

The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

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

August 2014

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. The first half hour we socialize, so the meeting can begin promptly at 7:30. Refreshments are provided at each of our meetings. In May we hold our banquet meeting which starts at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 2 – Member Roger Higbee will present *To Alaska and Back: The Fun of Driving and Birding to and from Our 49th State*. How many miles is a round trip to Alaska the Higbee way? How many flat tires were fixed on this trek? Do you need a light for your tent when camping in Alaska? Can enough mosquitoes land on your tent to carry it away?

Roger and Margaret Higbee had discussed a potential trip to Alaska several times and had postponed it for about ten years. They finally decided to take the plunge the first year of Roger's retirement. Their goal was to reach Alaska as quickly as possible, see the state, and return as quickly as possible. These plans were quickly altered once on the road because of the beautiful scenery. This presentation will cover these miles and kilometers of their road trip through the amazing scenery of Alaska as well as Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon.



Spectacled Eider was just one of the life birds the Higbees saw in Alaska.

Photo by Roger Higbee

The presentation will include the birds, the wildflowers, the wildlife, and the scenery, along with tales that make a trip like this so memorable.

Tuesday, October 7 – Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Education Specialist Mike Shaffer will be the featured speaker at this meeting. Mike will teach us about the common spiders of PA including the two venomous ones that reside in our state.

Tuesday, November 3 – Bob Mulvihill will join us for our November meeting and discuss the Neighbor Nest Watch. Several of our members, including Marcy Cunkelman and Ray Winstead, are participating in this endeavor.

Tuesday, December 2 – Dr. Andrew L. Mack will give a presentation on the birds of Papua New Guinea. A conservation professional, he has lived and worked in some of the world's most diverse and exceptional ecosystems.

In Melanesia, in the wilderness of Papua New Guinea, Andy Mack completed some of the first in-depth and long-term ecological studies ever undertaken in the region. After decades of research, he came away with insights into conservation, economic development, and the global politics of earth stewardship.

(continued on page 2)

Searching for Pekpek: Cassowaries and Conservation in the New Guinea Rainforest, is the chronicle of Andy's personal and scientific journey. His adventure is akin to stepping through a portal into a time and place where ancient cultures clash with modern sensibilities, of surviving in a country where there is no access to

electricity, health care, roads, telephones, or police, all while searching for a dinosaur-like bird, some species of which can reach 6 feet, weigh 120 pounds, and are one of the few birds that can easily kill people. Don't miss this exciting program!

Outings

Tuesday morning outings at Yellow Creek continue till deer season. Meet at 8:00 a.m. 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 any questions, contact Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667) or Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493).

Saturday, September 6 – Blue Spruce County Park, 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 13 – Conneaut Harbor, Ohio, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee. We will spend a good part of the day at this shorebird mecca then bird our way home. Plans are to leave Indiana at 6:00 a.m. If you plan to attend, contact the Higbees for details (724-354-3493).

Saturday, September 20 – Waterworks Conservation Area and the Gary Ferrence farm, led by Sue Dickson (scd83@comcast.net). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Waterworks Conservation Area parking lot. From Indiana take South Sixth Street to Lower Two Lick Drive; turn left. Where Lower Two Lick bears left, continue straight on Waterworks Road till you see the property on the right. We will bird the wetland habitat at the Waterworks Conservation Area, and a number of different habitats at the Ferrence farm.

Saturday, September 27 – Yellow Creek State Park,

led by Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

Saturday, October 4 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Tom Glover (tomnglover@comcast.net). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

Saturday, October 11 – Ghost Town Trail, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Dilltown.

Tuesday, October 14 – Hawk watch trip to the Allegheny Front. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Yellow Creek State Park office to carpool or meet at the hawk watch at 9:15 a.m. For information contact Roger or Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). Bring your lunch and something to sit on. Dress warmly as it is often cold and windy on the Front.

Saturday, October 18 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Gloria Lamer (724-349-1159). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

Saturday, October 25 – Mahoning Shadow Trail, led by Tom Glover (tomnglover@comcast.net). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Valier trailhead parking lot.

Saturday, November 1 – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Roger and Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office. This is the annual fall joint outing with the Three Rivers Birding Club.

Give the Gift of Todd Bird Club

Do you need a gift for a birder? Dues are \$5 student, \$10 individual, or \$15 family. Send dues to our treasurer:
Gloria Lamer, Treasurer, 515 Laurel Run Road, Penn Run, PA 15765

Amount Paid _____

Name (s) _____

Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Newsletter: Hard Copy Electronic Copy

From the President's Desk...

Greetings to all my fellow birders. The new season of programs is about to begin for the Todd Bird Club. How can you tell that it is no longer summer? How can you tell that fall is coming? For the last (I don't want to tell you how many) years the ringing of school bells has signaled the end of summer for me. However, this year marks the first time in many that I have no reason to set the alarm for 5:15 a.m. I still get up at that time of day, but now I can just roll myself over and keep on snoozing if I want. So, how will I know that it is time for a season change?

Well, I have observed that it is getting darker at an earlier time in the evening, but John has just informed me that he uses another way of knowing that fall is coming – there aren't as many robins around anymore. For him that is the signal that a change is coming. Unfortunately, the crows are still here. There are days when I am sitting outside that the sound of the crows pecking on the roof and in the gutters just drives me crazy. John claims that they are the family of crows that lives with us. Just the other afternoon as we were preparing to walk to the grocery store, a group of crows just sort of stormed around us in our yard. John swears that they recognize him from all the days that he shares his time and space with them while he is mowing the lawn and tending to his gardens!!! I know what some of you are thinking and don't even bother to ask me if he talks back to his crows as he goes about his chores.

Speaking of birds (I know – what else is there to speak about?) I was just perusing my new September issue of the *Pennsylvania Game News* magazine that contains several interesting articles about birds. One is on pheasants, two about doves and another on the federal duck stamp's turning 80 years old. I was particularly interested in reading about the "new dove in town," the Eurasian Collared-Dove. The article claims that this species is the "most successful terrestrial invading species." Just earlier this year the Game Commission designated this dove as a game bird with the season running concurrently with the Mourning Dove season. Has anyone noticed this collared-dove around here?

[Note: There are no Indiana or Armstrong county records.]

And has anyone seen a group of our fellow birders out and about when they weren't

birding??? If you ran the Race for the Trail at the

Ghost Town Trail, our trusty Water Station Crew (Buck and Alice Beatty, Lee Carnahan, and Wimp and Gloria Lamer) was hard at work handing out liquid refreshments to the participants. The water was a welcome sight for John and me, too. No, we didn't run the race, but we did volunteer to turn the runners around at the midpoint of the race. Well, upon our arrival at Dilltown, we thought that we would get some exercise and walk to the midpoint of the race, instead of driving. It was a nice, warm summer evening, and we were excited to spot a nice hen turkey with her chick on the trail. But somehow, neither one of us bothered to think of how far we were really going to walk and how nice and warm it was as we kept saying, "The water is just around the corner." Finally, I can't tell you how excited we were to spot the Water Station Crew (and our turn around area just beyond) and to be able to savor that cup of water. If you haven't seen our Crew in action, you can volunteer to join them on November 9 for the Veteran's Marathon at Saylor Park where there's always the chance of spotting a bird or two while waiting for the runners to cross your path.

I look forward to seeing every one of you at our meetings this fall. We have an exciting line of programs ahead of us. Please come and share your time and stories with us.

– Linda Jones, Co-President



This Eurasian Collared-Dove, photographed in Florida in 2009, exhibits the black collar as well as the square tail. Mourning Dove has a pointed tail.

Photo by Margaret Higbee

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.meyer36@gmail.com
Vice President - Pat Johner	724-463-7414	johner.p53@gmail.com
Secretary - Georgette Syster	724-349-6293	
Treasurer - Gloria Lamer	724-349-1159	wimp88@gmail.com
Webmaster - Ed Donley		hedonley@iup.edu
Publicity - Pat Johner	724-463-7414	johner.p53@gmail.com
Newsletter - Margaret Higbee	724-354-3493	bcorirole@windstream.net



Marcy Cunkelman captured this male Purple Finch displaying to his mate near Lewisville this spring.

Great Blue Heron Photo Essay

by Marge Van Tassel



Dan Cunkelman plays with Zoe while Steve Gosser looks on.

Special Thanks

Thanks to Dan and Marcy Cunkelman for hosting the joint Todd Bird Club and Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club picnic at their home on Sunday, August 17. Todd Bird Club members in attendance were Roger and Margaret Higbee, Carol Jaworski, Melissa Little, and Marge Van Tassel.

Also attending were Mike and Evelyn Fowles and Steve Gosser.

The Big Sit

Do you need an excuse to sit around and do nothing except bird? Well, here's your chance. *Bird Watcher's Digest* hosts the annual Big Sit, scheduled for the weekend of Saturday, October 11, and Sunday, the 12th. It's like a tail-gate party for birders!

All you need to do is to find a good spot to sit for 24 hours, find a few birding friends, then count all the birds you see or hear. All observations must be made from within a 17-foot-diameter circle. Circles must be

registered before the event; it's free and participating teams will have the chance to win \$500.

You may either register on line at <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/> or send your registration to Bird Watcher's Digest, P.O. Box 110, Marietta, OH 44750.

Check the website above for more information.

Virginia Rails Nest Successfully in *Indiana*

by Tom Glover

This past summer members of the Todd Bird Club had the privilege of observing a family of Virginia Rails at the Waterworks Conservation Area. The birds were initially reported on June 16 by club member Sue Dickson, who made further observations during the next month. Sue formally introduced the rail family to club members Lee Carnahan, Donna Meyer, and me on July 15. During the following weeks we made a number of trips to the Waterworks.



Tom Glover photographed this Virginia Rail at the Waterworks Conservation Area.

The Waterworks Conservation Area is part of the Indiana County Parks and Trails system. Located about three miles southeast of Indiana on Waterworks Road off South Sixth Street, the area includes a ten-acre manmade wetlands that parallels Two Lick Creek downstream from Two Lick Reservoir. It was constructed as part of the Clean Water Act's "no net loss" clause. Because of the loss of wetlands due to the expansion of Indiana County's Jimmy Stewart Airport, artificial wetlands had to be created at another location. The Waterworks Conservation Area was selected as one of the remediation sites¹. The remediation also included an environmental project. This was the site of the former Rochester & Pittsburgh Company Lucerne 3A deep mine which operated from 1907 to 1967. As a result of the mining, an acid mine drainage (AMD) problem developed. In order to treat the AMD flow rate of 100 gallons per minute, and with a pH of 2.7, a 75-ton lime dosing silo was installed along with a settling pond to help restore natural conditions. By 2008 plans were completed for the remediation of the Waterworks Conservation Area. This wetlands habitat resulted and was blessed by the presence of Virginia Rails.

The Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) is well suited for a wetlands habitat. With its reddish brown coloration streaked with black and thin, laterally flattened body, the bird is able to maneuver effortlessly through cattails and other reedy plants. The bird is an opportunistic omnivore. It will eat a wide variety of invertebrates, vertebrates, and plant matter. They eat more plant matter during the winter and more animal matter during the warmer months. Virginia Rails can be active throughout the day feeding close by or in vegetated areas. The rail's nest is usually built on a platform of grass hidden among the vegetation. The bird often pulls together overhanging grasses and

weaves them over the nest creating a canopy. The Virginia Rail is thought to form monogamous pair bonds that last for a breeding season. It is not uncommon for the pair to attempt two broods during a breeding season². The Virginia Rails at the Waterworks Conservation Area exhibited many of these traits.

Sue found the first adult Virginia Rail on June 16, and she reported a lone adult during the following month on two other occasions. When Sue took us to see the rail on July 15, three Virginia Rails were observed, two adults and a fully grown juvenile. A week later on the July 22, Lee Carnahan, Lorie McCann, Deanna Schaeffer, and I were surprised to find 6 Virginia Rails, 2 adults and 4 little balls of black, fuzzy, feathered chicks. These four little rails were the adults' second brood for the year. The chicks were observed on two other occasions the next week. During those observations we were treated to an interesting list of behaviors. We watched the four little black balls of fuzz dart in and out of the cattails, constantly foraging. The adults foraged farther out in the open. When an adult found a juicy morsel, it ran back into the cattails to feed one of the chicks. On one occasion we actually saw an adult feed a chick, but most often the adult with food disappeared into the cattails, reappearing a short time later.

At this writing the last observation of two Virginia Rails at the Waterworks Conservation Area was reported by Tim Schreckengost on July 30. During the latter half of the week of July 27 heavy rains occurred in the Indiana area, resulting in high waters at the Waterworks Conservation Area. Previously exposed mud flats were now covered with water, and the water line had moved up into the thick grassy area. The birds have not been seen since the heavy rains. We hope the family has moved into the thick grass. The final end to this story has yet to be determined.

¹Indiana County Parks & Trail brochure.

²*The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior*. D. A. Sibley, 2001, Alfred A. Knopf, New York. Pages 246-250.

Armstrong North American Migration Count 2014

Canada Goose	10	Red-eyed Vireo	35	American Redstart	13
Wood Duck	25	Blue Jay	28	Cerulean Warbler	1
Mallard	2	American Crow	24	Northern Parula	1
Common Merganser	2	Common Raven	2	Magnolia Warbler	9
Wild Turkey	2	Tree Swallow	12	Bay-breasted Warbler	6
Green Heron	1	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	12	Blackburnian Warbler	2
Turkey Vulture	5	Barn Swallow	15	Yellow Warbler	15
Bald Eagle	3	Black-capped Chickadee	16	Chestnut-sided Warbler	1
American Coot	2	Tufted Titmouse	10	Black-throated Blue Warbler	2
Killdeer	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	5	Yellow-rumped Warbler	10
Spotted Sandpiper	2	Carolina Wren	5	Black-throated Green Warbler	4
American Woodcock	1	House Wren	4	Canada Warbler	1
Rock Pigeon	7	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	8	Eastern Towhee	19
Mourning Dove	31	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Chipping Sparrow	12
Chimney Swift	13	Eastern Bluebird	6	Field Sparrow	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	26	Wood Thrush	14	Song Sparrow	25
Belted Kingfisher	2	American Robin	46	Scarlet Tanager	11
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	Gray Catbird	31	Northern Cardinal	13
Downy Woodpecker	9	Brown Thrasher	5	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3
Hairy Woodpecker	3	European Starling	46	Indigo Bunting	28
Northern Flicker	7	Cedar Waxwing	9	Bobolink	10
Pileated Woodpecker	5	Ovenbird	4	Red-winged Blackbird	46
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3	Louisiana Waterthrush	2	Eastern Meadowlark	2
Acadian Flycatcher	2	Blue-winged Warbler	3	Common Grackle	36
Least Flycatcher	2	Black-and-white Warbler	4	Brown-headed Cowbird	6
Eastern Phoebe	3	Tennessee Warbler	1	Orchard Oriole	1
Eastern Kingbird	3	Nashville Warbler	3	Baltimore Oriole	29
White-eyed Vireo	1	Common Yellowthroat	9	House Finch	8
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	Hooded Warbler	16	American Goldfinch	49
Warbling Vireo	2			House Sparrow	13

Total Number of Species 89
Total Number of Individuals 975

PAMC Observers

Sharon Baldrige	Barb Fletcher	Dennis Lauffer	*Jim Ramage
Sid Blair	Evelyn Fowles	Rita Lippert	*Lynn Ramage
Vernon Blystone	Mike Fowles	Mary A. Little	*Theo Rickert
Buck Buggey	Don Frew	*Tyler Lyons	Cindy Rogers
Judy Buggey	Judd Glover	Howard Mandigo	Nancy Smeltzer
Lee Carnahan	Tom Glover	Rick Mauk	John Somonick
Shirley Chase	*Carol Hall	Greg McKee	Linda Stormer
Derek Clawson	Margaret Higbee	Natalie McKee	Luke Stormer
Emily Hughes Clawson	Roger Higbee	Bruce Mehus	Rodger Stormer
Dan Cunkelman	Dory Jacobs	Helen Mehus	Georgette Syster
Marcy Cunkelman	Pat Johner	Donna Meyer	John Taylor
Sue Dickson	Connie Johnston	Marilyn Moore	Mary Lu Tucker
Ed Donley	Tracy Johnston	Nancy Murphy	*Marge Van Tassel
*Erma Dovenspike	Linda Jones	Beth Nestor	Ray Winstead
Joy Fairbanks	*Sally Labino	James Nestor	Thomas Zolocsik
	Gloria Lamer	Sara Pulliam	

*Armstrong County Observer

Indiana North American Migration Count 2014

Canada Goose	208	Pileated Woodpecker	28	Tennessee Warbler	7
Wood Duck	10	American Kestrel	5	Nashville Warbler	4
Mallard	28	Eastern Wood-Pewee	6	Kentucky Warbler	7
Lesser Scaup	6	Acadian Flycatcher	9	Common Yellowthroat	191
Bufflehead	1	Least Flycatcher	4	Hooded Warbler	48
Common Merganser	3	Eastern Phoebe	42	American Redstart	27
Red-breasted Merganser	3	Great Crested Flycatcher	3	Cerulean Warbler	14
Ruddy Duck	10	Eastern Kingbird	31	Northern Parula	7
Ring-necked Pheasant	3	White-eyed Vireo	6	Magnolia Warbler	24
Wild Turkey	47	Yellow-throated Vireo	7	Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Common Loon	11	Blue-headed Vireo	28	Blackburnian Warbler	12
Horned Grebe	1	Warbling Vireo	5	Yellow Warbler	151
Double-crested Cormorant	42	Red-eyed Vireo	158	Chestnut-sided Warbler	21
Great Blue Heron	10	Blue Jay	219	Blackpoll Warbler	1
Great Egret	1	American Crow	344	Black-throated Blue Warbler	4
Green Heron	8	Fish Crow	3	Pine Warbler	3
Turkey Vulture	80	Common Raven	5	Yellow-rumped Warbler	21
Osprey	2	Horned Lark	3	Yellow-throated Warbler	2
Bald Eagle	2	Purple Martin	14	Prairie Warbler	15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Tree Swallow	151	Black-throated Green Warbler	95
Cooper's Hawk	1	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	55	Canada Warbler	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	Bank Swallow	1	Wilson's Warbler	1
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Cliff Swallow	7	Yellow-breasted Chat	3
Red-tailed Hawk	14	Barn Swallow	194	Eastern Towhee	313
American Coot	6	Black-capped Chickadee	132	Chipping Sparrow	245
Killdeer	44	Tufted Titmouse	106	Field Sparrow	93
Greater Yellowlegs	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Savannah Sparrow	4
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	48	Grasshopper Sparrow	5
Spotted Sandpiper	18	Brown Creeper	1	Henslow's Sparrow	3
Solitary Sandpiper	9	Carolina Wren	21	Song Sparrow	180
Least Sandpiper	10	House Wren	69	Swamp Sparrow	6
Dunlin	2	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	27	White-throated Sparrow	1
American Woodcock	15	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	White-crowned Sparrow	12
Ring-billed Gull	7	Eastern Bluebird	45	Scarlet Tanager	106
Rock Pigeon	30	Veery	2	Northern Cardinal	216
Mourning Dove	217	Swainson's Thrush	71	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	99
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	Hermit Thrush	1	Indigo Bunting	99
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	Wood Thrush	166	Bobolink	19
Cuckoo sp?	3	American Robin	834	Red-winged Blackbird	776
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Gray Catbird	216	Eastern Meadowlark	38
Common Nighthawk	2	Northern Mockingbird	7	Common Grackle	382
Eastern Whip-poor-will	1	Brown Thrasher	32	Brown-headed Cowbird	59
Chimney Swift	143	European Starling	360	Orchard Oriole	19
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	43	Cedar Waxwing	13	Baltimore Oriole	109
Belted Kingfisher	5	Ovenbird	263	Purple Finch	23
Red-bellied Woodpecker	44	Louisiana Waterthrush	6	House Finch	90
Downy Woodpecker	34	Blue-winged Warbler	14	American Goldfinch	347
Hairy Woodpecker	6	Black-and-white Warbler	15	House Sparrow	212
Northern Flicker	54				

Total Number of Species 144
Total Number of Individuals 9,092

Observer Effort

Indiana

Total Party Hours: 181
 Total Party Miles: 538.6 mi.

Armstrong

Total Party Hours: 28.7
 Total Party Miles: 74.2 mi.

Indiana - Armstrong - Cambria Spring 2014

Abbreviations: Allegheny River (AR), Armstrong Trail (AT), Conemaugh Dam (CD), Creek Road (CR), Crooked Creek (CC), Ebensburg Reservoir (ER), Ghost Town Trail (GTT), Indiana (IN), Indiana University of PA (IUP), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Leechburg (LB), Manorville (MV), Margaret Treatment Pond (MTP), Mosgrove (MG), Polka Hollow (PH), Prince Gallitzin (PG), Raxis Branch (RB), Rosston (RT), Shelocta (SH), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

With the freezing of the Great Lakes and large portions of our rivers, waterfowl were concentrated on the rivers near the dams, providing great winter/early spring birding opportunities in Armstrong. In addition, mine drainage treatment ponds remained unfrozen and yielded flocks of waterfowl. Yellow Creek Lake did not thaw as early as normal this year with only one or two small open patches by March 15; significant ice remained through March 25. March 15 was the date of return for many of the water birds in Indiana, but they had a limited amount of open water. Glendale Lake at PG was still 50 percent frozen on March 27.

A **Mute Swan** was sighted along Redbank Creek near New Bethlehem 3/22 (JK); another was at RT 3/29 (TR). First **Tundra Swans** were 13 at PG 3/1 (JS) and 2 near LB 3/13 (MVT); a major movement occurred the following day with counts of 155 at CC (MVT), 36 at KT (MH, RH), and 4 at KR (MH, RH); YC's first flock of 150 arrived 3/15 (LC, SD, TG) where the high count of 234 was tallied 3/28 (LC); last noted were 60 at YC (LC, MD) and 69 at PG (MD), both 3/30. Eighteen **Wood Ducks** arrived 3/14 (MH, RH) at KT while RT hosted 3 the next day (TR). March 15 (LC, SD, TG) was also the arrival date (more than a week late on average) for the first **Wood Duck** at YC where the high count was 24 on 3/22 (LC, DC, EHC, MH, RH). First **Gadwalls** included 3 at KR and 5 at KT 3/14 (MH, RH) and 2 at YC 3/15 (LC, SD, TG); top tally was 34 Gadwalls at YC 4/2 (LC, RC, MH, RH, GL, MS); last sighted were 18 along the AT n. of MG 5/2 (TR). Two **American Wigeons** at KT 3/1 (TR) and 2 near LB 3/11 (MVT) were first arrivals; 6 appeared at RT 3/14 (MH, RH) and 20 at YC 3/15 (LC, SD, TG). Both Gadwall and wigeons lingered through 5/13 (m. ob.) at YC. KT's first 3 **American Black Ducks** were counted 3/9 (TM); Indiana's first arrived in a YC puddle of open water 3/11 (LC, TG, MH, RH, KT). Four early **Blue-winged Teal** were listed at CC 3/22 (TR); Blue-winged Teal moved through *Indiana* between 3/25 (LC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM) and 5/13 (SGo) with the best count of 26 on 4/17 (LC); 3 at YC 5/13 (SG) were the last noted. Three **Northern Shovelers** on the MTP on 3/12 (MH, RH) were the only ones reported in *Armstrong*; PG hosted 35 on 3/27 (JS) while 10 was the YC high 4/1 (LC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM, RN). **Northern Pintails** listed included a single bird at KT 3/4 (MH, RH), 4 at YC 3/17 (SK), and 6 at RT 3/17 (SK); the top counts were 49 on 3/18 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL) at YC, where 5 remained through 4/5 (TBC, 3RBC). PG yielded the first 12 **Green-winged Teal** 3/1 (JS); *Armstrong's* Green-winged Teal reports were limited to 2 at MTP 3/12 (MH, RH) and 10 at KT 3/23 (TR); high tallies were 26 at

YC 3/22 (LC, DC, EHC, MH, RH) and 55 at PG 3/27 (JS); 22 at YC on 4/11 (LC) were last.

Canvasbacks continued to move through *Armstrong* till 3/28 (LG) when the tally was 7; best count was 14 at RT 3/12 (MVT). Seven Canvasbacks arrived at YC 3/16 (MH, RH); maximum count was 75 on 4/5 (TBC, 3RBC); 4 lingered there through 4/6 (TR). **Redheads** continued to appear in *Armstrong* in the highest numbers since 2003 with counts of 60 at KT on 3/1 (TR), 121 at MTP 3/4 (MH, RH), and 143 at the latter location 3/11 (ML); PG had enough open water 3/1 (JS) to host 8 Redheads; 30 was the high YC tally 3/16 (MH, RH) and 27 the high PG count 3/27 (JS); the last spotted were 2 at YC 4/17 (LC). **Ring-necked Ducks** were noted in triple digits on nine dates at YC and 2 at PG with best counts of 310 on 3/27 (JS) at PG and 277 the following day (LC) at YC. In *Armstrong* the best tally was 41 at MTP 3/12 (MH, RH); a singleton was last found and photographed 5/21 (MVT) near LB.

Greater Scaup remained in high numbers at KT with counts of 27 on 3/8 (TR) and 23 on 3/28 (LG); last reported was one at CC 3/31 (MH, RH); 4 arrived at YC 3/16 (MH, RH) and one or two remained there 3/30 (LC, MD); 4 were found at PG 4/6 (RL). YC's **Lesser Scaup** maxima were 211 on 4/5 (TBC, 3RBC) and 249 on 4/11 (LC); 2 on 4/11 (MH, RH) at KR were *Armstrong's* last, but one remained at YC through 5/15 (MH, RH). After a good late winter presence, 6 **White-winged Scoters** lingered at KT through 3/15 (TR); 10 landed 4/11 (LC) at YC where one was present 4/16 (LC). PG harbored 9 **Long-tailed Ducks** on 3/1 (JS); largest flock included 18 individuals at KT 3/8 (TR); by 3/28 (LG), 5 still remained on the river. Long-tailed Ducks made three appearances at YC, 2 on 3/28 (LC), 2 on 4/2 (LC, RC, MH, RH, GL, MS), and one 4/5 (3RBC, TBC). High **Bufflehead** tallies included 14 at PG 3/27 (JS), 234 at YC 4/2 (LC, RC, MH, RH, GL, MS), 207 at YC 4/11 (LC), and 32 at KR 4/11 (MH, RH). Thirty-one **Common Goldeneyes** at KT 3/8 (TR) was the high count; one to 2 were noted at YC on six dates between 3/15 (LC, SD, TG) and 4/22 (LC, EHC, SD, TG, MH, RH, KT); CC's last were 8 on 4/17 (MVT). Two **Hooded Mergansers** were sighted below polluted McKee Run on Crooked Creek in Creekside 3/2 (MH, RH); RT yielded 12 on 3/17 (SK); PG hosted 33 on 3/27 (JS); 48 were counted at YC 3/30 (LC, MD). With their continuing range expansion, **Common Merganser** reports were widespread; maxima were 10 at Schenley 3/6 (TR), 33 at RT 3/14 (MVT), 40 at CC 3/22 (TR), as well as sightings from eight other *Armstrong* locations. Common Mergansers also continue to expand their range in *Indiana* with sightings

along the GTT between MM 1-2 on both 4/12 (LC, SD, MH, RH, WL) and 4/24 (LC), along Cheese Run 5/14 (MH, RH), and at CD 5/15 (MH, RH); Duman Lake produced 3 on 4/10 (LG), the only *Cambria* report. An estimated 185 **Red-breasted Mergansers** were on YC lake 4/5 (3RBC, TBC); KR harbored 43 on 4/11 (MH, RH); 7 still lingered at YC 5/17 (LC, DC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, GL, SM, JT, WT). **Ruddy Ducks** appeared in mostly modestly sized flocks till 4/11 (LC) when 357 were counted at YC; last noted were 7 at YC 5/22 (TG, RH, GL).

A single **Red-throated Loon** visited YC 4/5 (3RBC,TBC), the lone report. First **Common Loons** arrived at YC 3/30 (MD) and on the AR near KT 3/31 (MH, RH); a brief stop at YC 4/23 (MH, RH) yielded the high of 37 while KR's best count of 24 occurred 4/11 (MH, RH); last sighted in *Armstrong* was noted at CC 5/18 (TR, MVT); a first-year bird lingered on YC lake through the end of the period (MSy). Two **Pied-billed Grebes** at RT 3/14 (MVT) were amazingly the only ones reported; all other reports were wedged between 4/1 (LC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM, RN) and 5/9 (AF). First **Horned Grebe** arrived 3/14 (MVT) at RT; PG's first were 3 on 3/27 (JS) and YC's, 2 on 3/30 (LC). Highs included 39 at KR (MH, RH) and 23 at YC (LC), both on 4/11. One still lingered north of MG 5/2 (TR). **Red-necked Grebes** were more common than usual this spring, showing up across *Armstrong* with first noted 3/4 (MH, RH), both at KT and at MTP, where the latter remained through 3/22 (ML); another was at KR 4/11 (MH, RH) and a third along the AT n. of Templeton 4/18 (MH, RH). First for *Indiana* and *Cambria* respectively were 2 at YC (LC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM, RN) and one at PG (JS), both 4/1; by 4/17 (LC) 3 were present at YC, then on 5/6 (LC, TG, GL, SM, RN), 3 were once again counted. Many reports detailed small numbers of **Double-crested Cormorants** with most reports in April; maxima included 14 at CC 4/18 (MVT) and 40 at YC 5/10 (GL, GS).

A **Great Egret** arrived at CC 4/5 (MVT); 3 appeared at YC 4/23 (LC, MH, RH); another was found at YC 5/8 (LC, JT) where it was sighted again 5/10 (GL, GS) and remained through 5/13 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, DM, MVT), the same date (BR) one appeared at Beaverdam Run Dam. First **Green Herons** were listed 4/19 (NW) at YC and 4/21 (MVT) at Grantz Hollow.

Turkey Vultures were first sighted near Blairsville (DC) and in IN (DB) 3/6 and near LB 3/11 (MVT).

Ospreys moved through the region between 4/1 (LC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM, RN) and 5/22 (LC, TG, RH, GL) with the outlying sightings at YC; CC's first arrived 4/5 (MVT). The first successful **Bald Eagle** nest at PG fledged two young in 2012; however, winter storms destroyed the poorly built nest, but the eagles returned and completed rebuilding their nest this year. The presence of both adult **Bald Eagles** simultaneously at YC starting 4/15 (m.ob.) caused us to surmise that their nest had failed. Single **Northern Harriers** at Penn Run 4/7 (DB) and at PG 4/13 (RL) were the only ones spotted this spring. **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were noted at twelve locations this season; **Cooper's Hawks**, at only ten. The GTT near

Saylor Park produced the first **Broad-winged Hawk** returnee 4/12 (LC, SD, MH, RH, WL) while *Armstrong's* first was listed at CC 4/20 (TR). Light morph **Rough-legged Hawks** were sighted near Blanco 3/4 (MH, RH) and at Elders Ridge 3/8 (PF).

First 2 **American Coots** arrived 3/15 (LC, SD, TG) at YC where numbers peaked to 218 by 4/15 (LC, TG, MH, RH); PG's high was 61 on 4/13 (RL); by 5/17 (LC, DC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, GL, SM, JT, WT) only 8 remained on YC Lake while one of them lingered at least through 5/27 (LC, MH, RH, KT).

Mud in Little Yellow Cove provided habitat for migrating shorebirds. One to 2 **Semipalmated Plovers** stopped to feed between 5/6 (LC, TG, GL, SM, RN) and 5/15 (MH, RH). **Spotted Sandpiper** was first noted 4/20 (RL) at PG, 4/22 (LC, EHC, SD, TG, MH, RH, KT) at YC, and 4/30 (MH, RH) at KR; maxima were 6 at CC 5/12 (SG) and 11 at YC 5/15 (MH, RH). One to 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** visited YC between 4/15 (LC, TG, MH, RH) and 5/15 (MH, RH); 2 were at PG 4/27 (JD, SDo) and one at CC 5/9 (MVT). Waterworks Conservation Area hosted the season's last 5/20 (SD). One to 2 **Greater Yellowlegs** were noted at YC on five dates bracketing 4/11 (LC) and 5/15 (MH, RH); singletons were found 4/12 (JB) at CC and 4/23 (MH, RH) at KR. Exactly 30 **Willetts**, accompanied by 24 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, all in Little Yellow Cove 4/29 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL), were unexpected. Another Lesser Yellowlegs visited KR 4/30 (MH, RH). **Dunlin** were listed at YC on four dates between 5/6 (LC, TG, GL, SM, RN) and 5/15 (MH, RH); on the evening of 5/15, a flock of roughly 25 flew past the beach at YC several times before landing near the wetland walkway. A singleton was photographed at CC 5/17 (MVT).



Marge Van Tassel found this Dunlin in breeding plumage at Crooked Creek on May 17.

A nocturnal **Upland Sandpiper** was heard flying over Johnstown 5/21 (AW). **Least Sandpipers** migrated through YC 4/29 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL) through 5/15 (MH, RH), with high count of 10 occurring 5/10 (GL, GS). Eighteen **Pectoral Sandpipers** appeared at YC 3/28 (LC);

the only other reports involved singletons at the Salix flooded field 4/17 (MD) and at YC 5/15 (MH, RH). CC hosted one **Semipalmated Sandpiper** 5/12 (SG); they were also found at YC between 5/13 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, DM, MVT) and 5/15 (MH, RH) with the high tally of 4 on the latter date. The first **Wilson's Snipe** was spotted at YC 3/29 (LC, TG, MH, RH, DM); one on 4/22 (LC, EHC, SD, TG, MH, RH, KT), also at YC, was last. First **American Woodcocks** were 5 found near Creekside 3/13 (DL); one was found west of SGL 247 on 3/28 (TR), *Armstrong's* lone report, while *Cambria* hosted one at Salix 4/16 (BR) and one along the GTT near Vintondale 4/23 (MH, RH).

Bonaparte's Gulls moved through YC between 3/22 (LC, DC, EHC, MH, RH) and 5/7 (GL); 4/17 (LC) produced the highest count of 128; PG's high occurred 4/27 (RL) when 5 were noted. Top **Ring-billed Gull** counts include 30 at PG (JS) and 20 (TR) at RT, both 3/1; 13 on 3/18 (MMc) at CC; and 200 on 4/5 (3RBC, TBC) at YC. Up to 8 **Herring Gulls** were found on the AR at RT 3/8 (MVT) and at CC 3/12 (MMc); singletons visited YC 4/5 (3RBC, TBC), 4/8 (LC, MH, RH, SM), and 4/25 (LC); Portage Reservoir hosted 2 on 4/30 (MD); 2 still lingered at CC 5/24 (SG).

Caspian Terns stopped at YC on six dates between 4/15 (LC, TG, MH, RH) and 5/15 (MH, RH); the only sighting involving more than one tern occurred 4/26 (RS,SS) when 3 were noted. First **Forster's Tern** arrived 4/8 (LC, MH, RH, SM) at YC where 14 was a good count 4/29 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL); one stopped at KR 4/11 (MH, RH); 2 were at PG 5/4 (RL); last noted was one 5/13 (SGo) at YC.

Both **Yellow-** and **Black-billed Cuckoos** returned to various parts of *Indiana* 5/10 (v.o.).

The only **Eastern Screech-Owls** listed were single birds near Lewisville 5/10 (DC, MC) and in *Armstrong* Twp. 5/12 (RS); 2 were found along the Roaring Run Trail 5/25 (JB). **Great Horned Owl** was listed only near SH 3/22 (MH, RH) and at Polka Hollow 5/4 (MVT). **Barred Owl** was reported only at Nolo after 4/1 (DB), at YC 4/22 (LC, EHC, SD, TG, MH, RH, KT), at ER 4/24 (LG), and at PG 4/27 (JD, SDo). **Common Nighthawks**, increasingly difficult to find even in migration, appeared in *Indiana* a tad more frequently this spring. Two were flying over YC Lake 5/10 (GL) at dusk; singletons were listed in IN 5/13 (DL) and near Lewisville 5/14 (DC, MC). Our 4:00 a.m. pontoon ride at YC yielded 2 pre-dawn nighthawks flying low over the lake 5/20 (LC, EHC, PH, MH, RH, JK, GL, MS). None were reported in *Armstrong* or *Cambria*.

Chimney Swifts returned 4/13 (DL) in IN and 4/22 (JB) at N. Vandergrift. First **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** appeared 5/3 (MH, RH) near SH and 5/5 (SB) near Gallitzin S.F. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were great finds near LB 4/19 (MVT) and w. of McVillie 5/7 (SB). An adult male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** near SH 4/11 (MH, RH) and another along the AT n. of MV 4/16 (MH, RH) were the only ones noted this season.

A migrant **Peregrine Falcon** was sighted at KT 3/26 (MH, RH).

Flycatcher dates of return included 5/10 (v.o.) for **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at various locations. **Acadian Flycatcher** first appeared 5/1 (MH, RH) along the RB of the GTT and at PH 5/9 (MVT). **Alder Flycatcher** arrived at YC 5/15 (MH, RH) and at PG 5/25 (RL). **Willow** and **Least Flycatchers** (late) did not appear in *Indiana* till 5/13 (LC, SD, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, DM, MVT); first *Armstrong* sighting of Willow occurred 5/25 (TR) at SGL 247. First *Armstrong* and *Cambria* reports of Least 5/1 were of individuals at PH (MVT) and along the RB (MH, RH). Dates of return included 3/22 (TR) at CC and 3/25 (LC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM) at YC for **Eastern Phoebe**; 5/10 (v.o.) on the *Indiana* PAMC and 5/22 (MVT) at Cochran's Mill for **Great Crested Flycatcher**; and 4/26 (RG, SG) at YC, 5/4 (RL) at PG, and 5/10 (TR) at RT for **Eastern Kingbird**.

First **White-eyed Vireos** appeared at YC 4/29 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL) and at CC 5/9 (MVT). A migrant **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen and heard at YC (LC, TC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, JT), where it does not usually breed, 5/3, the same date the first was found in *Armstrong* at CR (JB). An early **Blue-headed Vireo** was observed at YC 4/19 (NW); throughout the spring Blue-headed seemed to be in low numbers; PH yielded *Armstrong's* first 5/1 (MVT). **Warbling Vireo** arrived first at Nicholson Run 5/3 (TR); 5 were *Indiana's* first 5/10 (DC, MC) in the southern part of the county. Single **Philadelphia Vireos** at YC 5/13 (SGo) and one the next day in Stonycreek Twp., *Cambria*, comprised the entire report for this species. First **Red-eyed Vireos** were listed 5/8 at both YC (LC, JT) and at St. Francis University Nature Trail (EH).

Fish Crow reports included 2 at IUP after 3/15 (JT) and individuals in IN 4/30 (PJ) and 5/10 (DL). Top IUP count was 6 on 4/28 (JT).

The only **Purple Martins** noted included 14 on 5/10 (MM, NS) in N. Mahoning Twp., as many as 11 at PG 5/11 (RL), and 2 at CD 5/14 (MH, RH, JT). First swallow dates included 3/22 (LC, DC, EHC, MH, RH) at YC and 3/30 (MD) at PG for **Tree**; 4/13 for **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** both at IUP (JT) and at CR (MVT); 4/16 (MH, RH) along the AT n. of MV, 4/19 (JH) at PG, and 5/2 (LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, DM) at YC for **Bank**; 4/16 (MH, RH) along the AT n. of MV and 4/22 (LC, EHC, SD, TG, MH, RH, KT) at YC for **Cliff Swallow**; and 3/25 (LC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM) at YC for **Barn Swallow**.

A single **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was near LB 3/9 (MVT). Red-breasted Nuthatches, which have nested near SH for years, disappeared after 4/16 (MH, RH). One at Lions Health Camp 5/10 (DM) was the only other one reported. First **House Wrens** were heard near SH and along the GTT near Clarke Run 4/14 (MH, RH); first **Winter Wrens** appeared at YC 4/6 (TR) and near Wehrum 4/20 (DG). Four **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** at PG 4/13 (RL), one at CC 4/14 (MVT), and 7 along the GTT between Wehrum and Clarke Run 4/14 (MH, RH) were first arrivals. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** moved through the region between 4/13 (MH, RH) and 5/10 (LC). The St. Francis University Nature Trail produced 3 **Veeries** 5/8 (EH) while the

Indiana PAMC yielded 2 on 5/10 (v.o.); the only other sighting were 4 along the AT n. of KT 5/12 (MH, RH), one at CD 5/15 (MH, RH), and one at CC 5/22 (MVT). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** 5/22 (SGo) at CC was the lone report. The *Indiana* PAMC yielded 8 (v.o.) diurnal **Swainson's Thrushes** while a nocturnal watch yielded 63 (DL) passing over IN; single Swainson's were at Beaverdam Run Dam 5/13 (BR) and at CC 5/18 (TR). Three **Hermit Thrushes** were at YC 4/11 (LC); ER yielded one 4/24 (LG), and one was along the RB of the GTT 5/1 (MH, RH); yet another was sighted at Hemlock Lake 5/10 (MH, RH). First **Wood Thrushes** arrived 4/27 (TR) at SGL 247 and 5/1 (MH, RH) at both YC and along the RB. **Gray Catbird** was first listed 4/28 at Blue Spruce (MH, RH) and at CR (MVT). A rather early **Brown Thrasher** appeared, at IUP 4/6 (JT).

April 28 was the date of return for **Ovenbirds** at BS (MH, RH), at CC (MVT), and at CR (MVT). The AT n. of MG 5/2 (TR) yielded the first **Worm-eating Warbler**; Beaverdam Run Dam yielded the only other report 5/13 (BR). First **Louisiana Waterthrush** was spotted along the GTT between Dilltown and Clarke Run 4/4 (MH, RH); one appeared at PH 4/10 (MVT); none was found at the typical YC locations till 5/3 (LC, TC, TG, MH, RH, GL,WL, JT). The RB of the GTT produced the first singing **Northern Waterthrush** 5/1 (MH, RH); a rather late bird was singing at YC 5/27 (LC, MH, RH, KT). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was a great find at SGL 247 on 5/7 (TR) as were 2 at YC the following day (LC, JT); this species has mostly disappeared from our area in recent years. **Blue-winged Warblers** were first observed 4/30 (JT) at IUP and 5/2 (TR) along the AT n. of MG; PAMC participants tallied 14 on 5/10 (v.o.) in *Indiana*. A **Black-and-white Warbler** along the AT n. of Templeton 4/18 (MH, RH) and one along the GTT near Wehrum 4/20 (DG, GG) were the first sightings. **Tennessee Warblers** migrated through the region between 5/8 (LC, JT.) and 5/25 (JK, TK). **Nashville Warblers** were found between 4/30 (JT) and 5/18 (MVT). A **Mourning Warbler** visited a pond near Lewisville, where it was photographed, 5/18 (MC). **Kentucky Warblers** have become more difficult to find in recent years; the only reports detailed one to 2 along CR 5/24 (SGo) through 5/27 (MVT) and one on the *Armstrong* section of the Shelocta BBS 5/28 (MH, RH). The PAMC (v.o.) produced only 7 Kentucky Warblers. First **Common Yellowthroats** were spotted at Blue Spruce 4/28 (MH, RH) and at CC 5/4 (SGo). **Hooded Warbler** arrived at Cochran's Mill 5/1 (MVT) and at YC 5/3 (LC, TC, TG, MH, RH, GL,WL, JT); 51 were counted on the *Indiana* PAMC (v.o.). The GTT's RB (MH, RH) and CR (MVT) hosted the first **American Redstarts** and **Cerulean Warblers** on 5/1. **Northern Parula** was first listed 4/28 (MVT) at both CC and CR and 5/1 (MH, RH) along the RB. **Magnolia Warbler** was first spotted at YC 5/3 (LC, TC, TG, MH, RH, GL,WL, JT) and WL, JT) and at CC 5/4 (SGo). **Bay-breasted Warblers** were found on only five dates this spring: single birds on 5/8 (LC, JT) at YC, 5/10 in n.e. *Indiana* (MH, RH), 5/13 (SGo) at YC, 5/14 (BR) near Johnstown, and 5/17 (LC, DC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, GL, SM, JT, WT) at YC; in addition, 5 were at CC, also 5/10 (SGo). The RB (MH, RH) and PH (MVT) hosted the first **Blackburnian**



Marcy Cunkelman photographed this Mourning Warbler at her pond on May 18.

Warblers 5/1. The first **Yellow Warblers** were listed 4/24 (LG) at ER, 4/27 (TR) at SGL 247, and 4/29 (JT) at IUP. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** arrived 5/4 at PH (MVT), CR (MVT), and at YC (TR). **Blackpoll Warblers** migrated through the region between 5/9 (AF) and 5/29 (MH, RH). **Black-throated Blue Warbler** reports included one along the GTT's RB 5/1 (MH, RH) where they nest, 4 on the PAMC (v.o.), and one at YC 5/13 (SGo). **Palm Warblers** were in evidence between 4/27 (TR) and 5/9 (AF); 7 were present at YC 5/4 (TR). **Pine Warbler** was first noted near SH 4/7 (MH, RH) and at YC 4/26 (RG, SG); it has been known to breed at both locations. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, a rare breeder in the region, was first seen along the GTT between Wehrum and Clarke's Run 4/14 (MH, RH); last observed was one at YC 5/15 (MH, RH); PG produced the best count of 10 on both 4/28 (JD, SD) and 5/18 (RL). First **Yellow-throated Warbler** was photographed along CR 4/13 (MVT); they had returned to CD by 4/15 (EF, MF). The PAMC (v.o.) yielded 15 **Prairie Warblers**. **Black-throated Green Warblers** appeared in good numbers across *Armstrong* with the first sighting 4/27 (TR) at SGL 247; *Indiana*'s first 2 Black-throated Green Warblers were found at Blue Spruce 4/28 (MH, RH), the arrival date at PG (JD, SD). **Canada Warbler** sightings on 5/10 included 2 in *Indiana* (v.o.) and one n. of MG (TR); one was at YC 5/14 (SGo), and one at CC 5/30 (JF) was a rather late migrant. There were no reports from their breeding grounds in *Cambria*. One to 2 **Wilson's Warblers** were found on four dates 5/8 (LC, JT)-15 (v.o.). Besides the 3 **Yellow-breasted Chats** observed during the PAMC, the only other 2 reports mentioned single birds at YC 5/8 (LC, JT) and at CD 5/14 (MH, RH, JT).

Eastern Towhee returned 3/28 (MH, RH) along the Roaring Run Trail, 3/29 (BR) near Johnstown, and 4/1 (LC, EHC, TG, MH, RH, WL, SM, RN) at YC. Last **American Tree Sparrows** were sighted at SGL 249 through 4/1 (TR) and on the IUP campus 4/3 (JT) while the first 2 **Chipping Sparrows** appeared at YC 4/6 (TR) and at the Twin Rocks portion of the GTT 4/10 (LG). **Field Sparrow** was first found 4/8 (LC, MH, RH, SM) at YC. First **Savannah Sparrow** was listed 4/2 (JT) at IUP; the PAMC (DC, MC) yielded only 4 of this increasingly difficult



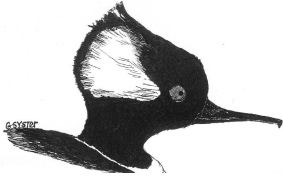
Marcy Cunkelman photographed this returning Rose-breasted Grosbeak in her yard.

to find species as well as only 5 **Grasshopper Sparrows** and 3 **Henslow's Sparrows**. Nolo hosted one to 2 **Fox Sparrows** between 3/12-26 (CL, GL); last seen occurred 4/8 (MH, RH) near SH. By 3/25 (LC, TG, MH, RH, SM, WL) the first **Swamp Sparrow** had returned to YC. One **White-throated Sparrow** lingered for the PAMC (DM) near Lions Health Camp. **White-crowned Sparrows** migrated through the county in small numbers between 5/3 (CL, GL) and 5/14 (MC).

Scarlet Tanagers arrived 5/3 (LC, TC, TG, MH, RH, GL, WL, JT) and were in good numbers for the PAMC (v.o.). Nolo produced the first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** 4/27 (CL, GL) and the SH area, the first **Indigo Bunting** 5/3 (MH, RH). Nineteen was the PAMC (v.o.) **Bobolink** count. **Rusty Blackbirds** slipped through the county in small flocks with first sighting of only 7 along the GTT near Clarke Run 4/4 (MH, RH). YC's reports were limited to 4 on 4/5 (3RBC, TBC) and 2 on 4/22 (LC, EHC, SD, TG, MH, RH, KT). Oriole dates of return included 4/30 (MH, RH) for both **Orchard** and **Baltimore** near SH.

Observers: Dave Beatty, Sylvia Bintrim, Jessica Botzan, Shaunda Brozenick, Lee Carnahan, Roger Carnahan, Derek Clawson, Emily Hughes Clawson (EHC), Tia Cordell, Dan Cunkelman, Marcy Cunkelman, Michael David, Sue Dickson, Josh Donaldson, Susan Donaldson (SDo), Anna Fasoli, Patience Fisher, James Fletcher, Randi Gerrish, Sarah Gerrish, Tom Glover, Steve Gosser (SGo), Linda Greble, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Paul Hicks, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Emily Hurley, Pat Johner, John Keener, Scott Kinzey, Janet Kuehl, Tom Kuehl, Gloria Lamer, Marie Lasher, Dennis Lauffer, Wendy Leuenberger, Renee Lubert, Sue Mayer, Mark McConaughy (MMc), Donna Meyer, Marilyn Moore, Mark Moore, Lingling Morgan, Matt Morgan (MMo), Thomas Moser, Richard Nugent, Theo Rickert, Brad Romano, Mike Shaffer, Nancy Smeltzer, Mark Syvertson (MSy), John Taylor, Wil Taylor, Ken Truitt, Marge Van Tassel (MVT), Nathan Weyandt, Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC), Todd Bird Club (TBC).





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