

The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

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

August 2012

Meetings

Todd Bird Club meetings are held at 7:00 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. We will socialize till 7:30 when the meeting will promptly begin. Refreshments are provided at each of our meetings. In May we hold our banquet meeting which starts at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 4 – IUP student Derek Clawson PA, will present a digital slide program entitled *Birding South Africa* at our first fall meeting. Derek has some wonderful photos. Don't miss this great program!

Tuesday, October 2 – Yellow Creek State Park Naturalist, Mike Shaffer, will present a program on *The Snakes of Pennsylvania* at this meeting. Don't let their scales and appearance fool you; snakes play an important role in the environment. Find out what's real and what's not, from the venomous to the perfectly harmless. Learn how to identify all 21 species of snakes in PA, their habitat preferences, range, and distribution.

Tuesday, November 6 – Member Tom Glover will present *Night with a Novice*, incorporating untold tales of birding Texas, Ohio, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Pennsylvania. Don't miss this 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 7:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 19 – 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.

Directions: From Indiana take Route 286 for about 10 miles to Saltsburg Road; turn left onto Saltsburg Road. (Saltsburg Road is just past the town of Jacksonville at the top of the hill; a medical center will be on your left.) Follow Saltsburg Road for 1.8 miles to Newport Road; turn left onto Newport for 1.7 miles. Turn right onto Barkley Road. Follow Barkley for 1.4 miles to Swisco Road. Turn left into Swisco.

Saturday, September 8 – 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).

(continued on page 2)

A Note from Our Co-President

Greetings, Todd Birders!

I hope that you are getting ready for another wonderful season of meeting your fellow birders (old and new) at our Blue Spruce Park meetings. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful venue for our meetings. We appreciate the wonderful working relationship that we have with the Indiana County Parks system. Not only is the park an excellent location for our meetings, we also look forward to annual outings at the various county park locations.

I don't know about you, but for me, this summer has gone by quickly. Once again, at the beginning of my summer "vacation," I vowed to make it to at least a few of the Tuesday morning outings. Well, as with all good intentions, this one also went by the wayside, and I never even made it to one. I guess part of the problem was this "vacation" that I referred to in the last sentence. I really didn't think that I was committing myself to that much in the way of obligations when I started the summer, but it really did turn out that way.

My first big commitment this summer was to attend the National Education Association conference in Washington, DC, for eight days in the beginning of July. It was a wonderful experience that I was able to share with about 10,000 other teachers. It was honestly overwhelming to see so many other teachers in one place at one time. In addition to the administrative work that was held at the conference, I was also able to take some time to visit a few of the historical monuments at night. I must admit that the Korean War memorial was almost spooky. The

Martin Luther King memorial was truly huge and inspiring. It was a different view from what you see in the light of day. I was also able to watch the "PBS Capitol Fourth" program live. I am usually sitting on my sofa in the living room of my house. And following the production was one of the most spectacular fireworks' displays that I have ever seen. It was a wonderful opportunity, but I was doing laundry and housework for the entire week afterwards.

My other "vacation" commitment was a week at Penn State for an Agriculture in the Classroom program. It was a week of dairy cows, pigs, corn, milk testing, and growing plants from seeds during one of the warmest weeks of the year. We attended sessions from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. (or later) every day. I was able to see "the statue" just a few days before it was removed, and I did consume my share of peachy Paterno, just in case that went by the wayside, too.

So when did I do any birding??? Did I mention the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference, too? Thank goodness for the normalcy of a year of Todd Bird Club meetings. I look forward to everything that I can learn from the wonderful programs that we have. I hope to see everyone on the first Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 at Blue Spruce County Park. Make the effort to fit it into your schedule, particularly if you haven't come in a while. We'll be glad to see you there.

Linda Jones, Co-President

Outings *(continued from page 1)*

Saturday, September 15 – 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. Meet in the first large parking lot near the park office at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 22 – Blue Spruce County Park, led by Ray and Daniel Winstead. This outing promises migrant warblers and other passerines. Blue Spruce is an excellent fall birding location. Meet in the first large parking lot near the park office at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 29 – Join Tom Glover for a hike along the Mahoning Shadow Trail and a visit to Hemlock Lake County Park. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Winslow access to the MST. Take Route 36 from Punxy toward Mahaffey; go about 4 miles, and just after an Amish store on the left, turn right onto Winslow Road. The MST is on

the right about half a mile from Route 36. There is a parking area. The habitat is upland woodland. Hemlock Lake is about 5 miles south of the trail. To carpool from Indiana, contact the Higbees (724-354-3493).

October 6 – 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.

October 13 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Gloria Lamer (724-349-1159). We are hoping for early waterfowl on this outing. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

October 20 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Georgette Syster (724-349-6293). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

Hog Island Revisited

by Daniel Winstead

This past June, I was given a scholarship to attend the Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens program, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, on Hog Island, Maine. It was great! I would like to thank the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society for giving me this scholarship, and Margaret Higbee and Linda Jones for writing my letters of recommendation.

Upon arrival at Hog Island I was greeted by Scott Weidensaul, the author of many books about natural history including, *Of a Feather* and *Living on the Wind*. He gave us our bearings and told us where to meet in about two hours. I went to the “Crow’s Nest,” where the teens stayed that week, put my luggage down, grabbed my binoculars, and went birding. I walked down to the dock where I saw a small black bird fly by flashing white patches on its wings. One of the leaders stopped to ask what I saw, so I told him about the bird. He told me it was probably a Black Guillemot and gave me the field markings. We walked to a small rocky ledge and looked out on the water to find it. Then I spotted it again. That was my first lifer of the trip. I met some of the other teen birders who were looking at a Northern Parula nest. We took some pictures of the almost ready to fledge chicks and attended a small starting presentation. We all introduced ourselves and explained why we were there, and we were told what the week would be like and about some of the things we would be doing. We then ate a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Janii Laberge in the dining area/kitchen called “The Bridge.” The next presentation by Steve Kress dealt with the history of Hog Island and Project Puffin. Afterwards the teens had a small meeting and played a few Icebreakers. We went back to the Crow’s Nest and got ready for the next morning.

At 5:45 a.m., we attended a morning bird walk across a small portion of the island. Along the trail we heard Golden-crowned Kinglets and Dark-eyed Juncos singing. In a small bog near the trail we admired the Sundews and Pitcher plants. We returned and had a wonderful breakfast. Afterwards, we took the boat, the “Snow Goose III” to the mainland and went birding along McCurdy Pond Road. Some of the highlights were a Pine Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, and a Northern Waterthrush and Canada Warbler in the same bush; we heard a Brown Creeper, Veery, and Common Loon as well. Next we went to a marsh owned by Damariscotta River Association and saw Bobolinks, a Pied-billed Grebe, and Black-billed Cuckoos, and we heard two Soras, one of which



Upon arrival I was greeted by Scott Weidensaul.



The Black Guillemot was my first lifer on the trip.



On the way to Eastern Egg Rock Atlantic Puffins were flying around the boat.

was fifteen feet away and never came out of the brush. We returned to the island and ate lunch after which we went out on the “Snow Goose III” again, heading to Wreck Island. On the way, during a small thunderstorm, we saw Harbor Porpoises, Harbor Seals, a Great Cormorant, a Red-breasted Merganser, and a Black Scoter. We landed on the island by way of an old cod boat the “Audubon.” On the Island we saw American Redstarts and Great Blue Herons perched high on the nests, like sentries. On the way back we saw Common Eiders with their chicks trailing behind. When we got back, we enjoyed some wonderful mackerel for dinner. Our evening program was “Taking the Sexism out of Birds” with Sara Morris. For the program we brought our field guides and were asked to identify pictures of female/immature female birds. The presentation really emphasized that pattern is more important than color when identifying females.

Tuesday morning we had breakfast and headed for Eastern Egg Rock. While it did call for rain, we didn’t get a lot, just a drizzle. On the way we had a chance to see about ten Wilson’s Storm-Petrels and a Manx Shearwater. At arrival at Eastern Egg Rock, Atlantic Puffins were flying around the boat along with Common, Arctic, and Roseate Terns. On one of the outer seaweed covered rocks someone spotted a Razorbill. We stayed there, admiring the scene of puffins and terns. On our way back we saw more Wilson’s Storm-Petrels and Harbor Porpoises. We ate lunch and then headed for a hike across half of the 330-acre island led by one of the youth camp leaders, Josh. While hiking in the spruce forest carpeted by moss and lichens, we heard the songs of Hermit and Swainson’s Thrushes resonating in the distance. White-throated Sparrows and Winter Wrens also singing added to the scene. While seeing some awesome birds on that trip, we also saw things like Slime Mold. Near the end of that walk we had a really good look at a Blackburnian Warbler. After getting back and eating another amazing dinner, we attended the evening presentation. Julie Zickefoose, author of *The Bluebird Effect*, shared some stories about her adventures raising various birds including Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Mourning Doves, and Chimney Swifts. Not to mention she sang! After meeting with the Corvids (the teen campers) we went back to the “Crow’s Nest.” After about five minutes one of the other teens barged through the door and told us there was a Porcupine outside, so quite a few of us went down behind “The Bridge” to the compost pile where the Porcupine was very slowly climbing a tree.



We caught a male Black-throated Green Warbler and were able to make various measurements.

We got within fifteen feet of it, but then it went higher into the tree until we couldn’t see it any longer. We all returned to the nest and listened to Heather, the other teen camp leader, who sang some songs as she played her guitar.

On Wednesday morning, we went to a small bird banding intro with Sara Morris. After about twenty minutes or so, we caught a Song Sparrow. Sara explained markings she was looking for on it and how she measured the wings, feet, etc. She let the sparrow go after a short time because it was a female that needed to tend its young. After the presentation we ate breakfast and got ready for the day ahead. Before we headed for Harbor Island, we heard a Red Crossbill. After hearing it for about five minutes and trying to get our binoculars on the bird, it flew out of the spruce and towards the mainland. Around 8:30 a.m., we got on the boat and headed off. We saw more cormorants and seals along the way. When we landed on the island,

we heard Yellow Warblers singing and Chipping Sparrows chipping. We hiked a short ways till we came to a rocky shore where we dropped most of our stuff and visited a cave-like formation. We came back and started to ferry to the “Snow Goose III” with the “Audubon.” When we arrived back at Hog Island, we had lunch and then went a little deeper into Hog Island to do some more bird banding with Sara. After a little bit, we caught a Black-throated Green Warbler. It was a male, so we were able to make more measurements than with the Song Sparrow. After measuring and banding it, we talked about some of its anatomy. Sara put the warbler up against each of our ears so we could listen to its heart beat. It was so warm even though it was so small. Its heart beat was like a cat purring without interruption. After releasing it, we waited for another bird but never caught anything else, so we went to dinner. The evening presentation was with Lang Elliott. During the week, if we wanted to, we could go out at 4:00 a.m. to record some of the birds of the Island. His presentation showed us what everyone had recorded so far during the week. The species included Swainson’s Thrushes, Winter Wrens, Brown Creepers, American Crows, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Dark-eyed Juncos. That night those of the “Corvids” who wanted to went to a pollen covered pond to find Gray Tree Frogs. When we arrived there, we were met with a chorus of frogs singing their surprisingly loud calls.

Thursday morning after breakfast I suggested that before

we go to the mainland to bird that we take a short 20-minute hike to find the Merlin, which was seen on the island several other times by other groups. So a few of us hiked to where the Merlin was nesting. When we got there, right on schedule, the Merlin called and flew to the top of a spruce for all of us to see. We hurried back to the dock in time to get on the ferry to the mainland, heading to Medomak. We saw some awesome birds there including Chestnut-sided Warblers, a Willow Flycatcher, a Hooded Merganser, and a Swamp Sparrow. We returned to the Island for lunch. Afterwards we headed to WesKeag Marsh. Upon arrival we saw Snowy Egrets and heard Nelson's Sparrows, and a Belted Kingfisher flew over our heads. We scanned the marsh for anything different and then went to a new vantage point. There we saw Killdeer and two Lesser Yellowlegs. When we got back to Hog Island, we had a lobster dinner. Not only were there 16 teens, but there was also a large group of adults on the island as well, and each of the 60 persons there, who wanted one, had his or her own lobster. After the dinner we went into the Fish House. There Bill Thompson III told us some hilarious stories and played his guitar. That night the Corvids went out to the dock and

shined our flashlights in the water to attract any plankton so we could scoop them up with a net to see them. Afterwards we shut off our flashlights and put our hands in the water and moved them around to see the bioluminescent plankton.

On the last day, I woke up at 3:30 a.m. to record bird songs with Lang Elliott and a few other birders. Lang gave us a little tutorial on how to work the parabolic microphones and then we were off. The first thing we recorded was a Dark-eyed Junco. We rotated the microphones when we found a new bird. I had the chance to also record a Brown Creeper and a Winter Wren.

The trip list for everyone at the camp was 121. My personal trip list was 89. It was a very successful trip! Not only were there great birds on that trip but also great people. Teens came from as far as Georgia, and some of the adults came from California and Canada. From the great food to making up fake birds like the Vampire Pygmy-Mango, this was a trip I will never forget. I highly recommend that you visit Hog Island someday.

Wildbird Recovery Plans Fall Migration Festival

Wildbird Recovery is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation and release of distressed wild birds. They promote responsible attitudes toward the preservation of native species, habitat, and the environment. They are state and federally licensed with more than 15 years' training and experience in the care and treatment of injured and orphaned wild birds.

Owned and operated by Beth McMaster, Wildbird Recovery is located in Western Pennsylvania on 14 acres of beautiful farmland. Beth has dedicated her life to helping wild birds and educating the public on how to conserve the natural resources native to Pennsylvania.

The 1st Annual Wildbird Recovery Fall Migration Festival will be held on September 22, 2012. This event will be their biggest fundraising event of the year. The

festival will include tours of the property, a chance to meet their education birds, musical accompaniment, and of course drinks and finger foods.

They are the only wildlife rehabilitation center in Butler County and help more than 400 animals every year. The organization has few but very dedicated individuals who help with this cause. This event will help raise money for animal care as well as expanding their Environmental Education Programs. They are designated a 501 C3 non-profit organization and rely immensely on donations. This year they would like to make the first Annual Fall Migration Festival a success by incorporating a silent auction. They would like help by receiving donations to the silent auction or by getting sponsors for the event. Any contribution is appreciated, and no donation is too small.

For more information, go to www.wildbirdrecovery.org.

For a new outlook on bird feeding, read Douglas W. Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home*, Timber Press, 2007.

Did you know that the Yellow Warbler is the most widespread of the North American wood warblers?

Notes from a Novice Birding Delaware

by Tom Glover

This past Memorial Day weekend I was invited by Tom and Elyse Fuller, my son-in-law and daughter, on an outing to Delaware. They are members of the Rockland County Audubon Chapter located in their home state of New York. Along with five other chapter members, Zenon Bachir, John and Jane Lampkin, and Alan and Della Wells, we all met in Dover, Delaware, for a weekend of intense birding.

Tom, Elyse, and I met at the motel about 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 25. Our rooms were not ready at that time, so we decided to have an early dinner and bird. After dinner we headed for the DuPont Nature Center on the Mispillion Inlet with hope of scoring one of our weekend's target birds, the Sabine's Gull. We were there for about four hours, but the Sabine's Gull was not to be found. We did, however, see other target species. The shoreline around the inlet was crowded with birds. Hundreds of Red Knots were feeding on Horseshoe Crab eggs, but outnumbering the Red Knots were thousands of Semipalmated Sandpipers, along with lesser numbers of Ruddy Turnstones and Dunlins. We were treated to a pair of foraging and preening Clapper Rails no more than 100 feet in front us for well over ten minutes. And in the marsh grass around the area, Seaside Sparrows were singing and visible. Toward dark we decided to stalk another reported bird in the area, the Black Rail, but that bird proved to be one of the no-shows for the weekend.

The following morning after breakfast, the eight of us met in the motel's parking lot and headed for the DuPont Nature Center in search of the Sabine's Gull. This time we were not disappointed. When we arrived, a number of other birders already had the bird scoped out, so for the next hour we followed the gull as it foraged and interacted with the other birds. One of the interesting observations on that Saturday morning were the Red Knots. Their numbers were way down compared to the previous evening. Apparently, most of the Red Knots had left during the night. On our departure from the center, we stopped by a muddy marsh creek and were treated to a number of Clapper Rails. Here in western PA we are

lucky to see any rail – Virginia or Sora – let alone what could be termed a small flock of rails.

Our next stop was nearby Slaughter Beach where one of the most impressive sights was again the thousands of foraging Semipalmated Sandpipers which were found in large numbers at every shore location we visited over the weekend. Also impressive were the Horseshoe Crabs. The Memorial Day weekend coincided with the tail end of the

Horseshoe Crab's annual breeding season along the Delaware shores. Slaughter Beach was littered not only with live crabs, but with dead ones as well. Members of our group made an attempt to rescue some of the hapless upside down crabs stranded on the beach.

After birding Slaughter Beach, we drove US Route 13 to Bridgeville, Delaware, about 30 miles south of Dover. At this location in an undeveloped grassy field across from McDonald's was our target bird, Dickcissel. And we were not

disappointed; as we got out of the cars, we were greeted with a singing Grasshopper Sparrow, and across the street was a rather vocal Dickcissel. Also at this location we scored Eastern Meadowlarks and a Bald Eagle.

After taking a midmorning break at the adjacent McDonald's, we headed for our next stop, Abbott's Mill Nature Center, a property of the Delaware Nature Society. The center was closed for the holiday, but the trails were open, so we walked a trail that meandered through a forested area. Here we found one of the few hawks that the weekend supplied, a Red-shouldered Hawk. It was interesting that we encountered very few hawks on this outing. It was not until I was well away from Delaware that I began to notice hawks on the wing. We next made our way to the town of Milford for lunch at the Georgia House. After lunch as we were walking back to the cars, we noticed of all things an American Kestrel on a "ship" weather vane atop a church. Now we were not the only ones to take notice of the kestrel as the bird was being dive-bombed by Chimney Swifts.

Our primary afternoon stop was at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, which was open and crowded with



Dickcissel was one of our target species.

Photo by Alan Wells

people. The refuge has a diverse ecology. The wetlands yielded Sandhill Crane, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, and Osprey. After standing in the hot sun overlooking the marsh, we decided to take one of the shaded trails which rewarded us with Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, and a great view of a Prothonotary Warbler. The Acadian Flycatcher proved to be a challenge – by the time the bird was through with us, we all suffered from "warbler-neck."

As we worked our way north toward Dover, we again checked Slaughter Beach and the DuPont Nature Center. The Sabine's Gull was still visible from the deck, and the bird was still drawing a crowd. Our last location for Saturday was Port Mahon Road just east of Dover. The road follows a rocky shoreline and produced a fly-over Glossy Ibis. The sandy patches along the shore were crowded with Semipalmated Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, and Dunlins, and a few Semipalmated Plovers. After dinner we turned in to rest up for Sunday's outing.

Sunday morning we all again gathered in the motel's parking lot and headed to Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge. We had had a preview of what to expect at the refuge because John and Jane had stopped at Bombay earlier Friday and discovered a Yellow-breasted Chat along the entrance road. On Friday and Saturday John teased us with photos of the bird. Sure enough, right where John and Jane had found the bird on Friday, we relocated it on Sunday morning. We pulled off the road and piled out to get a look at the chat. I noticed that John and Jane delayed moving away from their car, and when they did catch up with us, they were wearing face nets. We soon discovered why. Within a few minutes all of us were molested by swarms of deer flies. The little blood suckers were determined to have us for breakfast. For some reason the flies had a particular taste for Zenon. The whole time we were at Bombay we were fighting flies. Now, the flies did not stop us from birding, but it was not unusual for our conversations to be punctuated with a "slap" of a fly. On the refuge's Boardwalk Trail that circled its way around a marsh, we came across Willow Flycatchers and nesting Marsh Wrens. In fact some of the wrens' nests were no

more than a few feet off the boardwalk. The refuge provided me one life bird that I personally liked, a Black Tern that circled over Bear Swamp Pool. On the shore of the pool were a number of Glossy Ibis, Willets, Great and Snowy Egrets, and both Yellow- and Black-crowned Night-Herons. We spent the entire morning birding our way through Bombay.



This is just one of the many Clapper Rails we saw this weekend.

Photo by Alan Wells



Accompanied by Laughing Gulls, the Sabine's Gull lifts its wings showing the striking contrasting black, white, and gray pattern.

Photo by Alan Wells

For lunch we stopped at Boondocks near Smyrna. This restaurant was out in the middle of nowhere, but it did prove to be worth the effort. They served locally caught seafood by the bucketful. After working our way through crabs, shrimp, fish, and fries, we started out for the afternoon's birding.

Our first stop was at Ted Harvey Conservation Area. As we entered Ted Harvey, we were greeted by a White-eyed Vireo. The area is made up of coastal forests, grassy marshes, and shoreline. Yes, we found large mixed flocks of Semipalmated Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, and Dunlins, with a few Black-bellied Plovers mixed in, and we also found Horseshoe Crabs on the beach.

After two days of intense birding, we did return to the motel a bit early on Sunday. For dinner that night we decided on "B B Q." In keeping with the birding theme of the weekend, the name of the restaurant was Where Pigs Fly. The food was great, and after using an entire roll of paper towels, we reminisced about our weekend.

For me personally it was a great time. I listed 108 birds on this trip, while the group tallied 123 species. Of my 108 species, nine of those were life birds for me: Glossy Ibis, Red Knot, Sabine's Gull, Black Tern, Yellow-breasted Chat, Grasshopper Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, and Dickcissel. Not only did I add nine new birds to my life list, I also had the privilege of adding new birders to my list: Zenon, Jane, John, Della, and Alan. And Tom and Elyse I truly thank you for a great weekend.

Mmm, now I do have one open thought from that fabulous weekend, should I make my total 109 by adding "Flying Pigs"?

Armstrong North American Migration Count 2012

Canada Goose	29	American Crow	6	Chestnut-sided Warbler	1
Wood Duck	3	Common Raven	1	Palm Warbler	1
Double-crested Cormorant	2	Tree Swallow	15	Eastern Towhee	3
Great Blue Heron	1	Barn Swallow	7	Chipping Sparrow	21
Bald Eagle	2	Black-capped Chickadee	2	Field Sparrow	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	Tufted Titmouse	4	Song Sparrow	3
Killdeer	1	Carolina Wren	1	White-throated Sparrow	1
Mourning Dove	6	House Wren	3	White-crowned Sparrow	2
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	Scarlet Tanager	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4	Eastern Bluebird	2	Northern Cardinal	13
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	Veery	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Downy Woodpecker	1	Hermit Thrush	1	Indigo Bunting	1
Northern Flicker	1	Wood Thrush	6	Red-winged Blackbird	1
Pileated Woodpecker	4	American Robin	22	Eastern Meadowlark	1
Acadian Flycatcher	2	Gray Catbird	6	Common Grackle	17
Eastern Phoebe	3	Ovenbird	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	Northern Waterthrush	1	Baltimore Oriole	6
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	Northern Parula	2	House Finch	2
Red-eyed Vireo	9	Common Yellowthroat	2	American Goldfinch	8
Blue Jay	7	Yellow Warbler	6	House Sparrow	3

Total Number of Species 60
Total Number of Individuals 262

PAMC Observers

Pat Andrascik	George	Anna Jennings	Linda Stormer
Bill Betts	English	Pat Johner	Luke Stormer
Tom Betts	Joy	Connie Johnston	Rodger Stormer
Jean Blair	Fairbanks	*Sally Labino	Garrett Strittmatter
Sid Blair	Emmy Fairman	Gloria Lamer	Ian Strittmatter
Vernon Blystone	Betsy Fetterman	Dennis Lauffer	Mark Strittmatter
Lee Carnahan	Tom Fetterman	Mary A. Little	Georgette Syster
Shirley Chase	Evelyn Fowles	Howard Mandigo	John Taylor
Dorcas Clark	Mike Fowles	Bruce Mehus	Mary Lu Tucker
Derek Clawson	Sue Gatti	Helen Mehus	Ila Tuorinsky
Geraldine Conrad	Ed Griffith	Marilyn Moore	Steve Tuorinsky
Dan Cunkelman	Joyce Griffith	Richard Nowell	*Marge Van Tassel
Marcy Cunkelman	Matthew Griffith	Marjorie Peterson	Daniel Winstead
Gloria Dick	Carol Guba	Marty Pisarcik	Ray Winstead
Sue Dickson	*Carol Hall	Sara Pulliam	*Jamie Wright
Ed Donley	Margaret Higbee	Cindy Rogers	Greg Zawrotny
*Erma Dovenspike	Roger Higbee	Nancy Smeltzer	Robin Zawrotny
Dee English	Emily Hughes	Patrick Snickles	



*Armstrong County Observer

Indiana North American Migration Count 2012

Canada Goose	195	Least Flycatcher	2	Hooded Warbler	73
Wood Duck	13	Eastern Phoebe	58	American Redstart	95
Mallard	43	Great Crested Flycatcher	11	Cerulean Warbler	9
Common Merganser	1	Eastern Kingbird	26	Northern Parula	1
Ruddy Duck	5	White-eyed Vireo	10	Magnolia Warbler	27
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	Yellow-throated Vireo	16	Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Ruffed Grouse	9	Blue-headed Vireo	16	Blackburnian Warbler	3
Wild Turkey	39	Warbling Vireo	12	Yellow Warbler	179
Common Loon	2	Red-eyed Vireo	524	Chestnut-sided Warbler	22
Horned Grebe	3	Blue Jay	252	Blackpoll Warbler	6
Double-crested Cormorant	30	American Crow	374	Black-throated Blue Warbler	1
Great Blue Heron	21	Fish Crow	5	Pine Warbler	2
Green Heron	4	Common Raven	7	Yellow-rumped Warbler	4
Turkey Vulture	71	Horned Lark	1	Yellow-throated Warbler	3
Osprey	1	Tree Swallow	114	Prairie Warbler	15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	55	Black-throated Green Warbler	84
Cooper's Hawk	5	Bank Swallow	3	Canada Warbler	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	Cliff Swallow	4	Wilson's Warbler	1
Broad-winged Hawk	4	Barn Swallow	345	Yellow-breasted Chat	6
Red-tailed Hawk	33	Black-capped Chickadee	138	Eastern Towhee	250
American Kestrel	12	Tufted Titmouse	104	Chipping Sparrow	274
American Coot	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	38	Field Sparrow	62
Killdeer	32	Brown Creeper	2	Vesper Sparrow	1
Spotted Sandpiper	18	Carolina Wren	27	Savannah Sparrow	4
Solitary Sandpiper	4	House Wren	50	Grasshopper Sparrow	3
Least Sandpiper	1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	33	Henslow's Sparrow	15
Dunlin	1	Eastern Bluebird	95	Song Sparrow	242
American Woodcock	5	Swainson's Thrush	1	Swamp Sparrow	1
Rock Pigeon	37	Hermit Thrush	6	White-throated Sparrow	27
Mourning Dove	272	Wood Thrush	183	White-crowned Sparrow	8
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	American Robin	1130	Dark-eyed Junco	4
Black-billed Cuckoo	8	Gray Catbird	234	Scarlet Tanager	170
Great Horned Owl	3	Northern Mockingbird	15	Northern Cardinal	359
Common Nighthawk	1	Brown Thrasher	27	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	76
Eastern Whip-poor-will	3	European Starling	684	Indigo Bunting	91
Chimney Swift	250	Cedar Waxwing	74	Bobolink	9
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	39	Ovenbird	248	Red-winged Blackbird	887
Belted Kingfisher	11	Worm-eating Warbler	2	Eastern Meadowlark	58
Red-bellied Woodpecker	61	Louisiana Waterthrush	3	Common Grackle	647
Downy Woodpecker	33	Northern Waterthrush	3	Brown-headed Cowbird	51
Hairy Woodpecker	17	Blue-winged Warbler	21	Orchard Oriole	26
Northern Flicker	68	Black-and-white Warbler	6	Baltimore Oriole	156
Pileated Woodpecker	33	Tennessee Warbler	22	Purple Finch	18
Eastern Wood-Pewee	23	Nashville Warbler	11	House Finch	64
Acadian Flycatcher	28	Kentucky Warbler	5	American Goldfinch	184
Alder Flycatcher	2	Common Yellowthroat	339	House Sparrow	233
Willow Flycatcher	9				

Total Number of Species

139

Total Number of Individuals

11,255

Observer Effort

Indiana

Total Party Hours: 118.16

Total Party Miles: 730.45 mi.

Armstrong

Total Party Hours: 22.67

Total Party Miles: 40 mi.

Indiana, Armstrong, Cambria County

Spring – March 1 to May 31, 2012

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), Crooked Creek (CC), Hemlock Lake County Park (HL), Indiana (IN), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Lewisville (LV), Margus Lake (ML), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG), Rochester Mills (RM), Rosston (RT), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TLR), Worthington (WT), Yellow Creek State Park (YC)

By 3/20 (LC,MH,GL,ML) **Canada Geese** were already on nest at YC. At least 100 geese were feeding in the fields along Rt. 422 near SH 4/1 (MH,RH). A **Mute Swan** was found at TL 3/13 (SK,ShK); another, or possibly the same bird, was at YC 3/27 (LC,TG,MH,GL) through 5/3 (LC). Two **Tundra Swans** at KR 3/1 (MH,RH) and a late individual at YC 4/17 (LC,TG,MH,KT) were the only ones noted this season.

March 2 was the arrival date for the first 2 **Wood Ducks** at YC (LC,MH) while *Armstrong's* first did not appear till 3/18 (TR) at RT. The top counts of 27 and 20 **Gadwalls** occurred respectively at ML 3/13 (SK,ShK) and at PG 3/31 (CD). Ten **American Wigeons** arrived at YC 3/3 (LC) where the peak count of 66 was reached three days later (LC,MH); last seen were 16 on 4/17 (LC,TG,MH,KT). **Mallard** maxima included 72 at YC 3/3 (LC) and 85 near LV 3/15 (MC); first 5 Mallard ducklings were noted 5/22 (CA,LC,TG,MH,GL,JM,MS) during a pontoon ride at YC. First **Blue-winged Teal** were 2 on ML 3/17 (ST), one on 4/1 (ST), and 4 on 4/7 (MVT) at KR; the high YC tally was 14 on 4/15 (LC) while PG's high was a mere 4 on 4/25 (MD); last noted was a singleton at YC 5/8 (LC,TG,MH,GL,KT). After a late February passage, one to 5 **Northern Shovelers** stopped at YC between 3/2 (MM) and 4/24 (LC,TG,MH,GL,KT); PG yielded 5 on 3/31 (CD), the lone *Cambria* report; last noted was a singleton at KR 5/31 (NB,KB). Thirty-eight **Northern Pintails** were tallied 3/3 (LC) at YC where 4 lingered through 3/6 (LC,MH). Top count of 17 **Green-winged Teal** was achieved 3/13 (LC,MH) at YC; a singleton remained there through 5/1 (MB,LC,TG,MH,GL,HM,RN,NY). Ten **Canvasbacks** were still present at YC 3/3 (LC); 3 stopped at PG 3/31 (CD); and last noted was a singleton at YC 4/26 (LC). Four **Redheads** arrived 3/10 (RM) both at YC and at CC; 8 were listed on ML 3/17 (ST); PG harbored 3 on 3/31 (CD); YC's last was sighted 4/24 (LC,TG,MH,GL,KT). Top **Ring-necked Duck** counts were 43 at KR 3/1 (MH,RH) and 341 at YC 3/3 (LC); 3 at PG 4/16 (CD) and one near Tide 4/26 (LC) were the last reported. First **Greater Scaup** were 8 on 3/6 (LC,MH) at YC and one at CC 3/10 (RM); 500 was an amazing estimate at PG 3/31 (CD); the last were found 4/16 (CD) at PG and 4/26 (LC) at YC. Best **Lesser Scaup** tallies were 168 on 3/24 (LC,TG,MH,RH,SS,JT) at YC and 200 on 3/31 (CD) at PG; 4 at PG 5/2 (MD) were *Cambria's* last while one individual lingered at YC through 5/15 (LC,TG,MH,RN,JT). An immature drake **Surf Scoter**, a nice find at YC on the joint 3RBC-TBC outing 4/7, remained on the lake through 4/17 (LC,TG,MH,KT). Five **Long-tailed Ducks**

arrived at YC 3/24 (LC,TG,MH,RH,SS,JT), and 2 were sighted there 3/31 (FOP,TBC), the same day PG hosted 52 (CD); RT harbored one on 4/8 (RM). An amazing 761 **Buffleheads** were counted at YC 3/24 (LC,TG,MH,RH,SS,JT); 43 was CC's best tally 3/30 (MH,JV) while 164 were counted at PG 4/1 (ST); last noted were 4 at YC and 3 near Tide, both 4/26 (LC). KR produced a lone **Common Goldeneye** 3/1 (MH,RH) and PG, 2 on 4/1 (ST), the only reports this season.

Hooded Merganser counts included 18 at YC (LC), 12 at TL (LC), and 6 at KR (MH,RH), all on 3/3. KR harbored 10 **Common Mergansers** 3/1, 3 (MH,RH) while PG's top count was 20 on 3/31 (CD); unusual were 13 still on YC Lake 4/29 (NB,KB); a drake Common Merganser was spotted at North Point 5/12 (MMo,NS,PS), and a hen was nesting in the metal structure above the dam at Mahoning 5/31 (BF,MH). Eight **Red-breasted Mergansers** first appeared at YC 3/6 (LC,MH); PG's first 125 arrived 3/31 (CD); 16 were tallied at KR 4/1 (MH,RH); YC maxima included 79 on 4/11 (EF,MF,MH *et al*) and 113 on 4/15 (LC); last individual was spotted at YC 5/22 (CA,LC,TG,MH,GL,JM,MS) while 5 remained at KR 5/31 (NB,KB). Five **Ruddy Ducks** were first arrivals at YC 3/13 (LC,MH); peak numbers of 180 occurred 4/17 (LC,TG,MH,KT) at YC and 220 on 3/31 (CD) at PG. RT produced a single Ruddy Duck 4/14 (TR) Five Ruddies were spotted at Hemlock Lake 5/12 (MH,RH,DL) while another drake unexpectedly remained at YC through the end of the period.

Ruffed Grouse were noted at 13 locations this period (v.o.).

A **Red-throated Loon** was a nice surprise on the 3/27 (LC,TG,MH,GL) outing at YC; YC on 4/9 (EF,TF,TG) yielded another. March 24 (LC,TG,MH,RH,SS,JT) was the arrival of the first **Common Loon** at YC while 3/31 (CD) produced 2 at PG, and April 1 marked the arrival of Common Loons in *Armstrong*, one at RT (TR) and 3 at KR (MH,RH); 5 was the high loon tally at KR 5/17 (NB,KB). A Common Loon first spotted on Dragonfly Pond at YC 5/12 (GL,GS) had many of us worried that the pond is not large enough for take-off as it remained there through the end of May. High counts of both **Pied-billed Grebes** and **Horned Grebes** (69 and 47 respectively) occurred 3/24 (LC,TG,MH,RH,SS,JT) at YC; 30 was a good count of Horned Grebes at PG 3/31 (CD); last Pied-billed sightings occurred 5/8 (LC,TG,MH,GL,KT) at YC while 3 Horned lingered till 5/12 (MH,RH,DL) at Hemlock Lake. An **Eared**



This Eared Grebe, almost completely in breeding plumage, was photographed 4/26 at Prince Gallitzin by Alex Lamoreaux.

Grebe was a great find at PG 4/24 (MD); the bird was relocated 4/26 (AL) when it was photographed. Four **Double-crested Cormorants** appeared 3/20 (LC,TG, MH,GL,ML) at YC where numbers peaked at 46 on 4/10 (TG,MH,RN,KT) and 41 on 5/8 (LC,TG,MH,GL,KT); PG's high was 39 on 4/27 (ST). Two Double-crested Cormorants were sighted at KR 4/7 (MVT) while CC's first were 3 on 5/3 (BF,CG,MH,JV); 7 also visited KR 5/31 (NB,KB). Two **Great Egrets** visited ML 4/28 (CL,GL) while another stopped at PG 5/12 (JS). **Green Herons** returned to YC 4/17 (LC,TG,MH,KT) and to PG 4/24 (MD). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was a nice find at PG 4/1 (ST).

A **Black Vulture** was noted in Croyle Twp. 4/11 (MHu). After a late February arrival, 12 **Turkey Vultures** were sighted 3/7 (GL,GS) near TL, where they have frequently congregated in the past, 6 were sighted at Apollo 3/9 (CL, GL) and 12 soared over Nolo 3/15 (GL). Six was the high count at Yatesboro 5/30 (ED). **Osprey** moved through *Indiana* between 3/28 (MM) and 5/12 (MH,RH,DL) and through *Armstrong* between 3/30 (MH,JV) and 5/3 (BF, CG,MH,JV); PG hosted single Osprey 4/25 (MD) and 5/3 (JS). One highlight of the season, and a first *Armstrong* record as well, was a **Mississippi Kite** spotted along Browns Hill Road near CC 5/3 (BF,CG,MH,JV) as it worked the tops of the trees. The bird disappeared from sight for about 20 minutes then reappeared as it flew directly over the observers' heads heading toward CC, but it could not be relocated. The KR **Bald Eagles** were on nest 3/3, 4/1 (MH,RH); last year's bird was also seen at KR 4/1 (MH,RH) and 4/27 (MH). Two adults were present at CC 3/3, 5/12 (MVT) while another was seen at the Iron Bridge, Kittanning, 3/15 (MVT). Bald Eagles were listed at YC sporadically throughout the season with reports of a pair plus a year-old bird (m. ob.). **Northern Harrier** reports included single birds near WT 3/16 (SC) and at SGL 247 on 4/28 (TR). An early **Broad-winged Hawk** was noted at Iselin 4/7 (JK,TK); one was at PG 4/16 (CD). Single **Merlins** near Covode (KD) and at PG (CD), both 3/31, and another (the same one?) at PG the following day (ST) were the only ones noted this spring.

PG yielded the season's only rails. **Virginia Rail** reports

included one on 4/16 (CD), 4 on 4/28 (ST), and 2 on 5/12 (JS). Two **Soras** were listed at PG 4/28 (ST). **American Coot** numbers started to build in early March until by 3/17 (LC,TG,MH,RH,GL) 149 were counted at YC; one month later on 4/17 (LC,TG,MH,KT) 264 were tallied. Numbers gradually dropped until by 5/12 (GL,GS) only one remained on the lake.

Mud in Little Yellow Cove at YC waxed and waned depending upon the amount of rainfall received during the week. First **Semipalmated Plover** arrived 5/26 (KT) at YC and was still present the following day (KT); 3 were spotted there on 5/29 (LC,DC,SD,TG,MH,EH,KT). The first **Killdeer** young were spotted 5/25 (MH) near SH. **Spotted Sandpipers** arrived first on 4/21 (LC) at YC, 4/23 (RH) at the Urling mine drainage treatment pond near SH, and 4/28 (ST) at PG; the *Indiana* PAMC yielded a total of 18 (v.o.) in the county; 2 remained at KR 5/31 (NB,KB). First **Solitary Sandpipers** were seen at YC 4/12 (MVT); 2 were found on the Cheese Run Pond 4/20 (GL), 2 on IUP's South Campus 5/1 (JT), 2 on the Waterworks Conservation Wetland 5/12 (SD). Last noted was one at YC 5/26 (KT). **Greater Yellowlegs** passed through YC between 4/3 (LC,SD,TG,MH,GL,MVT) and 5/9 (LC,TG,MH,GL) with counts ranging from 1-4; 2 visited the Urling mine drainage treatment pond near SH 4/23 (RH), and one stopped at PG 4/28 (ST). With reports on six dates, observers noted 1-4 **Lesser Yellowlegs** between 4/17 (LC,TG,MH,KT) and 5/29 (LC,DC,SD,TG,MH,EH,KT). One **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on 5/29 (LC,DC,SD,TG,MH,EH,KT) was the only one noted. **Least Sandpipers**, recorded only at YC, migrated through between 4/7 (3RBC,TBC) and 5/27 (KT); high count was a mere 6 on 4/21 (LC). Three **Pectoral Sandpiper** reports were received, all at YC: 3 on 4/9 (GL), 2 on 4/21 (LC), and 4 on 4/24 (LC,TG,MH,GL,KT). YC harbored **Dunlin** on five dates between 4/3 (LC,SD,TG, MH,GL,MVT) and 4/24 (LC,TG,MH,GL,KT) with high tally of 8 on 4/17 (LC,TG,MH,KT). **Wilson's Snipe** were detected at YC on ten dates between 3/20 (LC,TG,MH, GL,ML) and 5/1 (MB,LC,TG,MH,GL,HM,RN,NY); best tallies include 13 on 3/24 (LC,TG,MH,RH,SS,JT) and 10 on 4/7 (3RBC,TBC). IUP's South Campus yielded 2 on 4/19 (JT) and 3 on 5/1 (JT). Best **American Woodcock** counts include 5 at YC 3/17 (ST), 10 at PG 4/1 (ST), and 3 at West Lebanon 5/12 (EF,MF).

Large flocks of **Bonaparte's Gulls** visited the region this spring with reports on 18 dates. PG's best count of 235 occurred 4/1 (ST); YC maxima included 93 on 3/20 (LC,TG,MH,GL,ML), 184 on 3/24 (LC,TG,MH,RH,SS,JT), and 88 on 4/18 (ED,SDo,CH,MH,SL); 5/8 (LC,TG,MH,GL, KT) marked the passage of the last migrant. *Armstrong's* first Bonaparte's Gulls arrived at CC 3/18 (TR). Top counts were 35 on 4/1 (MH,RH) and 19 on 4/7 (MVT), both tallies at KR; last seen were 4 on 4/27 (MH), also at KR. Top counts of **Ring-billed Gulls** included 118 on 3/24 (LC,TG, MH,RH,SS,JT) and 63 on 4/3 (LC,SD,TG,MH,GL,MVT). Single **Herring Gulls** were noted on two dates at YC: 3/17 (LC,TG,MH,RH,GL) and 4/11 (EF,MF,MH *et al*). A well-studied immature **Great Black-backed Gull** on 5/15 (LC,TG,MH,RN,JT) provided a first county record. Four **Caspian Terns** stopped at YC 4/11 (EF,MF,MH *et al*); 2

were found on 4/21 (LC), and last noted was one on 5/1 (MB,LC,TG,MH,GL,HM,RN,NY). **Forster's Terns** were listed at YC on ten dates between 3/31 (FOP,TBC) and 5/11 (MH,DL,KT); PG hosted one on 3/31 (CD); YC highs included 85 on 5/1 (MB,LC,TG,MH,GL,HM,RN,NY) and 25 on 5/8 (LC,TG,MH,GL,KT).

May 3 was the date of return for **Black-billed Cuckoos** near CC and at CC (BF,CG,MH,JV) and at PG (JS); other black-bills were first seen 5/4 (MH) at BS, and 5/5 (MH,RH) near SH while the first **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** surfaced 5/12 both on Reservoir Hill (PJ) and near Plumville (MMo).

Great Horned Owls were reported from four locations; **Barred Owls**, from six (v.o.). Another major highlight was MM's finding a **Snowy Owl** near WT 3/14. The bird was last noted 3/23 (MH,RH,JV).

A **Common Nighthawk** flew over a pond near SH 5/12 (EDo); 5/22 produced two nighthawk reports – one on the 4:00 a.m. pontoon ride (CA,LC,TG,GL,JM,MS) and the other near LV (MC) that evening. Three **Whip-poor-wills** were heard at West Lebanon 5/12 (EF,MF). Three **Chimney Swifts** returned to White Twp. 4/16 (MH).

The first **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were sighted 5/1 (MC) near LV, 5/3 near Creekside (MA) and at CC (BF,CG,MH,JV), and 5/5 (AB,DB) at the higher elevation of Nolo. Sometimes it pays to be poky – after most of the outing's participants had left YC on 4/24 (TG,MH), two of us were treated to the sight of a striking adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** that we observed for more than 20 minutes. Single **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** stopped at YC on three dates: 4/7 (3RBC,TBC), 4/10 (TG,MH,RN,KT), and 5/18 (SC,CGu,MH,RH,ML,LW).

The first **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were spotted 5/3 (BF,CG,MH,JV) at CC and 5/6 (GL) at Cameron's Bottom. First **Acadian Flycatchers** surfaced 5/5 (LC,DC,TG,MH,RH,EH,FM,JMc,DM,NM,RM,JT,DW,RW) at BS and 5/12 (MVT) at CC. The PAMC yielded 2 **Alder Flycatchers** 5/12 (LC,GL,GS); one was listed at YC 5/15 (LC,TG,MH,RN,JT) and another in a different YC location 5/22 (CA,LC,TG,MH,GL,JM,MS). First **Willow Flycatcher** was found near SH 5/8 (MH). May 5 (LC,DC *et al*) marked the return of **Least Flycatcher** at BS. First **Eastern Phoebes** were noted 3/4 (TR) at CC, 3/12 (MC) near LV, and 3/13 (LC, MH) at YC. A yard near SH yielded the first **Great Crested Flycatcher** 5/4 (MH) while the first **Eastern Kingbird** appeared at YC 5/1 (MB,LC,TG,MH,GL,HM,RN, NY).

Vireo dates of return included: 4/17 (LC,TG,MH,KT) at YC for **White-eyed Vireo**; 5/3 (BF,CG,MH,JV) at CC and 5/4 (MH) at BS for **Yellow-throated Vireo**; 4/15 (MH) near SH and 4/16 (CD) at PG for **Blue-headed Vireo**; 5/1 (MB,LC, TG,MH,GL,HM,RN,NY) at YC for **Warbling Vireo**; and 4/26 (TS) near RM and 5/3 (BF,CG,MH,JV) at CC for **Red-eyed Vireo**. A **Fish Crow** was found at PG 3/31 (CD); Fish Crows continue to be recorded regularly in Indiana

borough with reports of 5 individuals on 5/12 (v.o.); one flying over YC calling 5/29 (LC,DC,SD,TG,MH,EH,KT) was a second park record. **Common Ravens** were noted at eight *Indiana* locations during the spring season. Ravens nested once again at CC (v.o.); a single raven was sighted over Apollo 4/21 (MH,RH).

The WT area yielded 2 **Horned Larks** 3/18 (ST) and 3 on 3/21 (RM); 6 were near YC 4/24 (MH); one was spotted at the same location 5/11 (MH,DL).

One to 2 **Purple Martins** returned to CC (MS,MVT) where they nested last year. Although the martin box had been raised and the gourds had been put in place early, the gourds were then removed allegedly for the installation of a new box which never occurred. None nested this year. Swallow dates of return include 3/31 (CD) at PG and 4/4 (EF,MF) at Conemaugh Dam for **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**; 4/28 (ST) at PG for **Purple Martins**; 3/17 for **Tree Swallows**, both at ML (ST) and at YC (LC, TG,MH,RH,GL); 4/14 (LC,TG,MH,GL,DL,KT) at YC for **Bank Swallows**; 3/31 (CD) at PG and 4/9 (EGF,TF,TG) at YC for **Barn Swallows**; and 4/24 (LC,TG,MH,GL,KT) at YC and 4/28 (ST) at PG for **Cliff Swallows**.

First **House Wrens** appeared 4/14 (SG) at YC and 4/16 (MH,RH) near SH. One **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** and 2 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** noted at YC 4/10 (TG,MH,RN, KT) were first arrivals. The only **Veery** sighting occurred at CC 5/12 (MVT). A **Swainson's Thrush** was discovered in Young Twp. for the PAMC 5/12 (DC,MC). A **Hermit Thrush** was found at SGL 247 on 3/24 (TR); singletons visited CC 4/16, 5/12 (MVT) then again 5/17 (DV,JV); 6 were singing at SGL 262 and in the surrounding forest 5/12 (MH,RH,DL). First **Wood Thrush** was listed near SH 4/27 (MH,RH), near Hastings 5/1 (MM), and near CC 5/3 (BF,CG,MH,JV). YC produced the first **Gray Catbird** 4/12 (MVT) and the LV area, the first **Brown Thrasher** 3/31 (MC); PG's first thrasher also occurred 3/31 (CD); 2 thrashers were at CC 4/16 (MVT). Three **American Pipits** fed on the mudflat at YC 4/24 (LC,TG,MH,GL,KT).

Ovenbirds were first heard singing at YC 4/24 (LC,TG, MH,GL,KT), near Hastings 5/1 (MM), and near CC 5/3 (BF,CG,MH,JV). Two **Worm-eating Warblers** were sighted in a ravine in Armstrong Twp. 5/12 (RS). YC yielded the first **Louisiana Waterthrush** 4/3 (LC,SD,TG, MH,GL,MVT); the PAMC 5/12 (DC,MC,SD) produced only 3, down from a high of 14 in 2005; other reports mentioned individuals near CC 5/3 (BF,CG,MH,JV), on the Shelocta BBS 5/27 (MH,RH), and one at Milton Loop 5/31 (BF,MH). **Northern Waterthrushes** moved through our area between 5/2 (TB) and 5/22 (CA,LC,TG,MH,GL,JM,MS) with a late individual singing on the Shelocta BBS 5/27 (MH,RH). A yard near LV harbored the first **Blue-winged Warbler** 4/21 (MC); 3 were present in the CC area 5/3 (BF,CG,MH,JV). Single **Black-and-white Warblers** at BS 4/25 (MH) and at CC 5/2 (MVT) were first. **Tennessee Warblers** stopped in our region on their migrations between 5/5 (MH,RH) and 5/18 (MH,RH,ML). First 2 **Nashville Warblers** appeared at YC 5/1 (MB,LC,TG,MH,

GL, HM, RN, NY), and last noted was one in Dark Hollow 5/13 (MH, RH). First **Kentucky Warbler**, heard singing near YC 5/9 (MH), was an apparent migrant; the PAMC (v.o.) yielded only 5 of this now hard-to-find breeder. First **Hooded Warblers** were listed 4/21 (MC) near LV, 5/1 (MM) near Hastings, and 5/2 (MVT) at CC. The first **Common Yellowthroats** appeared near RM 4/26 (TS) and at CC 5/2 (MVT). **American Redstarts** had returned to YC by 5/1 (MB, LC, TG, MH, GL, HM, RN, NY) and near CC by 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV). **Cape May Warblers** did not make a major appearance this spring with only two sightings reported, both at YC: one on 5/11 (MH, DL, KT) and 2 on 5/15 (LC, TG, MH, RN, JT). First **Cerulean Warbler** was discovered at PG 5/2 (MD); 2 were singing at CC 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV); 9 were found on the PAMC (v.o.), but these 9 were the only *Indiana* reports. First **Northern Parula** was noted at PG 4/16 (CD); one was spotted on the north shore of YC 5/1 (LC, TG, MH, GL, RN), and within the next few weeks it became apparent that a pair was nesting in the large spruce there. CC's first occurrence was on 5/2 (MVT). May 1 (MB, LC, TG, MH, GL, HM, RN, NY) yielded the first **Magnolia Warbler** at YC while a single bird was found the next day (MVT) at CC. One **Bay-breasted Warbler** was observed near Hemlock Lake 5/12 (MH, RH, DL) and another at YC 5/15 (LC, TG, MH, RN, JT), the only two reports for this species. BS yielded the first beautiful **Blackburnian Warbler** 5/5 (LC, DC *et al*). First 2 **Yellow Warblers** had arrived at YC by 4/17 (LC, TG, MH, KT) and at PG by 4/25 (MD) while CC's first appeared 5/2 (MVT). **Chestnut-sided** first appeared 5/1 (LC, TG, MH, GL, RN) at YC and 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV) at CC. **Blackpoll Warblers** moved through *Indiana* between 5/8 (LC, TG, MH, GL, KT) and 5/25 (MH) with the top count of 13 at YC 5/15 (LC, TG, MH, RN, JT), the day they seemed to be singing everywhere; *Armstrong's* lone report detailed an individual at Cochran's Mill 5/26 (MVT). Single **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, both at YC and near Hastings 5/1 (MM), and one on Reservoir Hill 5/12 (PJ) comprised the entire report for this species. The spring's lone **Palm Warbler** was spotted at YC 4/24 (LC). **Pine Warblers** returned 3/20 (LC, TG, MH, GL, ML) to YC and to a yard near SH the following day (MH, RH); PG's first was found 3/31 (CD). One to 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were listed 3/1 (MH, RH) at KR; 3/23, 30 (MH, MVT) at CC; and 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV) near CC; high counts were 5 at Polka Hollow 5/4 (MVT) and 9 at YC 5/9 (LC, TG, MH, GL); last sighting occurred at YC 5/18 (SC, CGu, MH, RH, ML, LW). **Yellow-throated Warbler** reports included the first on 4/4 (EF, MF) at Conemaugh Dam, where one was sighted again on 5/12 (EF, MF); PG hosted one 4/16 (CD); 2 each were also noted near Blairsville (MC) and at Polka Hollow (MVT), also 5/12; a pair was present at Cochran's Mill 5/27 (MH, RH). First **Prairie Warbler** was heard singing near RM 4/26 (TS); one was noted at Parker 5/9 (SG) and another near Mahoning Dam 5/31 (BF, MH). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was first spotted 4/16 (CD) at PG while the next sightings occurred 4/25 (MH) at BS, 4/30 (GL) at Nolo, and 5/3 near CC (BF, CG, MH, JV). A **Canada Warbler** at Smicksburg 5/12 (NS) and a **Wilson's Warbler** at TL 5/12 (MH, RH, DL) were good finds. The PAMC (v.o.) yielded 6 **Yellow-breasted Chats** while the

Parkwood BBS 5/28 (MH, RH) produced 4.

The wintering female **Eastern Towhee** continued near SH (MH, RH), but the first returnees were found 3/13 (LC, MH) at YC and 3/15 (MVT) at Cochran's Mill. **Chipping Sparrows** returned 3/23 (MH, JV) at CC, 3/24 both near LV (MC) and at YC (LC, TG, MH, RH, SS, JT), and 3/31 (CD) at PG. The only **Vesper Sparrows** listed were 2 at SGL 108 on 4/16 (CD) and one near Plumville 5/12 (MMo). The *Indiana* PAMC (v.o.) yielded a very low count of only 4 **Savannah Sparrows**. **Grasshopper Sparrow** reports noted only one near Parker 5/9 (SG), 2 near Urey 5/12 (MH, RH, DL), and one at West Lebanon 5/12 (EF, MF). Seven **Henslow's Sparrows** at SGL 108 on 4/15 (JH) were first returnees; an estimated 15 Henslow's were singing at West Lebanon around 1:00 a.m. on 5/12 (DC, MC). One to 3 **Fox Sparrows** visiting a yard near LV 3/9-23 (MC), 2 near SGL 247 on 3/10 (TR), and 2 at PG 3/31 (CD) were the only ones detected this season. **Swamp Sparrows** had returned to YC by 3/17 (LC, TG, MH, GL). An amazing 27 **White-throated Sparrows** lingered at six locations for the 5/12 (v.o.) *Indiana* PAMC, and one also remained at YB for the *Armstrong* PAMC through 5/12 (ED). **White-crowned Sparrows** moved through the region between 5/1 (JT) and 5/15 (LC, TG, MH, RN, JT). A **Dark-eyed Junco** was seen gathering and carrying nesting material 5/12 (MH, RH, DL) near Wilgus in Montgomery Twp. **Scarlet Tanagers** were first listed 5/1 both at YC (MB, LC, TG, MH, GL, HM, RN, NY) and near Hastings (MM), 5/2 (GL) at Nolo, and 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV) near and at CC. First **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** returned 4/21 (MC) near LV, 4/28 (CL, GL) at Nolo, and 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV) at CC. May 3 (BF, CG, MH, JV) at CC, 5/5 (LC, DC *et al*) at BS, and 5/7 (GL) at Nolo marked the return of **Indigo Buntings** to the region.

Four **Bobolinks** were counted in a field north of Templeton 4/26 (MM); 3 flew over YC "pinking" 5/1 (MB, LC, TG, MH, GL, HM, RN, NY); others were found in fields near Urey (MH, RH, DL), near Mencil (GL, GS), and near Cameron's Bottom (GL, GS), all 5/12. The season's first **Eastern Meadowlarks** were seen 3/13 (LC, MH) at YC, 3/15 (MVT) at Kittanning's Iron Bridge, and 3/16 (MH, CGu) s. of WT. Eleven was the best count of **Rusty Blackbirds** at YC on 3/17 (ST); 2-7 were seen in the park on five other days through 4/18 (ED, SDo, CH, MH, SL); 2 rusties were flipping leaves along a trail at CC 3/23 (MH, JV), but only one was noted 3/30 (MH, JV); top count was 129 on 4/1 (ST) at PG where the last individual was noted 4/28 (ST); 8 were counted at RT 4/8 (TR).

First **Common Grackle** arrived near Ford Cliff 3/1 (JV) while 16 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** near WT 3/18 (ST) were first. One **Orchard Oriole** put in its appearance at SGL 108 on 5/2 (MD), and 2 arrived at YC 5/9 (LC, TG, MH, GL); but **Baltimore Orioles** had returned to YC by 5/1 (MB, LC, TG, MH, GL, HM, RN, NY) and almost immediately were nest building; 4 Baltimore Orioles graced the CC area with their songs 5/3 (BF, CG, MH, JV). A **Purple Finch** visited a Yatesboro feeder 3/22, 28 (ED), and 2 were at CC 3/30 (MH, JV).

Purple Finches were widespread with numerous reports from various areas of the region. **Pine Siskin** reports included 12 near LV 3/2 (MC), 3 near Home 3/3 (JT), 6 near SH 3/19 (MH,RH), and one near Creekside 4/19 (MH); last noted was one near LV 5/23 (MC).

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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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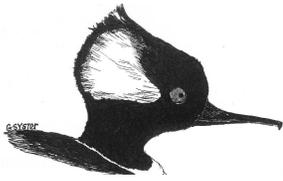
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