

The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Todd Bird Club

July 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, September 6 – Well known photographer Cris Hamilton from Houston, PA, will present a digital slide program entitled *Birding from the Atlantic to the Pacific*. Read more about our September meeting and Cris on page 5.

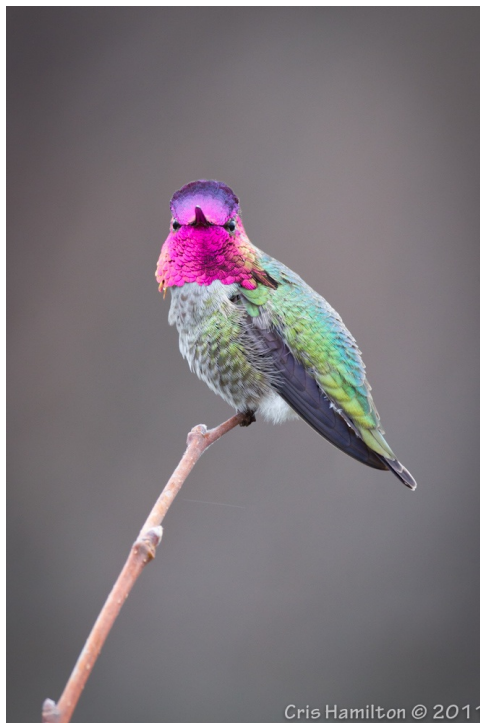
Tuesday, October 4 – WCO Patrick Snickles will present a program on the life history of our state bird, the Ruffed Grouse, at this meeting. He will discuss their cyclic nature, reasons for their declines, plus much more.

Tuesday, November 1 – Jim Jeffries, a retired educator/media specialist, is currently pursuing a second career as a film maker. As a member of the Three Rivers Birding Club, he attended our joint outing this past April. Most of his films are about the beauty of the natural world; however, lately, he has been doing a lot of film work documenting performances by artists and musicians.

His upcoming presentation will include narrated HD video of sea birds and shorebirds filmed on location in the Florida Keys and the Hawaiian Islands. Don't miss this exciting program!

Tuesday, December 6 – We're in for another special treat. Jon Dunn, who spoke to Todd in February 1998, is returning to present a program on sparrows. Jon Dunn has lived much of his life in California, where he became a birder at the age of eight, an event triggered, he says, by the life-altering appearance of a bright male Hooded Oriole in his garden. Jon has extensive knowledge of the identification and distribution of North American birds, and has published numerous papers in a wide variety of journals. He has also long been interested in Asian avifauna. Jon has been Chief Consultant/Editor for all five editions of the National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, the most recent published in 2006. He is the co-writer and host of the two-video set *Large and Small Gulls of North America*, as well as co-author (with Kimball Garrett) of *Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution* and the Peterson series' *Field Guide to Warblers*. Jon is a member of the Committee on Classification and

Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union and the ABA Checklist Committee, and has served more than 20 years on the California Bird Records Committee.



Cris Hamilton © 2011
This Anna's Hummingbird is just one of the many photos we will enjoy at our September meeting.

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 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 21 – 1:00 p.m. Annual joint picnic with the Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club at the home of Dan and Marcy Cunkelman. Please bring a covered dish to share and your own lawn chairs. Marcy is providing sloppy joes, buns, paper products, non-diet drinks, and insect repellent. RSVP by phone at 724-459-7229 or e-mail plant4nature@dishmail.net.

Saturday, August 27 – Conneaut Harbor, OH, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee. We'll spend a good part of

the day at this shorebird mecca then bird our way home. Plans are to leave Indiana at 6:00 a.m. If you plan to attend, please contact the Higbees for details (724-354-3493).

Saturday, September 10 – Blue Spruce County Park, led by John Taylor (724-397-2040). This is our annual warbler walk, so we're hoping that the warbler migration will be at its peak.

Saturday, September 17 – Blue Spruce County Park, led by Ray and Daniel Winstead. Meet in the first large parking lot near the park office at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 24 – Blacklick Valley Natural Area, led by Lee Carnahan (724-465-7323). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot along McFeaters Road. Please contact Lee if you need directions.

Adrienne Leppold Makes Discovery on Metinic

by Jack Solomon

Some time ago, my wife Sue picked up a copy of the spring 2011 issue of *UMaine Today*, the University of Maine's magazine. In it, months later, I noticed on page 8 a name I knew, Adrienne Leppold. She had worked at Powdermill Avian Research Center, Carnegie Museum of Natural History's research station in Ligonier, first as a Research Assistant, then as Banding Program Coordinator (2003 - 007) where she oversaw the year-round banding of about 12 to 15 thousand birds annually. Adrienne was a colleague of others we know – Bob Leberman, Bob Mulvihill, and Mike Lanzone. While she was at Powdermill, she was recommended as a speaker for the Three Rivers Birding Club. At one of our meetings she gave a great program on her earlier work in Alaska. She impressed us as an “up-and-comer,” and her program gave every indication that the prediction is correct.

Leppold, a native of Western Pennsylvania, graduated from California University of Pennsylvania in 2001 with honors, as a wildlife biology major, and has done ornithological research ever since. The *UMaine Today* story states "University of Maine graduate student

Adrienne Leppold is one of the country's foremost bird banders." She now spends springs and summers on Metinic Island, off the Maine coast, where she made the important discovery that the island is a major flyway for songbirds. What Leppold saw was “shocking and thrilling at the same time – multiple flocks each made up of hundreds of birds moving west-southwest over the island. One flock of about 150 Yellow-rumped Warblers stopped and hovered briefly over the treetops west of the banding tent before splitting, with half the flock coming down to land in the trees and the other half continuing on.”

Leppold's subsequent studies have shown that the Gulf of Maine serves as a superhighway for songbirds migrating between Canada and South America. Describing it as a "major find," the story states that this discovery is also highly significant "for an international effort to document the movements of migrating songbirds in the Gulf of Maine." It's great to see another of Pennsylvania's young bird enthusiasts moving up in the ranks of those making important advances in ornithology.

Did you know that the maximum flying speed of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird is about 60 mph?

The Presidents' Page

A Note from Donna

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful weather and getting time to a little or a lot of birding. We've had more juveniles at the feeders this summer than in past years. The three Red-bellied Woodpecker siblings, when present at the same time, seem to spend more time squabbling than feeding. I guess some things that are normal in the human family can also occur in the bird family. Other juveniles sighted at the feeders have been Hairy Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

The wrens have left the nest box and spent a week flitting around the yard and brush piles. It appears that the adults are busily preparing for another brood. The hummingbirds are abundant as evidenced by the amount of nectar they are consuming. Our robins weren't as successful as it appears that their nest was invaded while we were gone as it is now hanging lopsidedly in the bush.

In June, Ed and I traveled to Riviera Maya, Mexico, for our daughter's wedding. While there I was able to visit the Xaman Ha Aviary and Xcaret, an eco-archeological park. The Xaman Ha Aviary is a little Mexican jungle located in the community of Playacar. It is an open-air aviary where the birds are able to live and reproduce in a protected environment. We were also able to visit Xcaret, an eco-archeological park. Among their ecological accomplishments is their macaw breeding program. Beginning with four breeding pairs in 1992, they now have 772 macaws with 906 born in the park. Since it is estimated that there may only be 500 macaws left in the wild, they are working with several communities in southeast Mexico to create safe habitats in which to establish a release program. Because of wedding commitments, we weren't able to travel to a nature preserve on a neighboring island, but we plan to do that on our next trip to the Yucatan Peninsula. I hope to see everyone the first Tuesday in September, and remember there is birding every Tuesday morning at Yellow Creek State Park.

Good birding!

– Donna Meyer, Co-President

A Note from Linda

Summer vacation??? I start every summer break promising myself that I will save every Tuesday morning for the weekly birding outings. During the school year I always get somewhat envious of those who are birding on those morning outings after hearing of their numerous bird sightings. It's July already and how many Tuesdays have I been at Yellow Creek Park? You guessed it! What have I been doing?

We did take two extended weekend trips. I hesitate to mention that on one of those trips we were but a few miles away from Hawk Mountain. Does that count? Our next trip included a day at Presque Isle State Park. The evening concert on the beach was wonderful and so was our visit to the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. But I absolutely had to find these two yarn shops in Erie. I guess I spent too much time at the Cultured Purl (not only do they sell yarn but also the local chocolate sponge candy). What a combination! After an hour or so, I was kindly reminded that it was

time to move on to our next stop at the Northeast wineries. Oops, no birds yet!

So what's a want-to-be birder to do? Next week it's on to Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology at the University of Pittsburgh. I promise to make some critical bird observations. I recently read an article in *The Indiana Gazette* about the number of eagle nests in Pennsylvania exceeding 200. Even though no documented eagle nests were listed for Indiana County, 19 were noted for Crawford County. Surely amidst the bevy of biology teachers at my workshop there will be one energetic ornithologist to keep the group informed of local sightings. I'll be sure to report my findings at our next meeting.

Hopefully our members are doing some more active birding than I am. I look forward to hearing your reports at our first meeting of the year. I hope to see you there.

Wishing I were birding,

Linda Jones, Co-President



The House Wrens are busily preparing for another brood.

May, A Monumental Month for Birding

The month of May was off to a great start. I had just returned from Florida where I tracked the ethereal, luminescent Painted Bunting through its breeding grounds on Amelia Island. I also had a chance to film the raucous mating rituals of Royal Terns along the deserted shores of Florida's northeast barrier islands. And now, the time had come for something completely different as I headed to northwest Ohio, to the land of the famed Black Swamp, to the wetlands along the porous southern shoreline of Lake Erie.

Spring was the time to arrive, because in May the marshlands become a magical place. As if governed by a celestial clock, these wetlands transform themselves into the resting and feeding grounds for more than 300 species of birds, many of them migrants, who stop here before crossing a big open body of water, on their way to their breeding grounds in Canada.

During the first two weeks in May, countless colorful birds drop from the sky in visible waves to adorn the forested beach ridge of Magee Marsh; for early May is the time of the great warbler migration. At Magee Marsh, up to 37 individual species of warblers can easily be seen, even without binoculars. The ancient "black swamp" comes alive with the sounds of the songbirds, and the wetlands seem to pulsate with the exuberance of the arriving migrants.

Magee Marsh provides the opportunity for magnificent, up-close sightings for both the experienced birder and the novice alike. We know that these tiny warblers had already accomplished an incredible feat! They had made an immense journey just to reach this spot. We also know that this location was programmed into thousands of generations of their ancestral species. Some of the warblers have been previously tagged, documenting the fact that many of these small, colorful songbirds continue to return here again and again throughout their lifetimes, flying north from the forests of South and Central America, dressed in their finest feathered hues, prepared for a summer of breeding in the forests of Canada.

Recently, a parallel, human migration has been observed at Magee Marsh, and its size seems to be growing. This May heralded the second annual "Biggest Week in American Birding." Birders have migrated to Magee Marsh in record numbers to watch the warblers return and to observe the hundreds of other species of colorful birds that can be found draping the forests, fields, and wetlands of Magee Marsh, the Black Swamp Observatory, and the neighboring Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.

At the forefront of the human migration are those who live their lives pursuing birds. The marsh has become a mecca for the birding experts and those who write about, film, and document birds and epic avian migrations. Along the boardwalks and trails that wind through the wetlands, a growing community of birders congregated. This human gathering provided an atmosphere where it was easy to mingle and learn from many of the "legends" of birding.

During the days I spent at Magee Marsh this May, I was able to talk to, and bird alongside Kenn Kaufman. Kaufman is clearly the leader of this "Biggest Week in American Birding," and these wetlands have become his home. He can easily be found among the birders. He also autographed my collection of his books, including his newly released *Field Guide to Advanced Birding*, and my personal favorite, his autobiographical, *Kingbird Highway*.

Greg Miller was there too, willing to talk to anyone about his exploits in that popular book for birders, *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature and Fowl Obsession*. Miller told me about his visit to a Hollywood film set that had cast Jack Black to play his part in a forthcoming film adaptation. He also mentioned that Steve Martin will be in the cast. We agreed that the soon-to-be-released film will likely increase the popularity of birding.

Along the marsh boardwalk, and later at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, I talked with another legendary birder, a man who is likely to change the way we observe and identify the birds that live in the world around us. Richard Crossley has proven himself to be an internationally acclaimed birder, who, like most legends in the world of birding, started young. Crossley began at the age of 7, inspired by a primary school teacher. By the time he was 21, he had hitchhiked more than 100,000 miles chasing birds across his native British Isles and the European continent. Richard Crossley took up residence in the United States in 1985. He now resides in another birding hot spot, Cape May, New Jersey.

Richard Crossley showed me his new book; a book he thinks could serve as a template for the future of natural history identification guides in the 21st century. He also told me that he would soon be speaking in Pittsburgh. He invited me to come to his lecture at the National Aviary. After talking to this enlightened man, and knowing he would be speaking in my own backyard, so to speak, his offer was one I could not refuse.

Crossley's lecture was well attended by Western Pennsylvania birders [including Todd members]. It was held in the Aviary's Free Flight Zone. His presentation, along with his stunning photographs, was greatly enhanced by the Zone's large multimedia projection screen. He gave us an intimate self-portrait of a life dedicated to birds. Through the lens of his cameras and his compelling narrative, those of us in attendance were able to catch a rare glimpse of the past, the present, and the future of birding.

He showed us illustrated excerpts of his earliest journals, his detailed field guides. He told us stories of his early observations of birds, as a boy, without the aid of binoculars. He told us how he learned to identify birds by their shape, size and silhouette; by figuring out "what the bird was not...not what the bird is." He observed every bird as if he were seeing it for the first time. This self-taught technique enabled him to "learn the bird," not to just identify it.

He told us of his journeys in pursuit of birds to the far-off reaches of the globe; a harrowing tale of near death in the

Himalayas; his years in Japan and how the Japanese style photo guides to bird identification changed his approach to creating his own books on birds and bird identification; how he studied and practiced photography so that he could use his own photos. The birds we see in his books are the birds that he has seen with his own eyes. He never uses a flash. He always relies on natural lighting. Now a master of digital Imaging and Photoshop, his new book, *The Crossley ID Guide*, has become much more than a field guide. It has become a revolutionary new way to become more interested in birds and bird identification.

As a lover of books and of birds, I have found Crossley's new guide to eastern birds worth owning. It is really too big to take into the field, but the book is great to leisurely page through at home. In addition, Crossley's interactive website provides a great deal of interesting, useful information. He provides links to his own personalized *You Tube* videos. I suggest that you check out Richard Crossley for yourself at www.crossleybooks.com.

Jim Jeffries
jimjeffries@mac.com

Don't Miss Our September Meeting!

Cris Hamilton will be the presenter at our September meeting. Cris grew up in southwestern PA and northern OH and received a Bachelor of Music degree from Miami University at Oxford, OH, and a Master of Education in Math/Computer Science degree from California University of PA. Now a retired teacher, she spent most of her career in the Carmichaels Area School District in Greene County. After retiring in 2007, she expanded her photography hobby from people and landscapes, to birds and nature.

Always enjoying a challenge, she joined the Three Rivers Birding Club and the Westmoreland Bird & Nature Club to learn more about birds, their field marks, and their habits. Then came her next challenge – trying to get a small, moving subject "*in*" the viewfinder, while getting a proper exposure and a fast enough shutter speed to stop the action! She quickly learned that it is not as easy as it sounds and takes much practice.

After five years of birding and photography, Cris still enjoys the challenge of each outing and is constantly learning something new about nature or about her camera. The incredible people she has met along the way – fellow birders, photographers, or those one-time encounters with people who wonder what she's doing with that big lens – have made it truly a great experience and one of the most rewarding hobbies possible.

In the last few years, Cris has been able to travel to many places to photograph birds and nature. She will present photos from a variety of states and provinces. She looks forward to sharing her photos with Todd Bird Club and hopes that we will enjoy viewing them as much as she has enjoyed taking them.

Don't miss this great program!

Charles Warner, a writer in the late 1800s, commented on the abuses of the feather trade, writing:

A dead bird does not help the appearance of an ugly woman, and a pretty woman needs no such adornment.

Duck - Duck - Duck Box

by Thomas N. Glover

The regular Tuesday outing on April 12, 2011, at Yellow Creek State Park started out innocently enough, but that all changed quickly. Fellow Todd Bird Club members Margaret Higbee and Lee Carnahan and I met at the park office about 8:00 a.m., and after taking note of the gray, rain-threatening weather, we started our usual routine of birding the area around the park office. About this time Environmental Ed. Specialist Mike Shaffer arrived, and after a brief conversation between Margaret and Mike, the next thing I knew we were drafted into the "Wood Duck Box Project."

We agreed to meet Mike at the boat launch next to the boat rental office at 8:30 that morning. Upon arrival at the boat launch we found Mike and a fellow volunteer Paul Hicks loading the park's pontoon patrol boat with eleven Wood Duck boxes, eleven 4" x 4" x 12' square wooden posts pointed on one end, various tools and hardware, and a couple of plastic lawn chairs; so we all assisted in finishing the task of loading the boat. While this was happening, fellow birder Donna Meyer showed up, and after we invited her on the "Duck Box Project," she graciously declined – smart woman.

Confident we had all the necessary equipment and with Mike at the helm, we launched the boat and decided to install the first box in the marshy cove area next to the mouth of Little Yellow Creek. We picked a spot in about three feet of water and dropped anchor. With the boat bobbing up and down, the anchor not holding, the first post was cast over the side into the water. Immediately we noted that the post was sticking about seven feet above the deck of the boat. I then watched Mike stack the two plastic lawn chairs on top of each other. He mounted the chairs and began flailing away at the post with a sledge hammer. Lee and Paul each took a turn with the sledge. Meanwhile the boat was bouncing around, drifting, and in my view, it just did not offer a stable platform. Personally, maybe some time in my past I would have jumped onto the chairs and taken a turn with the sledge hammer. But over the years my sense of preservation has grown; besides, it is hard to swing a sledge hammer from the height of a chair while holding onto the rail with one hand.

Finally with some effort the first box was installed. After backing away from the installed box and admiring its straightness, we decided that the posts should be shorter if they're going to be installed in shallower water. Mike, using his walky-talky, radioed one of his fellow workers,

asking him to leave a hand saw at the boat launch. In the meantime, we decided to survey the mouth of Little Yellow Creek for the next box location. But as we approached the creek's mouth we ran aground. Mike attempted to back the boat off the mudflat but only succeeded in churning up the mud. Mike turned off the motor, and we decided to pole the boat into deeper water.

After we moved to deeper water, Mike cranked up the motor but immediately shut it down as it sounded as though something were wrong with it. Mike feared that the use of the motor might damage it further, so he decided that we should pole back to the boat launch. Luckily it was not that far, yet it was far enough to make it a challenge. After arriving at the boat launch, and with the help of Tom Fetterman, who happened to be conveniently jogging by at that time, we determined that the intakes that provided cooling water to the motor were plugged with mud and debris. After that problem was resolved and we had obtained the hand saw, we set off once again to install the remaining boxes. As the morning passed and we managed to successfully install the boxes, a routine developed. Mike was the primary pole driver assisted by Lee and Paul. Lee mounted the boxes on the poles with Paul's help while I prepped the boxes for mounting. Margaret offered a critical eye to make sure the boxes were installed straight, provided nuts and chocolate chips for all, and she birded. Now I have to admit I did "man up" towards the end and take one turn with the sledge – but only after the boat had run aground providing stable footing and the poles had been shortened so I did not have to stand on the chairs.

We did see birds; in fact we got a good look at a Merlin perched in a tree at the head of a cove on the south shore, and we spotted a bright white Great Egret in the Yellow Creek cove. And on one occasion, right after we'd installed one of the boxes and were pulling away, we watched Tree Swallows checking out the new box.

So if you are out at Yellow Creek State Park, make it a point to check out those handsome and very straight Wood Duck boxes scattered about the lake shore. They'll certainly have occupants next year if they didn't actually fledge young this year. With the number of ducklings on the lake, however, it would surprise me if at least a few of the boxes had not been occupied this season.



Notes from a Novice

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Louisiana Waterthrush"

by Tom Glover

For more than a year I was tormented by the Louisiana Waterthrush. This bird teased me with its haunting songs, sharp chips, its ghostly outline, and the stories by fellow birders. Well, finally on Tuesday, May 10, 2011, that torment came to an end.

Along with fellow Todd Bird Club members Margaret Higbee, John Taylor, and Lee Carnahan, I "nailed" the bird. We were birding Yellow Creek State Park, and the Louisiana Waterthrush was one of our target species for the day. We decided to hike along Little Yellow Creek intending to stalk the bird, and after about a quarter mile's walk, with John in the lead, there it was. John spotted the bird on a log across the creek about 75 feet in front of us. The log was in the sunshine, offering an excellent view as the bird slowly bobbed its way across the log. We watched the waterthrush for almost five minutes before it disappeared. For me personally that sighting is one of my highlights of this year's spring birding season. Not only did I finally see the bird, but I learned that this Louisiana Waterthrush has a special place in Western Pennsylvania's forests and streams.



The Louisiana Waterthrush serves as an indicator of stream quality.

Photo by Bob Moul

The Louisiana Waterthrush was featured in Felicity L. Newell's article "A Tale of Two Streams" published in the May 2011 issue of American Birding Association's *Birding* magazine. The article detailed a study in the

Powdermill Nature Preserve located in western PA on the impact of water quality on the Louisiana Waterthrush. Two streams, Powdermill Run and Laurel Run, were compared. Powdermill Run with its better water quality proved to be ideal habitat for the bird. The run's pH of about 7 provided a rich source of food to sustain a thriving population of the birds. Laurel Run, with its water pH of about 5, proved to be detrimental to the water quality which in turn impacted the aquatic life which in turn reduced the population of the Louisiana Waterthrush on the stream.

For me the Louisiana Waterthrush was an entertaining adventure this past year. Not only did I enjoy the "hunt" for the bird, I also learned that the bird has a special place in western PA ecology. Now that I have the bird on my life list, I sort of miss the search for the "bird." Mmmm, I wonder what a Northern Waterthrush looks like?

Todd Members Attend PSO

Once again this year Todd Bird Club was well represented at the PSO meeting in Bedford. Todd members in attendance included Carol Guba, Margaret & Roger Higbee, Janet & Tom Kuehl, Mark McConaughy, Flo & Jim McGuire, Tom Pearson, Mary Jane Seipler, Marge Van Tassel, Linda Wagner, Daniel Winstead, and Ray Winstead.

Six of us—Carol Guba, the Higbees, Linda Wagner, and the Winsteads—birded our way to Bedford, stopping first where else but Yellow Creek. Our next destination was Prince Gallitzin where we were treated to the sight of a

Least Bittern. Next we headed to Blue Knob State Park where we watched a Northern Parula nest building.

Our mini-group birded Dunnings Creek Wetlands on Saturday and Shawnee State Park on Sunday. The PSO group tallied 180 species for the weekend plus one hybrid.

Congratulations to Todd member Daniel Winstead who was awarded a scholarship to the meeting. Daniel writes: "...That weekend I saw 24 lifers! All in all, that weekend was better than anything I could have expected. Thanks!"

Indiana Pennsylvania Migration Count May 14, 2011

Canada Goose	256	Least Flycatcher	7	Cape May Warbler	2
Wood Duck	27	Eastern Phoebe	54	Yellow-rumped Warbler	29
Mallard	26	Great Crested Flycatcher	19	Black-throated Green Warbler	60
Hooded Merganser	3	Eastern Kingbird	16	Blackburnian Warbler	12
Ruddy Duck	3	White-eyed Vireo	7	Yellow-throated Warbler	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	14	Blue-headed Vireo	21	Pine Warbler	1
Ruffed Grouse	8	Yellow-throated Vireo	18	Prairie Warbler	9
Wild Turkey	54	Warbling Vireo	2	Bay-breasted Warbler	2
Common Loon	2	Red-eyed Vireo	423	Blackpoll Warbler	9
Double-crested Cormorant	2	Blue Jay	255	Cerulean Warbler	8
Great Blue Heron	8	American Crow	345	Black-and-white Warbler	24
Green Heron	2	Fish Crow	2	American Redstart	89
Turkey Vulture	42	Common Raven	3	Worm-eating Warbler	1
Osprey	1	Horned Lark	3	Ovenbird	281
Northern Harrier	3	Purple Martin	12	Louisiana Waterthrush	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Tree Swallow	101	Kentucky Warbler	7
Cooper's Hawk	3	N. Rough-winged Swallow	57	Common Yellowthroat	298
Broad-winged Hawk	2	Bank Swallow	1	Hooded Warbler	94
Red-tailed Hawk	20	Cliff Swallow	3	Wilson's Warbler	1
American Kestrel	10	Barn Swallow	365	Yellow-breasted Chat	7
American Coot	9	Black-capped Chickadee	157	Scarlet Tanager	156
Killdeer	69	Tufted Titmouse	126	Eastern Towhee	353
Greater Yellowlegs	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	Chipping Sparrow	303
Solitary Sandpiper	5	White-breasted Nuthatch	45	Field Sparrow	65
Spotted Sandpiper	9	Brown Creeper	1	Savannah Sparrow	3
American Woodcock	19	Carolina Wren	11	Grasshopper Sparrow	1
Bonaparte's Gull	1	House Wren	57	Henslow's Sparrow	12
Rock Pigeon	26	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	Song Sparrow	289
Mourning Dove	286	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	38	Swamp Sparrow	4
Black-billed Cuckoo	18	Eastern Bluebird	59	White-throated Sparrow	6
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	8	Hermit Thrush	4	White-crowned Sparrow	13
Barred Owl	4	Wood Thrush	243	Dark-eyed Junco	7
Common Nighthawk	1	American Robin	1382	Northern Cardinal	305
Whip-poor-will	7	Gray Catbird	300	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	119
Chimney Swift	222	Northern Mockingbird	10	Indigo Bunting	162
Ruby-thrd Hummingbird	75	Brown Thrasher	31	Bobolink	10
Belted Kingfisher	3	European Starling	725	Red-winged Blackbird	956
Red-bellied Woodpecker	70	Cedar Waxwing	140	Eastern Meadowlark	41
Downy Woodpecker	44	Blue-winged Warbler	16	Common Grackle	631
Hairy Woodpecker	11	Brewster's warbler	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	113
Northern Flicker	74	Golden-winged Warbler	1	Orchard Oriole	29
Pileated Woodpecker	28	Tennessee Warbler	14	Baltimore Oriole	167
Olive-sided Flycatcher	2	Nashville Warbler	3	Purple Finch	43
Eastern Wood-Pewee	19	Northern Parula	6	House Finch	59
Acadian Flycatcher	45	Yellow Warbler	182	Pine Siskin	1
Alder Flycatcher	1	Chestnut-sided Warbler	50	American Goldfinch	226
Willow Flycatcher	22	Magnolia Warbler	21	House Sparrow	268

Total Number of Species 141
 Total Number of Individuals 12,188

Armstrong Pennsylvania Migration Count May 14, 2011

Canada Goose	8	Tree Swallow	4	Cape May Warbler	1
Common Merganser	2	N. Rough-winged Swallow	7	Black-and-white Warbler	1
Double-crested Cormorant	1	Barn Swallow	5	Common Yellowthroat	2
Great Blue Heron	1	Black-capped Chickadee	7	Hooded Warbler	4
Turkey Vulture	3	Tufted Titmouse	2	Eastern Towhee	6
Mourning Dove	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	3	Chipping Sparrow	10
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	6	Carolina Wren	3	Song Sparrow	5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	House Wren	1	Scarlet Tanager	1
Downy Woodpecker	3	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	Northern Cardinal	18
Pileated Woodpecker	1	Eastern Bluebird	10	Indigo Bunting	2
Acadian Flycatcher	2	Veery	1	Red-winged Blackbird	7
Eastern Phoebe	3	Wood Thrush	8	Eastern Meadowlark	2
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	American Robin	14	Common Grackle	14
Eastern Kingbird	2	Gray Catbird	12	Baltimore Oriole	5
Blue-headed Vireo	1	Brown Thrasher	1	House Finch	5
Red-eyed Vireo	5	Cedar Waxwing	7	American Goldfinch	12
Blue Jay	6	Northern Parula	3	House Sparrow	7
American Crow	5	Yellow Warbler	8		
Common Raven	3	Chestnut-sided Warbler	1		

Total Number of Species	55
Total Number of Individuals	264

Observers

Moose Anderson	Anita Duffalo	Tracy Johnston	Joe Rowe
Pat Andrascik	Dee English	Jessica Jopp	Nancy Smeltzer
Bill Betts	Emmy Fairman	Gloria Lamer	Linda Stormer
Tom Betts	Gary Ferrence	Mary A. Little	Luke Stormer
Jean Blair	Betsy Fetterman	Howard Mandigo	Rodger Stormer
Sid Blair	Jed Fetterman	Gib McLaughlin	Mark Strittmatter
Jean Blystone	Tom Fetterman	Donna Meyer	Georgette Syster
Vernon Blystone	Evelyn Fowles	Ed Meyer	John Taylor
Judy Buggiey	Mike Fowles	Marilyn Moore	Mary Lu Tucker
Todd Buzzinotti	Sue Gatti	Molly Nowell	Ila Tuorinsky
Lee Carnahan	Carol Guba	Richard Nowell	Steve Tuorinsky
Shirley Chase	Michael Guba	Marjorie Peterson	*Marjorie Van Tassel
Susan Comfort	Margaret Higbee	*Lynn Ramage	Daniel Winstead
Marcy Cunkelman	Roger Higbee	Nancy Robinson	Ray Winstead
Gloria Dick	Pat Johner	Don Rogers	Ginny Winters
Sue Dickson	Connie Johnston		

*Armstrong Co. Observer

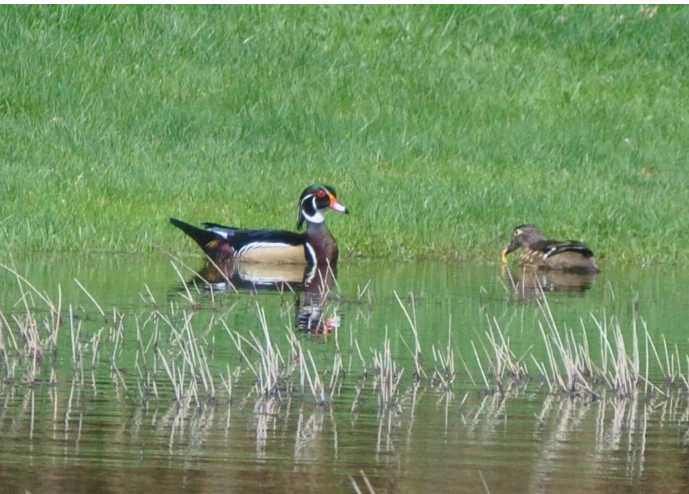
Indiana, Armstrong, Cambria County

Spring – March 1 to May 31, 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: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Creekside (CS), Hemlock Lake County Park (HL), Indiana (IN), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Lewisville (LV), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TLR), Yellow Creek State Park (YC)

Canada Geese peaked at YC at 391 on 3/3 (LC); PG harbored 100 on 3/17 (JS); by 5/3 (LC,TG,MH,ML) the first goslings were seen at YC. Four to five **Mute Swans** were listed at PG 3/11,29 and 4/1 (JS). **Tundra Swans** continued to move through the region with top counts of 163 (LC) at YC and 200 (SG,MS) at CC, both 3/6, and 97 on 3/17 (JS) at PG; a singleton lingered on the lake at YC through 4/5 (LC,MH,GL,DM). First 4 **Wood Ducks** arrived both at YC 3/4 (SD) and at Manorville 3/5 (MH,RH); 5 at PG 3/11 (JS) were Cambria's first. **Gadwalls** used



This pair of Wood Ducks was at Crooked Creek April 21.

Photo by Marge Van Tassel

YC Lake between 3/15 (LC,TG,MH,GL,DM) when the first 8 were sighted and 5/3 (LC,TG,MH,ML), the last 10; PG's first 10 occurred 3/17 (JS) while peak number of 28 was achieved there 3/22 (JS). KR yielded 4 on 4/5 (MH), the lone *Armstrong* report. Five **American Wigeons** appeared near Leechburg 3/1 (MVT); CC yielded one 3/6 (SG); 11 visited LA's pond near IN 3/10 (LA) while PG hosted a singleton the following day (JS). YC boasted the top count of 31 on 3/17 (LC,MH) while the last were 3 at PG 4/8 (RB,JS) and 2 on Margus Lake 4/23 (MH,RH). The first 46 **American Black Ducks** appeared at YC 3/8 (LC,SD,TG,MH,ML); one individual arrived at PG 3/11 (JS); last noted was a singleton on Gallo's Pond near Penn Run 4/28 (BF,MH). Top **Mallard** counts

were 72 at YC 3/15 (LC,TG,MH,GL,DM) and 200 at CD 3/31 (KB). Ten **Blue-winged Teal** at YC 3/29 (LC,TG,MH,GL,ML,MJS) and 2 at PG 4/1 (JS) were first arrivals while 4/28 (BF,MH) yielded the last 3 at YC and one at Gallo's Pond. YC hosted **Northern Shovelers** between 3/19 (LC,RD,TG,MH,RH,GL,LM,TM,DS) and 4/26 (LC,SD,RG,SG,TG,MH,GL,ML,RN,TP,CR,MJS) with high tally of 28 on 4/5 (LC,MH,GL,DM); also on 4/5 (MH) 3 visited KR, the only report away from YC. **Northern Pintails** were in short supply with a single bird at CC 3/6 (SG), 5 at YC 3/8 (LC,SD,TG,MH,ML), 2 at YC 3/17 (LC,MH), 2 at CD 3/31 (KB), 2 at PG 4/1 (JS), and 6 at PG 4/2 (DG,GG). Ten **Green-winged Teal** 3/3 (LC) at YC were first with high tallies of 19 at YC on 3/29 (LC,TG,MH,GL,ML,MJS) and 15 at PG 4/2 (DG,GG); 7 stopped at CD 3/31 (KB); last noted were 2 at YC 5/3 (LC,TG,MH,ML).

One **Canvasback** 3/4 at YC (SD) and 2 at Rosston 3/5 (MH,RH) were first; 7 were present at YC 3/17 (LC,MH) while last 5 were noted at YC 4/9 (3RBC,TBC,IUP). March 15 (LC,TG,MH,GL,DM) produced the first 54 **Redheads** at YC while 3/17 (JS) marked the arrival of 40 at PG; numbers peaked at 136 on 3/20 (LC) at YC; KR harbored 2 on 3/27 (MH,RH) while one was spotted at CD 3/31, 4/6 (KB); a singleton lingered at YC 4/9 (3RBC,TBC,IUP).

Ring-necked Ducks arrived in good numbers with triple digits on nine dates; top counts were 422 at YC (LC,MH) and 250 at PG (JS), both 3/17, and 200 at CD 3/31 (KB); 14 visited CC 3/26 (LM) while 5/3 (LC,TG,MH,ML) was the day for the last 5 at YC. Four **Greater Scaup** were listed on LA's Pond 3/6 (LA), at CD 3/31 (KB), and at YC 4/23 (LC,EFu,TFu,TG,MH,RH) through 4/27 (LC,TG,MH,GL,DM). Three **Lesser Scaup** arrived at YC 3/3 (LC) and peaked at 171 on 3/17 (LC,MH), the same day (JS) 27 were sighted at PG; KR yielded 10 on 3/27 (MH,RH); PG's best count of 50 was achieved 4/2 (DG,GG); the last 3 lingered through 5/3 (LC,TG,MH,ML) at YC. **White-winged Scoter** reports detailed 3 at YC 4/5 (LC,MH,GL) and 12 at YC 4/24 (LC), the same day 4 had landed on TLR. First

Long-tailed Duck arrived at YC 3/15 (LC,TG,MH,GL,DM); a single bird visited TLR 3/24 (LC) while 11 stopped at KR 3/27 (MH, RH); another was on Urling treatment pond near SH 4/4 (RH); 4/5 yielded 4 at KR (MH) while the best count of 10 at YC (LC,MH, GL,DM) occurred two days later. Arrival date for **Bufflehead** was 3/1 (LC,TG,MH,DM) at YC; 2 visited CC 3/2 (MVT) while PG's first 6 appeared 3/17 (JS). Top counts included 99 at YC 3/20 (LC), 130 at PG 4/2 (DG,GG) and 24 at KR 4/5 (MH); lingering through 5/3 (LC, TG,MH,ML) at YC were 14. **Common**

Goldeneye reports included singletons at CC 3/2 (MVT) and at Rosston 3/5 (MH,RH) and 3 at YC 4/5 (LC,MH,GL,DM), the only ones noted. Top **Hooded Merganser** tallies included 13 at Wood's Pond 3/6 (MH,RH), 75 at YC 3/17 (LC,MH), and 70 at PG 4/2 (DG,GG). Five **Common Mergansers** arrived at YC 3/1 (LC,TG, MH,DM); a flock of 26 **Common Mergansers** lingered on KR 3/6 (MH, RH); 3 were sighted 3/17 (JM,LM, TM) at CC where a pair remained 5/6 (MH, LR, JV). Becoming much more common as a breeding species in our region, nesting was suspected when a hen Common Merganser was observed entering a hole in the dam at Mahoning 4/30 (MH,RH); a hen also flew over Cochran's Mill 5/28 (MH, RH). Arriving at YC on 3/8 (LC,SD,TG, MH,ML) were 2 **Red-breasted Mergansers**; PG's first were 9 on 3/17 (JS); numbers peaked at 55 at PG (DG,GG) and at 178 at YC (LC,MH,RH, GL), both 4/2, while 110 were spotted the following day (KB, MG) at KR; 9 still remained at YC 5/19 (LC,TG,MH, GL). The first 2 **Ruddy Ducks** were spotted at YC 3/15 (LC,TG,MH,GL,DM); PG's best count was 10 on 4/2 (DG,GG); high tallies of 100 at YC (LC,MH, GL,DM) and 32 at KR (MH) occurred 4/5; the PAMC 5/14 yielded the last 2 at YC (GL,GS) and one at HL (SC,MH,RH, JJ).

Across the region 16 reports of **Ruffed Grouse** were received, an increased number from the last several years. Best **Wild Turkey** count of 39 occurred n. of IN 3/1-3/3 (SB).

YC hosted single **Red-throated Loons** 3/29 (LC,TG, MH, GL, ML, MJS), 3/30 (GL), 4/8 (LC), and 3 on 4/28 (EF, MF). First **Common Loons** stopped to rest at PG 3/22 (JS), at YC 3/24 (GL), and at KR 3/27 (MH, RH); fallouts of 308 at YC (LC,MH, GL,DM) and 33



This is just one of two Black Vultures Marcy Cunkelman photographed near Lewisville 3/18.

at KR (MH) occurred on 4/5; last were 4 at PG 5/20 (CG, MH, RH, LW, DW, RW) and one at YC 5/31 (LC, TG, MH, MVT). Single **Pied-billed Grebes** arrived 3/5 (MH, RH) at Manorville, 3/17 (JS) at PG, and 3/21 (LC) at YC; the high was a mere 12 at YC on 4/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM). First **Horned Grebes** arrived 3/17 both at CC (JM, LM, TM) and at YC (LC, MH) and 3/22 (JS) at PG; numbers peaked at 38 at YC on 3/30 (GL) and 49 at KR 4/5 (MH); last were spotted 4/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) YC and 4/30 (MH, RH) at KR. A **Red-necked Grebe** was a nice find at KR 3/27 (MH, RH).

Twelve **Double-crested Cormorants** at YC 3/19 (MF), one at CD 3/20 (KB), and one at CC the following day (BJ) were first arrivals; high tallies were 82 at YC (LC, MH, GL, DM) and 39 at KR (MH), both 4/5, and 50 at PG 4/8 (RB, JS). The photo of an **American Bittern** that appeared in a yard near TLR 4/13 (JE) graced the *Indiana Gazette*. A **Least Bittern** standing in brushy marsh vegetation was a PG highlight 5/20 (CG, MH, RH, LW, DW, RW). YC harbored single **Great Egrets** 3/27 (EF, MF), 4/5 (LC, MH, GL, DM), and 4/12 (LC, TG, MH, MS). First **Green Heron** arrived at YC 4/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL, DM) and at CC 4/21 (fide MVT).

Two **Black Vultures** were photographed near LV 3/18 (MC), a third county record. Best **Turkey Vulture** tally was 15 at TL 5/14 (PJ). **Ospreys** moved through the region between 3/24 (GL) and 5/19 (LC, TG, MH, GL). **Bald Eagles** continue to expand their range in our region with a minimum of 4 nesting pairs; in addition eagles frequented YC throughout the quarter with the best count of 3, which included two adults and one second-year bird, on 4/9 (3RBC, TBC, IUP) and again 4/28 (BF, MH), although no nest has been located. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at six locations this spring (v.o.); **Cooper's Hawks**, at ten (v.o.). An immature **Northern Goshawk** flew over the lake at PG 5/20 (CG, MH, RH, LW, DW, RW). **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported only at YC 3/1 (LC, TG, MH, DM) through 4/5 (LC, MH, GL, DM). An early **Broad-winged Hawk** was observed at Smicksburg Park 4/11 (MH) while a pair at YC was seen carrying nesting material 4/26 (LC, SD, RG, SG, TG, MH, GL, ML,

RN,TP,CR,MJS). During a birding session with United Elementary third graders on 4/27 (LC,MH,GL,DM), an immature **Golden Eagle** circled overhead, the fifth county record but the first YC record. A **Merlin** perched in a tree at YC 4/12 (LC,TG,MH,MS) was observed from a pontoon during a late Wood Duck box installation; another was spotted 4/24 (LC) at YC.

Three **Virginia Rails** at PG were nice finds 5/14 (JS). March 1 (LC,TG,MH,DM) brought the first **American Coot** to YC where numbers peaked at 223 on 4/12 (LC,TG,MH,MS); 11 were noted at PG 4/1 (JS); last 4 were sighted at YC 5/19 (LC,TG,MH,GL).



Two Herring Gulls stopped at Crooked Creek 3/31.

Photo by Marge Van Tassel



This Semipalmated Plover visited Crooked Creek 5/28.

Photo by Marge Van Tassel

A **Semipalmated Plover** was photographed at CC 5/28 (MVT), the lone report for the region. Two **Killdeer** arrived 2/27 (MC) near LV, 3/6 (SG) at CC, and 3/11 (JS) at PG; first young were reported 5/14 (GF) at Two Lick Wetlands. Seven **Greater Yellowlegs** landed only briefly at YC, discovering little appropriate habitat because of high water levels, 4/27 (LC,MH,GL,DM); 2 appeared at YC 5/10 (LC,SD,TG,MH,GL,JT,MVT) while one was heard near West Lebanon in the dark on 5/14 (MC,AD). Three **Lesser Yellowlegs** at YC 5/3 (LC,TG,MH,ML) were the only ones recorded. **Solitary Sandpipers** noted included one at YC 5/10 (LC,SD,TG,MH,GL,JT,MVT), one at Conemaugh Floodlands 5/14 (LC), and 4 at Margus Lake 5/14 (BF,JF,TF). TLR hosted the first **Spotted Sandpiper** 4/2 (PJ), the earliest date on record since 1988. A **Least Sandpiper** 5/10 (LC,SD,TG,MH,GL,JT,MVT) at YC was the only one noted. Just before dusk on 4/13 (MH) a **Wilson's Snipe** flew over a yard near SH; 5 were counted at YC 4/16 (LC,TG,MH,RH,GL). First 2 **American Woodcocks** were calling near LV 3/5 (MC); one was still peenting at dawn near Margaret on 5/30 (MH,RH).

Bonaparte's Gulls moved through the region between 3/15 (LC,TG,MH,GL,DM) and 5/14 (SC,MH,RH,JJ); highest tallies were 20 at PG 4/8 (RB,JS) and 104 at YC 4/12 (LC,TG,MH). Best **Ring-billed Gull** counts were 62 at YC 3/30 (GL) and 19 at Wood's Pond 4/30 (MH,RH). Two **Herring Gulls** were photographed at CC 3/31 (MVT) while the only other reports were individuals at PG 4/1 (JS) and 4/12 (DG,JS). April 12 yielded 5 **Caspian Terns** at PG and 2 at YC; YC yielded 3 on 4/19 (LC,TG,MH,GL,DM) and one 4/24 (LC). Three **Common Terns** 5/3 (LC,TG,MH,ML) at YC were the only ones found. **Forster's Tern** reports included one at KR (MH) and 2 at YC (LC,MH,GL,DM), both 4/5; PG boasted the best count of 10 on 4/12 (DG,JS); 5 at YC 5/3 (LC,TG,MH,ML) were last.

Cuckoo arrival dates were 5/6 (MH,LR,JV) at CC, 5/7 (LM) near Cochran's Mill, and 5/10 (LC,SD,TG,MH,GL,JT,MVT) at YC for **Black-billed** and 5/14 (v.o.) for **Yellow-billed** at multiple spots across *Indiana*. **Barred Owls** were vocal near SH between 4/8 - 5/10 (MH,RH); the PAMC produced Barred Owls at three additional *Indiana* locations (v.o.).

First **Common Nighthawk** was heard in IN 5/12 by our PSO youth scholarship recipient DW; it was also relocated the following night (RW); the PAMC produced one flying over the lake at BS 5/14 (DW,RW). **Whip-poor-will** reports cited one near Brush Valley 5/14 (JR) and 6 near West Lebanon also 5/14 (MC,AD).

First **Chimney Swift** arrived near SH 4/13 (MH); LM noted about 100 near dusk on 5/5 entering the PennDOT chimney in Kittanning. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrival dates included 4/23 (JG) near CS, 4/24 (MC) near LV, and 4/26 both near Penn

Run (BF,TF) and near Leechburg(MVT). First migrant **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** arrived 4/6 (EF,MF,GL) at YC; one seemed to be on territory 4/28 (BF,MH) near YC where it had been confirmed nesting during the 2nd PBBA.



This Olive-sided Flycatcher was found near Lockvale on the PAMC.

Photo by Margaret Higbee



The Olive-sided Flycatcher near the Gipsy strips was eating a wasp.

Photo by Margaret Higbee

The PAMC yielded 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers** 5/14 (SC,MH,RH,JJ), one near Lockvale, the other near the Gipsy strips an hour and a half later. The first 2 **Eastern Wood-Pewees** arrived 5/12 (MVT) at Rearick's Fording and 5/14 (v.o.) at other locations across *Armstrong* and *Indiana* (v.o.). The Ghost Town Trail 5/11 (BF,MH) produced the first 3 **Acadian Flycatchers**; Acadians had returned to Cochran's Mill and Rearick's Fording by 5/14 (MVT). First **Alder Flycatcher** was found near Tunnelton 5/14 (EF,MF) while YC hosted one 5/17 (LC,TG,MH), 5/19 (LC,TG,MH,GL), and 5/31 (LC,TG,MH,MVT); 2 were heard on the annual 4:00 a.m. YC pontoon ride 5/24 (MA,LC,AC,TG,MH,GL,MS). The Margaret BBS also yielded an Alder 5/30 (MH,RH). The PAMC was responsible for the first **Willow Flycatchers** 5/14 (v.o.). First **Least Flycatcher** appeared at BS 4/25 (MH) while the first **Eastern Phoebe** showed up at Nolo 3/18 (CL,GL). **Great Crested Flycatchers** were first listed at BS 5/5 (BF,MH,JT) and at CC 5/6 (MH,LR,JV). **Eastern Kingbirds** were seen first at YC 4/26 (LC,SD,RG,SG,TG,MH,GL,ML,RN,TP,CR,MJS) and near CC 5/6 (MH,LR,JV).

White-eyed Vireos returned first at YC 4/26 (LC,SD, RG,SG, TG,MH,GL,ML,RN,TP,CR,MJS) and on Reservoir Hill 4/28 (PJ). KR yielded the first **Yellow-throated Vireo** 4/30 (MH,RH); 3 were singing at BS 5/5 (BF,MH,JT). A single **Blue-headed Vireo** was heard near Mahoning Dam 4/30 (MH,RH) but were at least a month late in arriving in *Indiana* and short

in number with the first not reported until 5/14 (v.o.); they were also missing from several of their traditional breeding haunts at YC this season. Two **Warbling Vireos** singing at KR 4/30 (MH,RH) and one along Crooked Creek in CS 5/9 (MH) were first to arrive. First **Red-eyed Vireos** appeared near YC 4/28 (BF,MH) and at CC 5/6 (MH,LR,JV).

Fish Crows continue in IN with individuals heard on Reservoir Hill 3/26 (PJ), on the IUP campus 5/10 (RW) and 5/14 (JT), and at 5th & Philadelphia in IN 5/14 (MH,RH). Two **Common Ravens** at the Homer City Power Plant were observed carrying nesting material 3/3 (DB); the pair nested once again at CC (MVT), and an adult was already on nest at Keystone Cleaning Plant 3/6 (MH, RH); other sighting locations include YC (v.o.), Nolo (AB,DB), and CD (EF,MF).

First **Purple Martin** arrived at PG 4/12 (DG,JS); on 4/30 (MH,RH) 31 **Purple Martins** were counted in the vicinity of the Wood's Pond colony; an additional 12 were counted at an Amish farm near Smicksburg 5/14 (MLT). **Tree Swallows** arrived 3/15 (LC,TG, MH,GL,DM) at YC and 3/22 (JS) at PG where JS estimated 100 present; About 40 were feeding over KR 4/5 (MH); YC numbers had built to an estimated 620 by 4/19 (LC,TG,MH,GL,DM) as swallows attempted to glean insects low over the water. First **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** appeared 4/10 both at CD (EF,MF) and at CS (MH). One to 2 **Bank Swallows** were observed at YC on six dates between 4/23 (LC,EFu,TFu,TG,MH,RH) and 5/20 (CG,MH,RH,LW,DW,RW); KR produced one 4/30 (MH,RH), and 3 were sighted at PG 5/20 (CG,MH, RH,LW,DW,RW). First **Cliff Swallows** were 20 at PG 4/8 (RB,JS) and one at YC 4/12 (LC,TG,MH,MS) while **Barn Swallows** had arrived a week earlier at YC on 4/5 (LC,MH,GL).



A migrant Red-breasted Nuthatch was photographed near Lewisville 4/21. Two were present there for about two weeks.

Photo by Marcy Cunkelman

Red-breasted Nuthatches remained in IN 5/14 (RNo,MN) and near SH through the end of May. **House Wren** arrived near LV 4/14 (MC) and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** near SH 4/4 (MH); last kinglet was noted at BS 5/9 (MH). LV also produced the first **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 4/14 (MC) while CC's first was sighted 4/21 (MVT). A **Veery** at BS 5/5 (BF,MH, JT) was the lone report. Single **Swainson's Thrushes** were listed along the Ghost Town Trail 5/11 (BF,MH) and at HL 5/14 (SC,MH,RH, JJ). **Hermit Thrush** reports included only an individual at BS 4/25 (MH) and 4 at or near HL 5/14 (SC,MH,RH, JJ). LV yielded the first **Wood Thrush** 4/24 (MC), and 2 were near Wood's Pond 4/30 (MH,RH). Single **Gray Catbirds** were at CC 4/21 (MVT) and at BS 4/25 (MH), but by the next day (LC,SD,RG,SG, TG,MH,GL,ML,RN,TP,CR,MJS) 15 were counted at YC. **Brown Thrashers** had arrived at CC 4/7 (MH) and at YC by 4/9 (3RBC,TBC,IUP).

YC yielded the first **Blue-winged Warbler** 4/26 (LC,SD,RG,SG,TG,MH,GL,ML,RN,TP,CR,MJS) while KR's first occurred 4/30 (MH,RH). A **Brewster's warbler** was well observed at YC 5/10 (LC,SD,TG,MH, JT,MVT); another Brewster's was found on the PAMC 5/14 (MSt,JT) along Hanging Rock Road in Washington Twp. A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a nice find along the Conemaugh River in West Wheatfield Twp. 5/14 (MSt,JT); n.e. *Cambria* yielded a Golden-wing 5/24 (KC). First **Tennessee Warbler** was singing near HL 5/14 (SC, MH,RH, JJ) while last was listed at PG 5/20 (CG,MH, RH,LW,DW,RW). **Nashville Warblers** migrated through the region between 4/19 (LC,TG,MH,GL, DM) and 5/14 (v.o.). Dates of arrival included 4/26 (LC,SD,RG,SG,TG,MH,GL,ML,RN,TP,CR,MJS) for **Northern Parula** at YC, 4/23 (LC,EFu,TFu,TG, MH,RH) for **Yellow Warbler** at YC, 4/26 (MVT) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at CC, and 4/23 (LC,EFu, TFu,TG,MH,RH) for **Magnolia Warbler** at YC.

Four **Cape May Warblers** were observed in the spruce at CC 5/6 (MH,LR,JV); last Cape May was spotted at YC 5/20 (CG,MH,RH,LW,DW, RW). Four **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were found at BS 5/5 (BF,MH, JT) while a 2.5-mile hike along the GTT 5/11 (BF,MH) yielded 12. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** returned to YC 4/12 (LC,TG,MH) with best count of 61 on (LC,EFu,TFu,TG,MH,RH); 44 were counted at CC 5/6 (MH,LR,JV); the last individual was sighted 5/17 (LC,TG,MH) at YC. Both **Black-throated Green** and **Blackburnian Warblers** returned to YC 4/23 (LC,EFu,TFu,TG,MH,RH). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was spotted at CD 4/10, 5/14 (EF,MF). First **Pine Warblers** appeared near SH 3/27 (MH)

and at Nolo 3/29 (GL). April 23 (LC,EuF,TG,MH,RH) was also the date of return at YC for **Prairie** and **Palm Warblers**; single Palms were also seen at BS 4/25 (MH) and photographed at Rochester Mills 4/26 (RL). **Bay-breasted Warblers** moved through between 5/3 (LC,TG,MH,ML) and 5/17 (LC,TG,MH). First **Blackpoll Warbler** was heard and seen at YC 5/10 (LC,SD,TG,MH,GL, JT,MVT); 9 was a good count at YC 5/17 (LC,TG,MH); 2 were singing at PG 5/20 (CG,MH,RH,LW,DW,RW) while the last 2 were noted on the 4:00 a.m. YC pontoon ride 5/24 (MA, LC,AC,TG,MH,GL,MS). First **Cerulean Warbler** was heard at CC 5/12 (MVT); listed only 5/14 (v.o.) in *Indiana*, reports detailed 8 individuals. First dates included 4/19 (LC,TG,MH,GL,DM) at YC and 4/26 (MVT) at CC for **Black-and-white Warbler** and 4/30 (MH,RH) near Mahoning Dam and 5/4 (SB) n. of IN for **American Redstart**. A **Worm-eating Warbler** was a nice find near Parkwood 5/14 (LS,LuS,RS). By 4/25 (MH) 8 **Ovenbirds** were singing at BS. YC yielded **Northern Waterthrushes** on three dates – 3 on 5/3 (LC,TG,MH,ML), 2 on 5/10 (LC,SD,TG,MH, GL, JT,MVT), and one 5/17 (LC,TG,MH); last occurred at PG 5/20 (CG,MH,RH,LW,DW,RW). First **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were noted 4/6 (KB) at CD, 4/9 (TS) near Rochester Mills, and 4/12 (LC, TG,MH) at YC. A **Kentucky Warbler** near CS 5/9 (MH) was first. A **Mourning Warbler** showed up 5/7 (MC) in a yard near LV where it was photographed.



Marcy Cunkelman photographed this Mourning Warbler through her window 5/7.

YC yielded the first **Common Yellowthroats** 4/23 (LC,EFu,TFu,TG,MH,RH) and **Hooded Warblers** 4/26 (LC,SD,RG,SG,TG,MH,GL,ML,RN,TP,CR, MJS). A **Wilson's Warbler** on Reservoir Hill 5/14 (PJ) and a **Canada Warbler** at YC 5/10 (LC,SD,TG, GL, JT,MVT) were the only ones reported. The PAMC (v.o.) yielded 7 Yellow-breasted Chats in *Indiana*.

The first **Eastern Towhee** was noted near Plumville

3/5 (MJ). Last **American Tree Sparrow** lingered n. of IN through 3/29 (SB). First returning **Chipping Sparrow** occurred at YC 3/22 (LC,TG,MH,GL, ML,RN) while the first **Field Sparrows** were noted 4/7 (MH) at CC and 4/21 (MH) near SH. Single **Vesper Sparrows** were found only near Heilwood 5/9 (RH) and in Burrell Twp. 5/28 (MH,RH). The *Indiana* PAMC yielded only 6 **Savannah Sparrows** (v.o.) and one **Grasshopper Sparrow** (MC,AD); 2 Grasshoppers were singing near Elderton 4/30 (MH, RH). Twelve **Henslow's Sparrows** were reported near West Lebanon singing after midnight 5/14 (MC, AD). **Fox Sparrows** migrated through *Indiana* between 3/1 (LC,TG,MH,DM) and 4/14 (MC) with the high count of 7 near LV 3/28 (MC). First **Swamp Sparrow** returned to YC 4/4 (GL) while 3 were foraging in shrubbery at CC 4/7 (MH). The last **White-throated Sparrow** was seen at YC 5/19 (LC, TG,MH,GL). Numerous **White-crowned Sparrow** reports spanned the dates 4/23 (BF,TF) through 5/17 (LC,TG,MH).

Scarlet Tanagers returned to YC by 4/26 (LC,SD, RG,SG,TG,MH,GL,ML,RN,TP,CR,MJS). April 25 marked the return of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** both near Penn Run (BF,TF) and n. of IN (SB). CC harbored the first returning **Indigo Bunting** 4/21 (MVT); next Indigo sighting occurred a week later on 4/28 (BF,MH) at YC. The *Indiana* PAMC (v.o.) yielded only 10 **Bobolinks**, the only ones noted this spring besides 2 on the Margaret BBS 5/30 (MH, RH). First **Eastern Meadowlarks** included individuals near Elderton 3/6 (MH,RH), at PG 3/17 (JS), and at YC 4/9 (SG). A walk along Crooked Creek near SH yielded 5 **Rusty Blackbirds** 3/3 (MH); 3 Rusties were flipping leaves at Rosston 3/5 (MH, RH) while YC hosted 4 on 3/8 (LC,SD,TG,MH, ML); singletons were spotted at YC 3/27 (EF,MF) and 4/26-28 (v.o.). First **Brown-headed Cowbird** arrived n. of IN 3/22 (SB).

Two **Orchard Orioles** arrived at YC 4/27 (LC,TG, MH,GL,DM), and 2 were found along Dutch Run 4/30 (MH,RH). A **Baltimore Oriole** had returned to YC by 4/23 (LC,EFu,TFu,TG,MH,RH), while *Armstrong's* first was seen at KR 4/30 (MH,RH).

Single **Common Redpolls** were listed near LV 3/3,6 (MC), at Patton 3/4 (JS), and near YC 3/5 (PA). **Pine Siskin** reports included 2 at Ebensburg 3/30 (JS), one at CC 4/7, 6 near LV 4/14 (MC), 2 near SH 4/25 (MH), one in IN 5/4,14 (SGa), and 12 near LV 5/7 (MC).



A Common Redpoll near Lewisville takes center stage among the House Finches.

Photo by Marcy Cunkelman



Common Redpoll was a good find near Lewisville 4/3.

Photo by Marcy Cunkelman

Observers: Leonard Anderson, Pat Andrascik, Mary Assenat, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Sid Blair, Ken Byerly, Kyle Carlsen, Lee Carnahan, Susan Comfort, Marcy Cunkelman, Susan Dickson, Anita Duffalo, Jamie Empfield, Gary Ferrence, Betsy Fetterman, Jed Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Elyse Fuller (EFu), Tom Fuller (TFu), Sue Gatti (SGa), Randi Gerrish, Sarah Gerrish, Tom Glover, Steve Gosser, Joyce Griffith, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, 2 biology labs from Indiana University of PA (IUP), Bob Jackman, Pat Johner, Marian Johnson, Jessica Jopp, Joe Rowe, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Rita Lippert, Melissa Little, Donna Meyer, Richard Nowell (RNo), Richard Nugent, Tom Pearson, Cindy Rogers, Tim Schreckengost, Mary Jane Seipler (MJS), Mike Shaffer, Linda Stormer, Luke Stormer (LuS), Rodger Stormer, Mark Strittmatter (MSt), Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Mary Lu Tucker (MLT), Marge Van Tassel (MVT), Linda Wagner, Daniel Winstead, Ray Winstead, Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC), Todd Bird Club (TBC).

Join Todd Bird Club

Todd Bird Club dues are due and payable on January 1 each year. Please remit your \$10 individual membership or \$15 family membership dues to:

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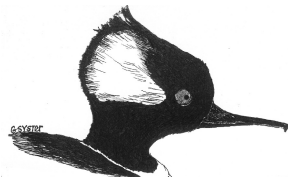


Taking a rest after the Shawnee State Park outing, led by Mike and Laura Jackson, at the PSO meeting on May 22 are the following participants: (seated) Linda Wagner, Carol Guba, Daniel Winstead, Mary Jane Seipler; (standing) Ray Winstead, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Tom Pearson.

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

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Be sure to check out our website at www.ToddBirdClub.org.
Special thanks to Ed and Sue Donley for creating such a wonderful website!



Todd Bird Club

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