

The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Todd Bird Club

April 2011

Meetings

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

Tuesday, April 5 – Steve Gosser, a member of the Three Rivers Birding Club, will present some of his favorite digital slides at our April meeting. Steve's slides will depict birds of Florida, including Roseate Spoonbills, various plovers, Marbled Godwits, and Burrowing Owls, as well as the Snail Kites at Harnes Marsh and other species photographed in Pennsylvania and Ohio. Some of Steve's favorite birding spots include Yellow Creek, Moraine, Pymatuning, and Presque Isle State Parks, the various Lawrence county hot spots, and Conneaut, Ohio.

Don't miss this chance to appreciate great photography!

Tuesday, May 3, 6:00 p.m. – This is our annual banquet meeting. Bob Greene, a well-known birder/photographer from the Pittsburgh area, will present

a program of his favorite digital pictures at our April meeting. Bob has been photographing nature since his father first introduced him to the world of photography years ago. Both he and his wife started birding more seriously in 2008. Bob plays our birding game a little differently than most – he doesn't add a species to his life list until he has photographed it! Check out his wonderful website at www.bobbygreene.com.

Outings

Tuesday Morning Outings at Yellow Creek will continue. Meet at 8:00 at the park office located on Rt. 259 just off Rt. 422 east of Indiana. Everyone – from beginner to expert birder – is welcome. If you have questions, contact Lee Carnahan (724-465-7323) or Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). If you'd like to join the early crew, meet on the north shore at the pavilion parking lot around 7:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 2 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-465-7323). Meet at 8:00 at the park office.

Saturday, April 9 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). This is a joint outing with the Three Rivers Birding Club. Meet at 8:00 at the park office. A trip to the Chinese buffet in Indiana will follow the outing.



Bob Greene photographed this Merlin on February 26, 2011, at Duck Hollow in Pittsburgh.

Wednesday, April 13 and 20 – Woodcock Outing. Join leader Tommy Byrnes (724-715-7184) at 7:00 p.m. in the Meadows parking lot behind Primanti Brothers Restaurant off the Route 28 exit for Harmar. We will carpool from there to a field in Harmar Twp. where American Woodcocks perform their courtship rituals. Please bring a flashlight and be prepared for mud.

Saturday, April 16– Yellow Creek State Park, led by Carol Guba (724-465-4429). Meet at 8:00 at the park office.

Saturday, April 23 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Tom Glover. Returning passerines, including Blue-headed Vireos, Brown Thrasher, and early warblers will be the targets of this outing.

Saturday, May 7 – Blue Spruce County Park, led by John Taylor (724-397-2040). Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the first large parking lot just past the park office. This is our annual spring warbler walk which usually produces a nice variety of migrant passerines.

Saturday, May 14 – Pennsylvania Migration Count for both Indiana and Armstrong Counties. Please contact

Roger or Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493) if you'd like to participate. Our state compilers this year are Frank Haas and John Fedak.

This 20th annual count is similar to Christmas Bird Count, but is county-wide rather than limited to a 15-mile diameter circle, and there is no participation fee. Forms and instructions may be downloaded at <http://www.pabirds.org/PAMC/Index.html>, but it is not essential that you use the provided forms. Either call the Higbees (724-354-3493) or e-mail your data to bcoriole@windstream.net.

Friday, May 20 through Sunday, May 22 – PSO annual meeting in Bedford County. This is a good opportunity to bird some of the best birding sites in the area. Friday evening's activities include a social and a brief business meeting. We'll bird all morning Saturday then return to the Bedford County Elks Country Club for the afternoon sessions and the banquet. The evening's speaker will be Tom Dick. Vendors will be present, including Aden Troyer from the Lost Creek Shoe Shop optics.

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

From the Co-President's Desk...

I could hardly wait for Sunday, March 20, at 7:21 p.m. because spring was supposed to have sprung. I don't know about you, but changing the clocks didn't quite do it for me. As long as the days are cold and damp, it doesn't matter what time it is. But I must say that waking up early in the morning and hearing the songs of the birds (don't ask me what kind) do help to lift one's spirits. The thoughts of "warmer weather to come" have to be foremost in the minds of every human and bird.

With the thoughts of warmer weather come the prospects of a more comfortable temperature range for our bird watching activities. A recent event was of particular interest to me. As part of our regular outing schedule publicized in our newsletter, our field trip on Saturday, March 26, was a special joint outing with Friends of the Parks. The attendance was amazing – 51 people attended this outing! Students in Dr. Marja Bakermans' general biology lab arrived along with students from another class. The opportunity to share our enthusiasm with non-birders was rewarding.

I encourage our members to attend all of our outings, but especially these joint outings. These offerings through the Friends of the Parks organization give us Todd members a unique opportunity to share our knowledge with other interested individuals. We can also use this event as a time to invite these people to become active members of our organization. This is something that we must all make an effort to do – recruit new members. We have a phenomenal club. Our meetings are excellent. The information that one can learn by attending just one of our club meetings is amazing. People move into our area and others move out. It is up to us to continually encourage other interested individuals to become active members of our group.

As always I hope to see everyone at our next meeting. And please do not forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming covered dish dinner and meeting in May. The May meeting starts with dinner at 6:00!

– Linda Jones, Co-President

Did You Know That ...Blue, violet, and indigo are structural colors as no blue pigment has ever been found in the feathers or skins of birds?

Notes from a Novice

Birding can be Frustrating for the Beginner

by Thomas N. Glover

I have been actively birding for well over a year, and during that time I have learned that frustration is a given. Life has provided me with enough "scar tissue" to cope, but there were times when frustration seemed to be winning. I found that birding frustrations come in two basic forms, frustration of the moment and enduring frustration.

I learned early on that frustration of the moment comes in the form of those dreaded unknown, little brownish and grayish birds. I have memories of looking at low tide at a rocky beach off Indian Point Park just north of Corpus Christy, TX, filled with shorebirds, including a number of "peeps" and small plovers. I zeroed in on a particular bird, noting details – color, legs, wings, tail, markings on the head – and looked down to madly leaf through my *Sibley Field Guide to Birds*. Thinking I'd identified the bird after only 20 seconds, I looked up to confirm, but where'd it go!?!

Now I also discovered that this class of little brownish-grayish bird can be found in western Pennsylvania. Just a year ago I remember sitting on a bench near No. 8 Spring on the Mahoning Shadow Trail, bent backwards, getting "warbler neck" trying to get a good look through my binoculars at a little grayish bird about 60 feet directly overhead in the tree tops. The bird would not hold still. At that time I began to have dark thoughts – maybe one of the founding fathers of birding, John J. Audubon, had the right idea, shoot 'em, that would make identification a lot easier.

I was introduced to birding by my daughter and son-in-law, and early on they advised me to find a group of experienced birders. They told me that not only would I benefit from the group's experience, but there would be more trained eyes to see more birds. But what they did not tell me is how initially intimidating it is for a novice to bird with a group of seasoned birders. Here is an eager beginner, and 20 feet off in the brush a bird gives this scratchy call note, and without missing a beat someone rattles of something like "Cross-toed bug-eyed Vireo." And to the poor novice it just sounded like someone

dragging fingernails across a blackboard.

One of the most frustrating things to a beginner is how easily an experienced birder identifies a bird by its song or call. I personally have memories of trying to tell the difference between two different birds singing almost side by side. One was a Chipping Sparrow and the other, a

Pine Warbler. And no matter how much "sweeter" the Pine Warbler's song is compared to a Chipping Sparrow's, to me they sounded alike!

My most enduring frustration has been in the form of the Louisiana Waterthrush. On the very first day I started birding with the Todd Bird Club in April of 2010, I was told to look for the Louisiana Waterthrush. I have fond memories of hiking on a trail thick with brush in Yellow Creek State Park, hearing what I was told was a Louisiana Waterthrush singing about 20 feet off

the trail. As I squatted down on my haunches peering into the thick brush looking for the bird, I learned that for a 62-year-old man squatting for an extended time produces numb legs. I associate my most trying experience with this bird with the bridge that crosses Little Yellow Creek in Yellow Creek State Park. While standing on that bridge, one birder pointed out that the Louisiana Waterthrush had been seen perched on a rock just below the bridge. Of course, I have never seen the bird on that rock! On another occasion while standing on the same bridge, a member of the group spotted the waterthrush fly around the bend up Little Yellow Creek. The next thing I knew we were bush-whacking up the creek. After about a quarter mile of thick brush we gave up and started back. Guess where the bird was! Yep, it was flying around back at the bridge, but I did not see it!

At this point I classify the Louisiana Waterthrush up there with Bigfoot. I have seen what are supposed to be pictures of both, but neither have I seen in person.

I have to admit that despite some trying times while birding for better than a year, there were moments when it all came together. One of those special moments occurred in August 2010. I was birding the Mahoning Shadow



The Louisiana Waterthrush nests along Laurel Run and Little Yellow Creek at Yellow Creek S.P. but are more often heard than seen.

Photo by Bob Moul

Trail (MST), the two-mile section between the Skate Park in Punxsutawney and Cloe. This part of the trail sees the most traffic and is the noisiest section on the MST. About a quarter mile from Skate Park where the MST passes close to Mahoning Creek, Rikers rail yard is just across the creek; next to the rail yard is US Rt. 119 just outside Punxsutawney. At this location in a narrow strip of trees between the trail and the creek, with background noise of water gushing through rapids, the



This young Willow Flycatcher was photographed at Yellow Creek.

Photo by Margaret Higbee

low rumble of switching engines in the rail yard, and the down-shifting of coal trucks along Rt 119, I heard "RITZbew, RITZbew, RITZbew." And without missing a beat, I knew what unseen bird was singing in the trees. You see, just a few weeks earlier at Yellow Creek State Park while birding with the Todd Bird Club, we heard but did not see the Willow Flycatcher. So sometimes it really all does come together!

Through the Seasons at Yellow Creek

by Mike Shaffer

I was thinking about the importance of Yellow Creek State Park to the birding community, and I decided to compile a list of the best birding places in western Pennsylvania. Here is how I'd rank them.

The best five birding spots in Indiana County:

Yellow Creek State Park
Blue Spruce County Park
Hemlock Lake County Park
Ghost Town Trail
Conemaugh Dam and Floodlands (Virginia Farms)

Five best in Jefferson/Cambria/Indiana/Armstrong area:

Yellow Creek State Park
Prince Gallitzin State Park
Crooked Creek Lake (US Army Corps of Engineers)
Mahoning Shadow Trail
Blue Spruce County Park

Five best in Western PA:

Presque Isle State Park
Yellow Creek State Park
Pymatuning State Park
Moraine State Park
The Glades

Yellow Creek State Park is home to many species of birds throughout the year although those species vary with the seasons. Two hundred eighty-one species have been sighted here. This number is astonishing when you consider that this is almost 95 percent of the species seen in Indiana County; the county list boasts 297 species.

Resident birds spend their entire lives here, others come to raise their young, but many birds use Yellow Creek State Park as a resting place on their long migrations.

Spring

As the winter snow melts give way to spring, sounds fill the night air; and once again spring migration is occurring. This is the time of year that our lake and wetlands just seem to come alive. Yellow Creek State Park is noted for its spring migration. The peak spring waterfowl migration runs from mid-March to mid-April and many species of ducks, geese, and swans dominate the lake at this time. The waterfowl migration continues into mid-May, sometimes with unexpected numbers.

Location in the park for best viewing: Waterfowl Observatory

Summer

Spring rains that once filled the lake to capacity are now replaced by the long, hot summer days with little precipitation. The lake level slowly drops exposing vital shoreline and areas of mud called mud flats, which serve as magnets for shorebirds. Plovers and sandpipers can be prevalent during summer from late July into early November. Late summer weather conditions, especially hurricanes that track west of the park, can produce shorebirds, gulls, and pelagic species that are unusual for this area.

Location in park for best viewing: Little Yellow Cove and the end of Laurel Run Trail; the swimming beach

Fall

As daylight shortens and temperatures begin to drop, the long days of summer become a distant memory and slowly give way to fall. In what seems like the “blink of an eye,” Pennsylvania forests burst into flame. Colors of red, orange, and yellow dominate the landscape, making Yellow Creek Lake look like a beautiful pane of glass. In the distance the sky trembles with life as birds travel south on their fall migrations. The fall migration runs from mid-August into early December and features ducks, loons, herons, hawks, and passerines. Fall migration produces a spectacular array of birds. Birds will flock on the lake in the hundreds, and unusual weather conditions occasionally produce a “fall-out.”

Location in park for best viewing: For hawks, the beach—stare at the sky above the north shore. For loons and ducks, the area below the maintenance building, the beach, and the observatory. For herons, the edges of the lake

Winter

As heavy frost covers the ground, the colors of fall slowly fade away. The trees can no longer retain their grip on their leaves, and the forest floor becomes littered with a crunchy blanket of leaves. Winter is upon us, the winds howl, and the air, cold as ice, sends a chill through your body. Many birds have left for warmer climates and only the residents and a few species from the north stay to endure the long winter ahead. The harsh winters of Pennsylvania don’t intimidate all birds. Resident birds that live here year round like some owls, woodpeckers, crows, jays, creepers, kinglets, finches, and sparrows are quite comfortable with all the seasonal changes.

Some birds migrate here in the fall just to spend their winters. Snow Buntings, Snowy Owls, Northern Saw-whet Owls, and American Tree Sparrows are just a few that love our winters.

Location in park for best viewing: forested areas; Observatory Trail and Ridgetop as well as the other trails

The Albatross

He spreads his wings like banners to the breeze,
He cleaves the air afloat on pinions wide,
Leagues upon leagues across the lonely seas
He sweeps above the vast uneven tide.

Japan tsunami: Thousands of seabirds killed near Hawaii. As my eyes were glued to the TV set watching the horrific wall of water surge onto land, I couldn’t help but notice the large number of sea birds flying above the wall of water. I prayed that they, like the people, would find a safe haven.

It was a few days later that the above headline caught my attention. Thousands of albatrosses and other endangered species at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, including tens of thousands of chicks, were killed. Thousands of Bonin Petrels were buried alive.

Two amazing survivors were Wisdom, a Laysan Albatross, and her chick. You see, Wisdom is not only a survivor, but the oldest known free-flying bird in the

United States. She was first tagged in 1956 at the age of five years while incubating an egg. About thirty-five chicks have been raised by Wisdom and her mate. Researchers believe she’s had the same mate for all these years. Her wings have logged about three million flying miles, which is the equivalent of six round trips to the moon. An albatross will spend its first three to five years constantly flying and even sleeps while flying over the ocean. Wisdom is a survivor, even though her life is threatened by longline fishing, lead poisoning, and the ingestion of garbage floating on the ocean. It is estimated that five tons of plastic are unknowingly fed to chicks by their parents each year. Wisdom is lucky though as she has survived a tsunami, and her home at Midway Atoll is protected – for now.

For days together through the trackless skies,
Steadfast, without a quiver of his plumes,
Without a moment’s pause for rest he flies,
Through dazzling sunshine and through cloudy glooms.

(excerpts from “The Albatross” by Celia Thaxter)

– Donna Meyer

Indiana - Armstrong - Cambria County Report

Fall - December 1, 2010, through February 28, 2011

Please submit your reports at the end of each month to Margaret Higbee, 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701-7934 or e-mail to bcoriole@windstream.net.

Locations: Crooked Creek Park (CC), Indiana (IN), Kittanning (KT), Lewisville (LV), Manorville (MV), Prince Gallitzin (PG), Rosston (RT), Shelocta (SH), Winter Raptor Survey (WRS), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Yellow Creek Lake started to freeze in late November and was completely frozen by 12/10 and remained frozen throughout the winter. Prince Gallitzin retained some open water through 12/12. Water levels at Keystone Reservoir remained extremely low. Once the lakes froze, the Allegheny River was the place to find waterfowl.

Canada Goose maxima included an estimated 1200 heading south over IN 12/12 (LJ, JS), 121 at KT 12/29 (CG, MH), and 400 over LV 1/4 (MC). A **Mute Swan** was observed 12/12 (JB) at PG. A **Tundra Swan** was last noted at YC 12/7 (LC). First northward bound swans were heard 2/27 (MC) over LV at night.

RT yielded 2 **Gadwalls** 12/29 (CG, MH) and 2 again on 2/18 (BJ, CJ). Fifteen **American Wigeons** were listed at RT 2/17 (MVT), but by the following day that number had doubled (BJ, CJ); MV yielded 3 and RT 2 on 2/20 (MH, RH). CC yielded 12 **American Black Ducks** 12/6 (MVT); one was found on moving water near Margus Lake 12/27 (GL, GS); 12 stopped at KT 12/29 (CG, MH), and 5 were on a spring-fed pond during an *Indiana* WRS 1/15 (MH, RH, DL). Two black ducks appeared at CC 2/18 (BJ, CJ) and 4 at MV 2/20 (MH, RH). High **Mallard** counts included 37 at KT 12/12 (MH, RH), 126 at McCreary's Pond in IN 12/27 (ED, MS, JT), 38 at KT 12/29 (CG, MH), and 40 at MV 1/31 (MVT). A **Green-winged Teal** appeared at MV 2/20 (MH, RH). Last 21 **Canvasbacks** stopped at YC 12/7 (LC) before total freeze-up. Single early drake **Ring-necked Ducks** appeared both at MV 2/20 (MH, RH) and in a small patch of open water in Little Yellow Cove at YC 2/26 (MH, RH, LW). Last reports included 38 **Lesser Scaup** on 12/7 (LC) at YC and one at PG 12/12 (JB). Last **Bufflehead** counts were 14 at YC 12/7 (LC) and 5 at PG 12/12 (JB). The river at KT hosted 4 Buffleheads 12/29 (CG, MH) while the 14 found at RT 2/18 (MM) were probably northward-bound returnees. Last 28 **Hooded Mergansers** remained at YC 12/7 (LC). The Allegheny River harbored 6 Hooded Mergansers at RT and 4 at KT 12/29 (CG, MH); 7 were found on the cooling pond at Keystone Power Plant 1/9 (MH, RH); a raft of 36 on the water at RT 2/20 (MH, RH) was the high tally. Congregating at RT were 45 **Common Mergansers** on 12/29 (CG, MH) while Mosgrove yielded 19 the same day; 4 drakes visited Smicksburg 1/4 (NS), and 3 were near Conemaugh Dam 1/29 (MH, RH, DL); 34 were noted at CC 1/31 (MVT); 21 remained at RT 2/21 (MVT). A **Red-breasted Merganser** stopped at YC 12/7 (LC). Last **Ruddy Ducks** were 42 at YC on 12/7 (LC) and 4 at PG on 12/12 (JB).

The IN CBC yielded only one **Ruffed Grouse** 12/27 (DC, MC); single grouse were reported at Penn Run 12/5 (CL, GL), at YC 12/21 (LC, TG, MH), and at Nolo 1/02 (CL, GL). Best **Wild Turkey** counts were 65 at Nolo and 75 near Clymer 12/17 (GL) while the flock north of IN peaked at 39 after 1/9 (SB).

Four **Pied-billed Grebes** lingered at YC through 12/7 (LC). Two Pied-billed Grebe stopped at MV 12/12 (MH, RH) while singletons were listed 12/29 (CG, MH) at RT, KT, and MG and 1/31 (MVT) at CC and MV. The last reported **Great Blue Herons** occurred near IN 12/30 (KM), near Elderton 1/21 (RH), and at Ford City 2/20 (MH, RH).

The first 3 **Turkey Vultures** arrived over a yard near LV 2/27 (MC). **Bald Eagle** reports in *Indiana* included an adult near Coral 1/31 (BK). In *Armstrong*; an immature was found near LB 12/10, 21 (MVT); an adult flew by RT 12/29 (CG, MH); a second-year bird was spotted at KT 1/8 (MH, RH); LB yielded 2 eagles 1/19, 31 (MVT). In *Cambria* at PG, one was noted 12/12 (JB). **Northern Harrier** was listed at YC 12/7 (LC); the CBC yielded 2 (v.o.) while WRS #2 on 1/15 (MH, RH, DL) yielded one near Marion Center. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were listed at 8 locations during the period; **Cooper's Hawk**, at 13 (v.o.). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted only on WRS #1 on 1/22 (MH, RH, DL). Two WRS routes in the northern part of the county yielded 36 **Red-tailed Hawks** on 1/15 (MH, RH, DL) and 41 on 1/22 (MH, RH, DL) while the more southerly route yielded 33 on 1/29 (MH, RH, DL). Light morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were at Spaces Corners 1/19 (FM, JM), near Marion Center 1/22 (MH, RH, DL), and at West Lebanon 1/25 (EF, MF). The three combined *Indiana* WRS yielded a low total of 11 **Am. Kestrels** (MH, RH, DL).

American Coots at YC had dwindled to 548 by 12/7 (LC), the last date any were noted. Last **Killdeer** were 2 near HC 12/1 (LC) and one at YC 12/7 (LC); first spring returnee arrived 2/27 (MC) near LV.

First **Ring-billed Gulls** on the Allegheny at RT were 5 on 1/31 (MVT); high tallies included 150 at CC and 25 at RT 2/18 (BJ, CJ); 31 flew over a yard near SH 2/21 (MH). Two **Herring Gulls** near the old nest at KT on 12/29 (CG, MH) were the only ones noted.

Only 2 **Eastern Screech-Owls** were reported, one 12/27 (PJ) roosting near Two Lick Reservoir and the other peering from a cavity near IN through 12/29 (KB). **Great Horned Owls** were listed at four locations (v.o.) this winter. A **Barred Owl** was heard only at SH 1/13, 17 (RH) and 2/20, 26 (MH, RH).

Among several reports, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** noted included 3 on the CBC 12/27 (v.o.), one visiting an IN feeder on multiple days in mid-Jan. (SD), and one at Nolo 2/12 (CL, GL). **Common Ravens** were consistently found in the YC area throughout the period (v.o.); a single raven was spotted at CC 1/11 (MVT); one was at Smicksburg Park 1/4 (EP), and 2 were near Blairsville 1/29 (MH, RH, DL). **Horned Lark** maxima were 35 near Brookside Dairy 12/26 (MH, RH), 194 on WRS #2 on 1/15 (MH, RH, DL), 65 on WRS #3 on 1/29 (MH, RH, DL), and 210 at Chest Springs 2/24 (JS).

The CBC yielded 11 Red-breasted Nuthatches at 7 locations (v.o.); 1-3 were found near SH (MH, RH) throughout the period while Two Lick Reservoir yielded one 12/19-21 (PJ). A **Winter Wren** appeared near Homer City 12/27 (SP). YC produced one **Hermit Thrush** 12/21 (LC, TG, MH) and 2 on 12/27 (v.o.); a single bird was near LV 1/02 (MC) and another was spotted on WRS #1 on 1/22 (MH, RH, DL). Three **American Pipits** in a field near IN 1/14 (GS) provided only the second January *Indiana* sighting on record.

Chest Springs hosted a **Lapland Longspur** 12/1 (DG) and 2/4 (JS). Ten **Snow Buntings** were also at Chest Springs 12/1 (DG).

A male **Eastern Towhee** continued at a feeder near LV (MC) where it was seen almost consistently through the winter. Single **Fox Sparrows** were noted near SH between 12/1-14 (MH, RH) and near LV 12/4 (MC). First northward-bound returnee appeared at Nolo 2/21 (CL, GL). A **Swamp Sparrow** loitered at YC through 1/14 (LC, MH). **White-crowned Sparrows** numbered 3 on the CBC 12/27 (v.o.) while a mixed sparrow flock near Blairsville contained at least 4 White-crowns 1/29 (MH, RH, DL).

An **Eastern Meadowlark** was found near Brush Valley 12/27 (GL, GS). Top **Rusty Blackbird** counts at YC included 70 on 12/1 (JB); a singleton visiting a SH feeder 12/14 (MH) was last. One **Common Grackle** near SH 2/27 (MH, RH) was the first spring arrival. A **Brown-headed Cowbird** lingered near LV 1/8 (MC).

Twenty **Red Crossbills** were noted near Johnstown 2/26 (fide RG). Single **Common Redpolls** were found near Penn Run 12/25-26 (BF, TF), along Crooked Creek near SH 2/21 (MH), and near LV 2/27 (MC). **Pine Siskin** reports included single birds near SH on 12/10 (MH) and near LV 12/17 (MC), 2 near LV 1/3 (MC), 6 at Nolo 1/6 (GS), and 6 near IN throughout the period (CG).

Observers: Sid Blair, Justin Bosler, Lee Carnahan, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Sue Dickson, Ed Donley, Erma Dovenspike, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Ross Gallardy, Tom Glover, Dave Gobert, Carol Guba, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Bob Jackman, Carolyn Jackman, Pat Johner, Linda Jones, Bill Kozele, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Ken Marshall, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, Donna Meyer, Mark McConaughy, Ed Patterson, Sara Pulliam, John Salvetti, Nancy Smeltzer, John Somonick, Mark Strittmatter, Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Marge Van Tassel, Linda Wagner.



This Rusty Blackbird visited a feeder near Shelocta 12/14.

Photo by Margaret Higbee

Richard Crossley to Visit Pittsburgh

Mark your calendars for May 16, 2011. Richard Crossley, author of the brand new ground-breaking *Crossley ID Guide: Eastern Birds*, is going to be at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh. This guide is the first book to feature large, lifelike scenes for each species. There are 640 scenes in all, composed from more than 10,000 of the author's images. These images show the birds in a wide range of views.

Mr. Crossley's free lecture will begin at 7:30 and will include an informative discussion of the challenges and exciting experiences he had working on this project.

The evening will conclude with a book signing. Books will be available for purchase in the aviary's gift shop.

Visit the National Aviary website for more information on this outstanding birder and talented photographer. It sounds as though it will be an exciting and informative evening. The aviary is easy to get to and definitely worth the drive.

[Editor's Note: A copy of the *Crossley ID Guide: Eastern Birds* will be available for your perusal at the April Todd meeting. It is quite impressive!]

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 \$10 individual membership or \$15 family membership dues to:

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

Amount Paid _____

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Special Thanks!

Special thanks to member Ed Donley and his sister Sue Donley who have spent an incredible amount of time and effort to design a top-notch website for the Todd Bird Club. The artwork is fantastic and the number of available features phenomenal!!! Please check it out; the address is www.toddbirdclub.org and be sure to use it.

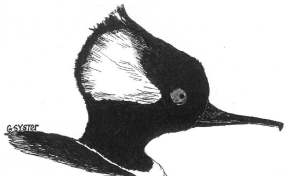
The website has so many features that it would be tough to describe everything that's available. Newsletters are now available on line and in color. Members can upload their photos so we may all have the opportunity to enjoy them. Trip reports may be entered. Automatic messages are now being e-mailed to remind members about our meetings. There's so much more! Check it out!!!



Lee Carnahan and Donna Meyer were present at the March meeting.

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

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