

# Todd Bird Club Newsletter



Indiana, PA

January 2007

## Meetings

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

**Tuesday, February 6** – Our own John Taylor, geology professor at Indiana University of PA, will present a program on South Africa. He and his brother Wil Taylor traveled to Africa this past year. The title of his program is “Allegheny Naturalists Loose in South Africa: Geology, Botany, and (especially) Birds of Kwazulu Natal, and Lesotho.” This presentation will reflect the nature of their trip. It was primarily a birding adventure, but with John’s being a birder-geologist and Wil’s being a botanist, there are plenty of striking images of other wildlife (from dung beetles to giraffes!), plants, and even a few cool rocks. John states that this program “should be fun.”

**Tuesday, March 6** – Wildlife Conservation Officer Patrick Snickles from Marion Center will present a program detailing the life history of our smallest falcon, the American Kestrel, previously called the Sparrow Hawk. We’ll learn about their nesting behavior, building appropriate nest boxes and their placement, and more. Don’t miss this informative program.

**Tuesday, April 3** – Geoff Malosh, an accomplished photographer, will be the speaker at this meeting. Geoff has been birding since he was eight but became officially “hooked” on May 12, 1984, on a trip to Presque Isle State Park during a stop at Ron Leberman’s banding station. “I remember sitting silently at the picnic table where he was set up, almost afraid to talk, watching him pull warbler after dazzling warbler out of his rumped paper bags like some kind of magician. He let me hold a few of the birds,

including a male American Redstart that lost one of its tail feathers during the banding process. I still have the feather today.” Geoff has traveled extensively in North America in search of birds, and has a current ABA total of 701, and over 1000 worldwide. Since 2002, he has been focusing on digital photography, and his photos of uncommon and rare birds in Pennsylvania are regular features in *Pennsylvania Birds* and *North American Birds*. They have also appeared in *Birding*. He has photographed nearly 500 North American bird species.

Geoff’s program will include tips on digital photography, dispelling many of the myths and misconceptions. He will show us what you can do and what you can’t after you’ve snapped the photo. Come and learn about digital photography and see some of the best bird slides you’ve ever seen before.

**Tuesday, May 2** – This is our annual banquet meeting. Our speaker will be Deuane Hoffman from Harrisburg, PA. Dinner begins at 6:00. Please bring your own place settings and a dish to share.

## Outings

**Saturday, January 28** – Marcy and Dan Cunkelman will lead an outing to the West Lebanon-Elders Ridge area for grassland birds including Short-eared Owl and Northern Harrier. Meet at the Valley Inn in Clarksburg along Route 286 at 2:00 p.m. Please contact Marcy (724-459-7229) if you plan to attend in case there is a change in plans.

**February 16-18** – The Great Backyard Bird Count. See page 2.

**Saturday, March 17** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Georgette Syster (724-349-6293). This outing should produce a good number of waterfowl species.

**Saturday, March 24** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Gloria Lamer (724-349-1159).

**Saturday, March 31** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Carol Guba (724-465-4429).

**Saturday, April 14** – Blacklick Valley Natural Area, led by Lee Carnahan (724-465-7323). From Indiana, take Route 56 to Armagh; turn left (or east) onto Route 22. Continue past the Dilltown exit to McFeaters Road on the left, and follow McFeaters to the parking lot at the end of the road. We will meet here at 8:00 a.m.

**Saturday, April 21** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). This joint outing with Friends of the Parks will target late waterfowl and early migrant passerines.

**Saturday, April 28** – The Piney Tract, led by Flo and Jim McGuire. Meet at the Higbees' to carpool at 6:30 a.m.

**May 5** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by John Taylor (724-397-2040). This is our annual warbler pilgrimage, so be prepared to hike.

**May 12** – Pennsylvania Migration Count, both Indiana and Armstrong Counties. Please contact Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493) if you can participate.

**May 18-20** – PSO Weekend at Harrisburg. In conjunction with the Appalachian and Quittapahilla Audubon Chapters, the 18<sup>th</sup> annual PSO meeting will be held at the The Best Western Inn and Suites located just off of Exit 247 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The meeting will feature field trips, local vendors, Saturday afternoon sessions, and a presentation Saturday evening by renowned Pulitzer Prize finalist author and naturalist Scott Weidensaul.

## The Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count scheduled for February 16-19, 2007. This annual four-day event engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning birders to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes. It's free, fun, and easy – and it helps the birds.

Participants count birds anywhere for as little or as long as they wish during the four-day period. They tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time. To report their counts, they fill out an online checklist at the Great Backyard Bird Count web site.

As the count progresses, anyone with internet access can explore what is being reported from their own towns or anywhere in the United States and Canada. They can also see how this year's numbers compare with those from previous years. Participants may also send in photographs of the birds they see. A selection of images is posted in the online photo gallery.

In 2006, participants reported a record-breaking 7.5 million birds of 623 species. They submitted 60,616 checklists, just 433 shy of an all-time record for total checklists.

### Why Count Birds?

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time. It doesn't matter whether you report the 5 species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a park, refuge, or state game lands. Your counts can help us answer many questions:

- \* How will this winter's snow and cold temperatures influence bird populations?
- \* Where are winter finches and other “irruptive” species that appear in large numbers during some years but not others?
- \* How will the timing of birds' migrations compare with past years?
- \* How are bird diseases, such as West Nile virus, affecting birds in different regions?
- \* What kinds of differences in bird diversity are apparent in cities versus suburban, rural, and natural areas?
- \* Are any birds undergoing worrisome declines that point to the need for conservation attention?

Scientists use the counts, along with observations from other citizen-science projects, such as the Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch, and eBird, to give us an immense picture of our winter birds.

For highlights of past results, visit the Science Stories section of the GBBC web site.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited. For more information see <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>.

## A Note from Our President



Another year. Another Christmas Bird Count. Did the unseasonably warm weather in western Pennsylvania postpone the southward migration of any birds? The numbers will tell. The premature blooming of several types of flowers has been documented in

local newspapers. We'll see if the normal patterns of bird migration were also affected.

Even though the weather has been extremely warm for this time of year, it's amazing that the "winter doldrums" can still set in. If you're one of those who have been in the doldrums lately, I encourage you to get out and do some birding. In addition, take the time and effort to come to the next club meeting. We always have an awesome program and before the program, it's always interesting to hear about the members' special sightings of bird species.

We're entering into a critical time in the life of the Todd Bird Club. In my opinion many other clubs and organizations are sharing the same untenable position. The lack of active membership is failing to fully support the original mission of the club. In plain English, not enough people are attending outings and club meetings to make it worthwhile. Also, the financial backbone of the club can no longer support the activities of the organization.

Important decisions concerning the future of the club will have to be made – soon. If you care to share your voice in the decision-making process, now is the time to step forward and be heard. Please plan to attend the next meeting and offer your input. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, February 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Blue Spruce County Park. (This day also happens to be Waitangi Day in New Zealand. Even if the birds don't appeal to you, impress us with your knowledge of Waitangi Day!)

– Linda Jones

## A New Pennsylvania Field Guide

The new *National Geographic Field Guide to Birds : Pennsylvania* (272 pages, published in 2006, \$14.95) is a compact guide to more than 125 of Pennsylvania's easiest to see birds. It includes large photographs of all featured species plus some smaller illustrations of similar species, different plumages or morphs, or the opposite sex. Identification information and range maps are on the page opposite the photographs, making it very easy to use. Jonathan Alderfer is the editor. Pittsburgh's own Paul Hess is the expert who provided the map information and much of the text. Paul is also a Todd Bird Club member.

Although limited in scope, the guide often includes more data on a given species than a standard field guide. This extra information is frequently found in the "Behavior" or "Field Notes" sections. Thus we learn that the Brown Creeper may press its body against the trunk of a tree when a predator is near, becoming almost invisible. Or that Bank Swallows beat their wings faster than Northern Rough-winged Swallows near their nesting tunnels. Or that a Veery may fly more than 160 miles in one night. The "Local Sites" section is another aspect of the guide not usually found in standard guides.

The *National Geographic Field Guide to Birds: Pennsylvania* is an excellent guide for beginners as well as for more experienced observers who are interested in learning additional facts about behavior. Even though I have many other field guides, the extra information in this one has made it a welcome addition to my library.

– Evelyn Fowles

Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Norman and Nancy Karp! The Karps were Todd Bird Club members for many years before they moved to Chautauqua in the early 90s.

## A Note from Our Treasurer

Todd Bird Club dues are due and payable on January 1 each year. If your address label has a red star, your membership has expired and this is your last newsletter. Please remit your \$7.50 individual membership or \$10 family membership dues to:

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

Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# Two Perspectives

## Part I

by Norman Karp

Bosque del Apache is considered to be one of the top ten birding places in the United States. It is a controlled wetlands near the banks of the Rio Grande between Albuquerque and the Mexico border, just off of I-25.

Nancy has always participated in the Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count in Indiana, Pennsylvania, or in Chautauqua County, New York, and when we discovered the Bosque bird count was on December 15, we altered our plans to be there. The bird count is an annual event to get a census of the birds in the country and takes place about a week before or after Christmas, at the discretion of the local birding organizations. In recent years Nancy has done the count with Dick Miga, Ann Beebe, Don Greenhouse, and Linda O'Brien from the Jamestown Audubon.

Here was an opportunity to have quite a different experience at bird count time, so I joined the count for my first time. Twenty-some birders were divided into teams to survey different areas of the large refuge. Because there was an excellent birder from Albuquerque in our group, I tried to conceal my ignorance. (I wasn't very successful.) The Bosque National Wildlife Refuge provided our group with a van and driver to investigate off-limit areas of the north end of the preserve to list and count all birds.

Following the day's work, nine of the group met at a Mexican restaurant in the small nearby town of San Antonio to review the birds of the day. To give you some comparison, it is not unusual for Nancy's Chautauqua group to see 20 to 30 species. The total for all the groups at Bosque was a very successful 128 species, a new record, beating last year by one species. Even more exciting are the total numbers of individuals for the day. For instance there were 31,500 Snow Geese, 341 Canada Geese, 44,206 ducks, and 8,600 Sandhill Cranes. Special sightings included Mountain Bluebirds, Eastern Bluebirds, and Western Bluebirds all on the same day. Our group had the most unusual and exotic bird of the day, a Phainopepla. This bird looked something like a black cardinal on a bad hair day.

Much as I like birds, I really prefer mammals. Exploring the remote areas of Bosque we had a chance to see some Elk, Mule Deer, Coyote, and Nancy saw a Bobcat run by. We had three outstanding days on this third trip to Bosque del Apache. We were up all three days before 6:00 a.m., once to join the bird count and twice to see the liftoff. A few years ago we saw liftoff once, and this trip we saw it twice. Liftoff is probably the most exciting event I have ever seen in nature. Don't think that we have discovered

## Christmas Bird Count Results

Snow Goose 1180	American Crow 198
Canada Goose 20	Raven sp. 1
American Wigeon 4	White-breasted Nuthatch 1
Mallard 632	Bewick's Wren 4
Northern Pintail 50	Marsh Wren 4
Ring-necked Duck 15	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 19
Unidentified ducks 20	Western Bluebird 10
Wild Turkey 78	American Pipit 18
Gambel's Quail 24	European Starling 50
Great Blue Heron 1	PHAINOPEPLA 1
Bald Eagle (immature) 1	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) 6
Northern Harrier 7	Spotted Towhee 23
Sharp-shinned Hawk 2	Savannah Sparrow 2
Red-tailed Hawk 10	Song Sparrow 69
American Kestrel 5	Lincoln's Sparrow 11
American Coot 1	Swamp Sparrow 1
Sandhill Crane 760	White-crowned Sparrow 277
Killdeer 4	White-throated Sparrow 5
Wilson's Snipe 1	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) 20
Mourning Dove 227	(Pink-sided) 20
Greater Roadrunner 3	(unidentified) 30
Ladder-backed Woodpecker 3	Red-winged Blackbird 1000
Northern Flicker (Red-shafted) 15	Western Meadowlark 7
Black Phoebe 3	Lesser Goldfinch 33
Say's Phoebe 6	

These are the partial results of the Bosque del Apache, NM, Christmas Bird Count. Nancy and Norman Karp were participants on the northern part of the refuge's count which appears above.

this event. With sunrise about 6:45 there must have been 40 or 50 photographers with their tripods lined up on the dock and shore ready and waiting for a half hour in the New Mexico cold. My fingers got so cold I couldn't feel the camera button.

Tens of thousands of Snow Geese and Sandhill Cranes appeared to be sleeping, many with their heads tucked under their wings. At some unseen signal, just as the sun peeks over the horizon, the geese all take off at once, filling the sky, then they wheel about before flying off to feed in the fields. The cranes leave in family groups of two or three until the crowded pond is empty except for some Northern Pintails, Mallards and American Coots. The photographers with their 18" long lenses disappear, and the human presence is minimal until the next morning.



## Two Perspectives Part II

by Nancy Karp

This year I experienced the most novel Christmas Bird Count I have ever participated in. When we lived in Pennsylvania, “my” count was with the Todd Bird Club in Indiana County, PA. Since moving to Chautauqua, I have always gone on the Jamestown Audubon count.

Because this year Norman and I left early for our winter trip to New Mexico, we rearranged our travel schedule so that we were able to be at Bosque del Apache for their Christmas Bird Count. Norman joined us for his first count, and we rode in a refuge van driven by Paul, a Bosque volunteer. The volunteers live in their RVs right beside the visitors’ center. They are provided with full RV hook-ups, free laundry facilities, free propane, and a stipend of about \$10 a day for the four days a week they work during their four-month commitment. There are 16 volunteers living at the refuge this season (October through January).

Our count area included the north part of the refuge in an area closed to the public. Some of the highlights for us were not even birds, but mammals: Mule Deer, Elk and a Bobcat. Other highlights were all three species of bluebirds (Eastern, Western, and Mountain), pink-sided Dark-eyed Juncos (same species as ours, but so different in appearance), Phainopepla, 31,500 “light” geese (includes Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese), 341 Canada Geese, 44,206 ducks, 8,600 Sandhill Cranes, six sparrow species (White-crowned Sparrows are ubiquitous at Bosque), Gambel’s Quail, 80 Wild Turkeys, Lesser Goldfinch, among others. It was a fog-free, snow-free, rain-free Christmas count, a first for me!

But now to the real magic of Bosque del Apache – they call it “lift-off.” For lift-off you get up at about 5:30 a.m. to drive to the flight deck at the refuge. There, with 50 to 60 others, you wait in the 15-degree pre-dawn, cameras poised on tripods for most, binoculars at the ready for others, for that moment which mere mortals can’t explain, when tens of thousands of Snow Geese take off at the same second, filling the skies like nothing you can imagine. Soon the huge Sandhill Cranes begin to take off, joining the geese for a day of feeding in the refuge fields. The noise is deafening...somewhat like a jet plane!

We thoroughly enjoyed our 2006 Christmas Bird Count at Bosque del Apache in New Mexico and especially liftoff. If you ever have the chance to go, don’t miss it.

## A Hawaiian Adventure

Part I – O’ahu

by Margaret Higbee

In October of 2005, the night before Roger and I were leaving for a Texas vacation, our older son Rob and his fiancée Stephanie stopped by. Rob presented each of us with a book. Mine was H. Douglas Pratt’s *Enjoying Birds and Other Wildlife*

*in Hawai’i* while Roger’s was *The Roadside Geology of Hawai’i*. I immediately told Rob he’d gotten it all wrong – we’re going to TEXAS – not Hawai’i. They then informed us that they were getting married in August 2006 in Hawai’i, and they were flying us there.



Red-vented Bulebuls frequently perched on the wires outside our vacation rental.

Flying...me? Yes, I like birds, and I like to watch birds fly, but I like my feet on

solid ground. Oh, well, it was months away, so I had time to get used to the idea. I had never flown before. August 2006 arrived before we knew it, and, yes, we were indeed flying to the tropical islands. Flying wasn’t so bad after all. I had time – lots of time – on the plane to study my new field guides. We left early on August 3 and flew from Pittsburgh to Houston to Honolulu, arriving in Honolulu around lunchtime. The first bird we spotted while waiting in line for our rental car was a Spotted Dove perched on a telephone line. Though not a life bird, we had not seen Spotted Dove since 1981 when we spotted our first in Anaheim, CA. The drive from the airport to the house where we were staying on the north shore of O’ahu yielded our first life bird, Zebra Dove. Common Mynas were everywhere along the route, acting very much like our European Starlings. We also saw numerous Cattle Egrets. Since no one else had yet arrived at the house, Roger and I took a short drive past Campbell National Wildlife Refuge where we found our first Hawaiian Coots. A stop along the ocean yielded familiar birds including Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings, and Black-crowned Night-Herons. New for us, however, were the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, Red-footed Boobies, and the Great Frigatebirds. A noddy also flew by, but it was too far away for us to determine whether it was a Black or Brown

Noddy. A stop at the motel where our younger son Jon and his wife Heidi were staying produced our first of many Red-crested Cardinals.

The following morning we were once again free to explore more of the island, but before we left, I walked onto the deck. Red-vented Bulbuls, another life bird, were perched on the wires, singing their burry song. The bulbuls are not native birds but rather appeared on O‘ahu as an unauthorized cage release in the mid 1950s.

Our first stop was at Ahupua - O‘Kahana, a small park where in addition to the House Finches, we found flocks of Common Waxbills and Chestnut Munias. The waxbills with their red eye patches and red bills, are native to Africa, and the munia, to southeast Asia. The munias sported dark heads and breasts with chestnut upperparts and tails. Their large grosbeak-like blue bills were apparent as the birds fed on seeds in the grass. Kualoa Regional Park yielded the Hawaiian race of the Black-necked Stilt. This race has more black on the face and neck than the ones found on the mainland.

With the hope of finding some of the Hawaiian honeycreepers, we decided to hike the ‘Aiea Ridge Trail. This higher-elevation trail passed through rain forest with a lot of eucalyptus, but as the trail climbed, more of the native koa trees were apparent. ‘Apapane and O‘ahu ‘Amakihi were supposedly “fairly common” according to our guide book; however, we failed to find either. We did find the non-native Japanese White-eyes, White-rumped Shammas, and Red-billed Leiothrix. The white-eyes, we soon learned, were abundant everywhere. The Malaysian native shama reminded me of an elusive long-tailed towhee. We frequently heard the shama’s melodic song, but it took effort to actually see the bird. Originating in China, the leiothrix was a beautiful chickadee-sized bird with its olive crown and back, yellow throat, orange breast, and red wing patch.

As we drove down the mountain past an athletic field, we spotted our first Pacific Golden-Plover in the grass.

The following morning, August 5, was the wedding. The ceremony was scheduled for 7:30 on the beach. En route to the spot, we noted a flock of Java Sparrows in a residential area. During the ceremony itself, the only Christmas Shearwater of the trip flew by as Rob and Steph

recited their vows. The beach they chose for the wedding was opposite an island bird sanctuary. Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were skimming low over the water while Red-footed Boobies passed by overhead. After the wedding, we were free until late afternoon when we were to meet for pictures. Roger and I had planned to visit Lyon Arboretum, but since it was Saturday, it was closed. Instead we hiked the trail to Manoa Falls. Here we listed Red-whiskered Bulbuls, Red-vented Bulbuls, White-rumped Shama, Red-billed Leiothrix, and the ever-present Japanese White-eyes. The rest of the afternoon and evening were filled with wedding festivities.



Japanese White-eyes were abundant almost everywhere.

Plans for the next day included a family trip to the Waimea Valley Audubon Society’s sanctuary. The family included our two sons, their wives, Steph’s parents and her brother, and us as well as two of Rob’s friends who were responsible for the wedding’s location; i.e. they live in Honolulu. On the way to the meeting point, we added Northern

Mockingbird and Rock Pigeons to our list. The first bird we saw flying above Waimea Valley was a White-tailed Tropicbird. How graceful it appeared as it flew above the trees. We met the gang, and proceeded to hike to the falls. We had gone no farther than 200 feet when we were told that the area was closed due to a flash flood. Before we left though, we saw a Common Moorhen as well as several Common Peafowl, both hens and cocks.

We all continued to Turtle Beach to see the Green Sea Turtles. They were quite a sight as they basked in the sun or swam along the edge of the water.

August 7 was our last day on O‘ahu on this leg of the trip. We spent the early morning hiking Manana Trail, again in search of some of the Hawaiian honeycreepers. Once again we fizzled. This was a beautiful trail with lots of birds, but we added no new species to our list.

We next headed southeast to the very tip of the island along Route 72. Several pull-offs yielded spectacular views of the ocean. Across from Manana Island, we watched Sooty Terns and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters. On the shore were several Pacific Golden-Plovers. It was time to return to our rental to spend time with the family. Tomorrow we would fly to Kauai.

*(to be continued)*



# Indiana Christmas Bird Count Results

24<sup>th</sup> Annual CBC – December 26, 2006

Snow Goose (CW)		Virginia Rail (1)		Pine Warbler (1)	
Canada Goose (1369)	1200	Am. Coot (811)	692	Eastern Towhee (3)	1
Mute Swan (4)		Killdeer (7)		American Tree Sparrow (483)	55
Tundra Swan (200)	CW	Wilson's Snipe (1)		Chipping Sparrow (2)	
Wood Duck (2)		Am. Woodcock (2)		Field Sparrow (13)	3
Gadwall (30)	5	Bonaparte's Gull (6)		Savannah Sparrow (2)	
American Wigeon (14)		Ring-billed Gull (50)	3	Fox Sparrow (3)	1
American Black Duck (190)	9	Herring Gull (1)		Song Sparrow (152)	136
Mallard (670)	291	Rock Pigeon (366)	149	Lincoln's Sparrow (1)	
N. Shoveler (2)		Mourning Dove (906)	480	Swamp Sparrow (14)	4
N. Pintail (5)		Eastern Screech-Owl (13)	2	White-throated Sparrow (175)	71
Green-winged Teal (3)		Great Horned Owl (10)	3	White-crowned Sparrow (36)	17
Canvasback (9)		Barred Owl (5)	CW	Dark-eyed Junco (2272)	797
Redhead (14)		Long-eared Owl (1)		Lapland Longspur (6)	
Ring-necked Duck (32)	10	Short-eared Owl (2)		Snow Bunting (225)	
Greater Scaup (2)		Belted Kingfisher (9)	4	Northern Cardinal (584)	248
Lesser Scaup (24)	CW	Red-headed Woodpecker (1)		Red-winged Blackbird (3570)	
White-winged Scoter (1)		Red-bellied Woodpecker (70)	41	Eastern Meadowlark (10)	
Long-tailed Duck (3)		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (5)		Rusty Blackbird (13)	
*Bufflehead (6)	52	Downy Woodpecker (177)	58	Brewer's Blackbird (CW)	
Common Goldeneye (7)	2	Hairy Woodpecker (58)	18	Common Grackle (503)	
Hooded Merganser (19)		Northern Flicker (21)	9	Brown-headed Cowbird (46)	1
Common Merganser (5)		Pileated Woodpecker (25)	12	Pine Grosbeak (1)	
Red-breasted Merganser (2)		Northern Shrike (1)		Purple Finch (84)	23
Ruddy Duck (43)	14	Blue Jay (566)	156	House Finch (1563)	342
Ring-necked Pheasant (21)	5	American Crow (2432)	603	Common Redpoll (40)	
Ruffed Grouse (22)	5	Fish Crow (5)		Pine Siskin (23)	
Wild Turkey (345)	123	Common Raven (5)		American Goldfinch (409)	158
N. Bobwhite (1)		Horned Lark (200)		Evening Grosbeak (566)	
Red-throated Loon (1)		Black-capped Chickadee (808)	434	House Sparrow (746)	390
Common Loon (9)	1	Tufted Titmouse (394)	178		
Pied-billed Grebe (29)	13	Red-breasted Nuthatch (51)	5	<b>Total Individuals (18,833)</b>	<b>8,762</b>
Horned Grebe (4)		White-breasted Nuthatch (201)	121		
Red-necked Grebe (1)		Brown Creeper (25)	9	64 Species on 12/26/06 + 5 for CW	
Double-crested Cormorant (1)		Carolina Wren (61)	22		
Great Blue Heron (8)	5	*Winter Wren (4)	4	CW = Birds Seen During Count	
Turkey Vulture (2)	CW	Golden-crowned Kinglet (106)	54	Week but Not Count Day	
Bald Eagle (1)	CW	Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4)	2	CW = December 23-29	
Northern Harrier (9)	7	Eastern Bluebird (152)	84		
Sharp-shinned Hawk (14)	2	Hermit Thrush (6)	2	* Record-breaking or Equal High	
Cooper's Hawk (15)	7	Wood Thrush (CW)		Tally	
N. Goshawk (1)		American Robin (1626)	50	**Species New to the Count (None)	
Red-shouldered Hawk (2)		Gray Catbird (2)		( ) Highest No. Seen on Any	
Red-tailed Hawk (65)	39	Northern Mockingbird (11)	8	Previous Indiana CBC,	
Rough-legged Hawk (3)		Brown Thrasher (1)		1983-2005	
Am. Kestrel (26)	20	European Starling (8656)	1382		
Merlin (2)		Cedar Waxwing (212)	108	126 Species on Count since 1983	
Peregrine Falcon (1)		Yellow-rumped Warbler (17)	1	(including 4 CW only species)	

# CBC 2006 Participants

Leonard Anderson  
Dan Andrascik  
Pat Andrascik  
Steve Andrascik  
Rachel Beiler  
Bill Betts  
Sid Blair  
Vernon Blystone  
Ken Byerly  
Lee Carnahan  
Roger Carnahan  
Shirley Chase  
Dan Cunkelman  
Marcy Cunkelman  
Jim Dearing

Kristi Dearing  
Ed Donley  
Gary Ferrence  
Gregory Ferrence  
Betsy Fetterman  
Tom Fetterman  
Sue Gatti  
Connie Gearhart  
Joyce Griffith  
Carol Guba  
Len Hess  
Linda Hess  
Margaret Higbee  
Roger Higbee

Leon Hue  
Dory Jacobs  
Pat Johner  
Paul Johner  
Linda Jones  
Carol Kerr  
Janet Kuehl  
Tom Kuehl  
Gloria Lamer  
Mary A. Little  
Howard Mandigo  
Gib McLaughlin  
Bruce Mehus  
Helen Mehus

Richard Nowell  
Marjorie Peterson  
Sara Pulliam  
Pat Rawls  
Don Rodgers  
Bob Seelhorst  
Tom Simmons  
John Somonick  
Linda Stormer  
Luke Stormer  
Rodger Stormer  
Georgette Syster  
John Taylor  
Ila Tuorinsky  
Steve Tuorinsky

## Count Highlights

Special thanks to everyone who helped with the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Indiana Christmas Bird Count! The intermittent showers made hiking a tad wet at times but did not deter our stalwart birders who covered 35.25 miles on foot, 6 miles by bike, and 546.5 miles by car.

The coverage this year was low, compared with recent years, with only 16 field parties which included 28 birders. Another 29 counted birds at their feeders.

Open water on all the area lakes yielded a variety of waterfowl. We set only two records this count. The record high of Buffleheads was attributed to a migrant flock that landed on Musser's Pond late in the day when Bill Betts checked the lake for the third time. In addition, 4 Winter Wrens were tallied, tying our previous high – Dan and Marcy Cunkelman found one, Len and Linda Hess noted 2, and Sara Pulliam listed one near Homer City. No new species were added to the count this year.

Kudos to Len and Linda Hess who, despite suffering flu-like symptoms, birded all day, listing the count's only Ruby-crowned Kinglets and a myriad of other species as well. The north shore Yellow Creek crew – John Taylor, Ed Donley, and Jim Dearing found a Common Loon, a species found on only 9 previous counts. The south shore party – Gloria Lamer and Georgette Syster – listed Gadwall, previously listed on five counts, and Eastern Towhee, found on only four of our previous counts. Dory Jacobs added the count's only Brown-headed Cowbird, and Roger and I were lucky enough to see a Fox Sparrow at our own feeder during a brief pit stop. (We had not seen the Fox Sparrow prior to count day, nor have we seen it since! It must have been a late migrant.)

Once again this year we met at 6:00 p.m. to tally our list at Hoss's. Our attendance at the meeting this year was only 27, but it still helped expedite the compiling of the count results. We hope everyone will plan to come next year, especially those of you who haven't experienced our count dinner. It's a great opportunity to meet the other participants, share information, and make new friends. After a full day of birding in the field or staring out the window at bird feeders, the comradery is welcome and the hot food warming.

At our dinner we voted for the "Bird of the Count." This year Georgette Syster nominated Marcy Cunkelman's Winter Wren which won the prize.

Not seen on count day but during count week were five species. On her way into Indiana, Dory Jacobs saw a flock of 110 Tundra Swans overhead on Thursday, the 28<sup>th</sup>. Prior to the count Jim Dearing had seen a Lesser Scaup at Yellow Creek, and post-count Lee Carnahan found a pair of Lesser Scaup at the same location. Gloria and Clayton Lamer spotted an adult Bald Eagle flying over Rt. 119 on December 23. Near Aultman, Tom and Betsy Fetterman found a soaring Turkey Vulture the day after the count. And on the last day of the count period Gary Ferrence heard a Barred Owl.

This was an average count in every sense of the word. Sixty-four species were tallied; 64 is the median. In addition, the average number of species seen during the 24 years we've been counting is 64.333. So it wasn't the best count on record, but it wasn't the worst. Average is not bad!



# Indiana-Armstrong-Cambria County

## Fall 2006 – August 1 through November 30

Please submit your reports at the end of each month to Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934 or e-mail to [bcoriole@alltel.net](mailto:bcoriole@alltel.net).

Locations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Ghost Town Trail (GTT), Indiana (IN), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Lewisville (LV), Prince Gallitzin (PG), Reservoir Hill (RH), Rural Valley (RV), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TLR), Worthington (WT), Yatesboro (YB), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

A **Ross's Goose** was observed with a flock of Canada Geese inside the Seward power plant on 11/18 (TR); the bird was present through 11/24 (TR). This was a third *Indiana* record. **Canada Goose** maxima included 203 at YC 10/3 (LC,CG, MH), 75 at PG 10/9 (JS), 44 at KR (MH), and 30 near WT (CGI), the latter two reports 11/15. A **Mute Swan** remained at Rosston throughout the fall (JV,JVa). **Tundra Swans** began moving through our area 11/1 when the first flocks included at least 311 birds at YC (MH,JW), 45 over Lewisville (MC), 22 at PG (RB,JS), and 6 at TLR (LC); 14 visited KR 11/16 (LC).

Best **Wood Duck** counts were 46 at YC on 9/19 (SB,LC, MH) and 19 at PG 10/24 (RB). Migrant duck arrival dates were generally later than normal with maxima lower than normal. First **Gadwalls** arrived 10/16 (RB) at PG and 10/24 (LC,CG,MH,SS) at YC while respective top counts reached 14 on 10/25 (JS) and 11 on 11/1 (LC,MH). First **Am. Wigeons** included one at KR 9/6 (MH), 5 at YC 10/3 (LC,CG,MH), and 13 at PG 10/6 (RB). YC's high was 15 on 10/24 (LC,MH). High counts of 19 **Am. Black Ducks** and 55 **Mallards** were achieved 10/31 (LC,CG,MH,BJ) at YC. PG yielded 29 blacks on 11/12 (RB) and 21 Mallards 10/9 (JS). KR's maxima included 4 blacks and 12 Mallards 10/27 (LC). **Blue-winged Teal** were scarce this season with the only reports of 2 at KR 8/30 (MH), 1 at KR 9/6 (MH), and 14 at YC 9/19 (LC); amazingly none were found at PG. PG yielded 1-2 **N. Shovelers** on 3 dates, 10/9 (JS), 10/28 (RB), and 11/1 (JS). Three **N. Pintails** were present 11/1 (LC,MH) at YC, the lone report. **Green-winged Teal**, too, were in very low numbers with top count a mere 7 on 11/1 (LC) at YC. First to arrive, however, was 1 at KR 8/30 (MH); 5 appeared 9/26 (SB,LC,CG,MH,BJ) at YC; PG's arrival date was 10/7 (RB) when PG's high of 5 was noted. YC produced the only **Canvasbacks** and **Redheads**; 5 Canvasbacks appeared 10/31 (LC,CG,MH,BJ), and 3 were last noted 11/14 (LC,MH,GL). Three Redheads lingered on the same part of the lake 11/4 (MH,RH,3RBC) through 11/14 (LC,MH,GL). **Ring-necked Ducks** were in better numbers this fall than last with best counts of 129 at PG 11/12 (RB), 63 at YC 11/14 (LC,MH, GL), 18 at TLR on 11/15 (LC), and 8 at KR on 10/15 (LC). Best **Lesser Scaup** counts were 40 at PG 11/1 (JS) and 30 at YC 10/24 (LC,MH). Two **White-winged Scoters** at PG 11/12 (RB) set a third *Cambria* record. A drake **Black Scoter** was a

great find 11/14 (LC,MH,GL) at YC. **Buffle-heads** peaked on 11/1 (LC) with a tally of 161 at YC and on 11/12 (RB) with 200 at PG. A single **Common Goldeneye** at PG 11/1 (JS) comprised the entire report for this species. **Hooded Merganser** reports included one on a farm pond near WT 10/27 (CGI), 7 at YC 11/1 (MH), and 35 at PG 11/12 (RB). Two **Common Mergansers** appeared at PG 10/25 (JS). A single **Red-breasted Merganser** was present at YC from 9/26 (SB,LC,CG,MH,BJ) through 11/7 (LC,MH); the only other reports included 5 at PG 11/12 (RB) and 7 at KR 11/15 (MH). First **Ruddy Ducks** arrived at YC 10/2 (LC) and at PG 10/16 (RB); numbers peaked 11/1 with counts of 432 at YC (LC) and 182 at PG (JS). In *Armstrong* single ruddies were spotted at KR 10/27 (LC) and 11/15 (MH).

**Ruffed Grouse** seem to be in a little better shape with reports from 4 observers this fall. Turkey maxima included flocks of 50 near Penn Run 9/3 (BF,TF), 29 at PG 10/9 (JS), 12 at RV 9/21 (LU), and 10 near WT 10/6 (CGI).



These 3 Red-throated Loons visited Keystone Reservoir, Armstrong Co., 11/15.  
Photo Margaret Higbee

The season for **Red-throated Loons**, the best on record, began 11/14 (LC,MH,GL) when 8 arrived at YC; the same day LC found 3 more on TLR. The following day (MH) 3 were observed at KR. On 11/17 (LC), 2 were again at YC. Five were counted at YC on 11/21 (LC,MH) while another trip there on 11/26 (LC) yielded 4. These were not all the same birds because other birders checked the lake between these dates and failed to see any Red-throated Loons. PG hosted one 11/18 (RB), the second *Cambria* report on record. The region's first 3 **Common Loons** appeared at PG 10/19 (RB); they were moving 10/24 (LC,MH) when 15 were counted flying over YC in addition to one

individual on the lake. On 11/1 (LC) YC harbored 23 while another was at TLR (LC). KR hosted singletons 10/27 (LC) and 11/15 (MH); 3 were counted there 11/16 (LC). The season's first **Pied-billed Grebes** appeared 9/14 (MH) at KR and 9/19 (LC) at YC; high tallies included 62 at YC 11/7 (LC,MH), 42 at PG 10/9 (JS), and 15 at KR 11/16 (LC). PG yielded the first 5 **Horned Grebes** 10/16 (RB); none were seen at YC till 11/4 (MH,RH,3RBC); numbers remained low with the high counts of 8 at PG 10/25 (JS), 4 at YC 11/26 (LC), and one at KR 11/9 (MH) and 11/16 (LC). Flocks totaling 148 **Double-crested Cormorants** appeared over YC 10/24 (LC,MH); only 58 of them landed on the water, the remainder continued southward. Other maxima included 122 at PG 10/24 (RB) and 37 at KR 10/27 (LC). An **Am. Bittern** was a nice find at PG 8/4,7 (DG). The 1-2 **Great Egrets** reported last season at PG continued into August with sightings 8/1-2 (RB); single birds were found 8/12,14 (RB); 3 were noted 8/15 (DG). Two egrets stopped at YC 10/3 (LC,CG,MH) while singletons were listed near WT 9/15 and 10/11 (CGL). A **Green Heron** was still at YC 10/8 (LC), a normal last date; but an individual 11/1 (MH) was a real surprise and the latest date on record.



Rory Bower photographed this Solitary Sandpiper at Prince Gallitzin August 2.

**Turkey Vulture** maxima included 47 near IN 11/5 (PJ), 38 near LV 9/16 (MC), 10 near WT 9/7 (CGI), 5 at YB 9/18 (ED), and 2 at RV 9/21 (LU); last reported was one 11/10 (MC) near LV. First **Osprey** arrived at YC 8/17 (MS) and at KR 8/30 (MH); in flight at one time over YC lake were 5 on 10/6 (KBi,MS). Last noted were singletons at YC 10/24 (LC,MH) and PG 10/25 (JS).

Numerous **Bald Eagle** reports were received. PG harbored at least 3 Bald Eagles 8/2-13 (RB), 1 adult and 2 immature birds. YC's first appeared 8/25 (MS); adult eagles were also seen at YC 9/16 (MH,DL) and 11/14 (LC,MH,GL). Eight was the count over LV 9/16 (MC). Near SH reports included an adult passing over 10/19 (MH) and a second-year bird the following day (MH). An adult fished at KR 8/30 and 9/14 (MH); another Bald Eagle soared along the Allegheny at Kittanning 11/16 (RH).

In **Armstrong N. Harrier** was found only near WT 9/27; 10/6,14; and 11/15 (CGL). Single harriers at YC were noted 10/2 (LC), 10/31 (LC,CG,MH,BJ), and 11/21 (LC,MH); another visited PG 10/20 (RB). The only reported **Red-shouldered Hawk** soared over YC 9/26 (SB,LC,CG,MH, BJ). Migrating over LV were 295 **Broad-winged Hawks** 9/16 (MC); last was listed 9/26 (SB,LC,CG,MH,BJ) at YC. An adult **Golden Eagle** flew over SH 10/28 (MH). A **Merlin** was a nice find at LV 9/22 (MC).

A **Virginia Rail** was heard calling at YC 10/10 (LC,MH). Not frequently found in *Indiana*, **Common Moorhen** was

a nice surprise 10/2 (LC). The first 20 of many **Am. Coots** arrived at YC 9/26 (SB,LC,CG,MH,BJ); by 11/17 at least 1475 were present (LC), the highest count since 1999. PG hosted a flock of 650 10/28-11/12 (RB) before numbers started to dwindle.

After last year's being the best on record for shorebirds at YC, the migration went almost unnoticed this season because of high water levels. Best regional shorebirding was at PG. A **Semipalmated Plover** stopped at PG 8/4 (JS). Even YC's high count of 11 **Killdeer** 9/16 (LC,MH, BJ,MS) was hardly noteworthy; 12 remained at Seward 11/18 (TR). Seventeen **Greater Yellowlegs** flew over YC 10/24 (LC,MH), calling but not stopping; 2 visited PG 10/25 (JS), and last was noted there 11/12 (RB). **Solitary Sandpiper** reports included singletons at PG 8/2 (RB), at KR 8/30 (MH), and at YC 10/8 (LC). **Spotted Sandpiper** was noted only at PG where 3 were counted 8/2 (RB) and 8/3 (JS); 2 remained 8/4 (RB). Four of the **Least Sandpipers** noted in the summer report at PG continued through 8/4 (JS). The **White-rumped Sandpiper**, also noted last season, continued at PG through 8/2 (RB). Single **Wilson's Snipe** were noted 10/8 (LC) at YC and 10/10 (CGL) near WT, the lone reports.

Fifteen **Bonaparte's Gulls** 10/24 (RB) at PG and a singleton 11/21 (LC,MH) at YC comprised the entire report for this species. Ten **Ring-billed Gulls** arrived at PG 8/4 (JS); top counts were 18 on 11/21 (LC,MH) at YC and 12 on 10/24 (RB) at PG. TLR yielded the fall's only 3 **Herring Gulls** 11/14 (LC). Eight **Caspian Terns** were counted at KR 8/30 (MH). **Forster's Tern** reports included 2 both at KR 11/16 (LC) and at PG 11/18 (RB). Nine **Black Terns** were feeding over the water at KR 8/30 (MH), and 5 lingered at YC 9/12 (MH,MS).

Last **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was noted 9/22 (MH) at BS. **Eastern Screech-Owl** and **Great Horned Owl** were each noted at 3 locations this period. Eleven **Common Night-hawks** near SH 8/25 (RH) were the only ones reported. Last dates for **Chimney Swift** included 10/3 (CGL) near WT and 10/4 (MH) near SH. October 4 was also the last reported sighting of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** near Creekside (MA). A very late hummingbird sp? was seen briefly near Creekside 10/27 (JG). An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** appeared near Homer City 11/22 (LC). First **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** arrived near LV 9/16 (MC) and at TLR 9/26 (PJ); 5 was a good count at BS 10/2 (MH).

One to 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were spotted near Jackson-ville 9/13-14 (EF,MF). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were still calling near SH 9/27 (MH) and at BS 10/2 (MH). This was the best season on record for **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** in *Indiana* with BS being the hotspot. First arrival was 8/29 (MH) near SH; BS yielded



singletons 9/15 (EF,MF,MH) and 10/2 (MH) and 3 on 9/22 (MH). RH yielded the last **Least Flycatcher** 9/17 (PJ) and YC, the last **Eastern Phoebe** 10/31 (LC,CG,MH,BJ). Last **Eastern Kingbirds** were noted near McIntyre 8/31 (MH, RH) and near WT 9/4 (CGI). Vireo dates of departure included 9/4 (MH,RH) for **White-eyed Vireo** along the GTT; 10/18 near SH (MH) and 10/9 (JS) at PG for **Blue-headed**; 9/8 (CG,MH) for **Yellow-throated** at BS; 9/4 (MH,RH) for **Warbling** at Saylor Park, and 9/25 (EF,MF) for **Red-eyed Vireo** at CD. **Philadelphia Vireos** included one at Saylor Park 9/4 (MH,RH) and 2 at BS 9/15 (EF,MF,MH)

A **Fish Crow** was heard calling in IN 8/26 (RH). **Common Ravens** continue to be widespread with reports from 6 localities this period. Members of the Todd-3RBC outing on 11/4 enjoyed watching 3 late **Tree Swallows** feasting on Red-panicle Dogwood berries. Last dates included 9/12 (MH) for **Bank** and **Cliff Swallows** and 9/19 (SB,LC,MH) for **Barn Swallow**, all at YC.

One to 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were present near SH throughout the period (MH,RH); one made a brief appearance at a YB feeder 10/23 (ED). Last **House Wren** lingered on RH 10/25 (PJ), the latest date on record. First **Winter Wren** was found along the GTT 8/23 (CG,MH); RH yielded singletons 9/3-11/8 (PJ); 3 were at BS 10/2 (MH) and another, on the Ferrence farm near IN 10/14 (KB,GF,MH,JK,TK); one visited PG 11/15 (JS). Small flocks of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were found between 9/22 (MH) and 11/14 (LC,MH,GL) with largest numbering 14 at BS 10/2 (MH); 6 was the count at PG 10/9 (JS). Last **Veery** was on RH 9/3 (PJ). **Swainson's Thrushes** migrated through the region 9/15 (EF,MF,MH) through 10/10 (PJ); pre-dawn calls were heard 9/17,18,21, and 27 (MH) near SH. Two **Hermit Thrushes** were found on RH 10/25 (PJ). BS harbored the last **Wood Thrush** 10/2 (MH). PG's last **Gray Catbirds** were 3 on 10/9 (JS); a very late individual lingered on RH 11/24 (PJ). Last **Brown Thrasher** was found at YC 10/3 (LC,CG,MH). Single **N. Mockingbirds** have taken up residence in our state parks; one arrived at YC 9/16 (LC,MH,BJ,MS) and another at PG 10/19 (RB), and both have remained through the end of the period. Last **Brown Thrashers** were listed 9/26 (MC) near LV and 10/3 (LC,CG,MH) at YC. **Cedar Waxwing** flocks included approximately 100 at SGL 273 9/1 (CT), 300 near LV 9/30 (MC), and 200 at PG 10/16 (RB).

The warbler migration was quite good this fall, much better than in recent years. Last **Blue-winged Warbler** was noted at BS 9/15 (EF,MF,MH). **Tennessee Warblers** included one at KR 9/7 (MH), 7 at BS 9/8 (CG,MH), and the last 2 at BS 10/4 (MH). An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was

well seen low in shrubbery at BS 9/15 (EF,MF,MH). One to 6 **Nashville Warblers** were listed on 7 reports between 9/5 (MH) and 9/30 (LC,PJ). Single **N. Parulas** were found 8/23 (CG,MH) along the GTT; 9/15 (EF,MF,MH) and 9/22 (MH) at BS; and 10/25 (PJ), the latest date on record for this species, on RH. Last dates included 10/2 (MH) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** and 10/4 (MH) for **Magnolia Warbler**, both at BS. After very low numbers of **Cape May Warblers** the past few years, the fall migration was wonderful. First individual appeared along the GTT 8/23 (CG,MH); BS flocks included 16 on 9/8 (CG,MH), 12 on 9/15 (EF,MF,MH), 10 on 9/22 (MH), and 4 on 10/2 (MH). Sightings at KR included one 9/6, 11 on 9/7, 7 on 9/14, and 4 on 9/21 (MH). In addition, 5 were near SH 9/27 (MH). Five **Black-throated Blue Warblers** appeared at BS 9/22 (MH); single birds were seen 9/4 (MH) near SH, 9/21 (MH) at KR, and 9/26 (BJ) at YC.



The Yellow Creek N. Mockingbird was found perched in the apple tree on many Tuesday outings.

Photo by Margaret Higbee

RH yielded the first **Yellow-rumped Warbler** 8/25 (PJ); maxima included 16 at YC 10/10 (LC,MH), 18 on the Ferrence farm near IN 10/14 (KB,GF,MH,JK,TK), 6 at KR 10/15 (LC), an even 50 near SH 10/19 (MH), and 11 at PG 10/25 (JS). A very late **Black-throated Green Warbler** cooperated for the entire group at YC 11/4 (MH,RH, 3RBC). First migrant **Blackburnian Warbler** appeared on RH 8/24 (PJ); last noted was one at CD 9/25 (EF, MH). SH produced last dates for both **Pine Warbler** 9/28 (MH) and **Prairie Warbler** 9/5 (MH). Two **Palm Warblers** at BS 9/8 (CG,MH), one at PG 10/9 (JS), and one at YC 10/10 (LC,MH) were the only ones reported. **Bay-breasted Warblers**, noted only at BS, included 3 on 9/8 (CG,MH) and one 9/15 (EF,MF,MH). One to 5 **Blackpoll Warblers** were noted on 8 dates beginning 9/8 (CG,MH) at BS, where the last vagrant was found 10/4 (MH). A **Cerulean Warbler** and 5 **Black-and-white Warblers** visited BS 9/8 (CG,MH). Last were one Black-and-white near LV 9/30 (MC); an **Am. Redstart** and an **Ovenbird** at BS 10/2 (MH); **Common Yellowthroat** near SH (MH) and at PG 10/9; and 2 **Hooded Warblers** at CD 9/25 (EF,MH). Single **Wilson's Warblers** were listed 8/23 (CG,MH) along the GTT, 9/5 (MH) near SH, and 9/15 (EF,MF,MH) and 9/22 (MH) at BS. **Canada Warblers** included 2 at BS 9/8 (CG, MH) and one near LV 9/22 (MC).

**Scarlet Tanager** was last found at BS 10/4 (MH). **Eastern Towhee** continued near SH through 11/2 (MH). Arrival date for **Am. Tree Sparrow** near LV was 10/12 (MC), the earliest date on record. The next reported tree sparrow was found at YC 11/4 (NN). Three **Chipping Sparrows** still lingered at RV 10/27 (LU) and near LV 11/10 (MC). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** paid a brief visit to a yard near LV 10/2 (MC). Two **Savannah Sparrows** stopped on the beach at YC 8/22 (MH). **Fox Sparrows** moved through the region 10/29 (MC) through 11/15 (MH)

with top counts of 4 on 11/7 (LC,MH) at YC and 8 on 11/15 (JS) at PG. Single **Lincoln's Sparrows** were recorded near SH 9/21 (MH) and on RH 9/24 (PJ). First **White-throated Sparrow** appeared 9/25 (EF,MH) at CD; 21 were counted at BS 10/2 (MH), and 25 at PG 10/9 (JS). **White-crowned Sparrow** arrived 10/6 near Creekside (MA) and near LV (MC); high tallies were 30 at PG 10/7 (RB), 9 at YC 11/1 (MH), and 11 near LV 11/10 (MC). SH produced the first **Dark-eyed Junco** 10/6 (MH). Last date for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was 10/13 (MH,PJ) at BS; for **Indigo Bunting**, 10/19 (MH) near SH. Seventeen **Bobolinks** flew over a yard calling near SH 8/31 (MH). Last **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Eastern Meadowlark**

were noted at PG 11/6(JS) and 10/27 (RB), respectively. **Rusty Blackbirds**, with few reports the past several years, were seen in better numbers this fall at YC where tallies included 170 on 10/10 (LC,MH), 120 on 10/24 (LC,MH), 140 on 10/31 (LC,CG,MH,BJ), 81 on 11/1 (MH), 84 on 11/14 (LC,MH,GL), and 10 on 11/21 (LC,MH). **Common Grackle** maxima included 3500 near McIntyre 8/31 (MH,RH) and 400 near Penn Run 10/21 (MH,RH). Last **Brown-headed Cowbird** visited RH 10/10 (PJ). Last 2 **Baltimore Orioles** were found 9/7 (MH) at KR and 9/8 (CG,MH) at BS. A **Pine Siskin** stopped near LV 10/26 (MC), the lone report.

Observers: Moose Anderson, Ken Bisbee (Kbi), Rory Bower, Ken Byerly, Sandra Burwell, Lee Carnahan, Marcy Cunkelman, Erma Dovenspike, Gary Ferrence, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Carolyn Glendening (CGI), Dave Gobert, Joyce Griffith, Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Bob Jackman, Pat Johner, Jan Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Gloria Lamer, Neil Nodelman, Tom Roberts, John Salvetti, Mike Shaffer, Carl Trout, Lorraine Uplinger, Joe Valasek, Josie Valasek (JV), John Walker, Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC).