

The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

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

January 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, February 5 – Come and learn about the Winter Raptor Surveys and their results when Dr. Greg Grove from Penn State presents his findings at this meeting.

Greg Grove lives in Huntingdon County, PA, and works in the DNA analysis lab at Penn State. He and his wife Deb started birding as graduate students at Ohio State University in 1979. After the initial exciting years of learning birds and finding new birds, his interest moved to the dynamics of bird populations and ways of surveying populations. He founded the Stone Mt. Hawk Watch, the Lake Raystown Christmas Bird Count, the Pennsylvania Winter Raptor Survey, and three Breeding Bird Survey routes in Rothrock State Forest. He is past president of the State College Bird Club and the Pennsylvania Society for



Rough-legged Hawks are welcomed finds on Winter Raptor Surveys.

Photo by Alex Lamoreau



This beautiful male American Kestrel was photographed during a WRS.

Photo by Alex Lamoreaux

Ornithology and was a Regional Coordinator during the Breeding Bird Atlas.

A winter raptor survey (WRS) has been conducted annually in Pennsylvania since 2001 to assess and monitor the winter distribution of raptors. All raptors and vultures are recorded during driving routes designed by volunteers. Routes are run once a year between mid-January and mid-February, with results reported by county. In 2012, 200 routes were run, at least one in each county. Results are summarized in detail for the four open-country raptors: Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Rough-legged Hawk, and Northern Harrier. Age, sex, and color-morph data are also reported.

Winter Raptor Surveys are a good way to spend time in the field and see a variety of hawks.

Tuesday, March 5 – “Birding the Mahoning Shadow Trail” is the title of Tom Glover’s presentation. Tom will detail his adventures during the past three years while birding the MST. For him the trail is a learning laboratory in which he follows the lives of the resident nesting Bald Eagles. Because of its varied habitats, the MST boasts a great diversity of bird life.

(continued on page 2)

Outings

Tuesday Morning Outings at Yellow Creek will continue, weather permitting. 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).

Saturday, February 9 – Sandy Ridge Road, Clearfield County, led by Tom Glover (814-938-5618). A trip to this grassland could yield Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, and other birds of the open country. Meet at 3:00 at a small cemetery along Rt. 36 near the address 14430 Colonel Drake Hwy., Punxsutawney.

Saturday, March 16 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-465-7323). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

Saturday, March 23 – Yellow Creek State Park., led by Gloria Lamer (724-349-1159). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

Saturday, March 30 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). Meet at 8:00 at the park office. This is a joint outing with the Friends of the Parks.

Saturday, April 6 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-465-7323). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

Saturday, April 13 – Our 30th Anniversary Celebration. The morning will start with a Yellow Creek State Park outing, led by Georgette Syster (724-349-6293). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office. See details on page 3 for further information.

Saturday, April 20 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). Meet at 8:00 at the park office. This is a joint outing with the Three Rivers Birding Club. After the field trip, we'll head to the Chinese buffet in Indiana for lunch.

Meetings

(continued from page 1)

Tuesday, April 2 – “The Life History of the Eastern Whip-poor-will” will be presented by WCO Patrick Snickles at our April meeting. Patrick is no stranger to our group, and his presentations are always interesting and informative. Come and learn about this declining, secretive, nocturnal bird that is more often heard than seen.

Tuesday, May 7 – 6:00 p.m. This is our annual banquet. Please bring a covered dish to share and your own place settings. The evening's speaker will be Bob Greene, an accomplished birder-photographer from Pittsburgh, who will present his birding videos. Bob spoke at our banquet in 2011. Don't miss this one!

Special Thanks!

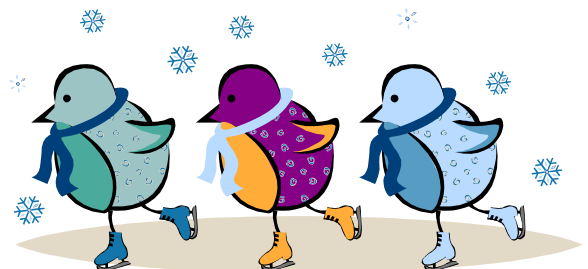
Thanks to Lee Carnahan, Sue Dickson, Tom Glover, Wimp & Gloria Lamer, Ed and Donna Meyer, and Nancy Smeltzer for collecting money for Blue Spruce's Light-up Night on Tuesday, December 13. The night was fairly cool, calm, and clear, so we were actually busy this year.

We had a great time listening to each other's stories.

This is one way in which we support our county parks. Special thanks to Lee Carnahan for organizing the event.

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

Co-President - Linda Jones	724-463-0651	joneslinda@hotmail.com
Co-President - Donna Meyer	724-349-2787	donna.meyer@gmail.com
Vice President - Pat Johner	724-463-7414	pjohner@hotmail.com
Secretary - Georgette Syster	724-349-6293	
Treasurer - Gloria Lamer	724-349-1159	wimp88@gmail.com
Publicity - Pat Johner	724-463-7414	pjohner@hotmail.com
Scrapbook - Dory Jacobs	724-422-9964	ladyhawke7@comcast.net
Webmaster - Ed Donley		hedonley@iup.edu
Newsletter - Margaret Higbee	724-354-3493	bcoriola@windstream.net



Happy Birthday, Todd Bird Club!!!

It's been 30+ years since Pat Andrascik, Anne Hedgpeth, Anne Harrison, and Beth Marshall decided to extend the birding experiences they gained in a beginning birding class at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and form a birding club. This dream grew into an active bird club, the Todd Bird Club, with more than 50 current members.

Let's get together and celebrate. On April 13, current members, former members, future members, and club friends are invited to join together for a "Reunion Bird Walk" at Yellow Creek State Park, one of the premiere birding spots in Pennsylvania and the location of our regular birding activities. We'll meet at the park office at 8:00 a.m. and enjoy each other's companionship while we renew friendships and share our love of birding. Spring migration will be underway, and we should be delighted by lingering water birds, shorebirds, and early warblers.

Who knows, you may sight a life bird or find a wayward visitor.

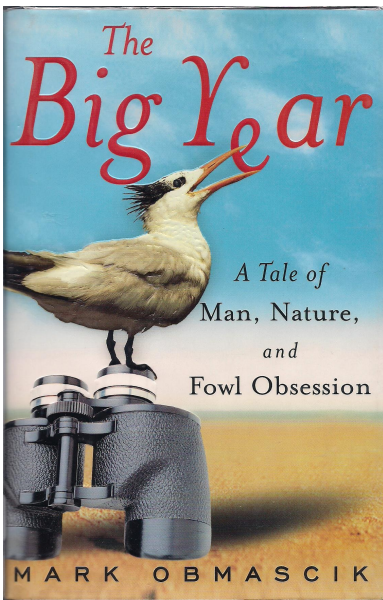
We will continue our celebration with a luncheon, for the nominal cost of \$5, at the beautiful environmental center. (See registration form on page 10.) After lunch, we will have the opportunity to share photos, memorabilia, and memories with each other. If you have any to share, please send them to us so we can prepare them for the afternoon. Please mail to Donna Meyer, 1071 Lions Health Camp Road, Indiana, PA 15701 or email donna.meyer36@gmail.com.

Whether you are able to join us for all or part of the day, we look forward to seeing you and sharing the dedication to our feathered friends that has been the mainstay of this club for so many years.

Book Review

by Tom Glover

The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature and Fowl Obsession by Mark Obmascik. Free Press. 250 pages.



OK, folks, you may have seen the movie; but if you have not read the book, I recommend you find a copy and read it. Penned by passionate birder Mark Obmascik, the lead environmental writer for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize winning *Denver Post*, the book leads you through the adventures of three different men during the year of 1998 as they compete for the North American total species record during their "Big Year." Mark not only details these men's travels ranging from Cape May, NJ, to a landfill in Brownsville, TX, to the isolated island of Attu at the end of the Aleutian Island chain off Alaska, but he goes into detail about their lives and different personalities. Two of the characters, Sandy Komito, a roofing, flooring, and waterproofing contractor from New Jersey, and Al Levantin, a chemist and successful businessman out of Colorado, were retired and wealthy enough to support a "Big Year." But the

third character, Greg Miller, a software engineer originally from a Mennonite family in Ohio, worked full time at a nuclear power plant in Maryland and birded at the same time. Miller went into heavy debt to fund his "Big Year."

The book is about 250 pages long and is easy to read. You should have no problem completing the book in one weekend – unless like me, you fall asleep after about 10 pages. Mark's writing style is easy to follow and whimsical. Because he is an avid birder, he can identify with his characters.

I have been actively birding for about 2½ years, and I was delighted with Mark's description of stampeding birders during a fallout in Texas. I compared that description with an experience during the first major trip of my birding life in Bentsen- Rio Grande State Park in Texas. My daughter, son-in-law, and I were birding along a road in the park when a young man with long flowing hair on a bike was broadcasting loudly that the rare Bare-throated Tiger-Heron was being seen off a dike near the park entrance. We had to hurriedly move off the road to make room for the herd of people, mostly gray-headed older folk, to stamp by.

Now I am not going to tell you which of the three characters won the "Big Year," but that character did set a record count of 745 different species. You will have to read the book.

"The Big Year" DVD Review

by Tom Glover

This past Christmas I received the DVD "The Big Year" from my daughter Elyse and son-in-law Tom. Since all three of us are birders, it was a natural gift. The comedy, a 20th Century Fox production, was released in October of 2011, and the DVD - Blue Ray copies were released in January of 2012. The movie was directed by David Frankel, of "The Devil Wears Prada" fame, and stars Steve Martin, Jack Black, and Owen Wilson as the main characters. The movie is an adaptation by Howard Franklin of Mark Obmasick's 2004 best selling nonfiction book *The Big Year, A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession*. The DVD - Blue Ray version includes both the PG rated theatrical version and the unrated extended version narrated by John Cleese.

For the most part Martin's and Black's movie characters, Stu Preissler and Brad Harris respectively, follow the book's Al Levantin and Greg Miller. But the movie character played by Wilson, Kenny Bostick, departs considerably from the book's Sandy Komito.

The movie had so-so reviews, some panned it while others praised it. Viewing the DVD through the eyes of a birder, I prefer the extended version narrated by John Cleese. The movie follows the lives of three avid birders with different backgrounds as they compete for a total species record during their Big Year. Stu is a semi-retired, successful businessman pursuing his lifelong dream of a "Big Year" while Brad, the youngest of the three, works full time as a programmer but still finds time to do a Big Year. Kenny, a fanatical birder, goes through the movie defending his record from a previous year. The movie delves into the personal lives of the three main characters, but the main

theme is their pursuit of a Big Year. The movie is an entertaining, whimsical comedy that is easy to watch. The movie takes you from a landfill in southern Texas, to the Rocky Mountains, and all the way to an isolated island on the western tip of Alaska.



A fourth character is worth mentioning – a plucky little female Ruby-throated Hummingbird. John Cleese, as part of his voice-over, follows this bird as it makes its migration over the Gulf of Mexico through a battering storm. The bird is part of a fallout that takes place along the Texas coast. This part typifies the movie's treatment of birding in comical relief. But as a birder you see factual portals.

I have to admit the movie treats birding for the most part in a respectful way. You cannot help realizing the potential for actors like Martin and Black, given some of their past roles, to do a "wild and crazy" number on a subject like birding. But from a birder's standpoint, they do a decent job with the subject. So if you have yet to rent or purchase the DVD - Blue Ray copy, I recommend you do. Besides, that is the only way you are going to know which one of the three actually won the Big Year. That is, unless you have read the book, which I also recommend.

Your Dues Are Now Due

January 1 started a new year for Todd Bird Club. Please remit your \$5 student, \$10 individual, or \$15 family dues to our treasurer ASAP:

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



Amount Paid _____

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Conneaut Harbor Field Trip Revisited

Shortly before 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 8, Lee Carnahan, Tom Glover, Emily Hughes, and Derek Clawson arrived at our home for the Todd trip to Conneaut Harbor, Ohio. The forecast included 100 percent chance of rain, so we did not anticipate a good turnout of either birds or birders. We had not yet reached Kittanning when the downpours began.

We arrived at Conneaut Harbor shortly after 9:00 a.m. The first birds we saw when we reached the harbor were Ring-billed and Herring Gulls, Mallards, Canada Geese, Common Merganser, and a Belted Kingfisher. Shorebirds seen after we reached the beach area included 6 Semipalmated Plovers, 4 Sanderlings, 3 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and 1 Least Sandpiper



Roger Higbee photographed this Lesser Black-backed Gull at Conneaut Harbor.

We finally spotted one Great Black-backed Gull and a total of 9 Caspian Terns. An Osprey flew by, and we eventually counted 7 Great Blue Herons. When the rain abated, Lee counted more than 50 Turkey Vultures soaring over the hillside. One Barn Swallow swooped low over the water and disappeared behind the jetty. Rain showers continued periodically. A shorebird flew in and landed within 50 feet of our vehicles. Through binoculars I could see the bird appeared buffy and had yellow legs. I was fairly certain it was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, but before I could get the scope on it, a truck drove between it and us, flushing the shorebird. What lousy luck! A scan of the gull flock revealed a Lesser Black-backed Gull in basic plumage with a lot of head streaking. Nearby we spotted another.

We decided to check the pond once again before heading to McDonald's for lunch. This time activity at the pond was more apparent. Three Lesser Yellowlegs were feeding on the mud at the far end. Swimming in the water near the lily pads was a lone Pied-billed Grebe. Best sighting of all was an immature Black-crowned Night-Heron along the stream. We drove past the cove where we sighted a Red-breasted Merganser swimming close to shore.

After lunch Emily and Derek headed back to Indiana while the four of us returned to the harbor. Our first stop was at the cove near the docks where the Red-breasted Merganser was resting on shore amid all the Mallards and Canada Geese. Another check of the pond revealed a Green Heron and two Green-winged Teal. Driving toward the beach, we came upon the large flock of gulls.

When we arrived at the beach, an Ohio birder was present. We parked beside him and asked what he had seen. He told us that the Buff-breasted Sandpiper was right in front of us on the spit. Within seconds we had located it and all of us saw it in our scopes. Nice! We spotted three Bald Eagles flying over the sand piles.

A Yellow-headed Blackbird flew from the jetty, over our heads, then returned to the jetty where it landed on the rocks.

We watched the same little group of shorebirds – Semipalmated Plovers, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers, Sanderlings, and the Buff-breasted Sandpiper – working their way along the spit as they fed. A Double-crested Cormorant that had landed on the distant jetty was a new bird for the day's list. Shortly after 3:00

p.m. we decided to head to Pymatuning. Just as we were returning to our van, three Killdeer appeared. On the way out we stopped along the road and checked out the sand at the ponded water. Two Pectoral Sandpipers were busy feeding here. And, of course, we had to stop once again at the pond where Roger found another Black-crowned Night-Heron, an adult perched in a tree along the stream. Along Route 6 in Ohio we added American Kestrel to our list.

Our stop at Pymatuning yielded more Bald Eagles, Double-crested Cormorants, Ring-billed Gulls, Mallards, Canada Geese, and Great Blue Herons. New to the list were Wood Ducks, three Sandhill Cranes, a Solitary Sandpiper, one Northern Flicker, and several Cedar Waxwings.

Our last destination was the Golden Run Area of Shenango Reservoir. Here we listed Northern Cardinals, a flock of about 30 American Goldfinches feeding in the open field, an Eastern Phoebe, a Greater Yellowlegs, another Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a flock of Ring-billed Gulls, a Semipalmated Plover, a Black-bellied Plover, a Pectoral Sandpiper, and three Killdeer. Two Belted Kingfishers rattled as they flew by. Behind us in the trees we heard noisy Blue Jays and American Crows. Several trees harbored a flock of Cedar Waxwings and American Robins. An Osprey appeared for a brief minute. Tom found a lone Pied-billed Grebe across the water very near the other shore. Feeding low over the water were both Tree and Barn Swallows.

– Margaret Higbee

For more details, see entire trip report at our website, www.toddbirdclub.org.



Indiana Christmas Bird Count Results



30th Annual CBC – December 28, 2012

Snow Goose (CW)		Bonaparte's Gull (6)		Savannah Sparrow (2)	
Canada Goose (2081)	1110	Ring-billed Gull (50)	17	Fox Sparrow (3)	1
Mute Swan (4)		Herring Gull (1)		Song Sparrow (152)	61
*Tundra Swan (200)	533	*Rock Pigeon (366)	392	Lincoln's Sparrow (1)	
Wood Duck (2)		Mourning Dove (1117)	919	Swamp Sparrow (14)	3
Gadwall (30)	12	Eastern Screech-Owl (13)		White-throated Sparrow (214)	52
American Wigeon (14)	3	Great Horned Owl (10)	4	White-crowned Sparrow (36)	30
American Black Duck (190)	17	Barred Owl (5)	1	Dark-eyed Junco (2272)	1201
Mallard (670)	137	Long-eared Owl (1)		Lapland Longspur (6)	
N. Shoveler (2)	CW	Short-eared Owl (2)		Snow Bunting (225)	
N. Pintail (10)		Belted Kingfisher (9)	5	Northern Cardinal (584)	339
Green-winged Teal (4)	CW	Red-headed Woodpecker (1)		Red-winged Blackbird (3570)	55
*Canvasback (9)	15	Red-bellied Woodpecker (72)	65	Eastern Meadowlark (10)	1
Redhead (14)	4	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (8)	2	Rusty Blackbird (13)	
Ring-necked Duck (41)	18	Downy Woodpecker (177)	85	Brewer's Blackbird (CW)	
Greater Scaup (2)		Hairy Woodpecker (58)	30	Common Grackle (503)	
*Lesser Scaup (24)	32	Northern Flicker (40)	4	Brown-headed Cowbird (46)	
**Surf Scoter	CW	*Pileated Woodpecker (25)	31	Pine Grosbeak (1)	
*White-winged Scoter (1)	1	Am. Kestrel (26)	17	Purple Finch (89)	22
Long-tailed Duck (3)		Merlin (2)		House Finch (1563)	152
Bufflehead (52)	25	Peregrine Falcon (1)		*White-winged Crossbill (CW)	62
Common Goldeneye (7)	1	Northern Shrike (1)		Common Redpoll (63)	2
Hooded Merganser (34)	20	Blue Jay (566)	325	Pine Siskin (375)	4
Common Merganser (5)	4	American Crow (3275)	363	American Goldfinch (637)	191
Red-breasted Merganser (2)		Fish Crow (8)		Evening Grosbeak (566)	
*Ruddy Duck (69)	223	Common Raven (5)	4	House Sparrow (809)	410
Ring-necked Pheasant (21)	3	Horned Lark (200)	129		
Ruffed Grouse (22)	1	Black-capped Chickadee (808)	411	Total Individuals (18,833)	9,094
Wild Turkey (345)	31	Tufted Titmouse (394)	236		
N. Bobwhite (1)		Red-breasted Nuthatch (51)	24	80 Species on 12/28/12 + 3 for CW	
*Red-throated Loon (1)	1	White-breasted Nuthatch (201)	107		
Common Loon (9)	5	Brown Creeper (25)	5	CW = Birds Seen During Count	
Pied-billed Grebe (29)	25	Carolina Wren (61)	19	Week but Not Count Day	
*Horned Grebe (4)	7	Winter Wren (4)	2	CW = December 25-31	
Red-necked Grebe (1)		Golden-crowned Kinglet (106)	19		
Double-crested Cormorant (1)		Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4)		* Record-breaking or Equal High	
Great Blue Heron (8)	3	Eastern Bluebird (152)	35	Tally (12)	
Turkey Vulture (2)		Hermit Thrush (6)			
Bald Eagle (3)		Wood Thrush (CW)		**Species New to the Count (one)	
Northern Harrier (9)	4	American Robin (1626)			
Sharp-shinned Hawk (14)	5	Gray Catbird (2)		() Highest No. Seen on Any	
Cooper's Hawk (15)	2	*Northern Mockingbird (12)	13	Previous Indiana CBC,	
N. Goshawk (1)		Brown Thrasher (1)	1	1983-2011	
Red-shouldered Hawk (5)		European Starling (8656)	662		
Red-tailed Hawk (70)	51	Cedar Waxwing (212)	1	128 Species on Count since 1983	
Rough-legged Hawk (3)	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler (18)	1	(including 4 CW only species)	
Virginia Rail (1)		Pine Warbler (1)			
Am. Coot (811)	186	Eastern Towhee (3)	2		
Killdeer (7)		American Tree Sparrow (483)	96		
*Wilson's Snipe (1)	3	Chipping Sparrow (2)			
Am. Woodcock (2)		Field Sparrow (13)			

Christmas Bird Count Observers

Leonard Anderson	Sue Dickson	Margaret Higbee	Ann Peterson
Pat Andrascik	Ed Donley	Pat Johner	Marjorie Peterson
Bill Betts	Bob Fairman	Paul Johner	Sara Pulliam
Tom Betts	Emmy Fairman	Janet Kuehl	Linda Stormer
Jean Blair	Gary Ferrence	Gloria Lamer	Luke Stormer
Sid Blair	Don Frew	Mary A. Little	Rodger Stormer
Jean Blystone	Marie Frew	Howard Mandigo	Georgette Syster
Vernon Blystone	Sue Gatti	Beth Marshall	John Taylor
Judy Buggey	Tom Glover	Ken Marshall	Mary Lu Tucker
Walter Buggey	Joyce Griffith	Greg McKee, Jr.	Ila Tuorinsky
Ken Byerly	Carol Guba	Greg McKee, Sr.	Steve Tuorinsky
Lee Carnahan	Michael Guba	Natalie McKee	Cris Williams
Roger Carnahan	Laura Helmrich-Rhodes	Donna Meyer	Paula Williams
Dorcas Clark	Roger Higbee	Ed Meyer	Daniel Winstead
Dan Cunkelman			Ray Winstead

CBCs Past

Year	Total Species	CW	No. of Individuals	Year	Total Species	CW	No. of Individuals
1983	56	3	4188	1998	82	7	10873
1984	57	5	9540	1999	73	2	18827
1985	51	2	4468	2000	64	2	12397
1986	54	2	7453	2001	77	2	14365
1987	60	3	5676	2002	62	2	9739
1988	48	3	6670	2003	72	4	9687
1989	52	4	4309	2004	72	5	8788
1990	65	6	8502	2005	62	7	12130
1991	60	5	6004	2006	64	5	8762
1992	67	8	6435	2007	82	3	14344
1993	70	9	13490	2008	71	8	14329
1994	67	4	10759	2009	56	5	8472
1995	71	5	8637	2010	55	2	7174
1996	65	7	9994	2011	71	4	9029
1997	74	3	10180	2012	80	3	9094

The Visitor

by Dory Jacobs

On a gray November 29 I had a surprise visitor at my kitchen feeders – a female Baltimore Oriole. She was feathered in yellow and pale orange with white bars on her black wings.

She warily waited in the tall bushes beside the feeders until they were empty of other birds before she fed on the black oil sunflower seed and suet. As the days passed, she began to feed with the chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Nuthatch, titmice, and other small birds.

Halved oranges and citrus/sugar water were put out, and she hungrily sipped at the liquid. It wasn't until the sixth day that she finally began pecking at the cut oranges. She freely fed at the other feeders around the yard, but she always returned to the kitchen feeders and retreated to two large Blue Spruce to rest.

A strong, windy cold front moved in on Sunday, December 16, the last day she was seen. But there is always next spring.

Christmas Bird Count Revisited

This year's CBC participants tallied 80 species, the highest number of species since 2007 when we listed 82 species, but our total individual count was low, due to fewer participants birding fewer hours. The total species count is highly dependent upon the weather as waterfowl comprise the bulk of species missing when freeze-up occurs before our count. This year all still water was almost completely open, so we counted more water birds than we have on many counts. In addition, the count fell on a day with high movement of Tundra Swans bringing our previous high count from 200 to 533 this year. Yellow Creek Lake yielded 14 duck species for Gloria Lamer, Georgette Syster, John Taylor, and Ed Donley. Special thanks to Lee Carnahan for birding during count week and adding all 3 of the count week species including a "first ever" Surf Scoter.

Ten species hit record numbers for the count; two additional species tied the previous high. Surf Scoter, seen during count week, was new to the count.

This was the year of the northern finch invasion. Excellent cone crops in our area provided abundant food for crossbills. This was the first year that White-winged Crossbills were found on count day. Sue Gatti reported at least 60 individuals in her hemlocks while Gloria Lamer and Georgette Syster heard two flying overhead at Yellow Creek.

Three Pine Siskins visited Don and Marie Frew's feeder while another appeared at Marjorie Peterson's feeder where she and her daughter Ann enjoyed its presence. One Common Redpoll stopped by Steve and Ila Tuorinsky's feeders while another individual flew over Yellow Creek and was heard by the Higbees.

In addition, a few late migrants and/or wintering birds were spotted. Ken and Beth Marshall and Cris and Paula Williams spotted an Eastern Meadowlark. Lee Carnahan found a Brown Thrasher along a road near a brushy area.

Janet Kuehl and Ken Byerly happened upon three Wilson's Snipe in a wet area and a large flock of White-crowned Sparrows at a farm. In addition, not only were they treated to lunch at Gary Ferrence's, but Gary provided a great sighting of a light morph Rough-legged Hawk for all three of them as well! Dan Cunkelman ferreted out the count's lone Yellow-rumped Warbler. Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted by the Marshall crew and by Ed Donley and John Taylor. Sue Dickson listed the count's only Cedar Waxwing and got a life bird Winter Wren as well. Another Winter Wren appeared near Homer City for Sara Pulliam. Also near Homer City, Greg McKee, Jr., listed a Fox Sparrow, another rare winterer for the count.

Previous counts have yielded as few as 48 species and as many as 82, so this is the third best species count on record. The previous average number of species seen on count day is 64.8 while the mean is 65, so this year's count is well above both the average and the mean. However, our total number of individuals is 315 below the previous average of 9490 birds but 65 above the previous mean.

Twenty-seven field birders, down from 35 last year, in 17 parties, spent 45.5 hours hiking 31.25 miles and drove 631.9 miles in a little less than 56 hours. Twenty-seven feeder watchers at 22 feeders invested 84¾ hours in the count.

Twenty-one attended the count dinner at Hoss's at 6:00 the evening of the count. The James Dearing Award was given to Ed Donley for hearing the count's only Barred Owl. Other nominations included the Eastern Meadowlark, Brown Thrasher, and the White-winged Crossbills.

Thanks to everyone who participated and helped to make the count successful!

– Margaret Higbee

American Kestrel Nest Box Project

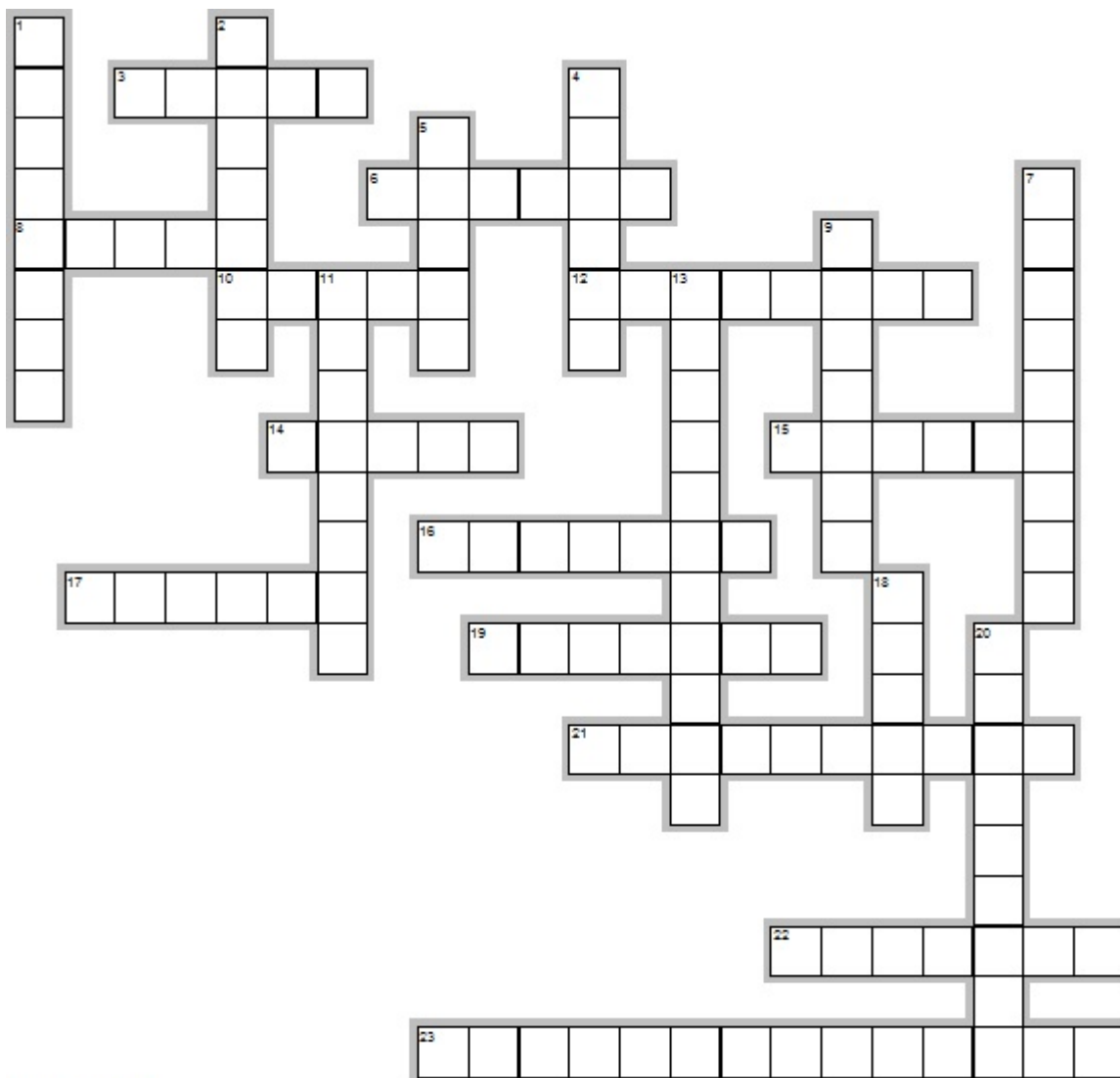
After Emily Thomas's excellent presentation at our December Todd Bird Club meeting, we decided to sponsor a nest box building project for the American Kestrel, our smallest falcon which has been experiencing a sharp and steady decline. Volunteers are needed to monitor the boxes on a regular schedule. Monitoring means watching the box for a determined amount of time from a distance to determine whether anything is using the box, the species in residence, and whether the species is carrying food to the box. The boxes will also need to

be cleaned on a yearly basis.

The first five boxes built will be installed at our county parks under the supervision of Ed Patterson, Director of Parks and Trails.

Jakeb Rising, a Marion Center student and Boy Scout, would like to help with the kestrel project as part of his Eagle Scout Project. Jakeb plans to attend our February meeting. Come early to meet him and sign up to help.

January Crossword Puzzle



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

3. discoverer and describer of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
6. to complain
8. bird on a 1964 half dollar
10. an unusual "miss" on the 2012 Indiana CBC
12. a sharp cranial protuberance that enables hatching
14. substance smeared by Red-breasted Nuthatches around nest cavity
15. our youngest active member
16. *Perisoreous canadensis*
17. bird that lives along and in rapidly moving water
19. first name of #3 across
21. Blue-headed and Yellow-throated Vireos have them; Red-eyed and Bell's do not
22. most abundant sparrow in Death Valley
23. disease affecting primarily House Finches

Down

1. possessor of a spatulate bill
2. thunder pumper
4. last name of Todd's secretary
5. hero in Irving's "Legend of Sleepy Hollow"
7. fish duck
9. our largest accipiter
11. a sad bird
13. resembles a miniature mockingbird
18. most numerous bird on 2012 Indiana CBC
20. what you give a sick bird

Todd Bird Club 30th Anniversary Celebration

I plan to attend the Todd Bird Club's 30th Anniversary Celebration at Yellow Creek State Park on Saturday, April 13. The morning's outing will begin at 8:00 at the park office. A luncheon will be held at the Environmental Education Center at noon. We ask that you make a \$5 donation to help defray the cost of the luncheon.

Name _____

Number of Persons Attending _____ @ \$5 each

Address _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Phone No. _____

Please make checks payable to "Todd Bird Club" and mail to:

E-mail Address _____

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

Great Backyard Bird Count Goes Global in 2013

After 15 years of success in North America, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will open up to the entire world for the first time in 2013. Anyone, from anywhere on earth, can participate by visiting www.birdcount.org and reporting the kinds and numbers of birds they see during the 16th annual count, February 15–18, 2013.

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, with partner Bird Studies Canada, the four-day count typically receives sightings from tens of thousands of people reporting more than 600 bird species in the United States and Canada alone.



Pine Siskin

"This year's count will give us a whole new perspective as sightings pour in from around the globe in real time," said Marshall Iliff at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "Millions of people encounter birds every day all over the world. Imagine what scientists will learn if each one of us shares observations from our own area!"

During the 2012 count, participants reported 17.4 million bird observations on 104,000 checklists. Snowy Owls thrilled many participants when these striking birds-of-prey ventured south from the Arctic in record numbers. In 2013, scientists predict that U.S. and Canadian bird watchers will see an influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches and winter finches (such as Pine Siskins) because of scarce food supplies on their northern wintering grounds.

"The GBBC is an ideal opportunity for young and old to connect with nature by discovering birds and to

participate in a huge science project," said Gary Langham, Audubon's Chief Scientist. "This year, we hope people on all seven continents, oceans, and islands, will head out into their neighborhoods, rural areas, parks, and wilderness to further our understanding of birds across the hemispheres."

Participating is easy. Simply watch birds for at least 15 minutes at the location of your choice on one or more of the count days. Estimate the number of birds you see for each species you can identify. You'll select your location on a map, answer a few questions, enter your tallies, and then submit your data to share your sightings with others around the world.

The global capacity for the count will be powered by eBird, an online checklist program for all of the world's 10,240 bird species. Participants will be able to view what others are seeing on interactive maps, keep their own records, and have their tallies recorded for perpetuity.

"The popularity of the Great Backyard Bird Count grows each year," said Dick Cannings, Senior Projects Officer at Bird Studies Canada, "and with the new features, participation will be even more exciting."

The Great Backyard Bird Count is sponsored in part by Wild Birds Unlimited.

If you participate in the GBBC, please email Margaret Higbee at bcorirole@windstream.net so that your name may be included in the list of Todd's participants in the April *Nuthatch*.

Indiana, Armstrong, Cambria Fall Report

Fall – August 1 to November 30, 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), Crooked Creek Park (CC), Indiana University of PA (IUP), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Lewisville (LV), Prince Gallitzin (PG), Shelocta (SH), Two Lick Reservoir (TL), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

Super Storm Sandy produced a nice assortment of interesting species. Highlights included Brant, scoters, and a great variety of shorebirds at YC including two Red Phalaropes.

Canada Goose maxima included 208 at YC 10/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM), 165 at Duman Lake 11/18(AF), 100 on the IUP campus 11/20 (JT), and 65 at KR 9/2 (LC). Super Storm Sandy yielded several sightings of **Brant** at YC, including 2



Twenty-one Brant flew over Yellow Creek 10/30.

Photo by Tim Schreckengost



Two immature Brant landed at YC 10/29.

Photo by Margaret Higbee

immature birds 10/29 (LC, MH, RH) that lingered through 11/6 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) and two fly-over flocks of 21 on 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, EK, GL, RN, TS, ZS, KT) and 75 the following day (JM). A **Mute Swan** on Redbank Creek near New Bethlehem 11/23 (AK) was the lone report. Two **Tundra Swans**

were the first to appear at YC 11/3 for 15 observers (3RBC, TBC); PG hosted 13 on 11/9 (JS); top count of 125 occurred at YC 11/15 (TG, MH, RN); among many reports, migrating flocks included 79 over a yard near SH 11/14 (MH, RH), 74 over another yard near SH 11/24 (ED), and 68 at YC 11/27 (LC). None were reported in *Armstrong*.

September 27 yielded the high **Wood Duck** count of 115 (LC) at YC where 5 still lingered 11/13 (TG, MH, RN); KR's high was only 20 on 9/2 (LC). **Gadwalls** appeared in larger than normal numbers this season with 49 reported 10/29 (MH, RH) at KR, the best count on record for *Armstrong*; best YC tallies included 262 on 10/29 (LC, MH, RH) and an estimated 275 on 11/3 (3RBC, TBC); this is the first time Gadwalls have hit triple digits at YC. Arrival date for **American Wigeon** was 10/23 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT) at YC where numbers peaked at 150 on 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, EK, GL, RN, TS, ZS, KT) and 212 the next day (BC); these are the largest fall flocks on record since 1996.

First **American Black Duck** was sighted 10/1 (TG, MH, RH, ML) at YC while the rather low top count of 14 was obtained 11/27 (LC). The maximum YC **Mallard** tally was 202 on 10/29 (LC, MH, RH), one of the better counts in recent years. First **Blue-winged Teal** arrived 8/19 (AF, AL) at YC and 9/1 (NB, KB) at KR; by 9/17 (LC) numbers built at YC to 124, the highest count on record with the closest being 120 individuals on 9/22/1998 (MH, CG, LW, BF, TF, MC, DJ et al); last observed were 4 on 11/13 (TG, MH, RN). September 4 (LC, MH, DM) marked the arrival of the first **Northern Shoveler**; 10 were noted 10/19 (LC). A single **Northern Pintail** appeared 9/27 (LC); a flock of 55 flew past the beach on the evening of 10/30 (MH, RH). KR hosted the first 4 **Green-winged Teal** 9/2 (LC); YC's first also numbered 4 on 9/4 (LC, MH, DM); 30 was the YC high on 11/3 (3RBC, TBC) and 16 KR's high 11/4 (MH, RH). Two **Redheads** at YC 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, EK, GL, RN, TS, ZS, KT) were first; numbers were low with only 4 on 11/13 (TG, MH, RN) marking the high count. **Ring-necked Duck** maxima, all at

YC, included 346 on 10/28 (LC), an estimated 500 on 11/3 (3RBC, TBC), and 389 on 11/13 (TG, MH, RN). Thirty-eight **Ring-necked Ducks** were listed at CC 10/31 (MVT). Twenty **Greater Scaup** was the top tally at YC 11/3 (CD); this is the highest fall count



These two Black Scoters were photographed at Yellow Creek on 10/30 by Tim Schreckengost.

on record. Six **Lesser Scaup** arrived 10/28 (MH, RH) at YC where peak count was roughly 100 on 11/3 (3RBC, TBC).

Lingering scoters were compliments of Super Storm Sandy this season. In the past scoters have appeared one day and have been gone the next, but this was not the case this year. On the evening of 10/30 (MH, RH) a flock of 18 **Surf Scoters** landed on YC Lake; 6 were still present 11/6 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT), and a singleton remained 11/20 (LC, TG, MH, AM). Two also stopped at PG 11/1 (MD). On 10/28 (LC) 22 **White-winged Scoters** flew over TL; the following day (LC, MH, RH) 4 were on YC Lake and 6 landed at PG (MD); later that same day, 10/29, 4 were listed on TL (LC) and Super Storm Sandy dropped an additional 4 on KR (MH, RH). On 10/30 (TS) 22 appeared at YC, where 3 remained through the end of the period (LC). Both YC (LC, MH, RH) and TL (LC) harbored 2 female **Black Scoters** on 10/29; 3 were found at YC 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, EK, GL, RN, TS, ZS, KT); 14 were listed at PG 10/31 (JS); last noted were 2 on 11/6 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT), also at YC. A flock of 215 **Buffleheads** was counted at YC 10/28 (MH, RH) while TL hosted 104 the same day (LC); a flock of 22 was counted at KR (MH, RH); 4 were noted at CC 10/31 (MVT) while 3 were still present at KR 11/4 (MH, RH). By 11/27 (LC) the Bufflehead flock had dwindled to 36 at YC. Two **Common Goldeneyes** listed 11/13 (TG, MH, RN) at YC were the only ones reported. Single **Hooded Mergansers** appeared at KR 9/2 (LC) and at YC 9/4 (LC, MH, DM); Sandy produced a mere 18 on 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, EK, GL, RN, TS, ZS, KT) while the high tally of 76 occurred

11/25 (LC). KR harbored 2 **Common Mergansers** 9/2 (NB, KB) and 42 on 9/28 (LC). Two **Red-breasted Mergansers** on 11/6 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) at YC were the only ones noted. First 12 **Ruddy Ducks** arrived at YC 9/27 (LC) while KR's first were 15 on 9/28 (LC); on 10/29 (LC, MH, RH) numbers reached 1349 at YC; an all-time high count of 2,072 occurred 11/3 (3RBC, TBC) at YC. Wilmore Reservoir harbored 300 on 10/30 (MHu). Eight stopped at CC 11/3 (TR) while one remained at KR 11/4 (MH, RH).

Only 2 **Ruffed Grouse** were reported this season, one at Blacklick Valley Natural Area on 10/6 (LC, TG, MH, RH) and a rather unusual report of one standing on a road near Nolo at 3 a.m. on 11/19 (CL, GL), causing CL to brake hard to avoid hitting it.

Single **Red-throated Loons** were listed 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, EK, GL, RN, TS, ZS, KT) and 11/3 (3RBC, TBC) at YC. An early **Common Loon** appeared at YC 8/14 (LC, TG, MH, DM, RN, KT) while maxima included 68 at YC 10/2 (TG, MH, RH, ML), 63 at TL 10/28 (LC), 98 at YC 10/29 (CL, GL), and 112 at YC 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, EK, GL, RN, TS, ZS, KT). August 26 marked the arrival of the first 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** at YC while a singleton appeared at KR 9/1 (NB, KB); numbers spiked to 58 at YC on 10/19 (LC), but 44 were still present 11/27 (LC); 16 was the high at PG 9/27 (MD). TL harbored the first 7 **Horned Grebes** 10/28 (LC); high YC count was 15 the following day (LC, MH, RH, GL, RN, KT). A single **Red-necked Grebe** was a good find at YC 11/27 (LC).

Single **Double-crested Cormorants** were noted at KR 9/2 (NB, KB), on a treatment pond near SH 9/24 (MH, RH), and at KR 10/29 (MH, RH); top tally was 78 at YC 10/29 (CL, GL).

Two **Great Egrets** were spotted south of CC 8/9 (MVT). Last **Green Heron** was found at YC 10/2 (TG, MH, RH, ML).

A **Black Vulture** just south of Indiana was the fourth county record 11/2 (AF). Twenty-four **Turkey Vultures** over Clymer 10/5 (AB) was the high while last seen was one at Brush Valley 11/9 (CL, GL). Migrating **Osprey** included single birds at YC on 8/26 (LC) and 9/25 (LC, TG, MH, RN, MVT). **Bald Eagle** reports encompassed seven days at YC (v.o.) this period with sightings of both adult and immature birds; 2 were noted near CC 8/7 (MVT); 3 were listed at KR 9/2 (NB, KB) and a juvenile was spotted at the same location 9/28 (LC). A female **Northern Harrier** visited YC 10/2 (TG, MH, RH, ML) while a male was sighted near Brush Valley 11/9 (CL, GL).



Marge Van Tassel photographed this adult Bald Eagle near Crooked Creek on August 7, 2012.

Sharp-shinned Hawks were noted at three locations this quarter; **Cooper's Hawks**, at five. Last **Broad-winged Hawks** were listed 8/26 (LC) at YC, 8/30 (JT) over

IUP, and 9/2 (NB, KB) at KR.



This Red-shouldered Hawk, one of the few reported, was noted near Crooked Creek 9/25. Photograph by Marge Van Tassel

Two **Soras** were feeding at the edge of Little Yellow Cove at YC 8/14 (LC, TG, MH, DM, RN, KT); a singleton was seen there on three dates (v.o.) through 10/21 (ST). The first 6 **American Coots** arrived 9/11 (LC, TG, MH, RN) at YC; 500 were tallied at PG 11/9 (JS); top count at YC was 1,999 on 11/3 (3RBC, TBC), one of the highest tallies on record.

A Black-bellied

Plover arrived 9/17 (LC) at YC and was still present the next day (LC, MH, GL) and through 9/23 (AL). An **American Golden-Plover**, first sighted 10/27 (ST) remained through 10/29 (LC, MH, RH). The season's first **Semipalmated Plover** appeared at YC 8/7 (LC, TG, MH, AL, ML) while one was present 9/2 (LC) at KR; 5 were counted on 9/11 (LC, TG, MH, RN, KT), and last was noted 10/28 (LC). **Killdeer** lingered at YC till 11/3 (3RBC, TBC). Last **Spotted Sandpiper** and **Solitary Sandpiper** were respectively found 10/2 (TG, MH, RH, ML) and 9/18 (LC, MH). Sandy brought 34 **Greater Yellowlegs** and 16 **Lesser Yellowlegs** to YC early in the day on 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, EK, GL, RN, TS, ZS, KT) and another 15 Greater that evening (MH, RH). Single **Semipalmated Sandpipers** visited YC 9/4 (LC, MH, DM) and 10/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM); these were the only sightings reported. Small numbers of **Least Sandpipers** (1-9) utilized the mud in Little Yellow Cove on 20 dates through 10/19 (LC);

4 visited KR 9/2 (LC). **Pectoral Sandpipers** continued into the period with the high of 4 at YC on 10/2 (TG, MH, RH, ML); 2 still lingered at YC 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, EK, GL, RN, TS, ZS, KT) while one remained at KR 11/4 (MH, RH). Three **Dunlin** arrived at YC 10/9 (LC, MH, RH, GL, RN, KT); more than 1000 passed by the beach the morning of 10/29 (LC, MH, RH); later that same day between 4:00-6:25, many small flocks passed by totaling 773 individuals (MH, RH). Sandy set an all-time Dunlin high for YC. One to 6 **Wilson's Snipe** were found on ten dates between 9/4 (LC, MH, DM) and 11/3 (IH); one was at PG 10/25 (JS). A **Red Phalarope** was sighted from the observatory on 10/29 (LC, MH, RH); 2 spotted in Little Yellow Cove the following day (TS) were still present 10/31 (MD). This was the second county record for Red Phalarope, the previous record 11/10/1990 (GL, CL, GS, KG, BF, GC).

Two **Bonaparte's Gulls** on 10/28 (LC) at YC were first arrivals; maximum count was 12 on 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, EK, GL, RN, TS, ZS, KT). The late afternoon of 10/30 (MH, RH) dumped 40 **Ring-billed Gulls** and 33 **Herring Gulls** on YC Lake. Two Herring Gulls were listed at CC 11/17 (MVT). Two **Caspian Terns** stopped at YC 10/30 (LC, MH, RH, EK, GL, RN, TS, ZS, KT). A **Common Tern** appeared at YC 10/30 (TS), the lone report. **Forster's Tern** reports, all at YC, included 3 on 10/20 (TG, MH, RH), 23 on 10/30 (MH, RH), and single birds on 10/28 (LC), 11/2 (GL), and 11/3 (3RBC, TBC). Single **Black Terns** were nice finds at YC 8/14 (LC, TG, MH, DM, RN, KT) and again 9/18 (LC, MH, GL); 3 were noted at PG 9/4 (ST). A **Pomarine Jaeger** flew past the YC beach 10/30 (LC, EK, GL, TS, ZS, KT) while another was spotted at TL 10/31 (LC); these are the first and second county records for this species.

Two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** lingered at YC 8/21 (LC, TG, MH, ML, MVT) while last **Black-billed Cuckoo** was found at BS 9/22 (LC, DC, SD, MH, RH, EH, DW, RW).

August 18 yielded 2 **Eastern Screech-Owls** at Nolo (AB, DB) and one at TL (AL); a yard near SGL 247 produced one 10/1 (TR); these were the only ones noted. **Great Horned Owl** was hooting near SH 11/5 (MH, RH) and near SGL 247 on 10/21 (TR); one was at PG 9/25 (MD). **Barred Owls** were calling near Nolo 8/8-9/15 (AB, DB) and near SH 9/5-8 and 11/4 -11/11 (MH, RH).

Three **Common Nighthawks** were sighted from the Kittanning Bridge 9/1 (MH, RH) while 2 were at PG 9/3 (MD). Last **Chimney Swift** was circling over SH 10/4 (MH). Last **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**

included one near LV 9/27 (MC) and one near SH 9/28 (MH, RH).

An immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** in a yard near SH was a nice find 10/4 (CG, MH). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** sightings included one at YC 9/27 (LC), one at IUP 9/28 (JT), and another at YC 10/19 (LC).

A **Merlin** was at YC on four dates between 9/4 (LC, MH, DM) and 10/13 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT).

Amazingly, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** showed up at the annual Todd Bird Club picnic at Dan and Marcy Cunkelman's on 8/19 (m.ob.) for the second year in a row. Another was spotted at PG 9/5 (JS). BS yielded the last **Eastern Wood-Pewee** 10/3



This Olive-sided Flycatcher was perched in the same tree in which one was photographed last year at the Todd picnic. Photograph by Marcy Cunkelman

(MH, RH, JT), the season's lone **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** sighting 9/10 (MH), and the last Traill's flycatcher 9/15 (LC, MH, RH, DM, KT, JT, RW). PG produced the last identified **Willow Flycatcher** 9/4 (ST) and the last **Least Flycatcher** 9/13 (MD). An **Eastern Phoebe** still remained at YC 11/3 (3RBC, TBC) while 2 **Eastern Kingbirds** at YC 9/9 (LC) were last.

A **Northern Shrike** at PG 11/9 (JS) was the region's lone report.

Last vireo dates included 9/16 (ST) for **White-eyed Vireo** at YC, 9/16 (TR) for **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Polka Hollow, 10/13 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) for **Blue-headed Vireo** at YC, 9/16 (TR) for **Warbling Vireo** near CC, and 10/1 (MVT) for **Red-eyed Vireo** at CC. Reports included three **Philadelphia Vireo** sightings – 2 at YC 9/11 (LC, TG, MH, RN, KT), one at BS 9/15 (LC, MH, RH, DM, KT, JT, RW), and one near LV 9/17 (MC).

Last **Fish Crow** reported was on the IUP south campus 8/3 (JT). Fish Crows seem to move out of town for the winter.

A **Purple Martin** appeared near LV 8/12 (MC). Last

swallow dates were 8/17 (LC) for 2 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at YC, 11/3 (3RBC, TBC) for 2 **Tree Swallows** at YC, 8/14 (LC, TG, MH, DM, RN, KT) for 2 **Bank Swallows** at YC, 10/6 (LC, TG, MH, RH) for 3 **Barn Swallows** at Blacklick Valley Natural Area, and 9/4 (LC, MH, DM) for one **Cliff Swallow** at YC.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread with numerous reports this season (v.o.). Last **House Wren** was listed at PG 10/25 (CD) while the first **Winter Wren** was sighted 10/3 (MH, RH, JT) at BS. Single Winter Wrens were listed at CC 10/8 (MVT) and at YC 10/31 (BC). A **Marsh Wren** was a good find at YC 8/14 (LC, TG, MH, DM, RN, KT). A **Bewick's Wren**, a first county record, was reported near Jacksonville 8/30 (BM) with details.

Last **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was found at YC 9/11 (LC, TG, MH, RN, KT). First migrant **Golden-crowned Kinglet** arrived near SH 9/28 (MH). BS yielded the first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 9/22 (LC, DC, SD, MH, RH, EH, DW, RW) while the last were seen near SH 10/23 (MH, RH) and at CC 10/24 (MVT).

Swainson's Thrushes were found in *Indiana* between 9/10 (MH) and 9/20 (RH). A **Hermit Thrush** was spotted at YC 8/7 (AL). The last reported **Wood Thrushes** were found at YC 9/17 (BC) and at CC 9/19 (MVT). YC produced the last 2 **Gray Catbirds** 10/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM) and the last **Brown Thrasher** 10/2 (TG, MH, RH, ML) while a thrasher lingered at CC 10/24 (MVT). **American Pipits** visited YC between 10/9 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM) and 11/20 (LC, TG, MH, AM) with high count of 35 on 10/23 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT). After 11/17 (LC, MH, RH, DM) there was a dearth of **Cedar Waxwing** reports.

Three **Snow Buntings** at PG 10/31 (JS) were a nice find.

BS yielded the last **Ovenbird** 9/15 (LC, MH, RH, DM, KT, JT, RW). Rather late **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were found at Polka Hollow 8/3 (MVT) and at YC 8/13 (BC). Last **Northern Waterthrush** appeared at YC 9/17 (BC). BS produced the last **Blue-winged Warbler** 9/22 (LC, DC, SD, MH, RH, EH, DW, RW). September 11 (LC, TG, MH, RN, KT) was the last date for **Black-and-white Warbler** at YC while CC still harbored one 9/21 (MVT). Two **Tennessee Warblers** lingered 10/3 (MH, RH, JT) at BS; the last **Nashville** appeared 10/1 (MVT) at CC. The last **Common Yellowthroats** were sighted 10/4 (RN) at CC and 10/6 (LC, TG, MH, RH) at Blacklick Valley Natural Area. BS yielded the last **Hooded**

Warbler 10/3 (MH, RH, JT) while a yard near SH produced the last **American Redstart** 9/26 (MH). A **Kirtland's Warbler** made a brief stop in a silver maple in a yard near SH 9/3 (MH) for a second county record. **Cape May Warblers** moved through the region between 8/21 (LC, TG, MH, ML, MVT) and 10/3 (MH, RH, JT) when 5 were counted at BS. Last **Northern Parula** visited YC 9/16 (ST) while CC hosted one 10/2 (MVT). The last **Magnolia Warbler** was found at BS 10/3 (MH, RH, JT). **Bay-breasted Warbler** reports, all at BS, included 3 on 9/10 (MH), 2 on 9/15 (LC, MH, RH, DM, KT, JT, RW), and one 9/22 (LC, DC, SD, MH, RH, EH, DW, RW). Last **Blackburnian Warbler** was noted 9/17 (BC) at YC while the last **Yellow Warblers** were found at PG 8/18 (JS) and at IUP 8/21 (JT). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** lingered near SH 9/27 (MH). BS harbored at least 22 **Blackpoll Warblers** and the season's last **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 10/3 (MH, RH, JT). **Palm Warblers** passed through the area between 9/14 (MH) and 10/11 (MH, RH), when the last was spotted near SH. Last **Pine Warblers** were 3 at YC 10/2 (TG, MH, RH, ML) and one near SH 10/10 (MH, RH). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** lingered at YC 11/6 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT). A yard near SH yielded the last **Prairie Warbler** 9/12 (MH) and *Indiana's* last **Black-throated Green Warbler** 10/4 (MH); one was last seen at PG 10/8 (MD). BS produced 2 **Wilson's Warblers** 9/15 (LC, MH, RH, DM, KT, JT, RW) and one a week later on 9/22 (LC, DC, SD, MH, RH, EH, DW, RW).

The last 2 **Eastern Towhees** were listed at YC 11/6 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT). Arrival dates for **American Tree Sparrows** were 10/25 (JS) at PG and 11/3 (3RBC, TBC) at YC. A late **Chipping Sparrow** was on the IUP campus 11/10 (JT). October 29 (TR) produced the last **Vesper Sparrow** at CC. An extremely late **Henslow's Sparrow** was noted at SGL 108 on 10/25 (CD). October 31 was the arrival date for the first **Fox Sparrows** including one each near SH (MH, RH) and at YC (BC); last noted was one at YC 11/6 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT). Only two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported, both at YC, one on 9/17 (BC) and the other 10/13 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT). **White-throated Sparrows** arrived at YC 10/2 (TG, MH, RH, ML) while the first 3 **White-crowned Sparrows** were sighted near LV 10/13 (MC). **Dark-eyed Juncos** first appeared near SH 10/10 (MH, RH).

The IUP campus yielded the last **Scarlet Tanager** 9/28 (JT). The last **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** remained both near SH 9/26 (MH) and at CC (MVT) the same day. An **Indigo Bunting** lingered near SH 9/26 (MH).

Rusty Blackbirds moved through YC between 9/30 (LC) and 11/6 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, KT) with the best count of 42 on 11/1 (GL); 10 visited Duman Lake 11/18 (AF). Last **Common Grackles** were 90 near SH 11/14 (MH, RH). A single **Brown-headed Cowbird** 8/5 (JT) at IUP was the last one reported. Single **Orchard Orioles** remained at CC (MVT) and at YC (BC) through 8/13. While most **Baltimore Orioles** had departed the area by 8/28 (TG), a female appeared at a feeder near Indiana 11/29 (DJ) where it remained into December.



This Baltimore Oriole was photographed at Dory Jacob's feeder on November 30, 2012, by Roger Higbee.



The season's first Common Redpoll was photographed near Lewisville 11/24 by Marcy Cunkelman.

Two **Red Crossbills** flew over a yard near SH calling on 9/12 (MH). Thirteen **White-winged Crossbills** were spotted at YC 11/13 (TG, MH, RN). A **Common Redpoll** appeared near LV 11/24 (MC). Three **Pine Siskins** first appeared near



This Pine Siskin visited Marcy Cunkelman's feeder near Lewisville 9/15.

Photo by Marcy Cunkelman

LV 9/15 (MC); by 10/21 (MH, RH) 37 were present near SH where numbers continued to build until 11/1 (MH) when 87 were counted; by 11/28 (MH, RH) the flock had dwindled to a mere 2. Two stopped at Ebensburg 11/6 (JS). Three siskins visited CC 11/16 (MVT), and 2 were in a yard near Duman Lake 11/20 (AF).



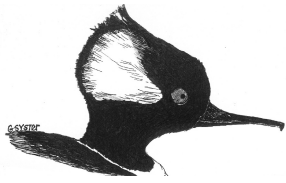
One of the season's highlights was the appearance of Evening Grosbeak in the region.

Photo by Marcy Cunkelman

Evening Grosbeak reports included 3 on 10/31 (MH, RH) and 8 on 11/1 (MH) near SH; one on 11/3-4 (AB, DB) at Nolo; and 2 on 11/5 (MC) and one 11/6 (MC) at LV. The last report before this season was of 50 near Nolo (Jeff Larkin) in 2008. Prior to that

2007 yielded reports from only two feeders, one near Indiana (Sandra Burwell) and one near SH (MH, RH). Last regular Evening Grosbeak reports occurred in 1998.

Observers: Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Norman Bond, Ken Byerly, Lee Carnahan, Blaine Carnes, Derek Clawson, Marcy Cunkelman, Michael David, Cory DeStein, Sue Dickson, Ed Donley, Michael Dreibelbis, Ann Fasioli, Tom Glover, Carol Guba, Ian Haigh, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Emily Hughes, Matthew Hunt (MHu), Dory Jacobs, Avis Keener, Eleanor Kwik, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Alex Lamoreaux, Melissa Little, Andy Mack, Jeff McDonald, Donna Meyer, Mark Moore, Richard Nugent, Theo Rickert, John Salvetti, Tim Schreckengost, Zac Schreckengost, John Taylor, Shannon Thompson, Ken Truitt, Marge Van Tassel (MVT), Daniel Winstead, Ray Winstead, David Yeany II; Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC), Todd Bird Club (TBC).



Todd Bird Club
c/o Roger V. Higbee
3119 Creekside Road
Indiana, PA 15701-7934