated Plover** arrived at YC 8/9 (ED, MH, RH, NJ, WJ, JM, BW, CW); by 8/19 (MH, RH, DK, JM, BW, CW) four were present; last noted was one on 10/12 (GT). A single **American Woodcock** was spotted at YC 9/21 (JT), the lone report. Two **Wilson's Snipe** were reported at YC 9/22 (AM); by 10/28 (AM) ten were counted; last noted were five on 11/4 (DK). A **Red-necked Phalarope** was photographed at PG 8/31 (AMc, TMc). *Armstrong* hosted one to two **Spotted Sandpipers** at three locations on four dates between 8/11 (TR) when two were sighted in the southwest section of CC on 9/7, 9 (JB) at "The Tracks," and last two at CC 10/7 (JB). Last was found at YC 10/4 (MH, RH, DK, GL, JT); high tally of five at PG occurred 8/11 (SM) while last seen was on 8/31 (JA). Single **Solitary Sandpipers** moved through BS between 8/5 (MG) and 10/1 (CW) while YC hosted one to three between 8/5 (SD, MH, RH, DK) and 10/10 (AM). A single bird stopped at PG 8/11 (SMc). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** stopped at KR 10/14 (MS, JT), *Armstrong's* lone report. Three visited YC 8/26 (MH, RH, DK, BW) and again on 10/11 (HR); last noted at YC was one on 10/31 (HR). One **Greater Yellowlegs** stopped at CC 10/3, 4 (JB) while 2 lingered at KR 10/14 (MS, JT). Three were listed along the Conemaugh River 9/26 (EH). One to three visited YC between 9/16 (ED, MH, RH, DK, JT, BW, CW) and 11/15 (SD). A **Sanderling** was spotted at YC on the beach 9/20 (MH, RH, JP, JT); on 9/26 (MS, JT) three were present. A **Dunlin** stopped at YC's Phalarope Flats 10/25 (SD, ED, MH, RH, DK, JT); the following day (TM) five were present. On 11/22 (BK) two appeared and one was relocated the following day (NL). A **Baird's Sandpiper** was photographed at YC's beach 8/19 (MH, RH, DK, MW, CW). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was a nice find at YC 9/23 (MW) and was still present 9/25 (JT); by 11/5 (MK, ON) two were listed. CC hosted one **Least Sandpiper** 9/5 (JB); another Least was found along the West Penn Trail along the Conemaugh 8/30 (EH). At YC Least Sandpipers were noted between 8/9 (ED, MH *et al*) and 10/25 (SD, ED *et al*) when four were tallied. KR hosted two **Pectoral Sandpipers** 10/14 (MS, JT); Pectorals moved through YC between 9/20 (MH, RH, JP, JT) and 11/5 (MK, ON). A **Western Sandpiper** was a great find at YC 9/23 (MW). Three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found at YC 8/19 (MW); single birds were noted 9/24 (JT), 9/26 (MS, JT); another was found along the WPT 9/26 (EH).

Gulls were in very low numbers this fall. **Bonaparte's Gulls** moved through YC between 10/8 (AM) and 11/8 (AM, MS, JT), when the high count of eight occurred; PG's top count was two on 8/30 (SM). Best **Ring-billed Gull** numbers were three at YC 11/24 (MS, JT) and only singletons at PG 8/30 (BS, ES) and

11/2 (PI, WI, AMa). PG hosted 2 **American Herring Gulls** 10/31 (CS), one **Caspian Tern**, and one **Forster's Tern**, the latter two on 8/29 (SM).

Top **Pied-billed Grebe** count was nine at YC on 10/31 (DB); PG harbored singletons on three dates between 9/18 (SG) and 11/24 (SR). First **Horned Grebes** appeared at PG 11/22 (AMa) and at YC 11/24 (SD, ED *et al*).

First **Common Loons** were found at PG 8/23 (PI, WI) and at YC 11/1 (JBU, ED *et al*). First **Double-crested Cormorants** were noted at BS 8/1 (RW), at PG 8/16 (KL), and at Kelly's Station 9/5 (TR).

A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was photographed near PG 9/6 (PT). A **Western Cattle-Egret** was well described near Colver Reservoir 11/6 (PI). Two **Great Egrets** were found near BV 8/30 (MSC) while one visited YC 9/27 (RHo).

Two **Black Vultures** were sighted in *Armstrong* at KR 10/14 (MS, JT) as they have continued to expand their range in *Indiana*. This fall three sightings reported in *Cambria* included one at PG 8/31 (RL), two at Glasgow 8/26 (SM), and three in Croyle Twp. 11/24 (MHu).

**Ospreys** were listed on seven dates between 8/16 (CH) and 9/3 (JB) at eight locations in *Armstrong*. Single Ospreys were observed along the Conemaugh on three dates, 8/30 (EH), 9/1 (JK, TK), and 9/26 (EH). One was found in BVT 8/30, 9/1 (MSC). Thirteen locations at YC hosted Ospreys between 8/2 (JM, CW) and 10/26 (TM). In *Cambria* Ospreys were found at Glasgow 8/19 (SM) while PG hosted one 10/11 (PI, WI). Last **Broad-winged Hawks** were noted 10/9 (JW, LW, PW, TW) near Adrian, 9/23 (MS, JT) at YC, and 9/1 (PI, WI) at PG.

A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was first heard then observed roosting in Arborvitae at her home on 10/6 (TC); another was found at SGL 411 on 10/28 (MW).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** sightings included eight in *Armstrong*, 15 in *Indiana*, and four at PG. One to two juvenile **Red-headed Woodpeckers** visited Shadowood between 8/31 (MW) and 9/4 (JT); PG hosted two adults and two juveniles 8/30 (PT).

A **Merlin** was spotted at CC 10/7 (JB); one was observed in IN at various locations in August (JP, JT). A **Peregrine** was found along the AT at Manorville 9/28 (TR). Another was reported at YC 10/28 (TR, JT).

YC yielded single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** on 9/8 (MW), 9/9 (BG, MH, RH, DK, GL, AM, TR, JT, BW), and 9/16 (ED *et al*). Two were also present on YC's south shore 9/9 (MS). Another was observed at BS 9/10 (MH, RH); one was found along Blackleggs Creek also 9/10 (MS). *Cambria* hosted single Olive-sided Flycatchers at Glasgow 8/28 (SM) and at PG 8/31 (RL). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** sightings included one at YC 9/9 (MW), one along the AT n. of L&D

8 on 9/19 (TR), one at BS 9/26 (MS, JT) and two at BS on 10/6 (CW).

**Philadelphia Vireos** moved through our region between 9/10 (MH, RH) when one was sighted at YC and 9/29 (CW) when last two were noted at BS. Sightings on other dates included 9/12 (CW) at BS, 9/14 (RLo) at YC, 9/25 (TR) along the AT n. of L&D 8, 9/26 (MS) at BS, and 9/28 (CW) at BS. Lingered **Eastern Warbling Vireos** included one 9/19 (TR) n. of L&D 8 along the AT and another 9/23 (CW) at BS.

Best **Horned Lark** count was 10 on 8/25 (TR) s. of WT; five were noted on the farm fields near YC 11/11 (MH, RH); a farm road n.w. of Carrolltown harbored three on 10/5 (PI, WI) while another field near Chest Springs produced two on 10/30 (CS).

Last **Bank Swallow** lingered at YC 8/12 (JM) while six remained at PG 8/30 (SM). **Tree Swallows** were last observed at Slate Lick 8/24 (GM), at YC 10/25 (TC, SD, ED, MH, RH, DK, SM), and 8/11 (SM) at PG. *Armstrong's* last 31 **Purple Martins** were seen at CC 8/11 (TR); in *Indiana* three were noted last at Shadowood 9/1 (MS); *Cambria's* last six were listed at PG 8/11 (SM). Last **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** included six at BS 8/8 (CW). Late **Barn Swallows** included one on 9/1 (LK) at CC, six 9/14 (JP) at YC, and five on 9/1 (PI, WI) at PG. Lingered **Cliff Swallows** were six at YC 8/20 (JM), one along the WPT 8/30 (EH), and one at PG 8/11 (SM).

First arriving **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** appeared 9/29 (GM) at Slate Lick, 10/11 (MC) near LV, 9/22 (AM) at YC, and 10/4 (PI, WI) near Patton. Early **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were spotted near Adrian 10/9 (JW, LW, PW, TW), 10/10 (JB) near Taylor Run, 10/6 (CW) at BS, 10/7 (CW) at WCA, and 10/5 (PI, WI) near Carrolltown.

**Red-breasted Nuthatches** were widely reported in *Armstrong* with single birds noted at seven *Armstrong* locations on 12 dates between 8/25 (JB) and 11/16 (TR). In *Indiana* eight locations yielded mostly one to two nuthatches 8/30 (JV) to 11/29 (AM); four were observed at one time on 10/8 (MH, RH) on feeders near Shelocta.

Last dates for **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** were 9/5 (JB) at CC, 9/9 (BG, MH *et al*) at YC, 9/15 (CW) at BS, and 8/30 (SM) at PG.

Last **Northern House Wrens** were listed 10/4 (JB) at Kelly Station, 10/25 (MW) near SGL 276, and 8/20 (ER) near Mundy's Corners. **Winter Wrens** were widespread with one found along the AT between 10/5 (JB) and 11/18 (JB); all were single birds except for two on 11/8 n. of L&D 8; another was present on three dates 11/18,24,29 (JB) near Taylor Run. First two Winter Wrens appeared 9/22 (RL) at BS where at least one remained through 11/18 (CW). YC hosted single Winter Wrens on 9/26 (MS, JT) and 10/3 (MM). One was also spotted along Aultman Run 11/11 (MW) while another was found the next day (MS) along the Blairsville Riverfront Trail. Two were reported at WCA 11/25 (SD), and one was relocated 11/29 (RB, JM). In *Cambria* one was noted at Fallentimber 10/19 (MKe). Two to three **Marsh Wrens** were listed at YC 9/23 (MS, MSC, MW); one was observed 10/3 (MM) also at YC.

A **Brown Thrasher** remained along the AT n. of L&D 8 on 9/26 (TR) while another lingered 11/28 (JT) at IUP South Campus. *Cambria*'s last thrasher was noted near Ebensburg 9/26 (LS).

Single **Veeries** were noted at two *Armstrong* locations – 8/28 (TR) at SGL 247 N and 9/7 (TR) near NBSC. A single Veery was found on six dates at BS between 8/27 (CM) and 9/26 (MS, JT). Two Veeries were observed at PG on 8/30 (SM), the lone locations for both *Indiana* and *Cambria*.

**Swainson's Thrushes** were a bit more widespread than the Veery. *Armstrong* hosted a Swainson's Thrush on nine dates at four locations from 9/7 (TR) near NBSC to 10/7 (JB) when two were tallied at CC. *Indiana* was the "Swainson's hotspot" with reports between 9/3 (HR) and 10/7 (CW). BS harbored the first on 9/4 (CW) and as many as seven of these gorgeous thrushes on 9/13 (TC, ED, JG, MH, RH, JK, TK, VS, JT, RW), so all 10 had great views of at least one. Five was a good count at YC 9/14 (RLo). Last BS sighting occurred 10/16 (CW) when two were still present. In *Cambria* single Swainson's were found 9/18 (SG) at PG and 10/4 (PI, WI) near Patton. First **Hermit Thrush** arrived in *Armstrong* 11/1 (TR) near NBSC; another was along the AT n. of L&D 8 on 11/8 (TR). *Indiana*'s first appeared at BVNA 9/26 (GT); two were at BS 10/8 (MH, RH) where last sighting occurred 10/20 (CW). One was observed at YC 10/21 (AC, ED, MH, RH, DK, JT, BW) while IUP South Campus also yielded one 11/1, 2 (JT). Last **Wood Thrushes** were noted 9/30 (JB) at "The Tracks," 9/28 (CK, DKe) at BS, and 8/30 (SM) at PG.

Yellow Creek harbored **American Pipits** 9/16 (ED *et al*) through 11/22 (JT) with top count of 50 on 10/25 (SD). Three were found near Hastings 9/12 (MS, SS).

Single **Purple Finches** were found 9/25, 10/26 (TR) near NBSC where two were listed 11/28 (TR); two were also noted 11/25 (DR) along Rattling Run east of Apollo. Purple Finches were more widespread in *Indiana* between 8/18 (CW) and 11/18 (MS, JT) with numbers ranging from one to 16. A Purple Finch at PG 8/18 (SM) and two near Gallitzin (TA) were the lone *Cambria* reports. Two **Pine Siskins** at YC 11/2 (EW), three at YC 11/7 (NL), and three near Jacksonville, also 11/7 (MW) were the only *Indiana* reports; in *Cambria* PG hosted three on 10/10 (CM).

In *Cambria* a **Grasshopper Sparrow** 8/6 (CS) was the lone regional report. Last **Chipping Sparrow** was listed 11/4 (JB) at CC; *Indiana*'s last was also noted 11/4 (SD, ED *et al*) at YC; PG's last was seen 11/2 (PI, WI). First arrivals were two **American Tree Sparrows** 11/29 (TR) along the AT at Logansport; in *Indiana* first four Trees were noted 11/22 (MS) near Clarksburg and three at YC, also 11/22 (BK). Two **Fox Sparrows** were a nice find 11/1 (TR) near NBSC in *Armstrong*; *Indiana*'s first Fox Sparrows were near Armagh 10/22 (GT) and at SGL 276 on 10/25 (MW); next was one near Clarksburg 11/8 (JC). In *Cambria* the first Fox appeared 10/25 (TA) near Cresson. The only **White-crowned Sparrows** in *Armstrong* were two n.w. of NBSC on 11/6 (TR); White-crowns were more numerous in *Indiana*

with one to two found at seven locations; first were one near Armagh 10/11 (GT) and one near LV 10/12 (MC); five at the Johnstown Flood National Memorial comprised the lone *Cambria* sighting 11/14 (BH). A single **Vesper Sparrow** was noted 8/27 (MW) at the Wainwright Fields near Hopewell Church. A **Savannah Sparrow** was present at BS 9/19 (RL); two were foraging on the dam at PG 10/30 (CS); and one was at YC 11/8 (MS, JT). The only **Henslow's Sparrows** reported were three on 8/4 (SM) at SGL 108; 20 on 8/6 (CS) in the SGL 108 area on the snowmobile route; and one on 8/22 (AG, SM) at SGL 108 - Bellwood. Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were observed 9/21 (TR) near NBSC and 10/5 (JB) at "The Tracks." Lincoln's were found on 14 dates at 11 *Indiana* locations between 9/16 (MS) and 10/19 (GT). PG hosted one on 9/16 (SG).

Two **Bobolinks** were noted on 8/25 (TR) near WT, the lone regional report. Last **Eastern Meadowlarks** included two near WT on 8/25 (TR), one at YC 9/23 (MSC), and one at PG 8/16 (KL). Last **Orchard Oriole** was ph. 8/19 (CW) at WCA. Lingered **Baltimore Orioles** included one at CC 9/1 (JB) and another very late one n. of SH 9/18 (AM). Only two **Rusty Blackbirds** were observed this fall in *Armstrong* s. of WT 11/6 (TR). Rusties passed through YC on six dates between 10/11 (AM, HR) and 10/28 (MH, RH, TR, JT) with high counts of 19 on 10/25 (TC, SD *et al*) and 11 on 10/19 (GT); five was the high on 10/11 (AM, HR) and 10/25 (AM) and four the high on 10/21 (CW).

Single **Ovenbirds** moved through *Armstrong* between 8/25 (JB) and 9/3 (TR). Last dates for Ovenbird include 9/22 (AIC) at YC and 9/21 (ER) at PG. **Northern Waterthrush** reports included two at BS 9/24 (CW) and one 9/28 (JT) at Indian Springs Golf Course; PG's last was observed 8/30 (SM). Last **Blue-winged Warblers** were listed 9/14 (RLo) at YC and 9/22 (CW) at BS. **Black-and-white Warblers** lingered at YC 9/18 (JT), at CC on 9/20 (JB) while one remained at BS 9/24 (CW). Last **Tennessee Warblers** were found at CC 10/7 (JB), at BS 10/8 (CW), and near PT 10/4 (PI, WI). Most years difficult to find, single **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported in *Indiana* on three dates – 9/18 (RLo), 9/26 (MS, JT), both sightings at BS, and 10/25 (MW) at SGL 276. **Nashville Warblers** were last observed 9/19 (TR) along the AT n. of L&D 8, 10/6 (CW) at BS and the following day (also CW) at WCA, and on 9/25 (ph. RL) at PG. A **Connecticut Warbler** was a great find near Ernest on 9/21 (MS); the Connecticut was feeding about three feet from the ground in a mix of goldenrod, multiflora rose, and barberry at the edge of the woods. Lingered **Common Yellowthroats** were all reported on 10/5 – at "The Tracks" (JB), at YC (GT), and west of Nicktown (PI, WI). Last **Hooded Warblers** were noted 10/4 (JB) at Kelly Station, 9/26 (CW, JT) at BS, 9/19 (MH, RH) at YC, and 9/20 (PI, WI) at Carrolltown. **American Redstarts** were last observed at Slate Lick 9/29 (GM) and on 9/20 at both YC (MH, RH, JP, JT) and near Carrolltown (PI, WI). Early **Cape May Warblers** were noted 8/23 at both YC (MH, RH, NJ, WJ, DK, JK, TK, TM, CW) and BS (CW); last were single birds at CC 10/7 (JB), near Ebensburg 9/26 (LS), and at YC 9/28 (CW). The only **Northern Parula** sighted in *Armstrong* was one near Slate Lick 9/29 (GM); parulas moved through *Indiana* between 8/23 (CW) when one was spotted at

YC and 9/26 (MS, JT) when the last two were recorded at YC. In *Cambria* single Northern Parulas were found 9/20 (PI, WI) near Carrolltown and 10/5 (PI, WI) near Nicktown. **Magnolia Warblers** were widespread in *Armstrong* with reports from various areas between 9/1 (JB) and 10/1 (JB) with all reports of one or two individuals. In *Indiana* at least seven Magnolias were counted on 9/6 (MH, RH) at BS; last seen was on 10/6 (CW). Single **Bay-breasted Warblers** were noted on four dates in *Armstrong* between 9/7 (TR) and 9/26 (TR); *Indiana* hosted Bay-breasts between 9/4 (MH, RH) and 9/27 (GT); in *Cambria* two were found at PG 8/26 (SM) and one near Carrolltown on 9/20 (PI, WI). One to two **Blackburnian Warblers** moved through *Armstrong* between 9/1 (TR) through 9/30 (JB). YC hosted single Blackburnians between 8/23 (MH, RH *et al*) and 10/13 (AM) while one visited a Glasgow yard 8/23, 25 (SM). Last **Northern Yellow Warbler** was found along the Hoodlebug Trail 9/2 (CW) while last **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were listed 9/13 (TR) n. of L&D 8 and 9/27 (GT) along the WPT at the Oxbow. Only two **Blackpoll Warblers** were noted in *Armstrong*, one 9/28 (GM) at Slatelick and the other 10/5 (JB) at CC. Blackpolls were found on eight dates between 9/4 (EH) and 11/1 (JT) in *Indiana*. One **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was noted 9/3 (TR) along the AT n. of L&D 8, the lone *Armstrong* report; only three were listed in *Indiana*, one to two at BS between 9/28 - 10/8 (CW), another

along the GTT 10/11 (MH, RH). *Cambria* yielded single birds at SGL 108 - Dean Twp. on 8/9 (GY) and 8/30 (SM) at PG. First **Palm Warblers** to arrive appeared near NBSC 9/21 (TR), at IUP South Campus 9/14 (JT), and at PG 9/14 (KL). Last **Pine Warblers** lingered 9/28 (CW) at YC and 10/10 (CM) at PG. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** remained 11/4 both at CC (JB) and at YC (SD, ED *et al*) and 11/2 (PI, WI) at PG. Last **Yellow-throated Warblers** were found 9/26 (EH) along the WPT and 9/9 (MH, RH, GL *et al*) at YC. The only **Prairie Warbler** was listed at SGL 108 - Blandburg SE on 8/6 (CS). Lingered **Black-throated Green Warblers** were noted 9/30 (JB) at "The Tracks," 10/9 (CW) at BS, and 10/11 (MH, RH) along the GTT near Wehrum. **Canada Warblers** were nice finds along the AT n. of L&D 8 on 9/3 (TR), at BS 9/6 (JT *et al*). SGL 108 - Dean Twp. hosted two on 8/9 (GY). **Wilson's Warblers** were sighted at BS between 8/26 (CW) and 9/13 (JT *et al*); one was photographed at PG 8/31 (RL).

Last two **Scarlet Tanagers** were observed along the AT n. of L&D 8 on 9/26 (TR) while one lingered near SH 10/3 (MH, RH). Last PG tanager occurred 9/19 (SG).

Last **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were noted at CC 10/5 (JB), at YC 9/20 (JP *et al*), and at PG 9/19 (SG). A **Blue Grosbeak** was a great find at Glasgow 8/7 (SM).

**Observers:** Tina Alianiello, Julian Avery, Rebecca Bauer, John Boback, Dave Brooke, Jen Burger (JBu), Jeremy Carlson, Tiffany Chan, Alex Colucci (AIC), Angelique Conrad, Marcy Cunkelman, Todd Deininger, Sue Dickson, Ed Donley, Jacquie Gentile, Mike Gillespie, Sally Graybill, Barb Griffith, Amanda Guercio, Eric Hall, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Bruce Hill, Rob Hooton (RHo), Matthew Hunt (MHu), Pam Illig, Winnie Illig, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Ben Kehoe, Colin Keith, Dave Keith, (DKe) Denise & Dennis Kelly, Michael Kensinger (MKe), Lara Knight, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Malcolm Kurtz, Nick Logan, Richard Love (RLo), Renee Lubert, Karen Lucas, Adam Maddy (AMa), Avi Marshall, Steve McClellan, Greg McDermott, Michael McDevitt (MM), Christina McGivern, Amy McNutt (AMu), Tim McNutt (TMu), Trent Millum, Joel Moore, Nick Morgenwecht, Oscar Nigam, Brady Porter, Joseph Pumford, Suzann Rensel, Theo Rickert, Terry Riggelman (TeR), Henry Rummel, Matt St Clair (MSC), Connor Schmitt, Matthew Schenck (MSch), Susan Schenck (SuS), Scott Simms, Anita Sleigh, Laura Steele, Vicki Stelma, TJ Stone, Mark Strittmatter, John Taylor, Phyllis Terchanick, Greg Tomb, Bill Waryck, Mike Weible, Ezra White, Cheri Widzowski, Jared Wilson, Louisa Wilson, Pete Wilson, Thaddeus Wilson, Ray Winstead, Cassandra Ziegler.

## Dues Reminder

Todd Bird Club dues are due on January 1 each year. If you haven't already paid, please submit your \$5 student, \$10 individual, or \$15 family membership to:

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

Please remember to indicate whether you prefer the electronic version or want a hard copy.

## Purple Martins Are Heading North

We received an email from Purple Martin landlord Ron Alsop on January 6:

"I'm happy to report that about a dozen martins have now arrived in Florida, and the migration is underway!

I'm hoping to write some more Martin articles and give my Power Point presentation to additional groups this year.

Thanks,

Ron"



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

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## Ornithology Camp for Teens

The third annual Ornithology Camp at Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA, will be held June 14-17, 2026. The camp is restricted to students ages 13-18. The camp features four days of activities that teach students how ornithological research is conducted through participation in bird banding, nest monitoring, surveying, radio-tracking, and song identification. Classroom lessons include studying nesting behavior, migration, raptor identification, and

bird anatomy. Dr. James Kellam, Professor of Biological Sciences, will conduct the sessions. Tuition is \$200 per student for lodging in single-occupancy, air-conditioned rooms, food, and supplies. Financial aid is available.

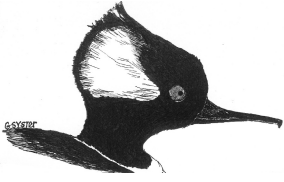
[www.svcornithology.wordpress.com](http://www.svcornithology.wordpress.com)

**or email**

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***Todd Bird Club***  
c/o Roger V. Higbee  
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# Christmas Bird Count Participants

Tom Betts  
Anthony Bruno  
Lee Carnahan  
Tiffany Chan  
Jim Dickson  
Megan Dickson  
Sue Dickson  
John Dudash  
Judy Emeigh  
Gary Ferrence

Jacque Gentile  
Carol Guba  
Margaret Higbee  
Roger Higbee  
Pat Johner  
Paul Johner  
Gloria Lamer  
Wimp Lamer  
Frank Logue  
Lynda Logue

Avi Marshall (CW only)  
Donna Meyer  
Trent Millum  
Paulette Parsley  
Jeremy Pete (CW only)  
Joseph Pumford  
Bob Ramsey  
Cindy Rogers  
Matt St Clair  
Tom Simmons

Ryan Spiardi  
Vicki Stelma  
Blair Stormer  
Linda Stormer  
Rodger Stormer  
Mark Strittmatter  
John Taylor  
Wil Taylor  
Ray Winstead

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## Christmas Bird Count 2025

Once again this year the Indiana Christmas Bird Count was held on December 26 with 37 birders participating; two additional birders reported species during Count Week. Our youngest birder was six-year-old Blair Stormer who has been participating in our count for at least the last three years. We fielded 15 parties in groups of one to three and had 19 birders manning 14 feeders and/or yards. In all we tallied 51 species, 15 fewer than last year, and 2,925 individuals, just a little over 52.5 percent of last year's tally. In addition, another ten species were sighted during Count Week (Dec. 23-25 and 27-29).

If all else fails, blame the weather! This was one of the worst days we've encountered on the CBC weatherwise! The overcast morning's fog did not lead to much bird song. Several field birders commented on the quietness of the woods in the morning. Our hope that the afternoon would be better was dashed by downpour after downpour in the afternoon; here at our home our rain gauge recorded 0.91" of rain during count day. Even the year that we had more than eight inches of snow on the ground and icy roads causing several birders to slide off-road produced more birds than this count. But we finished the count with some success.

Everyone who participated contributed to our count. If the birds aren't visible or singing, there's not much we can do. We have to admire the patience of one of our feeder-watchers who watched his feeder for four hours and finally spotted two crows in flight. Not one bird came to his feeder!

The highlights of the count included a Long-eared Owl heard by Mark Strittmatter, a single Wood Duck found by Wil Taylor, three American Wigeons spotted by Gloria Lamer, an adult Bald Eagle observed by both Gloria Lamer and the Trent Millum, Mark Strittmatter, and John Taylor crew. The latter three also listed the only Belted Kingfisher as most still water was completely frozen. In addition, Wil Taylor observed the only Great Blue Heron

and one of the two Merlins noted; Roger and I spotted the other Merlin between downpours in the late afternoon as we drove roads in the Creekside area. Tom Simmons heard the only Winter Wren at the IUP Co-op Farm. Hiking Ridgetop Trail at Yellow Creek, Ryan Spiardi counted nine of our eleven American Tree Sparrows. Joseph Pumford listed the count's only three White-crowned Sparrows in the northern part of the circle. Sincere thanks to all who participated!!!

Count Week birds included a Snow Goose found by Tiffany Chan and Vicki Stelma at Yellow Creek on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Three Greater White-fronted Geese were relocated as late as the 25<sup>th</sup> by both Tiffany Chan and Avi Marshall, but no one saw them on count day. Gadwalls had been present earlier in December at Yellow Creek but didn't show up until the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> when three and five appeared, spotted respectively by Jeremy Pete and Ryan Spiardi. On the last day of Count Week, the 29<sup>th</sup>, John Taylor spotted four Northern Pintails at Yellow Creek. Eight Ring-necked Ducks on the 25<sup>th</sup>, observed by Avi Marshall, were another addition to the Count Week list. John Taylor also added ten Common Mergansers that visited the lake on the 24<sup>th</sup>, also countable for Count Week. Another Avi Marshall addition were five American Herring Gulls that he saw at Yellow Creek on the 25<sup>th</sup>. John Taylor also spotted an American Kestrel by the Windy Ridge Industrial Site when he was taking Wil to the airport. Red-breasted Nuthatch was also a Count Week bird as it had been visiting the Higbee feeders regularly through December 23, then it had not been seen again until the 28<sup>th</sup>. Now it's regular again. The final Count Week bird was a Red-winged Blackbird, seen by Gary Ferrence at his feeders on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

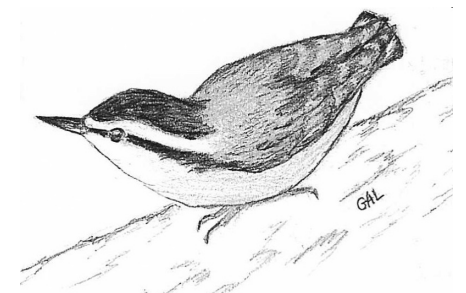
Sincere thanks to everyone who counted on December 26 and/or during Count Week! We're looking forward to our 44<sup>th</sup> CBC in 2026!!!

Margaret Higbee, Count Compiler

# Indiana Christmas Bird Count Results

## 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual CBC - December 26, 2025

Snow Goose (CW)	CW Sharp-shinned Hawk (14)	Redpoll (63)
Grtr. White-fronted Goose (2)	CW Cooper's Hawk (15)	2 White-winged Crossbill (62)
Canada Goose (2081)	613 American Goshawk (1)	Pine Siskin (375)
Mute Swan (4)	Northern Harrier (9)	American Goldfinch (637) 137
Trumpeter Swan (2)	Bald Eagle (6)	1 Lapland Longspur (6)
Tundra Swan (533)	2 Red-shouldered Hawk (5)	1 Snow Bunting (225)
Wood Duck (5)	1 Red-tailed Hawk (71)	9 Chipping Sparrow (4)
Gadwall (30)	CW Rough-legged Hawk (3)	Clay-colored Sparrow (1)
American Wigeon (14)	3 Eastern Screech-Owl (13)	2 Field Sparrow (23)
Mallard (670)	36 Great Horned Owl (10)	American Tree Sparrow (483) 11
American Black Duck (190)	3 Barred Owl (5)	Fox Sparrow (3)
Northern Pintail (10)	CW *Long-eared Owl (1)	1 Dark-eyed Junco (2272) 330
Green-winged Teal (4)	Short-eared Owl (2)	White-crowned Sparrow (36) 3
Canvasback (15)	3 Belted Kingfisher (9)	1 White-throated Sparrow (225) 82
Redhead (14)	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (8)	1 Savannah Sparrow (3)
Ring-necked Duck (41)	CW Red-bellied Woodpecker (91)	25 Song Sparrow (152) 21
Greater Scaup (5)	Downy Woodpecker (177)	38 Lincoln's Sparrow (1)
Lesser Scaup (32)	Hairy Woodpecker (58)	7 Swamp Sparrow (14) 5
Surf Scoter (CW)	Pileated Woodpecker (36)	8 Eastern Towhee (3)
White-winged Scoter (1)	Northern Flicker (40)	4 Eastern Meadowlark (10)
Black Scoter (1)	American Kestrel (26)	CW Red-winged Blackbird (3570) CW
Long-tailed Duck (3)	Merlin (3)	2 Brown-headed Cowbird (46)
Bufflehead (52)	Peregrine Falcon (1)	Rusty Blackbird (13)
Common Goldeneye (7)	Eastern Phoebe (1)	Brewer's Blackbird (CW)
Hooded Merganser (110)	14 Northern Shrike (1)	Common Grackle (503)
Common Merganser (29)	CW Blue Jay (566)	98 Orange-crowned Warbler (1)
Red-breasted Merganser (6)	American Crow (3275)	213 Common Yellowthroat (CW)
Ruddy Duck (223)	Fish Crow (8)	Pine Warbler (1)
Northern Bobwhite (1)	Common Raven (14)	3 Yellow-rumped Warbler (18)
Wild Turkey (345)	19 Black-capped Chickadee(808)	79 Northern Cardinal (584) 74
Ruffed Grouse (22)	Tufted Titmouse (394)	54
Ring-necked Pheasant (21)	Horned Lark (225)	Total Individuals (2925)
Rock Pigeon (392)	318 Golden-crowned Kinglet (106)	3
Mourning Dove (1117)	41 White-breasted Nuthatch (201)	46
Virginia Rail (1)	Red-breasted Nuthatch (51)	CW
American Coot (811)	Brown Creeper (25)	7
Sandhill Crane (2)	Winter Wren (5)	1
Killdeer (20)	Carolina Wren (63)	16
American Woodcock (2)	European Starling (8656)	553
Wilson's Snipe (3)	Gray Catbird (2)	
Bonaparte's Gull (6)	Brown Thrasher (1)	
Ring-billed Gull (50)	16 Northern Mockingbird (22)	1
American Herring Gull (1)	CW Eastern Bluebird (152)	31
Pied-billed Grebe (29)	Townsend's Solitaire (1)	
Horned Grebe (7)	Hermit Thrush (6)	
Red-necked Grebe (1)	American Robin (1626)	23
Red-throated Loon (1)	Cedar Waxwing (212)	20
Common Loon (9)	House Sparrow (809)	57
Double-crested Cormorant (1)	Evening Grosbeak (566)	
Great Blue Heron (8)	1 Pine Grosbeak (1)	
Black Vulture (3)	House Finch (1563)	68
Turkey Vulture (7)	Purple Finch (89)	



CW = Birds seen during Count Week but not on Count Day

CW =December 23-25; 27-29

( ) Highest No. Seen on Any Previous Indiana CBC