

The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

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

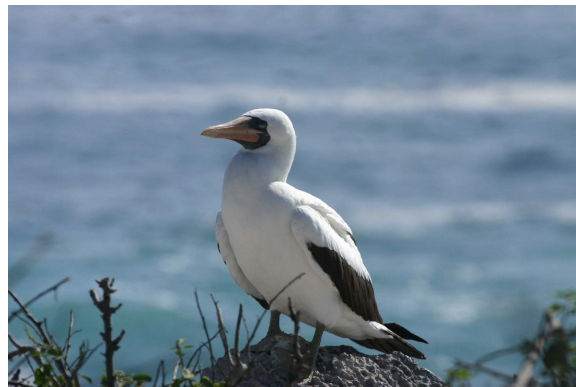
August 2013

Meetings

Todd Bird Club meetings begin 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 and snack till 7:30 when the meeting will be called to order. Refreshments are provided at each of our meetings. In May we hold our banquet meeting which starts at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 3 – Member and well known photographer Nancy Murphy from Tunnelton will present a program on the Galapagos. Officially named Archipiélago de Galápagos, this archipelago of volcanic islands is home to many endemic species. The islands and their surrounding waters form a national park as well as a biological marine reserve.

Nancy is not only a member of Todd Bird Club, but she belongs to the Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club as well as the Indiana Photo Club. Nancy photographed the many birds on the island, including the Galapagos Penguin, Masked Booby, Blue-footed Booby, Galapagos Heron, Swallow-tailed Gull, albatrosses and tropicbirds, but we'll also be treated to photos of reptiles, amphibians, and mammals, including the giant tortoise, various iguanas, fur seals, and lava lizards. Don't miss this great program!



Nancy Murphy photographed this Nazca Booby on the Galapagos trip.

Tuesday, October 1 – Todd members Flo and Jim McGuire had an opportunity to travel to Cuba last fall on a National Audubon-sponsored birding and cultural trip. Their small group traveled to several different areas of the island, and, thanks to excellent local ornithological guides, they were able to add to their life list and see many of the Cuban endemics. Avian delights included the Cuban Trogon, the Bee Hummingbird, and the Zapata Wren. Flo and Jim are happy to share photos of this beautiful country and its colorful birds with Todd members and friends.

Tuesday, November 5 – Birder and photographer Steve Gosser will present "Photos from Steve's Birding Adventures." Steve is an active member of the Three Rivers Birding Club and is no stranger to Todd Bird Club. He presented a program on Florida birding at our April 2011 meeting. Steve has won wide acclaim for his excellent bird photography.

Tuesday, December 3 – Bob Greene, an accomplished birder-photographer from Pittsburgh, will present his birding videos at this meeting. Because of technical difficulties, Bob was unable to present his videos at our May banquet. Instead he presented a great slide program. Now he is coming back with all the tech problems solved. Check out his great website at www.bobbygreene.com and don't miss this one!

Outings

Tuesday morning outings at Yellow Creek will continue until deer season. Meet at 8:00 at the park office located on Rt. 259 just off Rt. 422 east of Indiana. Early comers are invited to meet at the pavilion on the north shore shortly after dawn. Everyone – from beginner to expert birder – is welcome. If you have questions, contact Lee Carnahan (724-465-7323) or Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493).

Saturday, September 7– Pine Ridge County Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park entrance for the Tom’s Run area, located just off Old Route 22 about 3 miles east of Blairsville. It’s just past the Pine Ridge Lodge Road.

Saturday, September 14– Blue Spruce County Park outing, led by John Taylor (724-397-2040). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the first large parking lot just past the park office. This is our annual outing for fall warblers and other migrants.

Saturday, September 21 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). Meet at 8:00 at the park office.

Saturday, September 28 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Gloria Lamer (724-349-1159). Meet at 8:00 at the park office.

Saturday, October 5 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

Saturday, October 12 – Blacklick Valley Natural Area, led by Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667). Meet at the end of McFeaters Road just off Route 22 east of Armagh.

Saturday, October 19 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Georgette Syster (724-349-6293). Meet at 8:00 at the park office.

Saturday, October 26 – Mahoning Shadow Trail, led by Tom Glover (tomnglover@comcast.net). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Valier trailhead.

Tuesday, November 2 – Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Yellow Creek State Park office. This is the date for our annual joint outing with Three Rivers Birding Club, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493).

Bicycling the C & O Towpath

by Lee Carnahan

The last week of May two of my brothers, Jim and Roger, my niece Brenda, and I bicycled the C & O Towpath Trail. This trail starts in Cumberland, Maryland, and heads to Georgetown, DC, a distance of 185 miles. We biked all but the last 15 miles which is mostly in the city. We averaged about 30 miles a day.



The first morning I awakened to the loud, but welcome, sound of an Eastern Whip-poor-will at 5:00 a.m. Brenda told me that it had kept her awake since 3:00 a.m. The temperature that morning was a vigorous 27 degrees. That was our only cold morning. The second night a Whip-poor-will called again, but the Barred Owls took over for the next several nights. We were lucky to see three of the owls. One Barred Owl stopped to pose for photos.

The trail is rich in history. Many locks, aqueducts, a few dams, and other interesting structures are strung along the way, including the Pawpaw Tunnel which is a mile long. The trail runs between the old canal and the Potomac River, creating great habitat for birds, mammals, and reptiles. Deer and squirrels would sometimes dart out in front of our bikes. Wild strawberries were abundant along a good portion of the trail. Campsites along with water pumps and outhouses were anywhere from four to ten miles apart. The trail’s surfaces were mostly good but were

overgrown with grass and weeds in places.

It was a most enjoyable ride with good birding, and I’m looking forward to doing it again.



A Bird Outing That Went Bad

by Tom Glover

First let me share with you some background information that will help you understand my “Bird Outing That Went Bad.” My primary birding vehicle is a Ford 2009 F150 pickup truck, and this truck is a two-wheel-drive vehicle. For a pickup truck in rural Western Pennsylvania that fact is a rarity. When it comes to my truck, I have a basic philosophy: If a place requires four-wheel drive, I have no business being there! And did I ever prove that philosophy to be true on Saturday, March 9, 2013.

The preceding weeks before the 9th of March were snowy, but as March 9 approached, the weather improved. By that Saturday it was supposed to be sunny and almost warm. So naturally, I decided to go on a bird outing. I decided to check out Sandy Ridge Road about seven miles east of Punxsutawney off of Route 36. Sandy Ridge Road is three miles long and runs through a strip-mined area dominated by open grasslands with scattered brush. The road itself has little or no winter maintenance, so I was a little apprehensive about what to expect. To my surprise the road was snow covered but passable. A number of other vehicles had traveled the road. The surrounding fields were also snow covered and proved to be birdless.

So, I decided to check McManus Road that heads south from Sandy Ridge Road to a well traveled blacktop road. I approached a road that looked well traveled, and thinking it was McManus, I turned right. The initial part of this road looked all right, but as I went around a blind bend, the road dropped off at a steep incline. Before I knew it, I was committed – there was no turning back. As I rumbled down this road, I passed another road that turned sharply left. I noticed that all the previous wheel tracks followed this road, and after I had just passed this road, I glanced up and noticed a gas well at its end. In a flash I knew that this was a service road for the local gas wells, not McManus Road. I also noticed that this steep section of road had no wheel tracks. I was breaking new ground in the snow. The road finally leveled off and arrived at a dead end at a gas well. I managed to turn around to head back up the road. As I sat in the truck checking out the steep snow covered road ahead, I noticed that the temperature was above freezing and the snow was melting. I realized that the melting snow was not going to help my efforts to drive up the steep hill. I gunned the engine and started up the hill, and naturally I started spinning the tires and lost traction. I backed down the hill and tried again and to my surprise I got a little farther up the hill before I again lost traction. So again I tried and again I made it a little farther up the hill. I felt this tactic had promise. But on the fourth try as I was backing down the hill, I slid off the road into a ditch!

Things went from bad to worse. I got out of the truck, looked things over, got back in and tried to get out of the ditch. Well as we all know the harder you try to get out of a snowy, muddy ditch, the deeper you get in! After a while I realized that I was stuck. So since this was supposed to be a bird outing, I decided to eat crow and walk out for help.

As I walked up the service road, I had to stop to rest. I then noticed what a steep road I had rumbled down earlier. I estimated that the truck was about a mile down this road. I finally reached Sandy Ridge Road and realized I still had a good mile to go to the first house, and at that first house no one was home. So I continued, and after a quarter mile I came to another house. This time I was in luck as someone was home. I explained my dilemma, and they knew of a retired gentleman who did towing part time, and fortunately he lived about a half mile down the road. After a phone call and a short wait, he picked me up in his four-wheel-drive Subaru. I described the mess I was in, and he responded that he wanted to see the road where my truck was stuck. He decided that his tow truck would not make it out of the steep, slick service road, but he did have a plan. He had an old Farmal M tractor with a set of chains on its drive wheels. As we were returning to his house, he explained that the tractor had not run since last fall, and he would have to put in a battery and change the points. After tuning the tractor, we set out. He drove the tractor and I brought up the rear in his Subaru. It took us a while to drive to the service road since the top speed of that old tractor was about three mph. I parked the Subaru just off Sandy Ridge Road, noting that I could not ride on the tractor so I walked down the road.

We made it to my stuck truck, and I have to admit my rescuer was polite. He did not make any comments about my predicament. He crawled under the truck and attached chains to the frame, and on the first try he pulled me out of the ditch. He told me to stay in the truck, and he would pull me up the hill. We slowly moved up the hill in tandem. As we were moving up the hill, I noticed that old tractor was wheezing and coughing. When we came to the steepest part of the service road, things came to a halt as the poor old tractor ran out of power! He unchained the truck, and I backed into the side road leading to the gas well. He also backed into the same road and pulled around the truck. So we sat there contemplating what to do next. We noticed that the sun had melted the ice and snow off the steepest part of the road, so I decided to give it a try. After a running start I made it about halfway up the hill, backed down, tried it again, made it to the same spot before spinning to a halt. I backed down to the side road and parked the truck. We sat there thinking what next. I

do not remember which of us came up with the idea of letting most of the air out of the back tires to get more traction, but it was worth a try. I backed down the hill and got a long run at it, and I did make it a lot farther up the hill before I spun to a halt. Encouraged, I backed farther down the hill, really gunned it, and with mud and rocks flying all over the place, to my surprise I made it slipping and sliding up the steepest part of the road. I knew better to stop so I kept on going till I made to Sandy Ridge Road. After letting all the built-up stress drain from me, I waited for the tractor to chug up the hill. The tractor made it up the hill, so I climbed back into the Subaru, and we drove back to his house. He took me back to my truck, and we returned to his house to re-inflate the tires on my truck.

This took most of the day, so I asked him how much I owed him, and to my astonishment he said, "Nothing." I checked my billfold and found \$50. I insisted he take it, and told him that if he felt that was not enough, I would return with more. But he said that was more than enough.

As I was driving home, I knew this bird outing had to be shared. When I got home and described my day's adventure to Emry, my wife of almost 43 years, I did not receive any sympathy. But I did get her max of five "Toms" followed by a "One of these days...."

Oh yes, the only birds that I listed during that adventure were 4 American Crows, one Northern Cardinal, one Black-capped Chickadee, and one Tufted Titmouse.

Kingbird Highway

by Tom Glover

Kaufman, Kenn. *Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2000.

OK, folks, one thing that I have found in coming to birding later in life is that I have a high "been there done that" factor. While reading about Kenn's life on the road, I could not help but reminisce about my past experiences. In my youth I have waited for hours in the dark of the night on US Route 21 in North Carolina for a car to show up that would give me a ride north.

Kingbird Highway's subtitle is *The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder*, but I think it should read *The Biggest Year in the Life of a Young Man Coming of Age*. Yes, the book is a tale about birding, but it is foremost about Kenn's dealing with his life. It was interesting to see my reactions to the book as I progressed through the story line. My first reactions were on the critical side; here was a bright kid whose parents allowed him to quit school at age 16 and hit the road. Now if I told my mom that I was quitting school when I turned 16, she would have killed me! Initially to me, Kenn was an irrational youth, but as I worked my way through the book, he won me over. I

came to realize he had the blessing of his parents, and he had no obligations but to himself. It is important to remember that while reading the book.

Kenn spins a fascinating birding tale as he hitchhikes all over the US, parts of Mexico, and even through Canada up to Alaska in his quest of a "Big Year." He details his birding observations and the people he meets along the way. It is fascinating to see his transformation from being obsessed with bird counts to actually observing the birds.

So, if you have not read one of the iconic stories about birding, *Kingbird Highway*, you better put it at the top of your reading list. Who knows after you read the book, you may get the desire to find that old backpack, hit the road, and look for that youth from the past.

[Editor's Note: We just learned that Tom Glover has left town for Kentucky. Did he take his backpack? Hmmm.....]

Come to the Todd Picnic

The annual Todd/Westmoreland picnic will be held at the home of Dan and Marcy Cunkelman on Sunday, August 18, 2013, from 1:00 till dark (or earlier if it storms). Please bring a covered dish to share and a chair in which to sit and relax. Paper products, drinks (if you prefer diet, please bring your own), and sloppy joes and rolls will be provided.

This is a great day to just relax and catch up with friends and/or take a walk around the yard. In the past 10 years it

has grown from a perfect yard to a wonderful habitat for plants, birds, and butterflies. Insect repellent will be provided since we need to be careful what is used around Dana, who happens to turn 35 that day. Watch for balloons for directions from Barkley to Swisco Road to our house. Please let us know if you are coming, so we can get enough drinks and make sloppy joes for everyone. If you need directions, email Marcy at plant4nature@gmail.com or call 724-459-7229. See you on August 18.

Todd's 30th Anniversary Celebration Revisited

by Margaret Higbee



Founding members are Beth Marshall, Anne Hedgpeth, and Pat Andrascik.

April 13 was the date we selected to celebrate Todd Bird Club's 30th anniversary. Plans were made to meet at Yellow Creek State Park's Environmental Ed. Center (EEC) at 8:00. Carol Guba surprised us by providing warm sticky buns for breakfast as we all gathered inside for coffee, conversation, and fellowship. The highlight of the morning was another great surprise – the arrival of founding member Anne Hedgpeth and her husband Harry who drove up from Spring Branch, Texas, especially for the celebration. Anne's appearance was the day's highlight for me as she had been my best birding friend for six years. We moved to Indiana in the fall of 1982, and we met Anne in the spring of 1983. We birded together and shared many experiences till she moved back to Texas in 1988, leaving a major void in my life. I missed her terribly!



We birded the beach, spotting a lot of waterfowl, loons, and grebes before we headed to the observatory.

At 8:30 Georgette Syster got our attention and led us on a bird walk around the park. The morning was cold and breezy, but by the time we started finding birds, we quickly forgot our discomfort. In 3 hours and 45 minutes we listed 54 species with the highlights including a nice variety of waterfowl, one Red-throated Loon, an adult Bald Eagle, a Wilson's Snipe, one Forster's Tern, and nice looks at a Red-breasted Nuthatch and two Pine Warblers. We concluded our outing with a trip to the observatory then returned to the EEC for lunch at noon.

Before dinner, president Donna Meyer talked about our past and presented a quiz about our beginnings. Roger also presented a slide show depicting scenes from meetings and field trips.



It was a great morning for birding Yellow Creek, and we all enjoyed the outing.

Friend and member Carol Guba was our caterer, and she surpassed all our expectations. The menu included a wonderful salad and three delicious entrees – Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Buckwheat Noodles with Salmon, and Chicken Marsala – as well as a rice dish. Members baked lemon bars, blondies, and brownies for dessert. By the time we finished eating, we decided to save the cake for our banquet meeting.

Three of our four founders were present: Pat Andrascik, Anne Hedgpeth, and Beth Marshall. We have all lost track of our fourth founder, Ann Harrison. After dinner they posed for photos. We ended the day with a lot of enjoyable comradery.

Special thanks to Gloria Lamer and Georgette Syster for decorating the EEC; to all our organizers, especially Donna Meyer who also created a display of

(continued on page 6)

Wood Duck Box Installation Successful



On April 9 the Tuesday morning bird outing was diverted around 9:00 a.m. to help Environmental Ed. Specialist Mike Shaffer re-erect the Wood Duck boxes. Although the boxes had allegedly remained in place during the winter months, the lake took its toll on them. Some had completely fallen off their posts; others were positioned on leaning posts which required reseating, and the rest all needed to be cleaned out. Our group climbed aboard the pontoon, and Mike steered us across the lake. Because of low water levels, Lee Carnahan, Tom Glover, and Ken Truitt had to pole us as close to the box locations as possible. From there, Lee and Mike waded to the pole, dismantled (or picked up) the box and returned to the boat. The group then cleaned out the boxes and put clean wood shavings in them. Lee or Mike would then wade back to the pole and reattach the nest box.

Special thanks to Lee Carnahan, Tom Glover, and Ken Truitt for all their work with Mike.



A Note of Thanks

Sincere thanks to Ed and Donna Meyer who recently weeded Todd Bird Club's garden at Blue Spruce County Park. In addition to weeding, they trimmed some of the shrubbery and planted a few new plants. Donna reports that the shrubs have grown nicely and are producing fruit, and the water garden is flourishing. Thanks, too, to the owners of Plant-It-Earth who donated plants for the garden and also offered their help.

Todd's 30th Anniversary Celebration Revisited

(continued from page 5)

newsletter artwork done by Gloria and Georgette in our early years before computer graphics; and especially to Carol Guba, assisted by husband Michael, and friend Sue Dickson, who spent the day cooking and cleaning up so that the rest of us could eat and enjoy. Thanks, too, to Lee

Carnahan for constructing wren boxes as gifts for our founders, to Roger Higbee for presenting the slide presentation, and to Georgette Syster for leading the outing. Thanks to everyone who attended or helped in any way. It was a very special event!

PSO Meeting 2013 Held in Wilkes-Barre

Ten Todd Bird Club members recently attended the May 31 through June 2 Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology meeting in Wilkes-Barre. Todd attendees were Carol Guba, Roger and Margaret Higbee, Tom and Janet Kuehl, Jim and Flo McGuire, Jack and Sue Solomon, and Linda Wagner.

Birders' Help Needed

Those of you who have birded Arizona will be familiar with the Paton property. The e-mail below from Rita Fenwick of the American Bird Conservancy recently arrived.

To: All Birders
From: Rita Fenwick, American Bird Conservancy
Date: August 14, 2013

Alert: Hummingbird Haven Facing Uncertain Future – Act Now

Several months ago, American Bird Conservancy board member Victor Emanuel made an impassioned request that American Bird Conservancy help acquire an American birding landmark that had recently come on the market: Paton's Birder Haven.

This property, located in Patagonia, Arizona, is the loving project of Wally and Marion Paton, who for more than 35 years built their property into a premier Arizona birding site and opened their home to thousands of local, American, and international birders to see Arizona's outstanding hummingbird diversity. Many visited the site for a chance to get a "life" Plain-capped Starthroat, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, or Magnificent Hummingbird for their North American list. The property has passed on to the Paton's children, who would like to honor their parents' labor of love in making the property a memorable, welcoming stop for birders visiting Arizona.

In partnership with Tucson Audubon Society and Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, American Bird Conservancy has entered into a contract with the Paton family to acquire the property and to maintain the property in perpetuity as a hummingbird sanctuary open to visitors. **We have raised \$100,000 of the needed funding, but urgently need to raise by October 15th the remaining \$200,000.** Once acquired, Tucson Audubon Society will assume long-term ownership and management of the property.

Can you please help by making a donation at <http://www.abcbirds.org/paton/> and by FORWARDING this email to as many birders as you can, encouraging them to click on the link provided and make a donation today? Please post this request for help on blogs, Facebook, Twitter, websites, and any other outlet you think will reach birders who have visited Paton's or plan to in the future. One hundred percent of each tax-deductible donation will be applied to the acquisition and management needs of this historic property. We truly need every dollar to succeed.

Thank you very much for your support and help! Please let me know if you have any questions or you have a favorite picture from Paton's Birder Haven you would like to share.

Another Dickcissel Invasion?

According to Doug Gross and Kathy Korber, PA Game Commission, this is another invasion year for the Dickcissel. Kathy writes: "There are fewer sightings in 2013, but the fact that Dickcissels have returned to some locations suggests some breeding site fidelity that implies good nesting habitat...This Pennsylvania-Threatened species is one of several grassland birds that concern conservationists. The pattern of colonization and possible site fidelity brings hope for localized successful nesting and establishment of stable populations. Or, did roadside vegetation management, mowing, or other factors prevent any nesting success?"

Last year Mike and Evelyn Fowles and Marcy Cunkelman found them nesting near West Lebanon. There are many locations in our region where Dickcissels could possibly be breeding. With more birders searching, we may be able to confirm nesting in our area. Check those grassy meadows, uncut hayfields, weedy pastures, and reclaimed strip mines. Please report any Dickcissel sightings to: <http://ebird.org/content/pa>. If you're not on line, contact the Higbees (724-354-3493).

Armstrong PA Migration Count 2013

Canada Goose	37	Eastern Kingbird	2	Black-and-white Warbler	3
Wood Duck	4	White-eyed Vireo	2	Common Yellowthroat	27
Mallard	1	Yellow-throated Vireo	4	Hooded Warbler	11
Common Merganser	7	Warbling Vireo	1	American Redstart	4
Wild Turkey	1	Red-eyed Vireo	29	Northern Parula	2
Common Loon	1	Blue Jay	17	Blackburnian Warbler	1
Double-crested Cormorant	1	American Crow	28	Yellow Warbler	22
Great Blue Heron	2	Common Raven	4	Black-throated Blue Warbler	1
Turkey Vulture	4	Tree Swallow	16	Yellow-rumped Warbler	7
Bald Eagle	1	N. Rough-winged Swallow	13	Yellow-throated Warbler	2
Cooper's Hawk	1	Barn Swallow	18	Eastern Towhee	22
Red-tailed Hawk	2	Black-capped Chickadee	20	Chipping Sparrow	26
Killdeer	4	Chickadee sp?	4	Field Sparrow	7
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Tufted Titmouse	14	Song Sparrow	21
Ring-billed Gull	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	5	White-throated Sparrow	2
Herring Gull	1	Brown Creeper	1	White-crowned Sparrow	4
Rock Pigeon	4	Carolina Wren	3	Scarlet Tanager	10
Mourning Dove	33	House Wren	2	Northern Cardinal	34
Chimney Swift	19	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	7
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2	Eastern Bluebird	27	Indigo Bunting	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	6	Veery	3	Red-winged Blackbird	24
Downy Woodpecker	2	Wood Thrush	14	Common Grackle	55
Hairy Woodpecker	1	American Robin	57	Brown-headed Cowbird	7
Northern Flicker	7	Gray Catbird	23	Orchard Oriole	1
Pileated Woodpecker	2	European Starling	14	Baltimore Oriole	6
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	Ovenbird	3	Purple Finch	2
Acadian Flycatcher	1	Louisiana Waterthrush	1	House Finch	7
Least Flycatcher	2	Blue-winged Warbler	1	American Goldfinch	30
Eastern Phoebe	6			House Sparrow	11

Total Number of Species 85
Total Number of Individuals 844

Participants

Valerie Brewer	Carol Hall	Sally Labino's Neighbor	Josie Valasek
Erma Dovenspike	Sally Labino	Theo Rickert	Marge Van Tassel

Observer Effort

Party Hours on Foot:	14.67	Party Miles Hiked:	8.75 mi.
Party Hours by Car:	6.5	Party Miles Driven:	74 mi.
Feeder Hours:	11		
Total Party Hours:	32.17	Total Party Miles:	82.75 mi.

Indiana North American Migration Count 2013

Canada Goose	109	Acadian Flycatcher	5	Hooded Warbler	81
Wood Duck	29	Least Flycatcher	5	American Redstart	81
Mallard	48	Eastern Phoebe	57	Cape May Warbler	1
Ring-necked Duck	1	Great Crested Flycatcher	7	Cerulean Warbler	4
Common Merganser	1	Eastern Kingbird	12	Northern Parula	8
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	White-eyed Vireo	2	Magnolia Warbler	14
Ruffed Grouse	12	Yellow-throated Vireo	9	Bay-breasted Warbler	2
Wild Turkey	33	Blue-headed Vireo	14	Blackburnian Warbler	14
Common Loon	3	Warbling Vireo	5	Yellow Warbler	129
Double-crested Cormorant	63	Red-eyed Vireo	126	Chestnut-sided Warbler	23
Great Blue Heron	21	Blue Jay	207	Blackpoll Warbler	3
Green Heron	3	American Crow	311	Black-throated Blue Warbler	3
Turkey Vulture	61	Fish Crow	1	Palm Warbler	8
Osprey	2	Common Raven	5	Pine Warbler	3
Bald Eagle	4	Horned Lark	16	Yellow-rumped Warbler	33
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Purple Martin	2	Yellow-throated Warbler	2
Cooper's Hawk	4	Tree Swallow	296	Prairie Warbler	11
Broad-winged Hawk	7	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	85	Black-throated Green Warbler	105
Red-tailed Hawk	24	Bank Swallow	3	Canada Warbler	1
American Kestrel	12	Cliff Swallow	3	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
Black-bellied Plover	1	Barn Swallow	410	Eastern Towhee	303
Killdeer	38	Black-capped Chickadee	131	Chipping Sparrow	225
Spotted Sandpiper	13	Tufted Titmouse	119	Field Sparrow	66
Solitary Sandpiper	5	Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	Vesper Sparrow	1
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	43	Savannah Sparrow	2
Dunlin	1	Brown Creeper	5	Grasshopper Sparrow	8
Wilson's Snipe	1	Carolina Wren	25	Henslow's Sparrow	12
American Woodcock	8	House Wren	43	Fox Sparrow	3
Bonaparte's Gull	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5	Song Sparrow	199
Ring-billed Gull	2	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	30	Swamp Sparrow	4
Caspian Tern	13	Eastern Bluebird	40	White-throated Sparrow	12
Common Tern	5	Veery	2	White-crowned Sparrow	36
Forster's Tern	46	Swainson's Thrush	3	Dark-eyed Junco	3
Rock Pigeon	40	Hermit Thrush	5	Scarlet Tanager	101
Mourning Dove	299	Wood Thrush	205	Northern Cardinal	234
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5	American Robin	873	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	102
Black-billed Cuckoo	4	Gray Catbird	204	Indigo Bunting	43
Great Horned Owl	1	Northern Mockingbird	13	Bobolink	17
Barred Owl	1	Brown Thrasher	21	Red-winged Blackbird	574
Eastern Whip-poor-will	3	European Starling	599	Eastern Meadowlark	37
Chimney Swift	154	Cedar Waxwing	3	Common Grackle	518
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	34	Ovenbird	186	Brown-headed Cowbird	33
Belted Kingfisher	12	Worm-eating Warbler	2	Orchard Oriole	13
Red-bellied Woodpecker	62	Louisiana Waterthrush	8	Baltimore Oriole	104
Downy Woodpecker	44	Golden-winged Warbler	1	Purple Finch	19
Hairy Woodpecker	18	Blue-winged Warbler	12	House Finch	54
Northern Flicker	82	Black-and-white Warbler	18	Pine Siskin	15
Pileated Woodpecker	33	Tennessee Warbler	8	American Goldfinch	222
Eastern Wood-Pewee	4	Kentucky Warbler	4	House Sparrow	280
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Common Yellowthroat	184		

Total Number of Species

150

Total Number of Individuals

9,524



Indiana PAMC Observers

Pat Andrascik
Steve Andrascik
Ron Baldrige
Sharon Baldrige
Alice Beatty
Tom Betts
Nathan Birch
Patrick Birch
Jean Blair
Sid Blair
Jean Blystone
Vernon Blystone
Lee Carnahan
Shirley Chase
Dorcas Clark

Derek Clawson
Emily Clawson
Marcy Cunkelman
Sue Dickson
Ed Donley
Joy Fairbanks
Emmy Fairman
Gary Ferrence
Betsy Fetterman
Tom Fetterman
Barb Fletcher
Don Frew
Marie Frew
Sue Gatti
Steve Gosser

Joyce Griffith
Carol Guba
Margaret Higbee
Roger Higbee
Pat Johner
Connie Johnston
Gloria Lamer
Jeff Larkin
Rita Lippert
Mary A. Little
Howard Mandigo
Natalie McKee
Donna Meyer
Ed Meyer
Marilyn Moore

Ann Peterson
Marjorie Peterson
Laura Rhodes
Cindy Rogers
Nancy Smeltzer
Linda Stormer
Luke Stormer
Rodger Stormer
Georgette Syster
John Taylor
Mary Lu Tucker
Ila Tuorinsky
Steve Tuorinsky
Ray Winstead

Observer Effort

Party Hours on Foot: 55.84
Party Hours by Car: 59
Feeder Hours: 63.25

Party Miles Hiked: 31.16 mi.
Party Miles Driven: 599.90 mi.

Total Party Hours: 178.09

Total Party Miles: 631.06 mi.

PAMC Notes

With a few more observers this year, Armstrong's count has increased the coverage. Last year observers noted only 60 species and tallied only 262 individuals. This year they added an additional 25 species and more than

tripled the total number of birds. Indiana's count, too, increased in species variety with 11 more species than last year's 139; however, the number of individuals has decreased this year from the 2012 total of 11,255 birds.

A May Morning in Indiana County

by Roger Higbee



American Redstarts are common breeding birds at Blue Spruce County Park.



Pine Warblers are now regular in the main recreation area at Yellow Creek State Park.



Yellow-throated Vireos were rather vocal at Blue Spruce this spring.

Indiana - Armstrong - Cambria Spring Report

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

Abbreviations: Blue Spruce County Park (BS), Cochran's Mill (CM), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Creek Road (CR), Crooked Creek Park (CC), Duman Lake (DL), Indiana (IN), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT) Lewisville (LV), Lock & Dam 5 (L&D 5), Parks Industrial Park (PIP), Polka Hollow (PH), Prince Gallitzin State Park (PG), Rosston (RT), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TL), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Area lakes remained pretty much frozen through March 20 with an estimated 95 percent still frozen at YC on March 10; TL was a little farther along with at least 10 percent thawed on the same date. By 3/26 YC was almost 80 percent open, but PG remained half frozen through 3/27. Dates producing the highest numbers of waterfowl were March 23-24.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was observed 3/10 (DW) with 20 Canada Geese sitting on the mudflat on the southeast side of YC lake near the mouth of Little Yellow Creek; this is the sixth county record. **Tundra Swans** arrived at PG 3/1 (JS), at YC 3/8 (KT), and at KR 3/10 (MH, RH) with respective counts of 13, 25, and 95; the high counts were 310 at PG 3/11 (JS), 58 at YC 3/23 (KB, DC, EC, MH, RH, GL, TP, KT) and 68 at PG 3/29 (DS). First **Wood Ducks** were noted 3/5 (KT) at YC, 3/11 (JS) at PG, and 3/18 at CC (TR); by 5/11 (MM, NS) one hen at North Point was found with 6 ducklings. YC harbored 18 **Gadwalls** 3/12 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT) while Margus Lake yielded 16 on 3/18 (CL, GL); PG's reports included 55 on 3/27 (JS) with last report of 2 on 4/15 (JS). First **American Wigeons** arrived 3/5 (JS) at PG and 3/10 both at KR (MH, RH) and at YC (LC, DW), but wigeons frequented various other area ponds this spring. Reports included 26 on Margus Lake 3/18 (CL, GL), 5 on a small pond near SH 3/22 (ED), and 50 the following day (LC) on Altemus's Pond near YC, and 34 on Wood's Pond near KR 3/26, 4/7 (MH, RH). Four lingered at YC 4/13 (DG). YC's respective high **American Black Duck** and **Mallard** counts of 34 and 145 were obtained 3/24 (LC). Two very early **Blue-winged Teal** appeared at PG 3/10 (RLu); a singleton 3/30-4/1 (MVT) at PIP was *Armstrong's* lone report; an amazing 55, the sixth highest count on record, were tallied at YC 4/23 (TG). First **Northern Shovelers** arrived 3/17 (DW) at YC and 3/22 (JS) at PG; top counts were 35 on 3/27 at PG (JS) and 11 on 3/30 (MH, RH, FOP) at YC; 2 were at KR 4/7 (MH, RH). First **Northern Pintail** reports included 6 on 3/8 (JS) at PG, 18 on 3/10 (MH, RH) at KR, and one on 3/10 (DW) at YC where numbers peaked at 14 on 3/23 (KB, DC, EC, MH, RH, GL, TP, KT). High **Green-**

winged Teal counts were 12 at PG 3/1 (JS) and 23 at YC on 4/4 (SG).

One hundred nine **Canvasbacks** was the third highest count on record at YC 3/24 (LC). **Redheads**, which appeared in good numbers this season, started arriving 3/1 (JS) when 8 were listed at PG, and continued moving through the region till the last sighting of 32 on 3/30 (DS); numbers reached 325 at PG on 3/22 (JS) and 152 at YC the following day (KB, DC, EC, MH, RH, GL, TP, KT). JS writes that the 325 was "my record high." March 24 yielded the high **Ring-necked Duck** count of 593 (LC) at YC while PG's best count of 310 occurred 3/27 (JS); top tally in *Armstrong* was 74 at KR on 3/10 (MH, RH). **Greater Scaup** moved through the region between 3/3 (RLu) when 35 were reported at PG and 4/16 (LC, MH, RH, KT) when a singleton was spotted at YC. Peak numbers of **Lesser Scaup** were 175 at PG 3/22 (JS) and 204 at YC on 3/23 (KB, DC, EC, MH, RH, GL, TP, KT). The immature drake **Harlequin** found this past February continued at L&D 5 through 4/7 (MD, CK, AL) and was molting into adult plumage. A **White-winged Scoter** landed during the rain on the annual YC pontoon ride 5/28 (DC, EC, SD, TG, MH, RH, JK, MS). Nine **Long-tailed Ducks** arrived at PG 3/1 (JS); one appeared at RT 3/17 (TR); they were spotted on 10 dates at YC this season between 3/12 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT) and 4/6 (LC, MH, RH, KT) with a high tally of 18 on 3/16 (LC, MH, RH, KT); the female reported during the winter season accompanying the Harlequin on the Allegheny River continued through 4/7 (MD, CK, AL). **Buffleheads** were in rather low numbers compared to other seasons with the top count a mere 54 at YC on 3/24 (LC), 61 at PG 3/29 (DS), and 12 at CC 3/30 (MVT).

On the other hand, **Hooded Mergansers** were found in good numbers, including 73 at PG 3/15 (JS), 76 at YC 3/26 (MH, RH), and 81 at KR, also on 3/26 (MH, RH). TL harbored 16 **Common Mergansers** 3/11 (JC, LC, RC) while YC's high of 14 occurred 3/30 (DS); maxima at CC included 20 on 3/11 (MO) and 27 on 3/24 (MO); PG hosted 16 on 3/29 (DS). The first 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers** arrived at YC 3/12 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT) when little open water existed, and at PG 3/15 (JS); numbers quickly peaked at YC to 387 on 3/26 (LC, KT); 3 still lingered at YC 5/16 (MH, RH, JT). The high **Ruddy Duck** count of 35 occurred 4/9 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, KT) at YC which harbored the last Ruddy 5/21 (LC, DC, EC, MH, RH, KT); away from YC, the reports included the first 6 at PG 3/1 (JS), 19 at PG 3/27 (JS), one at RT 3/30 (TR), and 5 at CC 4/15 (MH, RH).

YC hosted a single **Red-throated Loon** 4/9 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, KT); 2 were observed 4/13 (MK), and a singleton was found 4/14 (EF, MF). A **Common Loon** appeared first at PG 3/1 (JS); 2 at KR 3/26 (MH, RH) were first arrivals while YC's first arrived 4/13 (MK); last noted were one at CC 5/11 (JV, MVT) and 2, observed from the pontoon at YC 5/28 (DC, EC, SD, TG, MH, RH, JK, MS). **Pied-billed Grebes** did not arrive in large numbers this spring with a high of only 11 on 4/11 (KT) at YC and 7 at PG 3/29 (DS). First **Horned Grebe** arrived at CC 3/4 (MVT), at YC 3/16 (EF, MF), and at PG 3/27 (JS); maxima included 21 at KR 3/26 (MH, RH) and 18 at CC 3/30 (MVT); 3/30 produced the high Horned Grebe count of 44 at TL (LC) and 145 at YC (MH, RH, FOP), a count not surpassed since 3/28/2008.

First **Double-crested Cormorants** arrived at YC 4/4 (SG) where all but two sightings were in the single digits; 37 were noted 5/11 (GL, GS) and 12 on 5/14 (RN), both at YC; last noted was one on 5/25 (CL, GL). *Armstrong* reports included one at KR 4/13 (MK), 4 at KT 4/24 (MH, RH), and one at CC both on 5/5 (TR) and 5/11 (MVT).

A **Great Egret** stopped briefly at YC 5/3 (LC). Earliest **Green Heron** appeared at YC 4/11 (KT), the earliest date of return with records back to 1987.

First **Turkey Vulture** was spotted at Nolo 3/2 (AB, DB, GL). A very early **Osprey** was sighted at PG 3/5 (JS) while 4/2 marked the arrival of the first migrant Osprey at YC (TG, RN). Six **Bald Eagles** was a good count at CC 3/24 (MO); one chick was visible in a nest with the two adults perched nearby on 4/7 (MH, RH) near KR. PG yielded 4 on 4/15 (JS) with two adults on the nest and two immatures nearby.

The new *Indiana* nest continued to be occupied with the female incubating (fide RM).

John Salvetti writes:

"The first successful Bald Eagle nest at this park [PG] fledged two young in 2012. Winter storms destroyed the poorly built nest. The eagles have returned and have completed rebuilding their nest this year and hopefully will have a second successful nesting season."

Last **Northern Harrier** was sighted at the West Lebanon strips 3/5 (DK, RN) while another was hunting over a field near Elderton 4/7 (MH, RH); *Cambria* reports included one in Croyle Twp. 3/23 (MHu) and 2 at SGL 108 on 5/8 (JH). Early **Broad-winged Hawks** included one near SH 4/12 (MH, RH) one at YC 4/13 (MK), and one near Portage 4/24 (AF).

American Coots moved through YC between 3/10 (DW) and 5/8 (LC, MH, GL, KT) with the highest tally of only 55 on 3/23 (LC) and 3/24 (LC, KT), one of the lowest spring maxima on record. *Armstrong* yielded only one report, an individual at KR 3/10 (MH, RH) while PG's best count was 50 on 4/4 (JS). A **Virginia Rail** was found 4/27, 5/3 (JS) at PG.

A **Black-bellied Plover** stopped at YC 5/11 (GL, GS). **Semipalmated Plover** reports included one on 5/16 (MH, RH, JT) and 7 on 5/28 (TG, MH, RH, MS) after half the crew went ashore drenched and chilled. First 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** arrived in Croyle Twp. 4/7 (MHu), at TL 4/12 (LC), and at KR 4/13 (DGr, GG) while first **Solitary Sandpipers** stopped at YC 4/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, ML, KT) and in Croyle Twp. 5/3 (MHu); last Solitary was found at YC 5/21 (LC, DC, EC, MH, RH, KT). **Greater Yellowlegs** were seen at YC between 4/9 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, KT) and 4/23 (TG). The eleventh county record, 5 **Willetts** were great finds at YC 5/11 (GL, GS). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** at YC 4/9 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, KT) and one near West Lebanon 5/11 (MC, SG) were the only ones noted. The highlight of the 5/28 (TG, MH, RH, MS) pontoon ride occurred when 4 **Whimbrels** flew right over the pontoon giving us great views as we saw them coming and going; this was the second county record as the first involved 17 individuals at the YC beach on 5/15/1995. A **Ruddy Turnstone** on the beach at YC 5/8 (LC, MH, RH, GL, KT) was areward for leading bird outings for Grades K-2 that



This Ruddy Turnstone, photographed by Roger Higbee, was the first spotted at YC since 2005.

morning; this is the first turnstone at YC since 8/31/2005. **Semipalmated Sandpiper** sightings included one individual

5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT), 4 on 5/25 (CL, GL), and 17 on 5/28 (TG, MH, RH, MS) viewed from the boat. **Least Sandpipers**, reported in numbers of 1-6, moved through YC between 4/23 (TG) and 5/25 (CL, GL). Single **Dunlins** were noted on three dates between 4/20 (SG) and 5/14 (LC, SD, MH, RH, RN, KT) while 4/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, ML, KT) yielded 5. YC yielded single **Wilson's Snipe** 3/24 (LC), 4/6 (IH), and 4/13 (MH, RH) while another individual was found in Cherryhill Twp. 5/11 (BF, TF). Four **American Woodcocks** were performing near Creekside 3/29 (MH, RH); 3 served as a nice surprise as a yard bird near Nolo 4/8 (AB, GL). A **Wilson's Phalarope** was a great find at YC 5/25 (EF, MF), setting a third county record; it remained for a while allowing viewing by other observers (CL, GL).

Bonaparte's Gulls migrated through the region between 3/29 (DS) and 5/18 (LC, MH, RH, KT) with peak number of 23 at YC on 4/9 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, KT). A flock of Bonaparte's Gulls 4/16 (LC, MH, RH, KT) at YC included one adult **Franklin's Gull**, the sixth county record. The largest flock of **Ring-billed Gulls** contained 109 individuals at YC on 3/24 (LC). Single **Herring Gulls** were noted in *Indiana* only at YC on 3/30 (MH, RH, FOP) and 4/16 (LC, MH, RH, KT). Five **Herring Gulls** were present at KT 4/24 (MH, RH), but the nest appeared unoccupied this year. **Caspian Terns** put in three appearances this spring, all at YC – 3 on 4/12 (LC), 13 on 5/11 (GL, GS), and 10 on 5/28 (DC, EC, SD, TG, MH, RH, JK, MS). Single **Black Tern** and **Common Tern** were seen from the YC pontoon 5/28 (TG, MH, RH, MS); 5 Commons were also seen at YC 5/11 (GL, GS). **Forster's Terns** exhibited a strong presence this spring with multiple sightings including a flock of 44 that circled over Hemlock Lake 5/11 (MH, RH) before veering off to the northwest and 11 on the 5/28 (TG, MH, RH, MS) YC boat ride.

Both **Yellow-billed** and **Black-billed Cuckoos**

arrived 5/11 (v.o.), each at three locations in *Indiana*. **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were sighted at five *Armstrong* locations this spring: at CC 5/19 (TR), along Nicholson Run Road 5/25 (TR), along Hogg Road 5/26 (TR), and 2 on the Margaret BBS 5/30 (MH, RH). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found in *Armstrong* only at PH 5/20 (MVT).

Both **Great Horned Owls** and **Barred Owl** were noted at four locations this spring. **Whip-poor-wills** were surprisingly found at four locations this spring, three where they'd not been heard before; unfortunately, they were all one-time occurrences and probably migrants. At least 2 were present near West Lebanon through 5/28 (EF, MF). A single **Common Nighthawk** was sighted at YC 5/27 (JK), the lone report for the entire region. **Chimney Swifts** returned 4/18 (MH, RH) near SH, and by 4/24 (MH, RH) 28 circled over downtown KT. First **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were spotted near LV 4/30 (MC) and at Nolo 5/3 (CL, GL).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports included single birds 3/2-21 (CL, GL) at Nolo, 4/4 (SG) at YC, 4/13 (MVT) at PH, and 5/11 (SG) at CD.

Single **Peregrine Falcons** were sighted at the Meadow Lane Golf Course 5/2 (DKe) and at YC 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** appeared near Jacksonville 5/16 (EF, MF). **Eastern Wood-Pewees** returned to various parts of *Indiana* (v.o.) 5/11 as well as along CR (MVT). An early **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was reported on the Ferrence farm 5/11 (GF). An **Alder Flycatcher** was on territory at YC from 5/18 (LC, MH, RH, KT) through the end of the period. **Willow Flycatcher** was first noted 5/16 (MH, RH, JT) at YC and 5/22 (FL) at Ebensburg while **Acadian Flycatchers** returned 5/11 (v.o.) to *Indiana*. BS yielded the first **Least Flycatcher** 5/1 (MH, RH) while *Cambria's* first was found 5/8 (JH) near PG. **Eastern Phoebe** arrived first at YC 3/26 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT). The PAMC 5/11 (v.o.) produced the first **Great Crested Flycatchers** in various parts of *Indiana*. First two **Eastern Kingbirds** appeared at YC 4/23 (TG), at PG 4/27 (AC), and along CR 5/7 (SG).

Dates of return for vireos included 5/3 (MVT) along PH and 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) at YC for **White-eyed Vireo**; 5/1 (MH, RH) at BS and 5/3 (MVT) along PH for **Yellow-throated Vireo**; 4/16 (MH, RH) near SH and 4/21 (RL) at PG for **Blue-headed**; 5/1 (MH, RH) at BS and 5/3 (MVT) at both

CC and CM for **Warbling**; and 5/3 (MVT) at both CC and PH and 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) at YC for **Red-eyed Vireo**.

Six **Purple Martins** had returned to PG by 4/15 (JS), but 21 were counted there on 5/19 (RL); 2 were listed 5/11 (MC, SG) at CD while 3 visited YC 5/28 (DC, EC, SD, TG, MH, RH, JK, MS). YC yielded the first 2 **Tree Swallows** 3/11 (SG), the first **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** 4/8 (KT), the first 2 **Bank Swallows** 4/23 (MH, RH), and the first **Cliff Swallows** 4/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, ML, KT).

Northern Rough-winged Swallows arrived both at PG (JS) and CR (MVT) on 4/15. A Bank Swallow 4/24 (MH, RH) flew over the Allegheny at KT while 12 was a good count at PG 5/9 (JS). Best PG count of Cliff Swallows was 16 on 5/9 (JS). Single **Barn Swallows** were first sighted at Wood's Pond 4/7 (MH, RH) and near SH 4/12 (MH).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was last noted 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) at YC. April 16 produced the first **House Wrens**, both near SH (MH, RH) and at YC (LC, MH, RH, KT). First **Winter Wren** popped up near IN 4/20 (DW). First **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** visited a yard near SH 4/10 (MH, RH) and 4/12 respectively.

Only 5 **Veery** reports were received this spring, three on 5/11, one at SGL 247 (TR), one in West Wheatfield Twp. (JT) and the other at CD (MC, SG); a fourth was found 5/20 (JS) at St. Lawrence while 3 were listed at Dysart 5/29 (JS). **Swainson's Thrush** reports included 4 on 5/11 (v.o.) and one at YC 5/16 (MH, RH, JT). The *Indiana* PAMC yielded 5 **Hermit Thrushes** 5/11 (v.o.), all but one in the northeastern part of the county; another was found earlier at DL 4/26 (AF). An early **Wood Thrush** was singing 4/20 (DW) near Trim Tree Nursery; one returned to CM 4/28 (MVT). First Gray Catbirds appeared at PG 4/21 (RL); by 4/30 at least 3 **Gray Catbirds** had returned to YC (LC, TG, MH, RH, ML, KT) and one to CR (MVT). YC yielded the first **Brown Thrasher** 4/9 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM, KT); CC's first appeared 4/15 (MH, RH, MVT) and PG's 4/21 (RL). An **American Pipit** was foraging on the mud in Little Yellow Cove 3/26 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT).

One **Lapland Longspur** and at least 4 **Snow Buntings** accompanied a flock of 150 Horned Larks near Patton 3/28 (DG, JS).

First **Ovenbirds** were heard singing near SH 4/25 (MH, RH), at DL 4/26 (AF), and at PH by 4/28 (MVT). **Louisiana Waterthrush** returned to at PH 4/11 (MVT) and to a feeder stream along Laurel Run at

YC 4/13 (MH, RH). Single **Northern Water-thrushes** heard at PG 5/9 (IG) and at YC 5/14 (LC, SD, MH, RH, RN, KT) and



This Cape may Warbler was photographed by Marcy Cunkelman at Conemaugh Dam on 5/11.

5/16 (MH, RH, JT) were the only ones noted. A **Golden-winged Warbler** along the entrance road to YC was well observed 5/11 (GL, GS). **Blue-winged Warbler** appeared at CM 4/28 (MVT) and at YC 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT). First dates included 4/30 (MVT) at Grantz Hollow and 5/1 (MH, RH) at BS for **Black-and-white Warbler**; 5/11 (v.o.) at various locations for Tennessee Warbler; and 5/1 (MH, RH) at BS and 5/9 (IG) at SGL 108 for **Nashville Warbler**; a Nashville was on Reservoir Hill 5/15 (PJ). A **Mourning Warbler** sang and offered great views near Kingbird Point at YC 5/21 (LC, DC, EC, MH, RH, KT), and for three observers this was a life bird. As this species seems to have suffered a decline in our region, the only **Kentucky Warblers** reported were 4 on the *Indiana* PAMC 5/11 (v.o.). Other first dates included 4/30 at both YC (LC, TG, MH, RH, ML, KT) and PH (MVT) for **Common Yellowthroat**; 5/3 (MVT) at CC and 5/11 (v.o.) across *Indiana* for **Hooded Warbler**, which usually returns much earlier; and 5/5 (TR) at CC and 5/11 (v.o.) in *Indiana* for **American Redstart**. CD yielded the first **Cape May Warbler** 5/11 (MC, SG) while YC harbored the last sighted 5/16 (MH, RH, JT). **Cerulean Warblers** were listed at five *Armstrong* locations with first report along Roaring Run Trail 5/2 (MH, RH); 4 on 5/11 (v.o.) were the only ones noted in *Indiana*. First **Northern Parulas** were listed at CC 5/3 (MVT), at Getty Heights Park 5/6 (MH, RH), and along CR 5/7 (SG). A yard near SH produced the first **Magnolia Warbler** 5/10 (MH, RH). Only five **Bay-breasted Warbler** reports were received, one at YC 5/11 (GL, GS), one on Reservoir Hill the same day (PJ), one at YC 5/13 (TR), one 5/18 (EF, MF) at CD, and 3 at St. Lawrence 5/20 (JS). Dates of return included 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) at YC for **Blackburnian Warbler**; 4/25 (AF) at DD and 4/30 (LC, TG, MH, RH, ML, KT) at YC for Yellow Warbler; and 5/8 both at YC (LC, MH, GL, KT) and near PG (JH) for **Chestnut-sided Warbler**. **Blackpoll Warblers** moved through *Indiana* between 5/11 (v.o.) and 5/28 (TG, MH, RH, MS); there were no *Armstrong* or *Cambria* reports. Single **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were sighted at YC 5/7 (LC,

DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) and 5/13 (TR); at SGL 108 on 5/9 (IG), and at PH 5/11 (MVT). **Palm Warblers** stopped at YC on four dates between 4/16 (LC, MH, RH, KT) and 5/13 (TR) while the PAMC produced 7 on 5/11 (v.o.) including one photographed in Rochester Mills (RL); DL produced one on 4/25 (AF) and 2 the following day (AF). **Pine Warblers**



This Pine Warbler was photographed at YC 5/8 by Margaret Higbee.

returned to a yard near SH 4/4 (MH, RH) and were regular at YC through 5/31 (CG, MH, RH, LW). A non-breeder in *Indiana*, **Yellow-rumped**

Warblers moved through between 4/13 (MH, RH) and 5/18 (LC, MH, RH, KT). **Yellow-throated Warblers** returned to CM 4/15 (MH, RH) and to CD 4/16 (EF, MF); individuals were sighted both at CD (MC, SG) and in West Wheatfield Twp. (JT) 5/11. Four **Prairie Warblers** 5/8 (JH) near PG were first. **Black-throated Green Warblers** appeared first at YC 4/16 (LC, MH, RH, KT), at PG 4/23 (JS), and at DL 4/25 (AF). Single **Wilson's Warbler** at YC 5/16 (MH, RH, JT) and near Reservoir Hill 5/23 (PJ), one **Canada Warbler** at the Ferrence farm 5/11 (GF), and single **Yellow-breasted Chats** in White Twp. 5/11 (CG) and near Olivet 5/13 (MH, RH) comprised the entire report for these three species.

A yard near LV hosted the season's first **Eastern Towhee** 4/2 (MC) while CC's first appeared 4/13 (TR). **Chipping Sparrows** arrived 4/7 (CL, GL) at Nolo, 4/13 (TR) at CC, and 4/21 (RL) at PG. **Field Sparrows** first appeared at YC 4/4 (SG), at CC 4/13 (TR), and at DL 4/26 (AF). Both **Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrows** are becoming increasingly harder to find in the county; the only Vespers listed were one near PG 5/8 (JH) and another near Johnson-burg 5/11 (MH, RH) while the only Savannah was spotted at West Lebanon, also 5/11 (MC, SG). **Grass-hopper Sparrows**

included a good number in the area surrounding



Fox Sparrows were widespread this spring. This bird visited the ground under Marcy Cunkelman's feeders where she took this photo.

PG 5/8 (JH) and one at the Gypsy strips (MH, RH) and 7 near WL (MC), the latter two sightings 5/11. Twenty was the best number of **Henslow's Sparrows** found at SGL 108 (JH); 12 were reported at WL 5/11 (MC). First **Fox Sparrow** popped up at PG 3/17 (RL); Nolo's first arrived 3/28 (CL, GL) and between 3/17-26 (CL, GL) 8 were counted; late individuals lingered at Nolo 4/13 (CL, GL) and at YC 4/16 (LC, MH, RH, KT). A rather late **White-throated Sparrow** was seen at YC 5/16 (MH, RH, JT). Two **White-crowned Sparrows** in IN 4/30 (DK) were first arrivals while 2 lingered through 5/16 (MH, RH, JT) at YC.

Scarlet Tanager appeared first at BS 5/1 (MH, RH) and 5/2 (MH, RH) along the Roaring Run Trail.



Marcy Cunkelman photographed this male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in her yard in late April.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks made their season's debut 4/30 both at Nolo (CL, GL) and at YC (LC, TG, MH, RH, ML, KT); the Roaring Run Trail 5/2 (MH, RH) yielded *Armstrong's* first. By 5/11 (v.o.) **Indigo Buntings** were numerous and widespread. YC hosted the first **Orchard Oriole** 5/7 (LC, DC, EC, RD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) while the first **Baltimore Oriole** had

shown up 4/30 (DKe) in IN. At Nolo the flock of **Purple Finches** had built to 14 by 4/24 (CL, GL). Twice this spring a flock of **Red Crossbills** flew over a yard near SH calling; 8 were counted on 4/14 (MH) and 9 on 5/30 (MH, RH). A **Common Redpoll** stopped at a feeder in IN 3/20 (NB); about a dozen lingered through 3/29 (MC) near LV; a Nolo feeder hosted 1-5 between 3/30 and 4/8 (CL, GL). On 3/9 (TR) a **Pine Siskin** visited a yard near SGL 247; the following day (RL), one stopped in Patton; 20 fed at an Ebsensburg feeder 4/1 (JS); 10 were counted at CD 5/11 (SG); YC harbored one on 5/14 (LC, SD, MH, RH, RN, KT) and 2 four days later (LC, MH, RH, KT).

Observers: Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Nathan Birch, Ken Byerly, Jim Carnahan, Lee Carnahan, Roger Carnahan, Alyssia Church, Derek Clawson, Emily Clawson, Marcy Cunkelman, Sue Dickson, Ed Donley, Michael Dreibelbis, Ray Dumm, Anna Fasioli, Gary Ferrence, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Evelyn Fowles, Mike Fowles, Ian

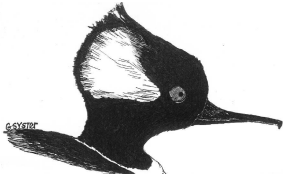
Gardner, Tom Glover, Dave Gobert, Steve Gosser, Deb Grove (DGr), Greg Grove, Carol Guba, Ian Haigh, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Jason Hill, Matthew Hunt (MHu), Pat Johner, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Michael Kardos, Chad Kauffman, James Kellam (JKe), Daniel Keogh (DKe), John Kilmarx, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Alex Lamoreaux, Frank Lenik, Rita Lippert, Melissa Little, Renee Lubert (RLu), Rick Mauk, Donna Meyer, Marilyn Moore, Richard Nugent, Melissa Ortz, Tom Pearson, Theo Rickert, John Salvetti, Mike Shaffer, Nancy Smeltzer, Dan Snell, Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Ken Truitt, Josie Valasek, Marge Van Tassel, Linda Wagner, Daniel Winstead, Friends of the Park (FOP).

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In late winter and early spring sumac is a favorite food for the Pileated Woodpecker. This Pileated was photographed along the Roaring Run Trail May 2 by Roger Higbee.



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