

# The Todd Nuthatch



Indiana, PA

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Todd Bird Club  
[www.toddbirdclub.org](http://www.toddbirdclub.org)

August 2018

## Meetings

Todd Bird Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month, September through April, at Blue Spruce Lodge in Blue Spruce County Park, located just off Route 110 east of the town of Ernest. Arrive by 7:00 to socialize and snack. Refreshments are provided at each of our meetings. In May we hold our banquet meeting which starts at 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 4** – “The History of McConnells Mill State Park” will be the topic at this meeting. McConnells Mill State Park, nestled in Lawrence County, encompasses 2,546 acres of the spectacular Slippery Rock Creek Gorge. The gorge, designated as National Natural Landmark, was created by the draining of glacial lakes thousands and thousands of years ago. Most known for its historic gristmill built in 1852 that once harnessed the water power of the Slippery Rock Creek to grind grains into flour, this park now offers a wide variety of activities from hiking, white-water kayaking, rock climbing, picnicking, and exploring the scenic overlooks, forests and spectacular waterfalls. Join Mike Shaffer, Park Naturalist, from McConnells Mill for an in-depth look at one of our most beautiful state parks.

Mike is no stranger to our group. He is currently with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



Mike Shaffer will present “The History of McConnells Mill State Park” at our September meeting.

(DCNR), Bureau of State Parks, where he serves as an Environmental Education Specialist. First at Yellow Creek State Park from 2000 to 2015, he is now at Moraine & McConnells Mill State Parks. As an Environmental Education Specialist, Mike develops, coordinates, and implements environmental and park education programs. Prior to working with DCNR, he worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Tionesta Lake for three summers as a Park Ranger. He graduated from Butler County Community College with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Parks & Recreation Management and received a Bachelor’s of Science Degree at Slippery Rock University in Park & Resource Management. He is an avid hunter and outdoorsman and his passion is white-tail deer hunting with bow and arrow.

He is the father of the greatest 18-year-old daughter Zoe, who attends Robert Morris University for Nursing.

He served in the U.S. Army as an infantry paratrooper in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division for four years after high school and also served in the Pennsylvania National Guard for nine years. During his 13 years of military service he conducted two tours in Iraq. He grew up in southern Clarion County between the towns of East Brady and Rimersburg and currently lives out in the country near Belknap in Armstrong County.

**Tuesday, October 2** – Jim and Jan Woodard will present “Wonders Down Under, a Visit to New Zealand” at this meeting. Todd Bird Club members Jim & Jan traveled to New Zealand in November and December for three weeks to visit their daughter and her family who live in Wellington. They’ll share some of the delightful birds and other wonders of nature that they encountered on the North Island.

Jim, retired from Pennzoil, is a Penn State master gardener who says he raises “vegetables and venison” and sings on the Grace United Methodist worship team.

Jan writes a column for The Indiana Gazette, “Texting Thru Recovery,” enjoys tending her flowers, belongs to the Indiana Refugee Working Group, and is active in her church.

Their family includes Brett in Colorado Springs, CO; Julie and her husband Bob in Philly; and Tara, Derek, and their two boys Josiah and Eli, who have lived in Wellington, New Zealand, since May 2016. The Woodards have an adopted international family from Kenya, currently living in Indiana.

**Tuesday, November 6** – Member Nancy Murphy will present “Birds, Bugs, and Butterflies of the Rio Grande Valley” at our November meeting. We’ll travel with Nancy from South Padre Island along the Mexican border to Falcon State Park.

Nancy’s son has come up with an excellent idea as a gift for every occasion. He gives her a birding trip to the destination of her choice. Even though he’s not a birder, he takes her and doesn’t complain. What a son!

Nancy has been a photographer for more than 20 years, starting with 35 mm film. When Canon came out with a digital camera in 2000, she purchased it and says, “I’ve never looked back.” Her present camera is a Canon 7D with 100 to 400 Mark 11 lens.

An ex-farmer, Nancy still lives on the farm where she was born. Although the farm is now leased, she has a large garden and enjoys making apple wine. She is also an avid reader and reads about 100 books every winter. If anyone is into Clive Cussler, Nancy’s willing to share some books.

---

---

## Outings

**Tuesday morning outings** will continue till deer season. *Most outings are at Yellow Creek except for Tuesday, October 16; see below.* Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office, located on Route 259 just off Route 422 east of Indiana. Early comers are invited to meet at the pavilion on the north shore shortly after dawn. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions contact Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667) or Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493).

**August 19** – Annual picnic at the Cunkelman home. For more info, contact Marcy at 724-459-7229 or email her at [plant4nature@gmail.com](mailto:plant4nature@gmail.com). See page 8 for details.

**Saturday, August 25** – 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 6:30 a.m. If you plan to attend or wish to carpool, contact the Higbees for details (724-354-3493).

**Saturday, September 1** – Blue Spruce County Park outing, led by John Taylor (724-357-4469). 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 8** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at park office.

**Saturday, September 14, 15, & 16** – Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology’s (PSO) annual meeting in Meadville, PA. For more information, go to [www.pabirds.org](http://www.pabirds.org) and click on “Annual Meeting.”

**Saturday, September 22** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at park office.

**Saturday, September 29** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Tom Glover ([tomnglover@comcast.net](mailto:tomnglover@comcast.net)). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at park office.

**Saturday, October 6** – The Ghost Town Trail, led by members of the Todd Bird Club. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Dilltown access.

**Saturday & Sunday, October 13 & 14** – *Bird-watcher’s Digest’s* Big Sit. Create your own 17-foot-diameter circle then count all the birds you see, or find a pre-existing circle to join. Our state has led the whole world with the most circles in past years.

**Tuesday, October 16**– This is our annual hawkwatch trip to the Allegheny Front. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Yellow Creek State Park office to carpool or at the hawkwatch at 9:15 a.m. For information contact Roger or Margaret Higbee (724-354-3493). Bring something to sit on, and dress warmly as it is often cold and windy on the Front. Bring your lunch.

**Saturday, October 20** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Gloria Lamer (724-349-1159). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.



**Saturday, October 27** – Yellow Creek State Park, led by Lee Carnahan (724-388-4667). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park office.

**Saturday, November 3** – 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 our annual fall joint outing with the Three Rivers Birding Club. The field trip will culminate with lunch at the Chinese buffet in Indiana.

**Saturday, November 10** – Blue Spruce County Park outing, led by Ray Winstead (724-349-2506). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the first large parking lot just past the park office.

---

---

## The Continuing Saga of Blinky, the Eastern Screech-Owl

by Stephanie Higbee

Our owl box remained empty, aside from the occasional curious squirrel, after June 2017, when two Eastern Screech-Owlets fledged and their parents departed, until February 2018.

We waited patiently once February arrived, hoping for an owl, and on February 27, we saw a small face peeking out of the box. Rob grabbed the binoculars to make sure it was not just another squirrel, and sure enough, it was an owl.

We continued seeing that little owl's face each day like clockwork. Many times in the morning and midday, the owl would peer from the box with closed eyes, the warm sun on its face. Several weeks after the owl arrived, we were treated to seeing two owls at the same time: one in the box and another in a tree right next to our window. This happened multiple times and was very enjoyable.



On April 14 we found a broken egg beneath the owl box.

Photo by Rob Higbee

We did not see either owl on March 30. This absence continued for several days, and we started to wonder if both had simply moved on. We had lost hope after a week with no sightings, so we stopped watching the box as closely. Then, on April 13, the face in the box was back, but the following day we found a broken screech-owl egg beneath the nest box. We were concerned that the owls would not fledge any young. But we continued seeing two owls at once for several more weeks.

Around May 3, we began seeing an owlet's face peeking from the box. The final sighting of any owl was on May 17, a single face in the box. After that, all three were gone for good. We were really hoping to be able to observe the owlet fledging this time, as we did in 2017, when there were two owlets. Maybe next year!

---

---

## Thanks, Tom!!!

Sincere thanks to Tom Glover who has served admirably as Todd's president for the past two years, leading meetings and writing numerous articles for "The Todd Nuthatch." Tom has also, with Lee Carnahan's help, organized our outings schedule for at least the past six years and helped with the Purple Martin Project. In addition, he compiled this year's Indiana County PA Migration Count, a job that requires a lot of time,

patience, diligence, and organizational skills.

At our May banquet we finally remembered to hold an election. Terms are for two years. Elected as co-presidents were Jim Woodard and Linda Jones. Roger Higbee and Gloria Lamer were re-elected respectively as secretary and treasurer.

## From the President's Desk...

If you have not noticed, the calendar has turned over to August; and that means we start a new round of outings starting Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, with a trip to Conneaut Harbor, Ohio, led by Margaret and Roger Higbee. This outing leaves the Indiana area early in the morning on Saturday and arrives back early evening. For those of you who have not made this trip, it is one of our more interesting outings. The location is a beach area on the southern shore of Lake Erie. Migrating birds fly over the lake from the north and stop in the area to rest. It is common to see birds at close range in the surrounding marshes. If you are into photographing birds, this provides an opportunity to view tired birds up close. Other notes coming up on the outing calendar include September 1 at Blue Spruce Park, led by John Taylor. This outing is highlighted by fall warblers and other migrants. For those of you who are Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) members, remember that the 2018 annual meeting is in Meadville, PA, September 14, 15, and 16. Looking into the distant future note that our annual hawk watch trip to the Allegheny Front is scheduled for Tuesday October 16. Like the above Conneaut Harbor trip, this outing is unique. The first time you walk to this location, you are awestruck by the view! Plus you have the potential to see a variety of migrating hawks and other birds. You might even get a chance to see a Golden Eagle. Check out the full outing schedule in this issue of *The Nuthatch*.



Not a pretty picture – This Eastern Kingbird hung itself in discarded fishing line.

On a more somber note on one of our regular Tuesday outings at Yellow Creek in May of this year we came across a dead Eastern Kingbird. It met its demise by being

tangled in monofilament fishing line! The bird's nest was located in a tree overhanging the waters in Grandma's Cove. The nest was made almost entirely of fishing line. The poor dead bird was dangling below the nest entrapped in fishing line. This tragic observation brings home the negative practice of people not properly disposing of their lost and tangled line while fishing at Yellow Creek. That abandoned fishing line has a negative impact on wildlife! It is common for our

members while participating in the regular Tuesday outings to pick up cast-off fishing line and dispose of it properly. It's amazing how much we find! So, if you encounter fishing line on the ground, please pick it up.

Now on a more positive note, a Phoebe update! This past week of July, Phoebe and her family came for a visit including Winnie, the black lab. Of course, we made it a point to do some birding. For convenience purposes, our outings were of the drive-by nature. That week was plagued with some of the hottest weather of the year. During these outings I discovered how patient Phoebe can be on these long ventures. For a two-year-old she amuses herself in her car seat by looking at books. Mom and Dad bring along a stack of books through which Phoebe methodically pages. The only time she raised a fuss was when she could not reach the next book. Her birding knowledge is growing. For example, you can ask her what call does a towhee make and she will respond with "drink your tea." As I always say, you've got to love it.

Good birding,

Tom Glover

---

**Editor's Note:** Todd Bird Club members have also seen dead Eastern Bluebirds and Baltimore Orioles entangled in fishing line. If you know any fishermen, please encourage them to dispose of their line properly. The birds will thank you!

---

## Trumpeter Swans – Z603 and Z675 – An Update

By Tom Glover

Trumpeter Swans Z603 and Z675 were initially introduced to the Todd Bird Club members in the October 2017 issue of *The Nuthatch*. The two swans were first observed in Jefferson County on a beaver pond next to

Five Bridges Trail on September 4 by Jud Glover. At that time the swans were a bit of a mystery as their neck tags were not standard issue in the Trumpeter Swan Society's records. The origin of the birds was finally determined to

be part of an effort to reestablish Trumpeter Swans in the Chesapeake Bay area by the “Environmental Studies on the Piedmont” (ES) located in the Warrenton, Virginia, area. Sue Garvin, Environmental Specialist for the ES, related that Z603 was at that time a twelve-year-old female and Z675, a five-year-old male.

An update on the swans was provided in the January, 2018 issue of *The Nuthatch*. When I reviewed Trumpeter Swan postings in eBird, I found observations of Z603 and Z675 in Pennsylvania ranging from March 20, 2016, to November 12, 2017. During that time period the birds were observed numerous times in Schuylkill County and on one occasion each in Dauphin, Adams, Lycoming, Jefferson, and Somerset Counties. During the winter of 2017-2018 the swans were found on a private pond near Sperryville, Virginia. In the last sentence in the swan article in the January *Nuthatch*, I wondered where Z603 and Z675 would show up in the coming year.



Z603 and Z675 did show up in grand fashion in 2018. They were observed by Lisa Catarouche and family on a beaver pond near Richardsville, PA, in Jefferson County over this past Memorial Day weekend. Lisa researched the birds online and found the articles in *The Nuthatch*. She contacted Margaret Higbee with the sighting. She informed us that Z603 was on a nest. Upon researching nesting Trumpeter Swans in Pennsylvania, I think that this observation is the first confirmed nesting pair in recent history. No confirmed reports of nesting Trumpeter Swans were noted in either the first *Atlas Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* (1992) or the second *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania* (2013). The second Atlas only classified this species as “possible” from reports in

Lawrence and Beaver Counties.

This is the third installment on the story of Trumpeter Swans Z603 and Z675. It is obvious their story has a number of chapters in the future. It will be interesting where Z603 and Z675 will show up in the coming years.

***Sincere thanks to Lisa Catarouche for contacting us and sharing the two photos above.***

## Panama Canopy Tower

by Debbie Kalbfleisch

This past spring, I traveled to Panama with nine birding friends from the Pittsburgh area. We stayed at the Canopy Tower, just north of Panama City, and our guides from WINGS were Gavin Bieber as leader and Domiciano (Domi) Alveo as our local guide. A little history: When the United States turned over the canal to Panama in 1995, many of the military properties were put up for sale. The radar station built in 1965



Blue-chested Hummingbird was among the first birds spotted in Panama.

on top of Semaphore Hill overlooking Soberiana National Park sat rusting among the weeds until one Raul Arias de Para came to look and determined that it would make a wonderful travel lodge! The round metal building was redone with rooms on the inside perimeter of the second and third floors, and the fourth floor was split between a dining room and living room area. There are no elevators, no air conditioning,

and with louvered doors, it's pretty much like living in a tin can. I fell in love with it immediately. From the fourth floor, one climbs a steep ladder (watch your head!) to the top deck which circles the tower.

We arrived in Panama the afternoon of Monday, March 19, and by the time we got to the Canopy Tower, the afternoon shadows were growing long. We spent a bit of time watching White-necked Jacobins, Long-billed Hermits, and Blue-chested and Snowy-bellied Hummingbirds jostle for space at the hummingbird feeders in the yard, and then climbed to the top deck to survey the surrounding countryside. The Panama Canal shimmered in the distance, and Mantled Howler Monkeys were already starting their evening chorus. Their howls greeted us every morning and put us to sleep every night. In the trees next to the tower, we were able to pick out Keel-billed Toucans, Blue-crowned and Red-capped Manakins, Scarlet-rumped Cacique, Palm and Plain-colored Tanagers, Blue Dacnis, and Green Honeycreepers. Bats flew around the dining room as we ate a very good dinner.

Every morning just after sunrise, we would meet on the top deck with our binoculars where hot coffee magically awaited us. Gavin and Domi were kept busy getting us ever better views of lovely, tropical birds through their scopes. That Tuesday morning, we watched Pale-vented and Scaled Pigeons, Collared Aracaris, Green Shrike-Vireos, Lesser Greenlets, and Golden-hooded Tanagers moving in and out of the canopy just below us. Mealy and Red-ored Parrots were easy to spot with their loud chattering. High in the sky, Black and Turkey Vultures, Broad-winged and Swainson's Hawks were on the move, and we spotted one Mississippi Kite. Gray-breasted Martins, Short-tailed and Band-rumped Swifts were flying with the more familiar Barn and Cliff Swallows. After spending an hour or so on the deck, we descended to the dining room for breakfast which included more coffee and wonderful blends of fruit juices.

After breakfast that first day, we set off on a slow walk to the bottom of the hill. Black-crowned and Fasciated Antshrike, Cocoa Woodcreeper, White-breasted Wood-Wren, White-shouldered Tanager, and Thick-billed



Long-billed Hermit was another species found at the Canopy Tower.

Euphonia were all new species; but we also noticed a few familiar birds: Tennessee, Bay-breasted, and Black-and-white Warblers. We watched a pair of Olivaceous Flatbills building their nest and were thrilled with great views of a Broad-billed Motmot and Gartered and Black-throated Trogons. A pair of Crimson-crested Woodpeckers circled each other on a tree. A Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth slept through our own excited chattering, and we caught glimpses of Central American Agouti, the small, odd, pig-like mammals, as they trotted through the undergrowth. Tiny Panamanian Night Monkeys peered out of their roost. The clear highlight of the walk, though, were two Black-and-white Owls, about the size of our Barred Owl, resting together on a huge tree. A truck met us at the bottom of the hill with water, fruit juices, and snacks; and we were whisked back to the Tower in time for lunch and the mid-afternoon siesta.

After lunch, we set out for Gamboa, a port town on the canal, about ten miles north of us. We stopped first at the Canopy Bed and Breakfast, sister property to the Canopy Tower, where fruit had been set out on trays. We made ourselves comfortable on the narrow patio, and watched in delight as our first Gray-headed Chachalacas, Whooping and Rufous Motmots, Red-crowned Woodpeckers, Red-legged Honeycreepers, and Buff-throated Saltators came in to feed. A Squirrel Cuckoo played hide-and-seek in the foliage, but we were finally able to get a good look at it. From there, it was on to the Gamboa Rainforest Resort. For some of our outings, we traveled on a large pickup truck that had been outfitted with a long bench running the length of the truck bed. This vehicle never got up much speed, and one simply held on tight, as we rumbled onward! It gave us a good height for watching wildlife, though, especially when we stopped next to trees where birds were swarming! That afternoon, we picked up White-tipped Doves, a Black-tailed Trogon, Yellow-crowned Tyrannulets, Rusty-margined Flycatchers, Golden-fronted Greenlets, Yellow-green Vireos, Tropical Mockingbirds, and Crimson-backed Tanagers.

We got out at the marina to observe large numbers of Snowy and Cattle Egrets, Common Gallinules, and Wattled Jacanas, with a few Little Blue and Tricolored

Hérons scattered about. Looking hard, we could see Greater and Smooth-billed Anis among the egrets on the other side of the water. Mangrove Swallows darted through the air, and both Lesser and Great Kiskadees flew among the docks. A couple of Lesser Nighthawks, our only ones for the trip, also buzzed by. A strange and monotonous metallic sound turned out to be the the local cicadas.

Most of Wednesday was spent exploring the Pipeline Road that runs through Soberiana National Park. As we strolled along, Gavin and Domi happily pointed out army ants carrying their eggs to a new bivouac site. Because they were not actively foraging, the ants weren't attracting a lot of birds, but we did see Plain-brown Woodcreepers, Gray-headed Tanagers, and a couple of Bicolored Antbirds in the immediate vicinity. Other birds discovered during the morning included Slaty-tailed and White-tailed Trogons, White-necked and Black-breasted Puffbirds, Piratic Flycatchers, and Russet-winged Schiffornis. After a couple of hours of both riding in the trucks and walking, we were surprised (and quite delighted) with the sight of the Panama Rainforest Discovery Center with its public restrooms in what seemed to me to be the middle of nowhere! This building, complete with snacks and a small gift shop (motmot earrings!), was brand-new, and our group was one of the first to try it out. Our guides continued to lead us ever more deeply into the mysterious forest. We found a lovely American Pygmy Kingfisher patrolling a small pool, and a Streak-chested Antpitta appeared, giving everyone excellent looks at this rarely-seen bird. We watched a Rufescent Tiger-Heron foraging in a small stream, and some of us got a good look at a Collared Forest-Falcon. Lunch was a wonderful picnic with the best chicken sandwiches I have ever eaten. Afterwards, we left the road and took a trail into the woods, finding several species of Antwrens (Dot-winged, White-flanked and Checker-throated), a Black-striped Woodcreeper, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Purple-throated Fruitcrows, and Sulphur-rumped Tanager. A Rufous Piha was heard screaming but not seen. It was a treat to see a Northern Tamandua, a species of anteater, use a vine to cross from



Collared Aracari was another pre-breakfast bird at the Canopy Tower.

one tree to another, high above the road.

We still had a few hours of daylight left, so we stopped at the Ammo Dump Ponds on the edge of Gamboa. In among the Barn Swallows darting about, we picked out Northern and Southern Rough-winged Swallows. Walking the path behind the ponds, we found Green and Striated Herons, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Social Flycatchers, Scrub Greenlet, Thick-billed Seedfinch, and a gorgeous Yellow-tailed Oriole. A few hummingbirds, including Black-throated Mangos, zipped past. On the way back to the Canopy Tower, our vehicles pulled off to the side of the main road, and Gavin and Domi set up the scopes so we could get close-up looks at a Great Potoo that was doing a great imitation of a broken-off tree trunk!

On Thursday morning, we headed to the Old Gamboa Road for a walk to the Summit Ponds and beyond. This took a while because as soon as we arrived, we found that the fruiting Gumbo Limbo trees along the road were filled with birds! Truly, it was hard to know where to look first — Southern Beardless and Yellow Tyrannulets, Yellow-olive Flycatcher, Streaked Saltator, and Yellow-backed Oriole were just a few of the species observed. We finally made it to the Summit Ponds to find Boat-billed Herons and an Anhinga resting in the shade. Also resting quietly was an American Crocodile. A beautiful male Lance-tailed Manakin was displaying close to the trail. We never saw the much duller female, probably tucked away in the foliage. Also noted were a male Blue Ground-Dove, a Jet Antbird, Rufous-breasted Wrens, and Red-throated Ant-Tanagers. Some of us got a quick look at a Spectacled Owl.

After lunch and the daily siesta (which most of us were coming to appreciate!), we took a walk on the Plantation Trail in Soberiana National Park, just below the Canopy Tower. The path followed a small creek, now just a trickle of water in the dry season. Everyone got a good look at a Great Tinamou walking up the hillside. Also seen were a Gray-chested Dove, a female Black-throated

Trogon sitting out in the open, and some Chestnut-backed Antbirds. We had an early dinner that evening so that we could go out for a night drive in the open truck. We were told that more mammals than birds are found on these night-time excursions, but we tallied a Boat-billed Heron on the Semaphore Hill Road, as well as a Slaty-tailed Trogon and another Great Tinamou. On the main road, we stopped for a second look at the Great Potoo, still in the same tree as before. A Kinkajou (also known as a “honey bear”) was foraging in the trees, and we saw several Hoffman’s Two-toed Sloths and a Common Opossum.

By 5:30 the next morning, we were on the road so we could get through the busy Panama City traffic for the highland forests of Cerro Azul and Cerro Jefe. As we crossed a small bridge over a river shortly after 7 a.m., we saw our first bird of the day, a Black Phoebe perched on the rocks. After days of perfect weather, we were getting our first rain showers. We found ourselves in a housing development that had been carved out of the side of a mountain, but a good bit of woods still remained. Walking along the streets, we had excellent looks at Bay-headed, Hepatic, and Carmiol’s Tanagers, Rufous-capped Warblers, and Scarlet-thighed Dacnis. A Yellow-eared Toucanet and a Blue Cotinga also got high raves. From there, we went to visit an ex-pat American couple who pretty much turned their house over to us. We spent most of our time on their large roofed-over patio, glued to the sight of a dozen hummingbird feeders that hosted “glittering fragments of the rainbow” — oh, so many hummingbird species! White-necked Jacobin; Green Hermit; White-vented and Bronze-tailed Plumeteer; Crowned Woodnymph; and Blue-chested, Snowy-bellied, Rufous-tailed and Violet-capped Hummingbirds! We had another excellent lunch, and the skies opened up with a steady downpour that didn’t deter the tiny birds at all. Other feeders in the yard attracted good numbers of Honeycreepers (Shining, Red-legged, and Green), Bananaquits, and Yellow-faced Grassquits, when we could tear ourselves away from the hummers.

Since the rain didn’t seem to be letting up, we traveled back down the mountain to Costa El Este on the edge of

Panama City to check out the mudflats on the Bay of Panama. The weather cleared, and the tide was out, exposing mud as far as the eye could see and many, many birds crowded together! Magnificent Frigatebirds, Neotropic Cormorants, American White Pelicans, and Gull-billed and Royal Terns flew over birds on the flats — Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Black-necked Stilts, Black-bellied Plovers, Whimbrels, Marbled Godwits, Short-billed Dowitchers, and Willets. An Elegant Tern cruised by, as well as a Crested and a Yellow-headed Caracara. We made a special effort to check out the male “Mangrove” Yellow Warbler with its chestnut head, foraging in the nearby trees.

We spent our last morning at Summit Gardens with its extensive grounds. It also hosts a small zoo, including a resident Harpy Eagle with a broken wing that cannot be released back into the wild. The rain the previous day had grounded migrating raptors so we were treated to a jaw-dropping spectacle of Turkey Vultures and Swainson’s and Broad-winged Hawks streaming by in endless kettles. Turkey Vultures don’t migrate over open water, so every “TeeVee” coming from South America passes through Panama. Hundreds of Barn and Cliff Swallows were also winging their way west and north. Gavin estimated about 4,000 Swainson’s Hawks, 1,500 Turkey Vultures, and 1,000 Broad-winged Hawks, and that was just in the 20 minutes that we stood still and watched, although we continued to cast our eyes upward to the sky as we continued our walk. After seeing a caged King Vulture, we were pleased to have a wild one actually fly over us. Another treat was finding a Black-throated Mango feeding young in her nest. Gavin and Domi were quite excited to see a Slate-colored Seedeater perched in good view as this is an extremely rare bird to see in Panama at that time.

Our last new species for the trip were a Rufous-and-white Wren and Chestnut-headed Oropendolas at a breeding colony. We ended up with 236 species on our Panama trip, of which 184 were lifers for me.

\*\*\*

*Sincere thanks to Donna Foyle, another participant on the same Panama trip, for the use of her photos.*

---

## Todd Bird Club Picnic

Our annual picnic will be held at the home of Dan and Marcy Cunkelman again this year. Please bring a covered dish to share and your own lawn chairs. Marcy will provide sloppy joes, buns, paper products, non-diet drinks, and insect repellent. If you prefer diet drinks, bring

your own. Please do not wear insect repellent or perfume. Natural repellent will be provided if needed. You may RSVP by phone at 724-459-7229 or e-mail at [plant4nature@gmail.com](mailto:plant4nature@gmail.com). Please call for directions as your GPS will not take you there.

# Southeast Louisiana Birding

by Richard Nugent

At 7:50 a.m. on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, I left Allison Park, Pennsylvania. It rained across Ohio and only stopped as I approached the Kentucky state line. I drove south through Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama. After a brief detour to western Florida, I traveled west across southern Alabama and stayed overnight near Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Friday, April 6, brought a weather forecast of partly cloudy with strong thunderstorms in the afternoon. I left my motel at 7:05 a.m. and proceeded west across Mississippi to Louisiana. My first birding destination was the Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. At the edge of the parking lot, a piney woods hosted nesting Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. I could hear tapping, and a short hike into the woods yielded the desired woodpecker. Fortunately this woods did not have much underbrush, so I escaped with no ticks or chiggers. I then birded a gravel road and a very nice boardwalk. My birding highlights were:

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Little Blue Heron
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Mottled Duck
Common Yellowthroat	King Rail
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Pine Warbler
Snowy Egret	Northern Parula

I then drove to nearby Pearl River Wildlife Management Area, where I could only bird from the road. The only bird of note was a Brown-headed Nuthatch. By now, it was 11:10 a.m. , and I wanted to bird Grand Isle State Park before the rain arrived. I got back on I-10 and drove through New Orleans. Even at midday the traffic was heavy, and the driving was stressful. I made my way over to Route 1 and started the 60-mile drive to Grand Isle State Park on a narrow two-lane road. The drive took almost two hours.

I finally arrived at Grand Isle at 2:17 p.m. with sun and a warm breeze. While driving to the park, I saw a River Otter, a life mammal, cross the road in front of me. I spent about 1½ hours exploring the park and tallied 23 species

of birds. My bird highlights were:

Brown Pelican	Semipalmated Plover
American White Pelican	Sanderling
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Gull-billed Tern
Double-crested Cormorant	

After Grand Isle, I drove to Houma and rented a room at the newly remodeled Motel 6. Thunderstorms moved through the area in the evening and overnight, with a tornado a few counties north of my location.

Saturday, April 7, dawned with more storms and heavy rain. I slept in and then watched the Weather Channel until the radar showed the rain to be leaving the area. I departed the motel at 8:16 a.m. and arrived at Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge at 8:34 AM. It was 74F with 100% humidity and water dripping from the vegetation. The trail to the observation deck was muddy with parts under water. A sign warned about the danger from Alligators and Water Moccasins. I encountered the only mosquitoes of the trip here. I could hear them buzzing around my head, but none bit me. The birds here were numerous and vocal. My bird highlights were:

Eastern Meadowlark	Brown Thrasher
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Barred Owl
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Belted Kingfisher
Red-shouldered Hawk	
Prothonotary Warbler (2 singing)	

Besides birding in Louisiana, my goals for the trip were to visit Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi (the three remaining states of the lower 48, that I had never visited) and to add several new states to my eBird list. Therefore I returned home by driving north and a little west through Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Most of the way through Mississippi I drove on two-lane roads in order to explore The Delta. I added two more “life mammals,” Armadillo and Wild Boar. Sadly both were deceased. I arrived home on April 10 after an eight-day trip.

---

---

## Thanks!

*Special thanks to Marge Van Tassel for providing the Armstrong County PAMC for this newsletter!*

# Indiana Pennsylvania Migration Count 2018

Canada Goose	190	Acadian Flycatcher	9	American Goldfinch	201
Wood Duck	25	Alder Flycatcher	2	Eastern Towhee	264
Mallard	17	Willow Flycatcher	9	Chipping Sparrow	132
Greater Scaup	2	Least Flycatcher	9	Field Sparrow	55
Bufflehead	1	Empidonax sp?	6	Savannah Sparrow	4
Hooded Merganser	3	Eastern Phoebe	53	Song Sparrow	189
Common Merganser	3	Great Crested Flycatcher	2	Swamp Sparrow	17
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	Eastern Kingbird	19	White-throated Sparrow	7
Wild Turkey	28	White-eyed Vireo	15	White-crowned Sparrow	12
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Yellow-throated Vireo	13	Dark-eyed Junco	2
Rock Pigeon	38	Blue-headed Vireo	27	Yellow-breasted Chat	2
Mourning Dove	143	Philadelphia Vireo	2	Bobolink	9
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	Warbling Vireo	15	Eastern Meadowlark	18
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	Red-eyed Vireo	200	Orchard Oriole	21
Common Nighthawk	1	Blue Jay	120	Baltimore Oriole	112
Chimney Swift	129	American Crow	192	Red-winged Blackbird	572
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	29	Fish Crow	2	Brown-headed Cowbird	35
Semipalmated Plover	1	Common Raven	7	Common Grackle	377
Killdeer	35	Horned Lark	3	Ovenbird	205
Least Sandpiper	10	Purple Martin	10	Louisiana Waterthrush	3
American Woodcock	3	Tree Swallow	192	Northern Waterthrush	1
Spotted Sandpiper	16	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	38	Blue-winged Warbler	4
Solitary Sandpiper	4	Bank Swallow	11	Black-and-white Warbler	13
Greater Yellowlegs	2	Cliff Swallow	4	Tennessee Warbler	34
Ring-billed Gull	6	Barn Swallow	259	Nashville Warbler	6
Caspian Tern	1	Black-capped Chickadee	92	Mourning Warbler	1
Common Loon	3	Tufted Titmouse	74	Kentucky Warbler	1
Double-crested Cormorant	5	White-breasted Nuthatch	38	Common Yellowthroat	199
Great Blue Heron	22	Brown Creeper	3	Hooded Warbler	41
Green Heron	5	House Wren	40	American Redstart	83
Turkey Vulture	78	Carolina Wren	40	Cape May Warbler	5
Osprey	1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	21	Cerulean Warbler	1
Bald Eagle	2	Eastern Bluebird	25	Northern Parula	3
Northern Harrier	1	Veery	2	Magnolia Warbler	60
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	Bay-breasted Warbler	17
Cooper's Hawk	4	Swainson's Thrush	6	Blackburnian Warbler	18
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	Hermit Thrush	5	Yellow Warbler	130
Broad-winged Hawk	5	Wood Thrush	183	Chestnut-sided Warbler	37
Red-tailed Hawk	24	American Robin	508	Blackpoll Warbler	4
Belted Kingfisher	2	Gray Catbird	222	Black-throated Blue Warbler	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker	69	Northern Mockingbird	9	Yellow-rumped Warbler	6
Downy Woodpecker	35	Brown Thrasher	18	Prairie Warbler	10
Hairy Woodpecker	12	European Starling	284	Black-throated Green Warbler	81
Northern Flicker	43	Cedar Waxwing	38	Canada Warbler	8
Pileated Woodpecker	15	House Sparrow	166	Scarlet Tanager	91
American Kestrel	5	House Finch	46	Northern Cardinal	187
Eastern Wood-Pewee	15	Purple Finch	14	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	75
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1			Indigo Bunting	81

Total Number of Species = 143  
 Total Number of Individuals = 7,541

Total Observers = 43

On the next page are listed the observers. Names without asterisks birded in Indiana. Those with one asterisk are the Armstrong observers; those with two asterisks submitted data for both Indiana and Armstrong. Thanks to all who participated!

# Armstrong Pennsylvania Migration Count 2017

Canada Goose	27	Common Raven	2	Orchard Oriole	4
Wood Duck	2	Purple Martin	10	Baltimore Oriole	22
Mallard	4	Tree Swallow	8	Red-winged Blackbird	60
Wild Turkey	5	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	8	Brown-headed Cowbird	6
Mourning Dove	5	Cliff Swallow	1	Common Grackle	35
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	Barn Swallow	16	Ovenbird	9
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	Black-capped Chickadee	6	Louisiana Waterthrush	3
Chimney Swift	6	Tufted Titmouse	7	Blue-winged Warbler	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	3	Black-and-white Warbler	2
Killdeer	4	House Wren	4	Tennessee Warbler	6
Double-crested Cormorant	4	Carolina Wren	5	Nashville Warbler	1
Great Blue Heron	4	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4	Mourning Warbler	1
Green Heron	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	Common Yellowthroat	5
Turkey Vulture	7	Eastern Bluebird	10	Hooded Warbler	5
Bald Eagle	1	Swainson's Thrush	2	American Redstart	12
Northern Harrier	1	Hermit Thrush	1	Cape May Warbler	6
Red-tailed Hawk	2	Wood Thrush	11	Cerulean Warbler	5
Belted Kingfisher	1	American Robin	38	Northern Parula	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	11	Gray Catbird	11	Magnolia Warbler	9
Downy Woodpecker	7	Brown Thrasher	1	Bay-breasted Warbler	10
Hairy Woodpecker	2	Northern Mockingbird	2	Blackburnian Warbler	5
Pileated Woodpecker	3	European Starling	37	Yellow Warbler	8
American Kestrel	3	Cedar Waxwing	10	Chestnut-sided Warbler	4
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	House Sparrow	5	Blackpoll Warbler	1
Acadian Flycatcher	2	House Finch	2	Black-throated Blue Warbler	2
Least Flycatcher	2	Purple Finch	1	Palm Warbler	1
Eastern Phoebe	3	American Goldfinch	15	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	Eastern Towhee	6	Yellow-throated Warbler	2
Eastern Kingbird	1	Chipping Sparrow	10	Black-throated Green Warbler	1
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	Field Sparrow	3	Canada Warbler	1
Blue-headed Vireo	1	Savannah Sparrow	1	Wilson's Warbler	1
Philadelphia Vireo	1	Henslow's Sparrow	1	Scarlet Tanager	8
Warbling Vireo	2	Song Sparrow	3	Northern Cardinal	29
Red-eyed Vireo	21	Lincoln's Sparrow	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3
Blue Jay	16	Eastern Meadowlark	1	Indigo Bunting	3
American Crow	21				

Total Number of Species = 106

Total Number of Individuals = 703

## PA Migration Count Participants

Armstrong participants are asterisked. Those participating in both Indiana and Armstrong have two asterisks. Everyone else birded in Indiana only.

Sharon Baldrige	Betsy Fetterman	Linda Jones	James Pumford	Linda Stormer
Lee Carnahan	Tom Fetterman	Gloria Lamer	Joseph Pumford	Luke Stormer
Dan Cunkelman	Barb Fletcher	Dennis Lauffer	Bob Ramsey	Rodger Stormer
Marcy Cunkelman	**Sue Gatti	*Suzann Leipertz	Cindy Rogers	John Taylor
Sue Dickson	Jud Glover	Rita Lippert	Jim Rogers	Mary Lu Tucker
Ed Donley	Tom Glover	Mary A. Little	*Joyce Shellhammer	*Marge Van Tassel
*Gary Edwards	*Steve Gosser	Beth Marshall	Nancy Smeltzer	Ray Winstead
Bob Fairman	**Margaret Higbee	Ken Marshall	John Somonick	Jan Woodard
Emmy Fairman	**Roger Higbee	Marilyn Moore	*Russ States	Jim Woodard
Gary Ferrence	Pat Johner	Nancy Murphy	Mark Strittmatter	

# Indiana - Armstrong - Cambria County – Spring 2018

If you notice that the species in the following report are in a different order, check out the new American Birding Association's checklist at [http://listing.aba.org/checklist/abachecklist\\_v7.9.0.pdf](http://listing.aba.org/checklist/abachecklist_v7.9.0.pdf). There have been a major reshuffling of species and more changes in the near future.

Please send your bird reports at the end of each month to Margaret Higbee at [bcoriole@windstream.net](mailto:bcoriole@windstream.net) or mail to 3119 Creekside Road, Indiana, PA 15701.

Abbreviations: Conemaugh Dam (CD), Crooked Creek (CC), Hemlock Lake Co. Park (HL), Indiana (IN), Keystone Reservoir (KR), Kittanning (KT), Lewisville (LV), Lock & Dam (L&D), Murphy's Bottom (MB), Pine Ridge Co. Park (PR), Prince Gallitzin (PG), Shelocta (SH), Worthington (WT), Yellow Creek State Park (YC).

High **Tundra Swan** tallies were 300 at PG 3/18 (RL), 188 at YC 3/17 (TAr), 110 at HL 3/17 (AK, JKe), and 30 at KR 3/17 (SG). Twenty-five species of ducks were reported this season. Yellow Creek Lake, as well as other area lakes, remained partially frozen into April.

**Blue-winged Teal** peaked at YC with a high of 13 on 4/15 (BR), up from last year's top count of 10. *Armstrong's* reports included best count of 5 n. of L&D 8 on 4/21 (TR) with many scattered reports of 1-4 across the county; 12 at PG 4/13 (TA) was *Cambria's* top count. L&D 7 yielded 7 **Northern Shovelers** on 4/6 (SGu); PG hosted 6 on both 3/17, 31 (TA); 5 was the high tally at YC on both 3/17 (LC, SD, TG) and 4/7 (3RBC, TBC). **Gadwalls** peaked at 35 on 3/30 (JKa) at YC and 24 on 3/26 (JD, SDo) at PG while 6 at RT 3/11 (TR) was *Armstrong's* high. Top **American Wigeon** count was a mere 16 at YC 3/24 (LC, MH, RH, GL); PG, however, harbored 45 on 3/26 (JD, SDo), the region's best count; 10 stopped at KR 3/30 (SGu). A good count of 57 **American Black Ducks** was the top tally at YC 3/17 (LC, SD, TG); this was the highest count since 3/18/2008 (LC, CG, MH, GL) when 71 were present; numbers were low in both *Armstrong* and *Cambria* with respective highs of 11 n. of L&D 8 (TR) and 6 at PG (TA), both 3/18. **Northern Pintail** maxima at YC included 52 on 3/13 (LC, TG) and 45 on 3/6 (LC, PF, TG, MH, RH), down from last year's peak of 81 on 3/11/2017 (TB, LC, MH, RH, JP); RT yielded 6 on 3/17 (ABu) and PG, 5 on both 3/17, 31 (TA). March 17 also yielded the high YC **Green-winged Teal** tally of 49 (LC, SD, TG), the highest on record since 3/29/2008 (LC); 3/31 produced the *Armstrong & Cambria* highs: 10 near WT (SGu) and the lone report of 4 at PG (TA).

Twenty-one **Canvasbacks** appeared at PG 3/26 (JD, SDo), the region's high tally; a singleton lingered at YC 5/5 (LC, RC, JK *et al*); this is the second latest date on record as one remained at YC 5/19/2015 (LC, MH, RH, JK, GL, MS). YC yielded eight March days with double digits on **Redheads** with the top count of 120 on 3/24 (AW), down



This Willet appeared 5/5 at Yellow Creek.  
Photo by Margaret Higbee

from last year's peak of 193 on 3/21/2017 (LC, RC *et al*); 116 at PG 3/5 (MH, RH) was the high; KR hosted Redheads on eight dates with the high of 8 on 4/9 (MH, RH). At YC **Ring-necked Ducks** peaked at 554 on 3/17 (LC, SD, TG); this tally has not been surpassed since 3/23/2008 (LC); 44 and 252 were respectively KR's (MH, RH) and PG's (JD, SDo) top counts 3/26; 17 at RT on 3/17 (SGu) was another good count.

**Greater Scaup** normally occur at YC in single digits, but a flock of 34 on 3/4 (LC) was a good find; this is the highest number since 3/17/2013 (DW) when 80 were listed; last noted were 4 on 4/21 (LC, RC, MH, DK, GL, RN, KT) at YC, 4 at PG 4/28 (TA), and 5 at Musser's Pond 4/29 (AH). Top **Lesser Scaup** count was 69 at YC on 3/13 (LC, TG), down from last year's 3/11/2017 (TB, LC, TG, MH, RH, JP) tally of 421. Lesser Scaup were widespread in *Armstrong* with the high of 32 at KR 4/2 (MH, RH); PG hosted 14 on 3/5 (MH, RH) with last report there 4/29 (RL). Two **White-winged Scoters** visited HL 3/17, 31; 4/1, 3 (AK, JKe); YC hosted one 3/30 (JKa) and 6 on 4/29 (AH); these were the only reports in the region. Sixty-five **Long-tailed Ducks** at YC 3/30 (JKa), 21 at HL 4/7 (AK, JKe), 12 at KT 4/6 (ABu), 10 at PG 3/31 (TA), and 8 at KR 3/30 (MH, RH) were the highs; the 65 is the highest tally at YC since 4/5/2008 (LC) when 71 were counted. **Bufflehead** high counts included an estimate of 500 at YC on 4/1 (LC), the highest count since 761 on 3/24/2012 (LC, TG, MH, RH, SS, JT); *Armstrong* boasted many Buffle-head reports with highs of 400 n. of L&D 8 on 4/6 (TR), 313 at KT 4/6 (ABu), 181 at KR 4/19 (ABu), and 139 at L&D 6 on 4/6 (ABu), as well as numerous other counts at various locations; PG's high of 42 occurred 4/10 (TA). Three **Common Goldeneyes** on 3/30 (JKa) and one on 4/7 (BR) were the only ones noted at YC. Again *Armstrong* was the hotspot for goldeneyes because of the Allegheny River. Other reports included the magic number 5 at KT 3/18 (TR); n. of L&D 8, also 3/18 (SGu) and again 4/6 (TR); and at PG 3/24 (JD, SDo). Four were at KR (ABu) and 3 at CC (TR) both 3/30. Fifty-six **Hooded Mergansers** at YC 3/17 (LC, SD, TG), 54 at KR

3/25 (ABu), 42 at PG 3/26 (JD, SDo), and 21 at KT 3/17 (SGu) were the top tallies. YC's 56 was the highest Hooded Merg count since 3/30/2013 (LC, TG *et al*). A singleton stopped at a pond near Marion Center 4/1 (SN). Eight **Common Mergansers** were listed at YC 3/17 (LC, SD, TG); PG's high of 24 occurred 3/26 (JD, SDo). Common Mergansers were widely reported in *Armstrong* with the high count of 68 at CC 3/24 (JB). YC yielded roughly 500 **Red-breasted Mergansers** 4/1 (LC) and 133 on 4/10 (LC, MH, RH, DK); the previous high tally of 350 occurred 4/7/1992 (GC, MH, GL, JS, GS) at YC; KR harbored 93 on 3/26 (SGu). Seventy-eight was the maximum **Ruddy Duck** count this spring on 3/30 (JKa) at YC; *Armstrong's* maxima were 55 at KR 4/19 (ABu), 34 n. of L&D 8 on 4/6 (TR), and 27 at L&D 6, also on 4/6 (ABu). PG's high was 20 on 4/1 (RL).

**Ruffed Grouse** continue in low numbers with only four *Indiana* reports – 2 near Waterworks Conservation Area 3/14 (SD) and single birds at Nolo 4/9 (AB, DB), at YC 5/5 (SG), and at a second Nolo location 5/9 (CL, GL). There were only two *Armstrong* reports – one near KR 4/15 (MH, RH) and one e.s.e. of Adrian 4/29 (SGu). Grouse seem to be faring better in *Cambria* with multiple reports at PG and nearby including 4 on 4/14 (TA).

High counts of **Horned Grebes** included 120 at YC (JKa) and 57 at KR (ABu, SGu), both 3/30; 17 at PG the next day (TA); and 81 at Clinton 4/6 (ABu). Single **Red-necked Grebes** were listed only at CC 3/1 (ABu, MVT), 3/6 (RN, MVT), and 3/10 (MVT) and at KR 3/26 (MH, RH).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were more numerous this spring than **Black-billed** with reports from various parts of the region.

**Common Nighthawk** reports in *Indiana* were limited to a yard near LV – one on 5/11, 12 (MC) and 5 on 5/17 (MC); two were noted w. of CC 5/16 (JBo); one was at Ford City 5/31 (ABu, SGu). An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** appeared near YC in early May (LS) and was heard at dusk and dawn through mid-May; this was the only report in the entire region.

First **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** arrived near LV 4/27 (MC); this was the only location with an April date of return.

Two **Virginia Rails** were nice finds 4/28 (ABu, SGu) at MB, where one was still present 5/6 (BP). PG yielded a Virginia Rail photo for the observer 4/30 (TA) as well as a calling **Sora**. April 10 (LC, MH, RH, DK) produced the high **American Coot** count of 93 at YC while PG's high of 30 occurred 4/1 (RL).

Two **Whimbrels** that flew over Gallitzin State Forest during a PA Natural Heritage Program 5/23 (DY) were a great find. First **Least Sandpiper** arrived at CC 4/27 (TR); 3 visited YC between 5/4 (LC, MH, RH, GL) and 5/14 (JaP, JP); 4 were also noted near IN 5/12 (MH, RH). Three **White-rumped Sandpipers** were a nice find at YC 5/4 (LC, MH, RH, GL); two were still present the following day

(LC, RC, MH, RH, JK, GL, DM, VS, JS, JT, WT, KT, RW). A very early **American Woodcock** was heard w. of Cadogan 3/4 (SGu); 10 were counted at PG 3/17 (TA). *Indiana's* first woodcock and **Wilson's Snipe** were noted near Blairsville 3/29 (DL); 4/2 yielded single snipe in a field near Elderton where they nested during the first PBBAP (MH, RH) and near WT (ABu); 2 snipe were found 4/3 (JT) at IUP, where as many as 5 were counted on 4/8 (JT). The first **Spotted Sandpipers** were found 4/27 at both CC (TR) and at HL (AK, JKe) where the high count of 5 occurred 5/3 (AK, JKe). Earliest **Solitary Sandpipers** appeared 4/14 both at YC (LC, TG) and at CC (ABu, SGu), where the latter location hosted the first two **Lesser Yellowlegs** the same day. One to 3 Lesser Yellowlegs visited YC 5/1 (LC, SD, MH, RH, DK, GL, DM) to 5/5 (LC, RC *et al*), the same day a **Willet** arrived. The Willet was still present 5/6 (AS). Musser's Pond yielded the first **Greater Yellowlegs** 4/29 (AH); 5 was YC's high 5/1 (LC, SD *et al*); the region's last lingered at CC 5/14 (JBo).

A plethora of 264 **Bonaparte's Gulls** graced YC Lake 4/7 (JB, VB, PB, LC, MH, RH, GL); n. of L&D 8 on 4/6 (TR) a float of 250 rested on the Allegheny. No large flocks of **Ring-billed Gulls** were observed in the region with the largest of 52 at YC 3/30 (JKa); away from YC the largest congregation of 12 was noted at KT 5/2 (ABu). Three **Herring Gulls**, an uncommon migrant at YC, waited out the rain at YC 4/3 (LC, MH, RH); 8 were counted at PG 4/22 (TA); by 5/20 (TR) the Herring Gulls were on nest at their usual KT location. The only tern species noted this spring in our region was **Forster's Tern** which visited YC between 4/10 (LC, MH, RH, DK) and 5/22 (LC, MH, RH); the top count of 19 was reported on 4/14 (TG).

Five **Red-throated Loons** were found at KR 3/30 (ABu, SGu); one was observed at YC the following day, 3/31 (LC, RC *et al*); another stopped at KR 4/21 (ABu). March 30 produced the high **Common Loon** counts of 59 at KR (MH, RH) and 31 at YC (JKa); 9 were noted at PG 4/22 (JDu). A flock of 13 **Double-crested Cormorants** flew over a yard in IN 4/14 (JP); other highs included 48 at Musser's Pond 4/29 (AH), 42 at CC 4/11 (ABu), 35 at PG 4/15 (RL), and 32 at YC 4/7 (JB *et al*).

*Armstrong* was the hotspot for **Great Egret** sightings this spring with reports from five locations. Three visited the WT area 3/29 (SGu), the other four locations hosted single birds. PG also yielded 3 on 5/15 (TA); 2 stopped at YC 4/14 (KT). **Green Herons** arrived 4/14 (TA) at PG and 4/15 (MVT) at Parks Bend Farm in *Armstrong*; they were a tad late this year in *Indiana* with first sightings 4/18 (JT) at IUP, 4/26 (MC) near LV, and 5/1 (LC, SD *et al*) at YC.

**Black Vulture** sightings in *Indiana* continue to increase with multiple sightings over PR including 5 on 4/20 (DL) and one over LV 4/27 (MC). First arrival **Ospreys** were on time with sightings 3/27 (LC, MH, RH) at YC and 3/31 (TA) at PG. When an Osprey was shot and killed near SH 4/21 (MH), the PGC responded. An amazing 6 **Bald Eagles** – 2 adults and 4 immatures – were in sight at the same time at YC 3/24 (LC, MH, RH, GL).

The only **Northern Harriers** noted in *Indiana* and *Armstrong* were singletons near YC 3/13 (LC, TG), at YC 3/20 (LC, MH, RH), and near WT 4/14 (ABu); sightings were much more numerous in *Cambria* with the high count of 4 at Bellwood SGL108 on 5/26 (TA). **Sharp-shinned Hawks** seem to be in low numbers with only two sightings in the eastern section of our region, one at YC 3/31 (LC, RC *et al*) and one at PG 4/14 (TA); w. of IN were 7 sightings (v.o.). First **Broad-winged Hawks** arrived 4/12 (DB) at Nolo and 4/14, at many locations – at CC (ABu, SGU, MVT), near LV (MC), at BS (LC, JH, MH, RH, DK, VS, RW, EY), and at PG (TA).



Marge Van Tassel found and photographed this Northern Shrike in Burrell Twp. 3/31.

The owl box that fledged two **Eastern Screech-Owl** owlets last year in IN fledged one successfully again this year 5/17 (RGH, SH); the observers were concerned after finding a screech-owl egg broken on the ground on 4/13 under the box.

The only **Merlins** noted were single birds s. of WT 3/6 (ABu), n. of KT 3/18 (SGU), and near LV 3/22 (MC). One of the Manorville **Peregrines** was spotted on four dates this season (v.o.); another was reported near Patton 4/23 (KS).

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Mahoning Creek Lake 5/7 (AK, JKe) was the region's lone report. Three **Alder Flycatchers** were noted, all in *Armstrong*, the first near WT 5/15 (SGU) and the other two at different locations n. of KT 5/20 (TR) and 5/29 (JBo). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were found at PR 5/11 (DL) and near Allen Bridge for the PAMC 5/12 (MH, RH).

A **Northern Shrike** was a good find near the Burrell VFD 3/31 (MVT).

First **Philadelphia Vireo** appeared at PR 5/11; 5/12 yielded singletons at CC (SG), near SH (MH, RH) and at HL (MH, RH); singletons were observed at YC 5/15 (LC, SD, PF, TG, DK, JT) and at the Johnstown Flood National Memorial 5/19 (MJ). A **Fish Crow** at YC 3/27 (MH, RH) was only the park's second sighting; 7 was the high IUP count 5/7 (JT); 3 were noted at Sidman 5/27 (PB).

Thirty-eight was a good count of **Purple Martins** n.e. of Plumville 5/1 (AK, JKe); the observers stated that these were the ones outside of the martin boxes and there were probably many more. PG's high count at the nest boxes was 26 on 5/6 (RL); at least 8 martins were present at the Wood's Pond colony 5/12 (MH, RH). Uncommon in *Indiana*, single **Bank Swallows** were spotted at YC 5/4 (LC, MH, RH, GL) and at HL 5/12 (MH, RH); high counts include 17 at PG 4/30 (TA) and 10 n. of KT 5/27 (ABu, SGU). **Cliff Swallows** reported in *Indiana* included only one at YC 5/6 (AS) and 3 at Allen Bridge 5/12 (MH, RH); 12 was *Cambria's* high at Fallentimber SGL 108 on 5/12 (TA) while across Redbank Creek from Arcola in

*Armstrong* 9 was the top count on 5/18 (SGU).

One **Red-breasted Nuthatch** visited CC 3/10 (MVT) and 2 stopped at PG 3/18 (TA). Last report for Red-breasted Nuthatch near SH, where one to 2 had been present since the beginning of March, was 4/29 (MH, RH); they formerly nested at this previous location; 2 also stopped at YC 5/5 (SG). A pair of **Brown Creepers** nested in the main rec. area at YC 4/17 (LC, MH, RH, GL) when nest building, which must have been nest repair, was observed as parents were making repeated trips to the nest feeding young 4/24 (SD).

First **House Wrens** returned 4/15 (ABu, SGU) at SGL 247 and 4/23 (DJM) at YC. Single **Winter Wrens** were first noted at CC 3/6 (RN), at the Waterworks Conservation Area 3/8 (SD), and at BS 4/14 (LC, JH, MH, RH, DK, VS, RW, EY); 2 were also listed at SGL 247 on 4/15 (ABu, SGU) and at YC 5/15 (LC, SD, PF, TG, DK, JT). Three **Marsh Wrens** were nice finds at MB 5/5 (ABu, SGU).

May 5 marked the arrival of **Veeries** in *Indiana* with sightings in IN (JP) and at CD (MH, RH); first *Armstrong* report came from SGL 247 on 5/16 (TR) while *Cambria's* first occurred at Highland Park in Johnstown 5/21 (LG). At least one **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen at CC 5/9 (JBo); another was photographed near LV 5/12 (MC). **Swainson's Thrushes** moved through our area between 5/2 (JKu, TK) when one was observed along the West Penn Trail near Conemaugh Dam and 5/19 (LC, RC, TG, MH, RH, JHo, DK, JaP, JP, JT) when 2 were listed at BS. First **Hermit Thrush** reports include single thrushes at CC 3/29 (MVT), in Croyle Twp. 4/8 (MHu), in IN 4/12 (JP), and near Reservoir Hill 5/6 (PJ); 4 were listed in the n.e. part of *Indiana* where they nest 5/12 (MH, RH). The date of return for **Wood Thrush** was 4/28 when 3 were spotted at MB (ABu, SGU, BP) and one at PG (TA); first *Indiana* returnee arrived 5/1 (MC) near LV.

First **Gray Catbirds** were observed 4/20 (MVT) at Cochran's Mill, 4/24 (LC, SD, DK) at YC, and 5/2 (SVH) at Munster. First **Brown Thrashers** appeared 4/5 (ABu) just w. of Boggsville, 4/9 (JT) at IUP, 4/13 (JP) at the IN YMCA, and 4/14 (TA) at PG.

Single **American Pipits** visited an area just w. of Cadogan 3/4 (SGU) and YC 3/27 (LC, MH, RH), where 2 were found 4/7 (JB *et al*).

One to 3 **Pine Siskins** were seen regularly near LV 3/17 - 5/4 (MC) and near SH 3/19 - 5/11 (MH, RH); highs included 10 near LV 3/18 (MC) and 5 at Nolo 4/20 (CL, GL); 2 stopped in a yard near IN 4/6 (SD) and an equal number visited a yard near KT 4/8 (SGU). A Leechburg yard harbored one 4/24-25 (MVT).

First **Eastern Towhee** arrived near LV 3/24 (MC) and four days later near SGL 247 (TR). Last **American Tree Sparrows** included 2 lingering at PG 4/22 (TA). Savannah, Grasshopper, and Henslow's Sparrows continue to be difficult to find in our region with most reports of **Savannah** in the WT area; there were no spring eBirded reports for either *Indiana* or *Cambria* for Savannah; first returnee was found and photographed at CC 4/11 (ABu); a Savannah was also found at IUP 4/12 (JT). May 16 yielded 3 **Grasshopper Sparrows** wsw of SGL 247 (ABu) and another nearby the same SGL (TR); 6 and 5 were respectively reported at Bellwood SGL 108 on 5/26 (TA) and 5/28 (DB), where the only 4 **Henslow's Sparrows** were noted. **Fox Sparrow** reports included one near LV 3/20, 23 (MC), one at IUP 4/3 (JT), one near Gipsy 4/2 (JaP, JP), one at YC 4/7 (JB *et al*) and 4/15 (BR), and 2 at SGL 247 on 4/12 (TR). Lingering Fox Sparrows included one near SH 3/3 - 4/19 (MH, RH) and one at Carrolltown 3/24 - 4/16 (WI). The only **Lincoln's Sparrow** noted this season was one at CC 5/12 (SG). **White-crowned Sparrow** was found near SH 3/3 - 4/18 and 5/3, 6 (MH, RH); among the 12 noted on the PAMC, 2 were near Tunnelton (NM), 3 near IN (GF), and 4 at Urey Cemetery (MH, RH); 2 were also found at Elderton 5/13 (SM).

The only **Yellow-breasted Chats** listed were single birds at SGL 247 on 5/5 (TR) and again on 5/28 (SGu); up to 4 near Adrian 5/9 (ABu, SGu); near West Lebanon and between Clarksburg and Elders Ridge, both 5/12 (DC, MC); and one on the Parkwood BBS 5/29 (MH, RH).

Four **Bobolinks** were listed near Penn Run 5/12 (BF, TF) and 4 in the n.e. section of the county 5/12 (MH, RH); the WT area yielded Bobolinks between 5/1 (SGu, TR) and 5/15 (SGu); 5 were still present at Bellwood SGL 108 on 5/26 (TA). Top **Rusty Blackbird** count was 5 on 3/13 (SGu) at RT where they were present between 3/10 (SGu) and 3/23 (TR); one appeared in a snowstorm at a feeder near SH 3/21 (MH, RH); BS yielded singletons 4/14 (LC, JH *et al*) and 4/30 (MH, RH, FM, JM); YC hosted 4 on 4/7 (JB *et al*), 3 on 4/10 (LC, MH, RH, DK), and one on 5/4 (LC, MH, RH, GL).

First returning **Ovenbirds** appeared on 4/27 at both BS (MH, RH) and near LV (MC). The only reported **Worm-eating Warblers** were found at Kelly Station 5/2 (JBo) and at a nearby location on 5/28 (JBo). **Louisiana Waterthrush** arrived 3/29 (DL) at PR, where by 5/31 (DL) the young had fledged; earliest *Armstrong* return occurred 4/13 (OL) along the Butler-Freeport Trail. **Northern Waterthrush** was listed at YC with sightings on four dates bracketed by 5/4 (LC, MH, RH, GL) and 5/22 (LC, MH, RH). Other dates of return included 5/3 (MH, RH) at Dilltown, 5/5 (TR) at SGL 247, and 5/12 (TA) at Fallentimber SGL 108 for **Blue-winged Warbler**; and 4/14 (JBo) w. of CC, 4/19 (MC) near LV, and 5/12 (TA) at Fallentimber SGL 108 for **Black-and-white Warbler**. **Tennessee Warblers** moved through our region between 5/8 (SGu) when one was sighted near Adrian and 5/20 (ABu,

SGu) when one was found in *Armstrong* along the Butler-Freeport Trail; most sightings occurred 5/12 (v.o.) for the PAMC. Migrant **Nashville Warblers** first appeared 5/1 (MC) near LV and 5/5 (TR) at SGL 247. The CC area hosted migrant **Mourning Warblers** 5/12 (SG) and 5/14 (MVT); on 5/16 (JBo) two singing males were present about 0.25 miles apart. **Kentucky Warblers** were found only in *Indiana* with reports of single birds at Conemaugh Dam 5/24 (MH, RH, JT), at YC 5/26 (TG, MH, RH, DK), and e.se. of Coral 5/29 (MH, RH). Dates of return include 4/30 (MH, RH, FM, JM) at BS for **Common Yellowthroat**; 5/2 (JBo) at CC, 5/3 (MH, RH) at Dilltown, and 5/7 (TA) at PG for **Hooded Warbler**; 4/30 (TA) at PG and 5/2 at BS (TB, MH, RH), Kelly Station (JBo), and Creek Road (MVT) for **American Redstart**. **Cape May Warblers** migrating through our region were spotted first 5/5 (LC, RC *et al*; SG) at YC, 5/6 (JP) near Penn Run, and 5/9 (TR) at MB; last report came from CC 5/18 (MVT). **Cerulean Warbler** was first noted at MB 5/5 (ABu, SGu); most reports were from the CC valley; away from there sightings included one at Elderton 5/15 (SM), one near Two Lick 5/12 (MH, RH), and one at PG 5/15 (TA). Earliest **Northern Parula** was noted at YC 4/23 (DJM); parulas returned 5/2 (v.o.) at various locations in the CC/Allegheny River valleys.

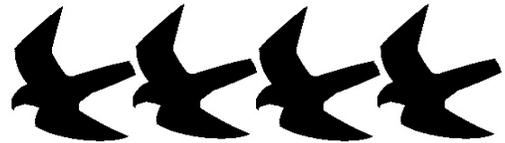
**Magnolia Warblers** were widely reported with as many as 10 at SGL 108 Fallen Timber (TA) and 6 at CC (SG), both 5/12. **Bay-breasted Warblers** moved through our region between 5/4 (JP) when 2 were identified in IN and 5/23 (ABu) when one lingered at MB. Other first dates include 5/1 (LC, SD *et al*) at YC for **Blackburnian**; 4/22 (SGu) at MB for **Yellow**; and 5/4 (LC, MH, RH, GL) at YC for **Chestnut-sided Warbler**. **Blackpoll Warblers** often linger in our area into early June, but this year was an exception with the last 2 reported at MB 5/23 (ABu). YC yielded the first **Black-throated Blue Warbler** 5/5 (SG). **Palm Warblers** moved through our area between 4/20 (MVT) when the first was listed at CC and 5/8 when singletons were found at both Creek Road (MVT) and at YC (PA, LC, TG, MH, RH, GL, LM, JSt). A **Pine Warbler** near SH 3/30 (MH, RH) was the first arrival. Earliest **Yellow-rumped Warblers** appeared near LV 3/3, 18 (MC), at Rosston 3/4 (SGu), at Manorville 3/11 (TR), and at CC 3/31 (MVT). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were first recorded at CD 4/18 (MH, RH), at Robbs Fording 5/2 (JBo), and at PG 5/9 (TA). High **Prairie Warbler** tallies included 5 near Adrian 5/9 (ABu, SGu) and 4 at Bellwood SGL 108 on 5/26 (TA). The Butler-Freeport Trail was the site of the first returning **Black-throated Green Warbler** 4/18 (TR). May 12 (v.o.) produced 12 **Canada Warblers** for the *Indiana/Armstrong* PAMCs. The spring's only **Wilson Warblers** occurred 5/12 (SG) at CC and 5/17 (TR) along the AT n. of L&D 8.

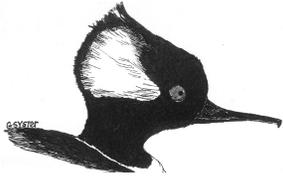
First dates of return include 5/4 (MH, RH) for **Scarlet Tanager** near YC, 4/27 (MVT) near Leechburg for **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, and 4/28 (MH, RH) for **Indigo Bunting** near SH.

**Observers:** Tina Alianiello (TA), Tammy Arnold (TAr), Jack Baker, Valerie Baker, Alice Beatty, Dave Beatty, Debbie Beer, Paul Bernhardt, John Boback (JBo), Tony Bruno, Alan Buriak (ABu), Patrick Burke, Lee Carnahan, Richard Chirichiello, Greg Cook, Marcy Cunkelman, Sue Dickson, Josh Donaldson, Susan Donaldson (SDo), Jim Dunn (JDu), Gary Ferrence, Betsy Fetterman, Tom Fetterman, Patience Fisher, Tom Glover, Steve Gosser, Linda Greble, Sam Gutherie (SGu), Rebecca Hart, Amy Henrici, Jenny Henry, Rob Higbee (RGH), Roger Higbee, Stephanie Higbee (SH), Jessica Hoffman (JHo), Matthew Hunt (MHu), Winnie Illig, Michael Jensen, Debbie Kalbfleisch, Jon Kauffman (JKa), Avis Keener, Jon Keener (JKe), John Kilmarx, Chris Kubiak, Jan Kuehl (JKu), Tom Kuehl, Clayton Lamer, Gloria Lamer, Dennis Lauffer, Oliver Lindhiem, Renee Lubert, Shirley (Graff) Martin, Lorie McCann, Flo McGuire, Jim McGuire, DJ McNeil (DJM), Donna Meyer, Nancy Murphy, Sandra Newell, Richard Nugent, James Pumford (JaP), Joseph Pumford, Brett Ramer, John Salvetti, Lee Schweitzer, Katie Semelsberger, Mike Shaffer, Scott Simms, Jerod Skebo (JSk), Adrian Smith, Vicki Stelma, Jim Stratton (JSt), Georgette Syster, John Taylor, Wil Taylor, Three Rivers Birding Club (3RBC), Todd Bird Club (TBC), Ken Truitt, Stewart Van Horn (SVH), Marge Van Tassel (MVT), Daniel

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

President - Jim Woodard	724-465-5886	
Vice President - Linda Jones	724-463-0651	<a href="mailto:joneslinda@hotmail.com">joneslinda@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary - Roger Higbee	724-354-3493	<a href="mailto:rvhigbee@windstream.net">rvhigbee@windstream.net</a>
Treasurer - Gloria Lamer	724-349-1159	<a href="mailto:michny9@gmail.com">michny9@gmail.com</a>
Past President - Tom Glover	814-938-5618	<a href="mailto:tomnglover@comcast.net">tomnglover@comcast.net</a>
Publicity - Beth Nestor		<a href="mailto:bethnestor@comcast.net">bethnestor@comcast.net</a>
Facebook - Doug Wise		<a href="mailto:dmdoug66@gmail.com">dmdoug66@gmail.com</a>
Scrapbook - Donna Meyer	724-349-2787	<a href="mailto:donna.meyer36@gmail.com">donna.meyer36@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster - Ed Donley		<a href="mailto:hedonley@iup.edu">hedonley@iup.edu</a>
Newsletter - Margaret Higbee	724-354-3493	<a href="mailto:bcoriole@windstream.net">bcoriole@windstream.net</a>
Outings - Lee Carnahan	724-388-4667	





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